

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (69) in DH SEB CD/8/6/1 Pt.27

5 April, 2013

Dear Medical Superintendent,

Update on Cases of Human Infection with Avian Influenza A(H7N9)

Further to our letter to you dated 3 April, 2013, please kindly be informed that seven additional confirmed human cases of avian influenza A(H7N9) were reported by Shanghai Municipality and Zhejiang Province on 3-4 April, 2013. To date, a total of 14 confirmed cases including six deaths from avian influenza A(H7N9) were reported in eastern part of Mainland China.

On 3 April, the National Health and Family Planning Commission (NHFPC) confirmed two cases of avian influenza A(H7N9) in Zhejiang Province, involving two men, aged 38 and 67 respectively. The 38-year-old man has passed away.

On 4 April, another five cases were confirmed in Shanghai Municipality (4 cases, including 2 deaths) and Zhejiang Province (1 death). The four cases in Shanghai Municipality involved a 48-year-old male patient and a 52-year-old female patient who passed away on 3 April; a 67-year-old woman, who is in critical condition and a 4-year-old boy, who is in satisfactory condition. As regard to the case in Zhejiang Province, the 64-year-old man patient passed away on 4 April.

Laboratory tests on these patients' specimens by the Mainland health authorities yielded positive results for H7N9. According to NHFPC, the 48-year-old man was a poultry worker. No epidemiological link between these seven cases was identified. So far, except a close contact of the 52-year-old female patient developed fever and runny nose, no abnormality was detected among the 297 close contacts of these seven cases.



According to the World Health Organization (WHO), at present there is no evidence to show human-to-human transmission among the cases. WHO does not advise special screening at points of entry with regard to this event, nor does it recommend that any travel or trade restrictions be applied.

Influenza A (H7) is a statutorily notifiable infectious disease in Hong Kong. So far, no human cases of influenza A (H7N9) infection were recorded in Hong Kong. The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) is maintaining close liaison with WHO and the Mainland health authorities to obtain more information on the cases. At present, Alert Response Level under the Government's Preparedness Plan for Influenza Pandemic of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (2012) is activated and relevant surveillance and control measures have been enhanced.

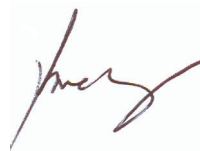
While the existing reporting criteria remains unchanged, in addition to **Anhui Province, Jiangsu Province and Shanghai Municipality**, I would like to urge you to pay special attention to those **who presented with influenza like illness and had history of visiting wet market or contacting poultry in Zhejiang 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 CHP. It is not advisable to treat suspected cases at home or in private hospital. Please contact the Medical Control Officer (MCO) of the Department of Health (DH) at Pager: 7116 3300 call 9179 to make arrangement to send the patient to regional public hospital for isolation, treatment and testing. The patient should wear a mask and be kept away from other clients while waiting for the transport.

For laboratory diagnosis, public laboratories in Hong Kong have the capability to detect the virus. On identifying any influenza A virus in clinical specimens, subtyping will be undertaken to determine whether it is the seasonal influenza virus (currently subtypes H1 and H3), or other non-seasonal subtypes (e.g. H5 and H7). Laboratory testing for influenza A(H7N9) is available at the Public Health Laboratory Centre of CHP and the result usually will be available within one day.

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,

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