

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (28) in DH SEB CD/8/6/1 Pt.27

22 December 2010

Dear Manager / Infection Control Officer,

**H5 avian influenza detected in a dead chicken in Lantau Island**

I write to inform you that the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department today detected H5 avian influenza in a dead chicken found in Sha Lo Wan in Lantau Island (大嶼山沙螺灣) on 18 December 2010. The Centre of Health Protection (CHP) is conducting medical surveillance on persons who handled this chicken carcass. All contacts were put under medical surveillance and remained asymptomatic so far.

In Hong Kong, the last time H5 avian influenza was detected among dead poultry/wild birds occurred in March 2010 and affected a barn swallow found in Yuen Long. The last human case of H5N1 avian influenza infection confirmed by CHP on 17 November 2010 was classified as an imported sporadic infection. Enhanced surveillance carried out subsequently revealed no evidence of secondary spread in Hong Kong. The latest influenza surveillance data showed that the activity of seasonal influenza in Hong Kong remained at a low level.

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 are advised to stay vigilant and maintain strict personal and environmental hygiene to prevent avian influenza. The following measures are advised:

- Avoid touching poultry, birds or their droppings;
- Wash hands thoroughly with liquid soap and water immediately in case of contact with poultry, birds or their droppings;
- Keep hands clean and wash hands properly;
- Cover your mouth and/or nose with tissue paper when coughing or sneezing. Dispose of the soiled tissues properly, e.g. into a rubbish bin with lid, and then wash hands thoroughly;



- 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;
- Cook poultry and eggs thoroughly 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.

If you notice any increase in respiratory illnesses or absenteeism among your staff or residents, please report to our Central Notification Office (Tel: 24772772; Fax: 24772770) 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. Christine Wong)  
for Controller  
Centre for Health Protection  
Department of Health



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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*