



18 April 2013

Mr. Joseph TUNG, JP
Executive Director
Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong
Fax: 2510 9907

Dear Mr. TUNG,

Latest Situation on Avian Influenza A(H7N9)

Further to the letter to you dated 16 April 2013, we would like to provide you with the latest situation on avian influenza A(H7N9).

As of 16 April 2013, 77 cases of human infection caused by the avian influenza A(H7N9) virus have been reported from Anhui Province (3 cases including 1 death), Beijing Municipality (1 case), Henan Province (2 cases), Jiangsu Province (20 cases including 2 death), Shanghai Municipality (30 cases including 11 deaths) and Zhejiang Province (21 cases including 2 deaths) since 31 March 2013. According to available information, the onset dates of these cases were between 19 February and 12 April 2013. Sixteen patients died and more than 80% were severe cases. The median age was 63 years with a range between 4 and 87 years; 21 of them were females.

Investigations into the possible sources of infection and reservoirs of the virus are ongoing by the World Health Organization (WHO) and Mainland health authorities. So far, there is no evidence of ongoing human-to-human transmission. WHO does not advise special screening at points of entry nor does it recommend that any travel or trade restrictions be applied.

According to the latest risk assessment by the National Health and Family Planning Commission, the H7N9 virus is of avian origin and people are mainly infected through exposure to infected poultry or its contaminated environment. Hence, contact with infected poultry or visiting wet markets with live poultry are important risk factors of human infection caused by the avian influenza A(H7N9) virus.

In this connection, please note that travellers and tour guide are reminded to avoid visiting wet markets with live poultry while overseas. The guidelines for **Prevention of Avian Influenza – Health tips for travellers** and for **Health Advice for Tour Leaders and Tour Guides Operating Overseas Tours for Prevention of Avian Influenza** have been updated accordingly. The electronic version of the above guidelines can be downloaded from the Centre for Health Protection website at:

http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/health_tips_travellers_eng.pdf
http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/health_tips_travellers_chi.pdf

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We should be most grateful if the information could be passed to relevant parties. Thank you in advance for your support.

Yours sincerely,

(Dr. WM YU)
For Chief Port Health Officer
Department of Health