

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (36) in DH SEB CD/8/6/1 Pt.30

February 23, 2015

Dear Medical Superintendent,

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

I would like to draw your attention to the third confirmed case of human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus in Hong Kong in this winter. The patient is a 61-year-old Chinese man with underlying illness. He lives alone in Hong Kong.

The patient, with known history of hypertension and alcoholic liver cirrhosis, presented with cough and shortness of breath on February 16 and consulted a private doctor on the same day. He attended the Accident and Emergency Department of Queen Mary Hospital on February 20 and was admitted for management. He was diagnosed to have pneumonia with his chest X-ray showing right lung haziness. His condition subsequently deteriorated and he developed respiratory failure on February 22 requiring intubation and extracorporeal membrane oxygenation support. He is currently in critical condition.

The patient's respiratory specimens were tested positive for avian influenza A(H7N9) by the Public Health Laboratory Services Branch of the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) on February 23.

Initial epidemiological investigations revealed that the patient had travelled to Zhangmutou, Dongguan, Guangdong, from February 6 to 8 and February 14 to 15 respectively. He had visited a wet market in Zhangmutou on February 14 where he bought two slaughtered chickens. He returned to Hong Kong on February 15 via Lo Wu Control Point. Based on information available thus far, it is classified as an imported case. Investigations and contact tracing are ongoing.

Prior to this case, twelve imported cases of human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus were recorded in Hong Kong since December 2013.



Cumulatively, a total of 602 confirmed human H7N9 cases have been reported since March 2013, including at least 209 deaths (as of February 22, 2015). These included 582 cases in Mainland China and 20 cases exported from Mainland China to Hong Kong (13), Taiwan (4), Canada (2) and Malaysia (1).

Based on the seasonal pattern of avian influenza viruses, it is likely that the disease activity of H7N9 in Mainland China may remain high during the winter and upsurge of human cases in the Mainland is anticipated. Further importation of human cases or affected poultry to Hong Kong is possible. As such, heightened vigilance is warranted.

In response to the previous confirmed cases, the Government has raised the response level under the Government's Preparedness Plan for Influenza Pandemic from "Alert" Response Level to "Serious" Response Level on December 27, 2014 and implemented a series of prevention and control measures.

We have enhanced surveillance with both public and private hospitals since December 28, 2014. 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 influenza-like illness 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 (<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://ceno.chp.gov.hk/>). Private medical practitioners should contact the Medical Control Officer of the Department of Health (DH) at Pager: 7116 3300 call 9179 when reporting any suspected case. DH will make arrangement to send the patient to a regional public hospital for isolation, testing and treatment. Please 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 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,

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to be 'SK CHUANG', is centered on a light blue rectangular background.

(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.

Note 2

Please return even if no case is recorded.

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.