

## Health Advice for Driver, Crew and Operational Staff of Public Transport on the Prevention of Influenza

According to the advice from Department of Health, drivers, crew and operational staff of public transport companies are advised to take the following precautionary measures at their workplaces to minimize the risk of contracting and spreading influenza:

### During normal daily life

#### 1. Maintain good hand hygiene

- Perform hand hygiene <sup>Note 1</sup> whenever indicated, especially in the following situations:
  - before touching eyes, nose and mouth,
  - before handling food or eating;
  - after sneezing, coughing, cleaning the nose and going to toilet;
  - after handling dollar notes or coins; and
  - after touching public installations or equipment, such as escalator handrails, elevator control panels or door knobs.

#### 2. Maintain cough etiquette

- Cover the nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing. Dispose sputum or secretions wrapped in tissue paper into rubbish bins with lids and perform hand hygiene <sup>Note 1</sup> immediately afterwards.
- If staff develop respiratory symptoms or fever, they should consult doctor early and take sick leave if necessary.

#### 3. Wear a surgical mask

- The following staff are recommended to wear a surgical mask:
  - when they have symptoms of respiratory infection or fever; or
  - when they contact person with respiratory infection or fever.

#### 4. Ensure good ventilation inside train/vehicle/vessel compartments

- Ensure the air-conditioning system is well maintained. Clean the air filter frequently.

#### 5. Keep train/vehicle/vessel compartments clean

- Wash/wipe compartments with detergent and water regularly. Pay attention to the cleaning of seats, handrails, safety belts and buckles and air inlet/outlet inside compartments.
- If cleaning vomitus, use a diluted household bleach solution (mixing 1 part 5.25% household bleach in 49 parts water). Rinse the area with water and wipe dry.
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment e.g. gloves when carrying out cleansing works.

### When there is a confirmed novel influenza case in HK

#### *Additional measures to the above*

#### 1. Wear a surgical mask

- Staff should wear a surgical mask when required to work face to face with public or in crowded area.

#### 2. Ensure good ventilation inside train/vehicle/vessel compartments

- Keep windows open as appropriate and where possible to maintain good ventilation, including the driver/captain's cabin <sup>Note 2</sup>.
- For enclosed compartments or where air-conditioning is necessary, the fresh air inlet volume should be adjusted to the maximum level.

#### 3. Enhance the cleanliness of the train/vehicle/vessel compartments

- Step up cleansing schedule.
- Use a diluted household bleach solution (mixing 1 part 5.25% household bleach in 99 parts water) to wash/wipe compartments regularly. Then rinse with water and wipe dry.
- Assign responsible staff to monitor cleansing works for vehicle/vessel compartments at termini/piers in between departures.

#### 4. For public protection

- Ensure passengers are not carrying any bird or live poultry.
- For passengers with key symptoms of influenza :
  - Advise those passengers to wear a mask; and
  - If situation warrants, assist to call for ambulance service or the Marine Police (if in outlying island) for conveyance of the patient to the hospital.

Note 1: When visibly dirty, hands should be washed with soap and water. Disinfect hands by rubbing them with 70-80% alcohol solution when hand washing facilities are not available.

Note 2: Not applicable to train.