

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (66) in DH SEB CD/8/6/1 Pt.27

3 April, 2013

Dear Doctor,

Update on the Human Cases of Avian Influenza (H7N9)

Further to our letter to you dated 1 April, 2013, please kindly be informed that four additional confirmed human cases of avian influenza (H7N9) were reported by the Jiangsu Health Department on April 2, 2013,

These four cases involved one man and three women, aged from 32 and 83, all of them are currently in critical condition. Laboratory tests on the patients' specimens by the Mainland health authorities yielded positive results for H7N9. According to the Jiangsu Health Department, the 45-year-old female patient is a poultry worker and no epidemiological links were identified among the four cases at this stage. They presented with respiratory tract infection with progression to severe pneumonia. So far, the 167 close contacts of the four patients are asymptomatic.

Influenza A (H7) is a statutorily notifiable infectious disease in Hong Kong. So far, no human cases of avian influenza (H7N9) were recorded in Hong Kong. The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) is maintaining close liaison with World Health Organisation and the Mainland health authorities to obtain more information on the cases and will update you with the latest information.

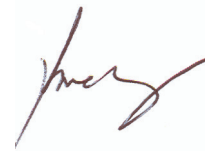
While the existing reporting criteria remains unchanged, in addition to Anhui Province and Shanghai, I would like to urge you to pay special attention to those who presented with influenza like illness and had history of travel to **Jiangsu Province** within the incubation period (i.e. 7 days before onset of symptoms). Please kindly be reminded that the list of affected areas is regularly uploaded to the CHP website (http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/global_statistics_avian_influenza_e.pdf).



Any suspected case meeting the reporting criteria (<https://ceno.chp.gov.hk/casedef/casedef.pdf>) should be reported to the Central Notification Office of CHP via fax (2477 2770), phone (2477 2772) or CENO On-line (<https://www.chp.gov.hk/ceno>). Please also contact the Medical Control Officer (MCO) of the Department of Health at Pager: 7116 3300 call 9179 when reporting any suspected case.

Thank you for your ongoing support in combating communicable diseases.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'SK CHUANG', written in a cursive style.

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