



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

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21 December 2011

To: Supervisors / Principals of all Schools

Dear Supervisors / Principals,

**Stay Vigilant to Guard Against the Spread of
Avian Influenza and Other Communicable Diseases in Schools**

This Bureau issued a letter on 20 December to remind all schools to continue to stay vigilant and thoroughly clean and disinfect the school premises during the Christmas and Chinese New Year vacations so as to guard against the spread of various kinds of communicable diseases in schools.

There has been discovery of sporadic dead birds being tested positive of the highly pathogenic avian influenza in the territory. In view of the finding of a chicken carcass sample being tested positive of the highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza virus by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department on 20 December, the Government has raised the response level for avian influenza from "Alert" to "Serious" accordingly.

This Bureau would like to remind schools again to stay vigilant. Schools should make reference to the Handbook on Prevention of Avian Influenza in Schools (revised in February 2011) compiled by this Bureau and implement the preventive measures properly. Schools can get access to the Handbook via the following path:

EDB Homepage (www.edb.gov.hk) > School Administration > Administration > Prevention of Communicable Diseases in Schools > A. Latest Information > 2. Guidelines/Useful Materials > Handbook on Prevention of Avian Influenza in Schools (revised in February 2011)

Schools should review their crisis contingency procedures and the communication mechanism with parents to ensure they can take proper contingency measures and disseminate relevant information to parents swiftly when situation warrants. A copy of the letter “Confirmation of a Chicken Carcass Sample with H5N1 Avian Influenza Infection” of 21 December from the Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health is enclosed for your reference. Schools should put in place various hygienic and preventive measures against avian influenza as recommended by CHP.

If any suspected outbreak of communicable diseases in schools is noticed, schools should report the case to the Central Notification Office of DH (Fax: 2477 2770; Tel: 2477 2772) by completing the “Suspected Infectious Disease Outbreak in School / Kindergarten / KG-cum CCC / Child Care Centre” Notification Form to facilitate the office to conduct an early epidemiological investigation and outbreak control. Schools should also forward a copy of the Notification Form to their respective Regional Education Offices/Joint Office for Pre-Primary Services.

This Bureau will continue to keep in close contact with CHP and release the latest information on communicable diseases to schools. For enquiries, please contact your respective Senior School Development Officers/Pre-primary Services Officers.

Yours sincerely,



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for Secretary for Education