



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, Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region  
The People's Republic of China

3 February 2009

To: Supervisors/Principals of all Kindergartens, Kindergarten cum Child Care Centres,  
Secondary, Primary and Special Schools

Dear Supervisor/Principal,

**Be Vigilant against Communicable Diseases**

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) advised that Hong Kong has entered the winter influenza peak season. For details, please refer to the attached letter of 2 February 2009 from CHP on “Arrival of the Winter Influenza Season in Hong Kong” (Appendix 1). This Bureau would like to urge all schools and parents to follow the recommendations in the aforesaid letter to implement relevant preventive measures properly. Schools should establish an effective communication mechanism with parents for maintaining close contact with them in preventing the spread of communicable diseases in school premises.

Schools are requested to remind parents to continue the measure of recording their children’s body temperature for school’s inspection. School staff and students with symptoms of fever or influenza should seek medical consultation immediately and keep them from school until fully recovered. If they have travelled abroad during the Lunar Chinese New Year Holidays, they should inform the doctors of such information.

For schools with cross-boundary students, they are requested to remind drivers, nannies of school buses and staff concerned to make special arrangement for parents to pick up children having illness or symptoms of infectious diseases.

Lastly, we would like to remind respective schools to assign a representative to attend the health talk on “Prevention and Control of Influenza” to be held during the period from 5 to 16 February 2009 in the four regions. The schedules of the health talks are attached once again at Appendix 2 to facilitate schools’ arrangements.

For enquiries, please contact your respective Senior School Development Officer/Pre-primary Services Officer.

Yours sincerely,

(CSDO/CPSO(JOPS))

for Secretary for Education

監測及流行病學處



衛生防護中心  
Centre for Health Protection

保護市民健康  
Protecting Hong Kong's health

Surveillance  
And  
Epidemiology  
Branch

本署檔號 Our Ref.: (6) in DH SEB CD/8/27/1 Pt.18

2 February 2009

Dear Principal / Person in charge / Teacher,

### Arrival of the Winter Influenza Season in Hong Kong

Most recent surveillance data showed an increasing number of influenza detections made by our laboratory, signaling the arrival of the winter influenza season. Moreover, increasing number of influenza outbreaks were reported in schools / institutions in the past two weeks. Therefore, kindergartens and schools should take precautions against influenza outbreaks.

Kindergartens and schools are collective assembly places and young children are incapable of taking proper personal care. To prevent possible outbreak of respiratory diseases especially influenza, 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.

In addition, the following measures are also advised:

- Maintaining good personal and environmental hygiene
- Keeping hands clean and wash hands properly.
- Washing hands when they are dirtied by respiratory secretions e.g. after sneezing.
- Covering nose and mouth while sneezing or coughing and dispose of nasal and mouth discharge properly.
- Having a balanced diet, regular exercise, adequate rest, avoid too much stress and passive smoking.
- Avoiding crowded public places where the ventilation is not good.
- To consult doctor for medical advice promptly upon development of influenza-like symptoms such as fever, sore throat and cough.



衛生防護中心乃衛生署  
轄下執行疾病預防  
及控制的專業架構  
The Centre for Health  
Protection is a  
professional arm of the  
Department of Health for  
disease prevention and  
control

If you notice an increase in respiratory illnesses or absenteeism among your staff or clients, please report to our Central Notification Office (Tel: 2477-2772; Fax: 2477-2770) for immediate epidemiological investigations and outbreak control. Staff with respiratory illnesses who are suspected to be epidemiologically linked to an outbreak should refrain from work.

For the latest information on influenza activity, please see our Daily Influenza Situation Update at the CHP website ([www.chp.gov.hk](http://www.chp.gov.hk)).

Yours faithfully,



(Dr SK CHUANG)  
Consultant Community Medicine (Communicable Disease)  
Centre for Health Protection  
Department of Health



衛生防護中心乃衛生署  
轄下執行疾病預防  
及控制的專業架構  
The Centre for Health  
Protection is a  
professional arm of the  
Department of Health for  
disease prevention and  
control

香港九龍亞答街 147C 號 3 樓  
3/F, 147C Argyle Street, Kowloon, Hong Kong

### Health Talks on Prevention and Control of Influenza for Schools

<b>Session 1</b>	
<b>Region:</b>	Hong Kong
<b>Date:</b>	5 February 2009 (Thursday)
<b>Time:</b>	3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
<b>Venue:</b>	Ho Tung Secondary School (School Hall) (Address: 1 Ka Ning Path, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong)
<b>Language:</b>	Cantonese (Questions in English will also be tackled.)

<b>Session 2</b>	
<b>Region:</b>	Kowloon
<b>Date:</b>	10 February 2009 (Tuesday)
<b>Time:</b>	3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
<b>Venue:</b>	HK & KIn Chiu Chow Public Assn. Secondary School (School Hall) (Address: 150 Sai Yee Street, Mong Kok, Kowloon)
<b>Language:</b>	Cantonese (Questions in English will also be tackled.)

<b>Session 3</b>	
<b>Region:</b>	New Territories East
<b>Date:</b>	13 February 2009 (Friday)
<b>Time:</b>	3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
<b>Venue:</b>	Tai Po Government Primary School (School Hall) (Address: 8 Tai Wo Road, Tai Po, New Territories)
<b>Language:</b>	Cantonese (Questions in English will also be tackled.)

<b>Session 4</b>	
<b>Region:</b>	New Territories West
<b>Date:</b>	16 February 2009 (Monday)
<b>Time:</b>	3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
<b>Venue:</b>	Po On Commercial Association Wong Siu Ching Secondary School (School Hall) (Address: 2 Tai Pa Street, Tsuen Wan, New Territories)
<b>Language:</b>	Cantonese (Questions in English will also be tackled.)