

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (177) in DH SEB CD/8/93/1 Pt.5

May 29, 2015

Dear Doctors,

Confirmed MERS Case in Guangdong and Additional MERS cases in Korea

Further to our letter this morning, we would like to provide you update on the latest situation of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) in Korea.

The 44-year-old suspected case of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) who had travelled to Huizhou, Guangdong from Korea via Hong Kong has been laboratory-confirmed by the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention today. He is a Korean male and is the son of the third MERS case and younger brother of the fourth case in Korea. This is the first confirmed MERS case in Mainland China. He is currently hospitalised in Guangdong and is in stable condition.

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP)'s investigation and ongoing contact tracing of this confirmed case revealed that there were 158 passengers onboard Asiana Airlines flight OZ 723 travelling from Incheon International Airport to Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) on May 26. Among the flight contacts, 81 were in the same cabin, including 29 passengers sitting within two rows of the suspected case (i.e., rows 19 to 23). Regarding the land transport from HKIA to Huizhou taken by the case, our further investigation has revealed that contacts of the suspected case were in three vehicles operated by Eternal East Cross-Border Coach Mgt. Ltd. (永東直巴管理有限公司). Details are as follows:

(1) Bus from HKIA to Sha Tau Kok (plate number: PJ 2595, departure time: 3pm on May 26). There were 21 passengers and one driver onboard.

(2) Bus from Sha Tau Kok to Huizhou (plate number: HN 5211, departure time: 4:46pm on May 26). There were 13 passengers and one driver onboard.



(3) Seven-seater car from Sha Tau Kok to Danshui (plate number: NF 4501, departure time: 4:36pm on May 26). Three passengers, who had taken PJ 2595 (travelling from HKIA to Sha Tau Kok), transferred to a seven-seater car from Sha Tau Kok to Danshui.

The CHP will continue the investigation and contact tracing. The CHP has set up a hotline (**2125 1111**) for passengers onboard OZ723 of Asiana Airlines who travelled from Korea to Hong Kong on May 26 and those of the three vehicles operated by Eternal East Cross-Border Coach Mgt. Ltd. to call for further assessment or follow-up. **If you encounter any patients who have fever or acute respiratory symptoms AND were passengers of the above flight (OZ723) and the three vehicles, please call our Medical Control Officer (MCO) at Pager: 7116 3300 call 9179 for prompt investigation.**

I would also like to inform you that the Ministry of Health and Welfare of Korea reported the eighth and ninth case of MERS in Korea today. Both cases were epidemiologically linked to the index case. The eighth case was a female health care worker in the clinic attended by the index. Her initial MERS test was negative on May 26, but subsequent testing on May 28 was positive. The ninth case was hospitalized in same hospital ward with the index case.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Shuk-kwan', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

(Dr. Chuang Shuk-kwan)
for Controller, Centre for Health Protection
Department of Health