

本署檔號 Our Ref.: (7) in DH SEB CD/8/84/1

23 November 2010

Dear Principal / Person in charge / Teacher,

Increase in Activity of Adenoviruses in Hong Kong

In the past few weeks, there has been an increase in the number of adenoviruses detected from respiratory specimens at the Public Health Laboratory Centre of the Centre for Health Protection (CHP). Besides, there has been recent increase in institutional outbreaks of upper respiratory infections caused by adenoviruses, from four during the 4-week period from 26 September - 23 October to eight during the recent 4-week period from 24 October - 20 November. Among the eight institutional outbreaks of adenoviruses reported in the recent four weeks, five (62.5%) occurred in kindergartens/child care centres and the remaining three in primary schools, affecting a total of 83 persons.

Adenoviruses are a group of viruses that mainly cause respiratory illness. Symptoms include cough, runny nose, sore throat and fever. Some types can also cause gastroenteritis, eye infection and rashes. Young children, elderly and immunocompromised patients are more susceptible to this infection. Adenoviruses mainly spread through air droplets, direct contact of the oro-nasal secretions of patients, or ingestion of contaminated food or water.

In this regard, I would like to urge you to keep vigilance and implement prompt preventive measures against respiratory infections at your school/institution. Children with fever and respiratory symptoms are strongly advised not to attend school till 48 hours after fever has subsided. Besides, parents should record the body temperature of their children and hand in the temperature record sheet to the school everyday. Staff with fever and respiratory illnesses should also refrain from work.



In addition, the following measures are advised:

- Build up good body immunity by having a balanced diet, regular exercise and adequate rest, reducing stress and avoiding smoking;
- Maintain good personal, food and environmental hygiene;
- Cover nose and mouth while sneezing or coughing and dispose nasal and oral discharge properly;
- Wash hands thoroughly before food handling and eating, and after going to toilets, handling of vomitus, faecal matter and oro-nasal secretions;
- Wear gloves while disposing vomitus, faeces and diapers, and wash hands afterwards;
- Clean and disinfect contaminated articles and surfaces promptly and thoroughly with 1:49 diluted household bleach (1 part of household bleach in 49 parts of water); and
- Avoid crowded places where the ventilation is unsatisfactory.

You are reminded to monitor the sick leave pattern among your students and staff and report promptly to our Central Notification Office (Tel: 2477-2772; Fax: 2477-2770) if there is a suspected outbreak of respiratory infection in your school/institution. For more information, please visit the website of CHP at <http://www.chp.gov.hk>.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. S K CHUANG)

For Controller, Centre for Health Protection
Department of Health

