



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

本局檔號 Our Ref.: (147) in EDB(SDCT)2/ADM/60/1/1(9) 電話 Telephone:  
來函檔號 Your Ref.: 傳真 Fax Line:

6 November 2013

To: Supervisors/Principals of all Schools

Dear Supervisor/Principal,

**Stay Vigilant against Communicable Diseases**  
**Avian Influenza A (H7N9)**

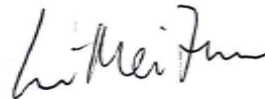
According to the latest surveillance data of the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH), there were two confirmed human cases of avian influenza A (H7N9) in Guangdong Province and Zhejiang Province. In view of the increasing public concern about issues and risks related to the disease, CHP of DH has today issued a letter to advise schools to stay vigilant against the disease and to put in place prevention and control measures. A copy of the relevant letter is enclosed at the Appendix for your reference.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind schools to put in place various preventive and control measures against communicable diseases by making reference to our letter issued to all schools on 27 August 2013. Students and staff who develop symptoms of fever or influenza-like illness should avoid returning to the school and they should seek medical advice early. Schools are required to deliver the messages of prevention of communicable diseases to parents and enlist their co-operation in paying attention to students' personal hygiene and environmental hygiene so as to tie in with the preventative measures taken by school.

Schools may also refer to the “[Guidelines on Prevention of Communicable Diseases in Schools/ Kindergartens/ Kindergarten cum Child Care Centres/ Child Care Centres](#)” as posted in our website for further details. The Guidelines and the letter of 27 August 2013 can be accessed via the following path: *EDB Homepage > School Administration and Management > Administration > About School > Prevention of Communicable Diseases in Schools.*

EDB 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/Senior Services Officers.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Li Mei Fan'.

(Ms M F LI)

for Secretary for Education

監測及流行病學處



Surveillance  
And  
Epidemiology  
Branch

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (99) in DH SEB CD/8/6/1 Pt.27

6 November, 2013

Dear Principal / Person in charge,

### **Latest Situation on Avian Influenza A (H7N9) Virus**

We would like to update you with the latest situation on avian influenza A(H7N9).

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) received report from the Mainland health authorities of two recently laboratory-confirmed cases of human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus. The first case, involved a 3-year-old-boy from Guangdong Province. His condition was stable. The second case involved a 64-year-old woman from Zhejiang Province and she was receiving treatment in a hospital in critical condition.

Since March 2013, there have been a total of 138 confirmed cases of human infection with influenza A(H7N9) virus reported in the Mainland China, including 45 deaths (as of 6 November noon). One imported case from Jiangsu Province was also reported by the Centers for Disease Control of Taiwan, making a total of 139 cases. The CHP of DH has been maintaining close liaison with the World Health Organization and health authorities in Mainland China to obtain information and monitor the latest developments of the disease.

Epidemiological and laboratory investigations have shown that contact with infected poultry or poultry contaminated environment was the likely risk factor for H7N9 infection. So far, there has been no evidence of sustained human to human transmission.

To prevent avian influenza and other respiratory illnesses, please kindly remind your children / staff to observe strict hand hygiene, avoid touching their mouth, nose or eyes and avoid visiting wet markets with live poultry or contacting poultry especially when travelling to H7N9 virus affected areas. Wash hands frequently with liquid soap, especially before handling food or eating, after going to toilet, or when hands are dirtied by respiratory secretion after coughing or sneezing. In addition, the following measures are also advised:



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

- Avoid touching poultry/birds/animals or their droppings;
- Wash hands thoroughly with liquid soap and water immediately in case of contact with poultry/birds/animals or their droppings;
- 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 going to crowded places with poor ventilation if feeling unwell; and
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces, furniture, commonly shared items and floor at least daily by using appropriate disinfectant (For non-metallic surface, disinfect with 1 part of household bleach in 99 parts of water, wait until dry and then rinse with water. For metallic surface, disinfect with 70% alcohol).

Children / staff with recent history of contact with poultry or history of visiting wet markets with live poultry in avian influenza affected areas, should wear a mask and consult doctors promptly if they have respiratory symptoms, and inform the doctor of their exposure history. The affected children / staff should avoid returning to schools. You may wish to note that CHP has issued *Guidelines to school on prevention of Communicable Diseases* and *Management Avian Flu in Schools* which can be accessed at [http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/guidelines\\_on\\_prevention\\_of\\_communicable\\_diseases\\_in\\_schools\\_kindergartens\\_kindergartens\\_cum\\_child\\_care-centres\\_child\\_are\\_centres.pdf](http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/guidelines_on_prevention_of_communicable_diseases_in_schools_kindergartens_kindergartens_cum_child_care-centres_child_are_centres.pdf) and [http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/management\\_ai\\_school\\_eng.pdf](http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/management_ai_school_eng.pdf) respectively.

If you notice any increase in respiratory illnesses or absenteeism among children or 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 the CHP website (<http://www.chp.gov.hk>).

Yours faithfully,



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