

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (12) in DH SEB CD 8/6/1 Pt. 24

30 December 2008

Dear Principal / Person-in-charge,

2-month-old girl confirmed with Influenza A (H9N2) infection

We are writing to inform you that we have confirmed a human case of influenza A (H9N2) infection today. The patient was a 2-month-old girl living in Shenzhen. She developed vomiting, cough and runny nose on December 20 and had sought advice from a Shenzhen hospital. She did not have fever. Her parents brought her to a public hospital in Hong Kong and she was admitted on December 22. Her respiratory specimen was subsequently tested positive for influenza A (H9N2). As the girl was staying in Shenzhen for the whole incubation period, we have informed the Guangdong health department of this case and they will carry out necessary investigation and follow up actions.

Human influenza A (H9N2) infection is not new to Hong Kong. Similar cases were reported in 1999, 2003 and 2007. Unlike influenza A (H5N1) infection, previous cases with Influenza A (H9N2) infection presented only with mild illness with full recovery. The present patient also had mild symptoms, compatible with previous ones. There is no need for undue alarm but it is important to be vigilant against avian influenza.

To prevent avian influenza, the following measures are advised:

- ◆ Avoid direct contact with birds and poultry
 - 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
- ◆ Maintain good personal hygiene
 - 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



- ◆ Seek medical advice if fever or respiratory symptoms develop

In addition, parents are advised to record the body temperature of their children and hand in the temperature record sheet to the school everyday.

Yours faithfully,



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