

監測及流行病學處



Surveillance
And
Epidemiology
Branch

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30 December 2004

Dear Doctor,

**Addition of Influenza A (H7) and Influenza A (H9) to the First Schedule of the
Quarantine and Prevention of Disease Ordinance, Cap.141**

The Director of Health issued an Order on 24 December 2004 to amend the First Schedule to the Quarantine and Prevention of Disease Ordinance (Cap.141), in item 7A, by adding “Influenza A (H7) or Influenza A (H9)” after “(H5)”. Another Order to amend Form 2 of the Schedule to the Prevention of the Spread of Infectious Diseases Regulations (Cap. 141 sub. leg. B) by adding “Influenza A (H7) or Influenza A (H9)” after “(H5)” has also been issued in consequence of these diseases being added to the First Schedule of Cap.141. The two Orders will come into operation on 31 December 2004 upon gazettal, making influenza A (H7) and influenza A (H9) statutorily notifiable infectious diseases.

In December 2004, the World Health Organization conducted a consultation in Geneva to discuss and update its influenza pandemic plan. You may recall that influenza A (H5), which poses the most imminent threat, was included as a notifiable disease since 30 January 2004 in Hong Kong. However, besides influenza A (H5), human infections with influenza A (H7) and influenza A (H9) have also occurred in recent years. In 1999, two human cases of Influenza A (H9N2) were reported in Hong Kong. In 2003, an influenza A (H7N7) outbreak involving over 80 persons with one death occurred in the Netherlands. This year in Canada, two cases of human influenza A (H7) infection were reported. There is therefore a compelling case to strengthen surveillance of influenza A (H7) and influenza A (H9) for local and global public health needs.



衛生防護中心乃衛生署
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Protection is a
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Case definition for Influenza A (H5), Influenza A (H7) or Influenza A (H9)

A person with

- positive viral culture for Influenza A (H5), Influenza A (H7) or Influenza A (H9), **OR**
- positive Polymerase Chain Reaction for Influenza A (H5), Influenza A (H7) or Influenza A (H9), **OR**
- a \geq 4-fold rise in H5, H7 or H9 specific antibody titre

Medical practitioners are required to report suspected or confirmed cases of these diseases to the Director of Health in accordance with Form 2 under Regulation 4 of the Prevention of the Spread of Infectious Diseases Regulations.

Criteria for reporting

1. Person with acute respiratory illness, characterized by fever (temperature $>38^{\circ}\text{C}$) **and** cough and/or sore throat, **AND EITHER**
 - contact with a case of Influenza A (H5), Influenza A (H7) or Influenza A (H9) during the infectious period, **OR**
 - recent (less than 1 week) visit to poultry farm in an area known to have outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), **OR**
 - worked in a laboratory that is processing samples from persons or animals that are suspected from HPAI infection

OR

2. Person with severe pneumonia caused by Influenza A (e.g. Directigen test positive for Influenza A) **AND** had contact with live birds/poultry within 1 week before onset of illness

Notification can be made directly to Central Notification Office, Centre for Health Protection (**Telephone: 2477 2772, Fax: 2477 2770**). Attached please find a revised notification form for reporting infectious disease (Form 2), which can also be downloaded from Centre for Health Protection's website (www.chp.gov.hk) with effect from 31 December 2004.

Yours sincerely,



(Dr Thomas TSANG)
for Director of Health