



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部教育局
Education Bureau
Government Secretariat, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

本局檔號 Our Ref: EDB(SDCT)3/PRO/10/1/1

電話 Telephone:

來函檔號 Your Ref.:

傳真 Fax Line:

3 January 2020

To: Supervisors/Principals of All Schools

Dear Supervisor/Principal,

Alert on the Cluster of Pneumonia Cases in Wuhan of Mainland

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) is closely monitoring a cluster of pneumonia cases in Wuhan, Hubei Province. A copy of the letter issued by CHP is enclosed at the Appendix for your reference.

We would like to urge schools to remain vigilant and to strengthen the preventive measures against the spread of pneumonia cases, disseminate the related information to parents and enlist their cooperation to upkeep students' personal and environment hygiene so as to tie in with the precautionary measures taken by schools.

Guidelines on Proper Hand Hygiene and Proper Use of Mask

In view of the latest development of the pneumonia cases, we would like to urge schools to put in place CHP's advice and reinforce preventive measures including proper hand hygiene, proper use of mask, etc., so as to mitigate the risk of infection. Please also advise parents to take notice of the health conditions of their children. Children with fever or respiratory symptoms should seek medical advice, wear a surgical mask and refrain from attending class at school.

Prompt reporting of suspected outbreak cases of communicable diseases

If a suspected outbreak of communicable disease occurs in school or there is an increasing trend or unusual situation in the number of persons taking sick leave with similar symptoms or due to the same infectious disease (for example, three or more students in the same class develop symptoms of respiratory tract infections within a short time), schools should report the case to the Central Notification Office of CHP

immediately (Fax No.: 2477 2770; Tel No.: 2477 2772) by completing the “Suspected Infectious Disease Outbreak in School/ Kindergarten / KG-cum-CCC/ Child Care Centre Notification Form” to facilitate CHP’s early epidemiological investigation and outbreak control. Schools should also forward a copy of the Notification Form to their respective Regional Education Offices (REO)/ Joint Office for Kindergartens and Child Care Centres (JOKC).

In addition, for more effective prevention against the spread of communicable diseases in the campus, schools should assign designated staff or a crisis management team to coordinate and oversee matters relating to the hygienic conditions of the school environment and to brief students/staff and parents on the relevant preventive measures.

Observing guidelines in handling class suspension matters

When schools consider school-based class suspension on the ground of outbreak of communicable disease according to EDBC No. 9/2015 “Handling Emergency Situations in Schools”, they are required to consult the officer of CHP and confirm the situation with the respective REO/ JOKC before arriving at any decision. Taking into consideration the situation at the time, including the number of children affected, severely ill or hospitalized, the progression of the outbreak and the effectiveness of control measures, CHP would advise schools whether class suspension is needed. Schools should maintain close contact with CHP and this Bureau in this respect so that appropriate advice and support could be rendered.

Health advice for exchange programmes on the Mainland

Schools should take heed of the CHP’s health advice below for exchange programmes on the Mainland:

- Avoid touching poultry/birds or their droppings, and avoid visiting wet markets, live poultry markets or farms;
- Avoid making close contact with patients, especially those with symptoms of acute respiratory infections;
- Adhere to food safety and hygiene rules such as avoiding consuming raw or undercooked animal products, including milk, eggs and meat, or foods which may be contaminated by animal secretions, excretions (such as urine) or contaminated products, unless they have been properly cooked, washed or peeled.
- If feeling unwell when outside Hong Kong, especially if having a fever or cough, wear a surgical mask; inform the hotel staff or tour escort and seek medical advice at once.
- After returning to Hong Kong, consult a doctor promptly if having a fever or other symptoms, inform the doctor of recent travel history and wear a surgical mask to help prevent spread of the disease.

We will continue to keep in close contact with the CHP and release the latest information on communicable diseases to schools.

For enquiries, please contact your respective Senior School Development Officers/Senior Services Officers.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Brian CHENG', written in a cursive style.

(Brian CHENG)
for Secretary for Education

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (42) in DH CDB/9/17/3 Pt.1

January 2, 2020

Dear Principal / Person-in-charge,

Alert on the cluster of pneumonia cases in Wuhan of Mainland

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health is closely monitoring a cluster of pneumonia cases in Wuhan of Hubei Province (湖北省武漢市), and would like to alert you to remain vigilance.

According to available information, there were a total of 27 pneumonia cases associated with a market named “華南海鮮城” in Wuhan in December 2019 (as of December 31). Among them, seven cases were in serious condition and the remaining cases were in stable condition. Symptoms were mainly fever while a few had presented with shortness of breath. All patients have been isolated and receiving treatment. Contact tracing of close contacts and medical surveillance by the Wuhan health authority are ongoing. Assessment by relevant experts in Wuhan revealed that the cases were compatible with viral pneumonia. The causative pathogen and cause of infection are still under investigation.

Students or staff should wear a mask and consult doctors promptly if they have fever / respiratory symptoms, and inform the doctor of their travel and exposure history. Symptomatic students or staff should not attend schools. Guidelines on Prevention of Communicable Diseases in Schools / Kindergartens / Kindergartens-cum-Child Care Centres / Child Care Centres' published by the CHP can be accessed at the following link:

http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/guidelines_on_prevention_of_communicable_diseases_in_schools_kindergartens_kindergartens_cum_child_care-centres_child_are_centres.pdf



To prevent pneumonia and respiratory tract infection, please kindly remind your students / staff to maintain good personal and environmental hygiene. They are advised to:

- Perform hand hygiene frequently, especially before touching the mouth, nose or eyes; after touching public installations such as handrails or door knobs; or when hands are contaminated by respiratory secretion after coughing or sneezing.
- Wash hands with liquid soap and water, and rub for at least 20 seconds. Then rinse with water and dry with a disposable paper towel or hand dryer. If hand washing facilities are not available, or when hands are not visibly soiled, hand hygiene with 70 to 80 per cent alcohol-based handrub is an effective alternative.
- Cover mouth and nose with tissue paper when sneezing or coughing. Dispose of soiled tissues into a lidded rubbish bin, then wash hands thoroughly.
- When having respiratory symptoms, wear a surgical mask, refrain from work or attending class at school, avoid going to crowded places and seek medical advice promptly.
- Avoid making close contact with patients, especially those with symptoms of acute respiratory infections.
- Avoid touching poultry/ birds or their droppings.
- Avoid visiting wet markets, live poultry markets or farms.
- Adhere to food safety and hygiene rules such as avoiding consuming raw or undercooked animal products, including milk, eggs and meat, or foods which may be contaminated by animal secretions, excretions (such as urine) or contaminated products, unless they have been properly cooked, washed or peeled.

If you notice an increase in fever / pneumonia / respiratory illnesses among students or staff, please report promptly to our Central Notification Office (Tel: 2477 2772; Fax: 2477 2770) for prompt epidemiological investigations and outbreak control.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. SK Chuang)
for Controller, Centre for Health Protection
Department of Health