

監測及流行病學處



Surveillance
And
Epidemiology
Branch

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20 March 2007

Dear Doctor,

9-month-old girl confirmed with Influenza A (H9N2) infection

We are writing to inform you that we have confirmed a human case of influenza A (H9N2) infection today. The patient is a 9-month-old girl who presented with fever and upper respiratory symptoms and was admitted to a public hospital from March 6 to March 9. The nasopharyngeal aspirate was subsequently tested positive for influenza A (H9N2). Preliminary epidemiological investigation revealed that the grandmother had taken the girl to a wet market in Tseung Kwan O district before illness onset. The source of infection is being investigated.

Human influenza A (H9N2) infection is not new to Hong Kong. Similar cases were reported in 1999 and 2003. Unlike influenza A (H5N1) infection, previous cases with Influenza A (H9N2) infection presented only with mild illness with full recovery. The present patient also had mild symptoms, compatible with previous ones. According to scientific literatures and local poultry surveillance data, influenza A (H9N2) virus is commonly found in poultry population in this region and sporadic cases of human influenza A (H9N2) infection will be anticipated in Hong Kong. Thus, our response level under the Government Preparedness Plan for Influenza Pandemic is still maintained at Alert Level.

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).

Yours sincerely,

(Dr SK Chuang)

Consultant Community Medicine (Communicable Disease)
Centre for Health Protection
Department of Health



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
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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 $>38^{\circ}\text{C}$) 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.*