

本署檔號    Our Ref. : (117) in DH SEB CD/8/6/1 Pt.27

30 December, 2013

Dear Medical Superintendent,

**A confirmed imported case of Influenza A(H9N2) infection**

We are writing to inform you that we have confirmed an imported human case of influenza A (H9N2) infection involving an 86-year-old man with underlying illnesses. He lived in Shenzhen with his daughter and presented with low grade fever, chills, cough and sputum since 28 December, 2013. He travelled back to Hong Kong and was admitted to North District Hospital on the same day. Sputum collected on 28 December was tested positive for influenza A M gene and negative for H1/H3 and was subsequently confirmed positive for influenza A(H9N2) by Public Health Laboratory Services Branch (PHLSB) today. His condition is stable with fever subsided since 29 December and currently being isolated in hospital.

Investigations by the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) revealed that the patient had no recent poultry contact, consumption of undercooked poultry, or contact with patients. His home contact is asymptomatic.

Human influenza A (H9N2) infection is not new to Hong Kong and cases were reported in 1999, 2003, 2007, 2008 and 2009. Unlike influenza A (H5N1) infection, previous cases with influenza A (H9N2) infection usually presented with mild illness and all recovered. According to scientific literature and local poultry surveillance data, influenza A (H9N2) virus is commonly found in the poultry population in this region and recently it was noted that it could also be transmitted by sparrows and crows. Sporadic cases of human influenza A (H9N2) infection are anticipated in Hong Kong.

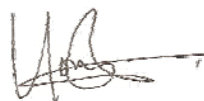


Influenza A (H9) is a statutory notifiable disease in Hong Kong. Any suspected case meeting the reporting criteria

(<https://ceno.chp.gov.hk/casedef/casedef.pdf>) should be immediately reported to the Central Notification Office of CHP via fax (2477 2770), phone (2477 2772) or CENO On-line ([www.chp.gov.hk/ceno](http://www.chp.gov.hk/ceno)). Please also contact the Medical Control Officer (MCO) of DH at Pager: 7116 3300 call 9179 when reporting any suspected case.

For updates on the latest situation of avian influenza, please visit CHP website at [http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/view\\_content/24244.html](http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/view_content/24244.html). Thank you for your ongoing support in combating communicable diseases.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Y. LAM', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

(Dr. Yonnie LAM)  
for Controller, Centre for Health Protection  
Department of Health