

監測及流行病學處



Surveillance
And
Epidemiology
Branch

本署檔號 Our Ref.: (62) in DH SEB CD/8/27/1 II

14 February 2007

Dear Doctor,

Guard Against Seasonal Influenza

I would like to draw your attention that our local surveillance systems have recently detected a rising trend in influenza activity which indicated that Hong Kong is entering an influenza season.

The number of laboratory influenza isolates detected by CHP's Public Health Laboratory Services Branch has increased from 61 in week 3 to 71 in week 4 and now 126 in week 5. The predominant strain is influenza A H3N2 (Wisconsin strain). More influenza outbreaks have also been reported recently. The sentinel surveillance networks comprising private doctors and general outpatient clinics have recorded an increase in consultation rate of influenza-like-illness in recent weeks.

Influenza causes significant disease burden in some population groups where it is associated with increased risk of complications. Influenza vaccination is one of the effective means in preventing influenza and its complications. Please kindly remind your clients who belong to the high risk group to get influenza vaccination. The Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Disease's recommended target groups for influenza vaccination is attached at Annex for your reference.

For the latest information on seasonal influenza, please visit our weekly Flu Express as available at the CHP website (www.chp.gov.hk).

Yours faithfully,

(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
及控制的專業架構
The Centre for Health
Protection is a
professional arm of the
Department of Health for
disease prevention and
control

Annex

According to the recommendation made by the Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases (SCVPD) in April 2006, target groups for influenza vaccinations 2006/2007 include the followings:

- Elderly persons living in residential care homes
- Long-stay residents of institutions for the disabled
- Elderly persons aged 65 years or above
- Persons with chronic illnesses
- Health Care Workers
- Poultry Workers
- Children aged 6 to 23 months
- All Pregnant Women

