

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (127) in DH SEB CD/8/6/1 Pt.27

December 28, 2014

Dear Doctors,

**A Confirmed Case of Human Infection with Avian Influenza
A(H7N9) virus and Activation of Serious Response Level of
Government's Preparedness Plan**

I would like to draw your attention to a confirmed case of human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus in Hong Kong. The patient is a 68-year-old Chinese woman who has hypertension. She lives with her husband in Tuen Mun in Hong Kong.

According to the patient's family, she developed fever and symptoms of influenza-like illness (ILI) on December 19 and consulted two private doctors on December 19 and 23. She subsequently developed shortness of breath on December 25 and attended Accident and Emergency Department (AED) of Tuen Mun Hospital (TMH). Chest X-ray taken at AED showed extensive right side pneumonia and she was admitted to TMH. She developed desaturation soon after admission. She was intubated and was transferred to intensive care unit for treatment on the same day. She is now in critical condition.

Her endotracheal aspirate, nasopharyngeal aspirate and nasopharyngeal swab were all tested positive for influenza A(H7N9) virus by polymerase chain reaction by the Centre for Health Protection (CHP)'s Public Health Laboratory Services Branch on December 27, 2014.



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

Preliminary epidemiological investigation revealed that the patient travelled to Longgang, Shenzhen on December 13 for a day trip and returned to Hong Kong on the same day. During the trip, she ate cooked chicken at her friend's residence in Longgang. The CHP is communicating with the Health and Family Planning Commission of Guangdong to investigate the source of her infection. The patient did not visit any wet market in Hong Kong during the

incubation period. According to available information, this is likely to be an imported infection. The CHP is tracing the exposed close contacts of the patient and will provide them with antiviral presumptive treatment and put them under quarantine. CHP's investigation is on-going.

In view of this confirmed case, the Government has raised the influenza response level from "Alert" Response Level to "Serious" Response Level under the Framework of Government's Preparedness Plan for Influenza Pandemic.

Prior to this case, ten imported cases of human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus were recorded in Hong Kong since December 2013. Cumulatively, a total of 470 confirmed human H7N9 cases have been reported since March 2013, including at least 184 deaths (as of December 27, 2014). These included 454 cases in Mainland China and 16 cases exported from Mainland China to Hong Kong (11), Taiwan (4) and Malaysia (1).

As the winter months approached, there has been increase in number of sporadic human cases of avian influenza A(H7N9) infection occurring in Mainland China. There have been 16 human H7N9 cases reported (as of December 27) with onset dates since the beginning of September. These 16 cases occurred in Xinjiang (6), Jiangsu (3), Guangdong (2), Zhejiang (2), Beijing (1), Fujian (1) and Shanghai (1). Based on the seasonal pattern of avian influenza viruses, it is likely that the disease activity of H7N9 in Mainland China may further increase in the winter and heightened vigilance is warranted.

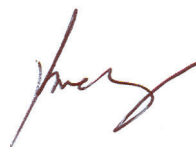
In response to the newly confirmed case in Hong Kong, we have enhanced surveillance by activating zero reporting with both public and private hospitals. Private hospitals are obliged to report the number of suspected cases on a daily basis and a nil return is required (Appendix 1 and 2). We would like to urge you to pay special attention to those who presented with ILI or fever and had history of visiting wet market with live poultry or contact with poultry in Guangdong or other affected areas within the incubation period (i.e., 10 days before onset of symptoms). The list of affected areas is regularly updated and is available at the following webpage of the CHP website: http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/global_statistics_avian_influenza_e.pdf.

Any suspected case meeting the reporting criteria (available from: <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 (www.chp.gov.hk/ceno). Please also contact the Medical Control Officer (MCO) of the Department of Health at pager: 7116 3300 (call

9179) when reporting any suspected case. CHP will make arrangement to send the patient to regional public hospitals for isolation, testing and treatment. Besides, it is important to isolate the 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 the CHP's designated 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 1

Please fax your reply by 12:00 hrs

Reporting of Suspected Case of Human Infection with Avian Influenza A(H7N9) Virus

To: Director of Health

Fax No. : 2477 2770 (Central Notification Office)

Daily Reply Slip on _____ (Please insert date)
from _____ (Name of institution)

1. The number of new cases reported to the Centre for Health Protection in the past 24 hours is: _____
(For new cases, please also complete Appendix 2)
2. The total number of cases reported so far is: _____
3. The following patients' clinical conditions have changed (please use additional sheets if necessary):

Name	Sex	Age	Any change of condition with date (e.g. death or discharge)

Contact person:

Name: _____

Tel: _____

Position: _____

Note 1

For suspected case of human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus, please also report to the Central Notification Office (Tel: 2477 2772) or call Medical Control Officer at 71163300 a/c 9179 if outside office hours.

Reporting of suspected case of human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus

For suspected case of human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus, please complete this form and fax to our Central Notification Office (CENO) (Fax no. 2477 2770).

Date:

Patient particulars

Name in English (please affix patient's gum label if applicable)	
Name in Chinese	
Sex / Age	
HKID / Passport No.	
Patient / guardian contact phone number	
Occupation	
Date of admission	
Ward / Bed no.	

Clinical and epidemiological information

Onset date (please specify symptoms)	
Diagnosis	
Past health	
Travel history	
Poultry contact / suspicious exposure	
Current condition of patient (Stable/satisfactory/serious/critical/fatal)	
Date of death (if applicable)	
Influenza test type/ result	
CXR result (if available)	
Further laboratory test results	

Attending Physician

Name : _____

Tel: _____

Contact Person

Name : _____

Position: _____

Tel: _____

Hospital: _____

Note

Appendix 1 should be faxed to CENO for any update on the information.