

監測及流行病學處



Surveillance
And
Epidemiology
Branch

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4 January 2007

Dear Doctor,

Scaly-breasted Munia tests H5 positive in Hong Kong

We are writing to update you on a suspected case of H5 avian influenza affecting a local wild bird, Scaly-breasted Munia, reported today.

According to the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), the carcass was collected by AFCD staff in Causeway Bay following a public referral on December 31. Preliminary testing of the Scaly-breasted Munia carcass has indicated a suspected case of H5 avian influenza. Further confirmatory tests are being conducted. The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) is conducting medical surveillance on persons who handled the bird carcasses.

Influenza H5N1 has been detected among dead wild birds in Hong Kong between 2002 and 2006. Positive detections usually occur during winter months. There were 17 bird carcasses found to have influenza H5N1 infection last year and the last one was collected in March 2006.

Influenza A (H5), influenza A (H7) and influenza A (H9) are statutory notifiable diseases in Hong Kong. Please be reminded to report any suspected human case of avian influenza infection meeting the reporting criteria to the Central Notification Office of CHP via fax (24772770), phone (24772772) or CENO On-line (www.chp.gov.hk/ceno). Please also refer patients meeting the reporting criteria to public hospital for further management and investigation (Annex).

For information on the proper management of birds, please visit AFCD's website (<http://www.afcd.gov.hk>) or contact the government enquiry hotline Citizen Easy Link at 1823. Please kindly find the latest information of avian influenza at our website (<http://www.chp.gov.hk>).

Yours sincerely,

(Dr Thomas TSANG)

Consultant Community Medicine (Communicable Disease)
Centre for Health Protection



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

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Reporting Criteria for Human Influenza A (H5, H7, or H9) Infection

(revised on 27 March 2006)

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

Clinical Criteria

- person with acute respiratory illness, characterized by fever (temperature >38°C) and cough and/or sore throat, **OR**
- person with severe pneumonia, **OR**
- person died of unexplained acute respiratory illness

Epidemiological Criteria

- recent (less than 1 week) contact with a human case of Influenza A (H5), Influenza A (H7) or Influenza A (H9), **OR**
- recent (less than 1 week) contact with diseased poultry, diseased wild bird, or their carcasses in a country / area with documented avian influenza H5 infection in birds in recent 6 months*, **OR**
- recent (less than 1 week) contact with diseased poultry, diseased wild bird, or their carcasses in a country / area with documented indigenous human case of Influenza A (H5), Influenza A (H7) or Influenza A (H9) in recent 6 months*, **OR**
- worked in a laboratory that is processing samples from persons or animals that are suspected from avian influenza infection

** The list of country / area with documented avian influenza H5 infection in birds (including poultry and wild birds) and indigenous human case of Influenza A (H5), Influenza A (H7) or Influenza A (H9) in recent 6 months will be regularly updated and posted on CHP website.*