

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (74) in DH SEB CD/8/6/1 Pt.27

15 April, 2013

Dear Doctor,

Latest Updates on Avian Influenza A(H7N9)

Further to our letter to you dated 8 April, 2013, we would like to provide you with the latest updates on avian influenza A(H7N9).

As of 14 April 2013, 60 cases of human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9) have been reported from Anhui Province (2 cases including 1 death), Beijing Municipality (1 case), Henan Province (2 cases), Jiangsu Province (16 cases including 1 death), Shanghai Municipality (24 cases including 9 deaths) and Zhejiang Province (15 cases including 2 deaths) since 31 March 2013. The onset dates of these cases were between 19 February and 11 April 2013. Thirteen patients died (case-fatality ratio=22%), 50 are severe cases and 10 are mild cases. The median age is 65 years with a range between 4 and 87 years; 17 of them are females.

In addition, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) also reported that avian influenza A(H7N9) was detected in samples from pigeons and chickens and in environmental specimens from three markets in Shanghai Municipality. The virus has also been detected in 14 positive samples from ducks and chickens from five additional live bird markets in Jiangsu Province, Anhui Province and Zhejiang Province.

To date, the source of these infections and the mode of transmission are yet to be determined. No vaccine is currently available for this subtype of the influenza virus. Preliminary test results suggest that the virus is susceptible to the neuraminidase inhibitors (oseltamivir and zanamivir).

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), as of 13 April, there is no evidence of on-going human-to-human transmission at this point of time.

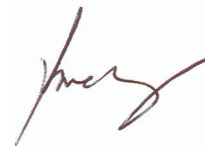
However the two possible family clusters suggest that limited human-to-human transmission may occur where there is close contact between cases and other individuals, as occurs in families and, potentially, healthcare settings. It is also possible that an infected person, who may or may not have symptoms, could travel to another country. So far, WHO does not advise special screening at points of entry, and any travel or trade restrictions with regard to this event.

While the existing reporting criteria remains unchanged, in addition to **Anhui Province, Zhejiang Province, Jiangsu Province and Shanghai Municipality**, I would like to urge you to pay special attention to those who presented with influenza-like-illness and had history of visiting wet market or contacting poultry in **Beijing Municipality and Henan 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 updated and is available at 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 immediately reported to the Central Notification Office of CHP via fax (2477 2770), phone (2477 2772) or CENO On-line (www.chp.gov.hk/ceno). Please also contact the Medical Control Officer (MCO) of the Department of Health (DH) at Pager: 7116 3300 call 9179 when reporting any suspected case. DH will make arrangement to send the patient to regional public hospitals for isolation, testing and treatment. Please kindly isolate patient to minimise contact/exposure to staff and other patients and advise the patient to wear a surgical mask while waiting for transport.

For update on the latest situation of avian influenza, please visit CHP website at http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/view_content/24244.html. Thank you for your ongoing support in combating communicable diseases.

Yours faithfully,



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