

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (109) in DH SEB CD/8/6/1 Pt.27

6 December, 2013

Dear Doctor,

**Another Confirmed Case of Human Infection with Avian Influenza A(H7N9) Virus
and Revised Reporting Criteria**

Further to our letter to you dated 3 December 2013, we would like to update you with the latest situation on avian influenza A(H7N9) and the revised reporting criteria for human influenza A(H7N9).

On 6 December, another human case of avian influenza A(H7N9) infection was confirmed in Hong Kong. The patient is an 80-year-old man with chronic medical illnesses, who has lived with his family in Shenzhen. The patient had traveled from Shenzhen to Hong Kong on 3 December for further management of his medical condition. He travelled directly to Tuen Mun Hospital and was admitted through the Accident and Emergency Department on 3 December. He was afebrile on admission. He developed fever on 6 December and nasopharyngeal swab was collected on the same day was tested positive for H7N9 by the Public Health Laboratory Services Branch (PHLSB) of the Centre for Health Protection (CHP). His condition is currently stable. According to available information, this is likely to be an imported infection and investigation is on-going.

As of 6 December 5pm, a total of 140 human cases of avian influenza A(H7N9) infection have been confirmed in the Mainland China across 10 provinces and 2 municipalities, including 47 deaths. The health authorities of Taiwan also reported one imported case from Jiangsu on 24 April. Including the case confirmed in Hong Kong earlier on 2 December, there are now two cases of human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus recorded in Hong Kong, making a total of 143 cases.



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

The Department of Health (DH)'s epidemiological investigation, enhanced disease surveillance, port health measures and health education have been in full swing since the Government escalated the response level under the Preparedness Plan for Influenza Pandemic from 'Alert' to 'Serious'. Regarding the first confirmed case in Hong Kong, as of 6 December 2pm, 17 close contacts and about 230 other contacts have been

identified. So far, specimens were all tested negative for the avian influenza A(H7N9) virus upon preliminary laboratory testing by PHLSB.

According to the World Health Organization's risk assessment (as of 7 October), most human cases have reported contact with poultry or live animal markets. Knowledge about the main virus reservoirs and the extent and distribution of the virus in animals remains limited. As avian influenza A(H7N9) virus causes only subclinical infections in poultry, it is possible that the virus continues to circulate among poultry without any warning signals to human. In this connection, we considered poultry workers might be at a higher risk of avian influenza A(H7N9) infection. In fact, a proportion of the cases reported in Mainland China were poultry workers.

In this connection, while other reporting criteria remained unchanged, we would like to enhance the existing surveillance by including **workers in live poultry industry** as an additional epidemiological criteria. For your ease of reference, the updated reporting criteria for human influenza A (H7N9) infection are attached in **Appendix** and they are also available on CENO On-line website (<http://ceno.chp.gov.hk/>). Please also be reminded that the list of affected areas is regularly uploaded to 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 the Central Notification Office (CENO) of CHP via fax (2477 2770), phone (2477 2772) or CENO On-line (<http://www.chp.gov.hk/ceno>). Please also contact the Medical Control Officer of DH at Pager: 7116 3300 call 9179 when reporting any suspected case. DH will make arrangement to send the patient to regional public hospitals for isolation, testing and treatment. Please isolate patient to minimize contact/exposure to staff and other patients and advise the patient to wear a surgical mask while waiting for transport.

For updates 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,



(Dr. SK CHUANG)
for Controller, Centre for Health Protection
Department of Health

Appendix

Reporting criteria for Human Influenza A (H7N9) infection

(Last updated on 6 December 2013)

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

Clinical Criteria

Patient with

- influenza-like-illness (fever $>38^{\circ}\text{C}$ with cough or sore throat); OR
- person with severe pneumonia; OR
- person died of unexplained acute respiratory illness.

Epidemiological Criteria

One or more of the following exposures in the 10 days prior to symptom onset:

- contact with a human case of influenza A (H7N9); **OR**
- contact with poultry or wild birds or their remains or to environments contaminated by their faeces in countries/areas with documented avian influenza A (H7N9) infection in birds and/or humans in the recent 6 months ^(see List of affected areas); **OR**
- consumption of raw or undercooked poultry products in countries/areas with documented avian influenza A(H7N9) infection in poultry and/or humans in the recent 6 months ^(see List of affected areas); **OR**
- close contact with a confirmed influenza A(H7N9) infected animal other than poultry or wild birds; **OR**
- worked in a laboratory that is processing samples from persons or animals that are suspected from avian influenza infection; **OR**
- **worked in the live poultry industry**

The list of affected areas is regularly uploaded to the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) website

(http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/global_statistics_avian_influenza_e.pdf).