

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (118) in DH SEB CD/8/6/1 Pt.27

9 January, 2014

Dear Doctor,

Third Confirmed Case of Human Infection with Avian Influenza A(H7N9) Virus

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

On 8 January, an additional human case of avian influenza A(H7N9) infection was confirmed in Hong Kong. The patient is a 65-year-old man with underlying medical condition, who lived in Sham Shui Po. He presented with fever, cough and shortness of breath since 3 January and subsequently attended the Accident and Emergency Department of Queen Mary Hospital (QMH) on 7 January. He was admitted for chest infection. As his condition deteriorated, he was transferred to the Intensive Care Unit on the same day.

His nasopharyngeal aspirate tested positive for avian influenza A(H7N9) virus by the Public Health Laboratory Services Branch (PHLSB) of the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) on 8 January. The patient is currently under isolation for further management in QMH in critical condition.

Initial investigation by the CHP revealed that the patient had travelled to Shenzhen with his family member from 1 to 2 January. They passed by a wet market in Shenzhen on 1 January. In Hong Kong, the patient did not go into wet markets, but he may have passed the entrance of Pei Ho Street Market in Sham Shui Po every morning. His close contact has remained asymptomatic so far and has been put under quarantine for 10 days since last contact with the patient. Contact tracing for his other contacts including patients in QMH who stayed in the same cubicle with the confirmed patient as well as healthcare workers in QMH and relevant hospital visitors are under way. They will be put under medical surveillance. Infection is considered to be outside Hong Kong. The investigation is ongoing.



The DH's epidemiological investigation, enhanced disease surveillance, port health measures and health education have been in full swing since the Government

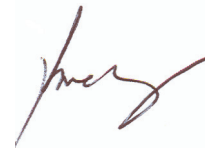
escalated the response level under the Preparedness Plan for Influenza Pandemic from 'Alert' to 'Serious'.

As of 8 January, there are a total of 156 laboratory-confirmed human cases with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus, including 49 deaths. This total number of cases includes two cases reported from Taiwan and the three cases reported in Hong Kong. In particular, Guangdong Province has reported eight more cases within a month since early December 2013. In this connection, I would like to urge you to pay special attention to those who presented with influenza-like illnesses and had history of visiting wet market with live poultry or contact with poultry in Guangdong Province and other affected areas within the incubation period (i.e. 10 days before onset of symptoms). 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,



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for Controller, Centre for Health Protection
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