

監測及流行病學處



Surveillance
And
Epidemiology
Branch

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17 November 2005

Dear Doctor,

**Human cases of avian influenza H5N1 in Hunan and Anhui province
reported on 16 November 2005**

I would like to draw your attention to two recently confirmed H5N1 cases reported in the Mainland.

On 16 November 2005, the Centre for Health Protection was notified by the Ministry of Health that two patients were confirmed to be affected by H5N1. One was in Hunan (湖南) province and the other was in Anhui (安徽).

The Hunan case was a 9-year-old boy who developed an episode of pneumonia on 10 October 2005. He survived after treatment and was discharged on 12 November. Laboratory confirmation by serology test confirmed the diagnosis of H5N1 infection. The Anhui case was a 24-year-old female agricultural worker. She developed a pneumonic illness on November 1 and died on November 10. Laboratory test results confirmed H5N1.

Both confirmed cases had history of contact with sick and dead poultry. A 12-year-old sister of the patient in Hunan also suffered from a similar illness on 8 October after exposure to sick and dead poultry. She died shortly on 17 October and laboratory test failed to show any positive diagnosis. She was hence not classified as a confirmed case of H5N1 infection. Hunan and Anhui province were known to have experienced H5N1 poultry outbreaks in the recent 2 months. According to WHO assessment, H5N1 is not efficiently transmitted between humans at present.

In response to the new development, the Department of Health is making arrangements to re-institute temperature screening at Lo Wu and Lok Ma Chau border control check points within 48 hours. CHP will monitor the situation and keep in close contact with the Ministry of Health, as well as review our measures as the situation unfolds.

The confirmation of human cases of avian influenza in the Mainland does not change the government's Response Level to avian influenza. Currently, Hong Kong is at the Alert Response Level. For further details, please visit CHP's website at www.chp.gov.hk.

Influenza A (H5), Influenza A (H7) and Influenza A (H9) are statutorily notifiable diseases in Hong Kong. Cases meeting the reporting criteria (Annex) should be 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 refer patients meeting the reporting criteria to hospital for further clinical management and investigation.

Yours sincerely,



(Dr. Thomas TSANG)

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衛生防護中心乃衛生署
轄下執行疾病預防
及控制的专业架構
*The Centre for Health
Protection is a
professional arm of the
Department of Health for
disease prevention and
control*

Criteria for reporting

(a) 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 a poultry farm/zoo 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

(b) 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

OR

(c) Death from an unexplained acute respiratory illness **AND EITHER**

- residing in area where HPAI is suspected or confirmed, **OR**
- contact with a case of Influenza A (H5), Influenza A (H7) or Influenza A (H9) during the infectious period