

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (51) in DH SEB CD 8/6/1 Pt. 27

4 Jun 2012

Dear Principal / Person-in-charge,

**Confirmation of a Human Case of H5N1 Avian Influenza Infection and  
Activation of Serious Response Level of Government's Preparedness Plan**

I would like to draw your attention to a confirmed human case of H5N1 avian influenza infection in Hong Kong. The patient is a 2-year-old boy who lives with his parents and maternal grandmother in Guangzhou, Mainland China. He was brought to Hong Kong for medical care after symptom onset and was confirmed to be infected with H5N1 avian influenza. The patient is now staying in intensive care unit and his current condition is serious.

Epidemiological investigation revealed that he had history of visiting wet market with live poultry in Guangzhou in mid-May. He travelled to Anhui province with his parents but had not contacted any live poultry there. CHP is communicating closely with the Department of Health of Guangdong Province to investigate the source of his infection.

The Government has raised the influenza response level from "Alert" Response Level to "Serious" Response Level under the Framework of Government's Preparedness Plan for Influenza Pandemic.

H5N1 avian influenza is one type of Influenza A viruses. It mainly affects birds and poultry. Occasionally it can be transmitted to humans if a person has close contact with infected birds/poultry. Apart from the recent confirmed case, 21 human cases of H5N1 avian influenza infection were recorded so far in Hong Kong with 18, 2 and 1 human case(s) occurred in 1997, 2003 and 2010 respectively.

To prevent avian influenza, the following measures are advised:

- ◆ Avoid touching poultry, birds or their droppings, because they may carry the avian influenza virus;
- ◆ Wash hands thoroughly with liquid soap and water immediately in case of contact with poultry, birds or their droppings;
- ◆ Keep hands clean and wash hands properly;
- ◆ Cover nose and mouth while sneezing or coughing. Dispose sputum or secretions wrapped in tissue paper into rubbish bins with lids. Wash hands with liquid soap and water afterwards;
- ◆ Build up good body resistance and have a healthy lifestyle. This can be



achieved through a balanced diet, regular exercise, adequate rest, reducing stress and no smoking;

- ◆ Poultry and eggs should be thoroughly cooked before eating;
- ◆ Maintain good environmental hygiene;
- ◆ Maintain good indoor ventilation;
- ◆ Avoid crowded places with poor ventilation if feeling unwell; and
- ◆ Seek medical advice if fever or respiratory symptoms develop.

Students/Children/Staff who develop symptoms of fever or influenza-like illness should seek medical advice early. The affected students/children/staff should avoid returning to the school.

If you notice any increase in respiratory illnesses or absenteeism among your students/children/staff, please report to our Central Notification Office (Tel: 2477 2772; Fax: 2477 2770) for immediate epidemiological investigations and outbreak control.

More information on Avian Influenza is available at CHP website (<http://www.chp.gov.hk>).

Yours faithfully,



(Dr SK CHUANG)  
for Controller  
Centre for Health Protection  
Department of Health

