

本署檔號 Our Ref.: (67) in DH SEB CD/8/22/1 II

來函檔號 Your Ref.:

電 話 TEL.:

傳 真 FAX No.:

24 August 2010

To Headmaster/Person-in-charge,

**Be vigilant against influenza, hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD)
and other communicable diseases**

The new academic year is approaching and I would like to take this opportunity to urge you to keep vigilant against influenza, HFMD and other communicable diseases at child care centres, kindergartens and schools.

Most recent surveillance data showed that Hong Kong is still in the summer influenza season. There has been an increase in local influenza activity since early July. In the past few weeks, there was a steady increase in number of influenza isolates detected by our laboratory. Besides, the consultation rates for influenza-like illness (ILI) among sentinel general practitioners (GPs) and general out-patient clinics and the number of ILI outbreaks in institutions also showed increases. The main circulating influenza viruses detected recently are human swine influenza, seasonal influenza A (H3N2) and seasonal influenza B.

The activities of HFMD and enterovirus 71 infection have gradually decreased in July and August after the peak in June. Nevertheless, recent consultation rates of HFMD detected by sentinel GPs are still higher than that recorded in the corresponding period of the past three years. Apart from the traditional summer season, a smaller winter peak of HFMD activity also occurred from October to December in the past few years.

Besides influenza and HFMD, outbreaks of other communicable diseases, like chickenpox, and norovirus may occur in institutions from time to time. To prevent such outbreaks, it is important for your staff and pupils to observe good personal hygiene. You are advised to re-visit the “*Guidelines on Prevention of Communicable Diseases in Schools /Kindergartens /Kindergartens-cum-Child Care Centres / Child Care Centres*” (http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/School_full_eng_20090115.pdf), which contain practical information on preventive measures of some common communicable diseases.

In addition, you are reminded to continue temperature checking for students. Students who develop symptoms of diarrhoea, vomiting, skin rash, fever, or influenza-like illness should seek medical advice.

If you suspect any outbreaks occurring in your institution, please report to the Central Notification Office of CHP as early as possible at Fax: 2477 2770 or Tel: 2477 2772. Schools should set up a mechanism for collecting the personal and contact information of students/staff members. Notify parents that where necessary, information and contact details of students suspected to be infected would be released to CHP and relevant departments for effective implementation of control measures against communicable diseases. CHP will give advice on the management of such outbreaks and take appropriate control measures. For more information, please visit the website of CHP at <http://www.chp.gov.hk>

Yours sincerely,



(Dr SK CHUANG)

for Controller, Centre for Health Protection

