

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (19) in DH SEB CD/8/91/1
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18 May 2009

Dear Vice-Chancellor / Principal / Person-in-charge,

Preventing Importation of Human Swine Influenza (HSI)

I am writing to enlist your support in preventing the importation of Human Swine Influenza (HSI) (Influenza A/H1N1) from affected countries and areas.

Since the recognition of novel swine-origin influenza A (H1N1) virus in Mexico and the United States, the disease has rapidly spread to many countries. As of 17 May 2009, 39 countries have officially reported over 8,000 cases of HSI infection. Experience in overseas countries and areas, including Japan and New York City, has shown that the infection can spread easily among students as they move between classes and mix among peers.

Students studying abroad, particularly in countries and areas affected by HSI, are of risk of contracting the disease. As the summer vacation is approaching, we request your support in conveying the following message to students who are planning to travel abroad or studying abroad and planning to return to/visit Hong Kong during the summer holidays:

Exercise good personal hygiene and adopt preventive measures while overseas. Those in affected areas should especially:

- pay attention to announcements from the local government;
- follow local public health guidelines, including any movement restrictions and preventive recommendations; and
- do not have contact with sick people.
- If students show influenza-like symptoms, such as fever, cough and sore throat, they should seek medical attention locally and immediately. Wear a mask and seek medical attention immediately. To protect their own



safety and for the health of travel collaterals, they should not travel.

- Should they develop symptoms while on board, notify the crew immediately and put on a mask. The crew will in turn follow established procedures and alert ground control and port health. Port health team will board the flight to assess and follow up on landing.
- After landing, they should accurately and honestly complete the health declaration form and present themselves to the port health post stationed at all cross border crossings. No one should attempt to suppress a fever by medication and other means in order to evade the infrared thermoscanner.
- Pay close attention to their health and wear a mask for 7 days after arrival. They should seek medical consultation from public clinics or hospitals and contact the Department of Health hotline 2125 1111 immediately if fever or influenza-like symptoms appear.

In addition, you are reminded to set up or continue temperature checking for students. Students who develop fever or influenza-like illness should seek medical advice early and they are strongly advised not to attend school till 48 hours after fever has subsided. The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) may consider advising closure of an individual school if any student/staff of a school is confirmed to be suffering from swine influenza.

For the latest information and health education material on HSI including the list of affected areas, please visit our CHP website at www.chp.gov.hk.

Yours sincerely,



(Dr SK CHUANG)

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