

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (82) in DH SEB CD/8/6/1 Pt.27

25 April, 2013

Dear Doctor,

Revised Reporting Criteria for Human Infection with Avian

Influenza A(H7N9) Virus

Further to our letter to you dated 23 April 2013, we would like to provide you with the latest situation on avian influenza A(H7N9) and the revised reporting criteria for human influenza A(H7N9).

As of today (25 April 2013), a total of 109 laboratory confirmed cases of human infection with influenza A(H7N9) virus has been recorded in Mainland: 42 cases (including 6 deaths) in Zhejiang Province, 33 cases (including 12 deaths) in Shanghai Municipality, 24 cases (including 4 deaths) in Jiangsu Province, 4 cases in Henan Province, 4 cases in Anhui Province (including 1 death), one case in Shandong Province and one case in Beijing Municipality. Moreover, an imported case from Jiangsu Province was recorded in Taiwan affecting a 53-year-old man who returned from Jiangsu Province to Taiwan on 9 April. He developed fever and malaise on 12 April and chest x-ray on 18 April showed pneumonia. Respiratory specimen taken on 24 April was tested positive for H7N9 virus by RT-PCR. He is now in serious condition. In addition, a suspected case in Jiangxi Province, involving a 69-year-old man, was reported by the Department of Health of Jiangxi Province today, pending confirmation by Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

According to a recent study published in the New England Journal of Medicine¹, most of the patients with confirmed H7N9 infection were considered to be at increased risk for complications from influenza owing to age (<5 years or ≥ 65 years) or the presence of certain underlying medical conditions. Among 82 confirmed cases of human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus as of 17 April, the median age was 63 years (range, 2 to 89) and 73% were male. Seventy six percent of 71 patients with available data had certain underlying medical conditions. Infected poultry and poultry contaminated environment are suspected to be the likely source of infection in human. Of



¹ Li, Q., Zhou, L., Zhou, M., Chen, Z., Li, F., Wu, H., et al. Preliminary Report: Epidemiology of the Avian Influenza A (H7N9) Outbreak in China. New England Journal of Medicine.

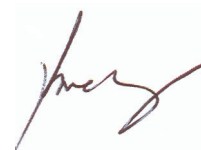
77 persons with available data, 4 were poultry workers, and 77% had a history of exposure to live animals, including chickens (76%). The estimated median incubation period in 23 patients with confirmed cases for whom detailed data on animal and environmental exposures was available was 6 days (range, 1 to 10). In two family clusters, non sustained limited human-to-human transmission of H7N9 virus could not be ruled out.

In view of the latest best available evidence, the longest incubation period of human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus has been revised from **7 days to 10 days** and the epidemiological criteria of the reporting criteria has been revised accordingly (see attached). Please also note that Taiwan has **not** been included as an affected area as the case recorded was classified as an imported infection. In addition, the list of affected area will be further updated accordingly if the suspected case reported by Jiangxi Province is confirmed. Please kindly be reminded that the list of affected areas is regularly uploaded to the Centre of Health Protection (CHP) website (http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/global_statistics_avian_influenza_e.pdf). For your ease of reference, the updated reporting criteria for human influenza A (H7N9) infection are attached in **Appendix** and they are also available on CENO On-line website (<http://ceno.chp.gov.hk/>).

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 (<http://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 minimize contact/exposure to staff and other patients and advise the patient to wear a surgical mask while waiting for transport.

For updates 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,



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

Appendix

Reporting criteria for Human Influenza A (H7N9) infection

(Last updated on 25 April 2013)

An individual fulfilling both the Clinical Criteria AND Epidemiological Criteria should be reported to CHP for further investigation.

Clinical Criteria

Patient with

- influenza-like-illness (fever $>38^{\circ}\text{C}$ with cough or sore throat); OR
- person with severe pneumonia; OR
- person died of unexplained acute respiratory illness.

Epidemiological Criteria

One or more of the following exposures in the 10 days prior to symptom onset:

- contact with a human case of influenza A (H7N9); **OR**
- contact with poultry or wild birds or their remains or to environments contaminated by their faeces in countries/areas with documented avian influenza A (H7N9) infection in birds and/or humans in the recent 6 months ^(see List of affected areas), **OR**
- consumption of raw or undercooked poultry products in countries/areas with documented avian influenza A(H7N9) infection in poultry and/or humans in the recent 6 months ^(see List of affected areas), **OR**
- close contact with a confirmed influenza A(H7N9) infected animal other than poultry or wild birds; **OR**
- worked in a laboratory that is processing samples from persons or animals that are suspected from avian influenza infection

The list of affected areas is regularly uploaded to the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) website

(http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/global_statistics_avian_influenza_e.pdf).