

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (55) in DH SEB CD/8/6/1 Pt.27

22 June 2012

Dear Principal / Person-in-charge,

### **Stand-down of Influenza Response Level**

I would like to update you on the case of human influenza A (H5) infection confirmed by the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) on 1 June 2012. The 2-year-old boy is currently staying in the Princess Margaret Hospital. Contact tracing and medical surveillance of close contacts of the patient had ended and no further case has been identified.

Upon the detection of a human case of influenza A (H5) on 1 June 2012, the Government has raised the influenza response level from “Alert” to “Serious” Response Level under the Framework of Government’s Preparedness Plan for Influenza Pandemic. Three weeks of strengthened surveillance for avian influenza has passed and no secondary spread or further case of avian influenza was detected during the period. This human case of influenza A (H5N1) was classified as an imported sporadic infection. The Government decided to stand down the influenza response level under the Framework of Government’s Preparedness Plan for Influenza Pandemic from “Serious” Response Level to “Alert” Response Level on 22 June 2012.

Avian influenza in humans is transmitted through close contact with infected live birds and poultry, their droppings or dead bodies. In view of the on-going activities of highly pathogenic avian influenza among poultry outside Hong Kong, the public is advised to stay vigilant and maintain strict personal and environmental hygiene to prevent avian influenza. The following measures are advised:

- Avoid touching birds, poultry or their droppings;
- Wash hands thoroughly with liquid soap and water immediately in case of contact with birds, poultry 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.

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

If you notice any increase in respiratory illnesses or absenteeism among your staff or students/children, please report to our Central Notification Office (Tel: 2477 2772; Fax: 2477 2770) for immediate epidemiological investigation and outbreak control. For more information, please visit the website of CHP at <http://www.chp.gov.hk>.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. Monica WONG)  
for Controller  
Centre for Health Protection  
Department of Health

