

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (38) in DH SEB CD/8/6/1 Pt. 27

30 December 2011

Dear Doctor,

A suspected case of human infection with influenza A(H5N1) in Shenzhen

I would like to draw your attention to a suspected case of human infection with influenza A(H5N1) in Shenzhen on 30 December, 2011.

The case was a 39-year-old man living in Shenzhen. He had onset of chills and weakness on 21 December and consulted medical treatment on 23 December, and was admitted to hospital on 25 December. He was transferred to high dependency ward on 30 December because of severe pneumonia. His condition is critical. Laboratory investigation revealed that it was positive for H5N1 nucleic acid and further confirmation test was underway. Preliminary epidemiological investigation revealed that he had no travel history or contact with poultry prior to onset of his illness.

The Government is on full alert to the threat of avian influenza and has activated the Serious Response Level under the Government's preparedness plan for influenza pandemic since 20 December, 2011.

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) is liaising with the Ministry of Health of China to obtain further details on the possible sources and mode of transmission. In view of the latest development, the Government has put in place a series of prevention and control measures to safeguard public health.

Health information has been distributed to travellers to and from Shenzhen. Temperature screening at immigration control points will be continued. The Port Health Office has informed the travel industry about the situation. Updated information is available at Port Health Office's website (www.travelhealth.gov.hk).

In addition, CHP will further strengthen surveillance for suspected human case of influenza A(H5N1) infection. I attach again (Annex) for your attention the **Reporting Criteria for Human Influenza A(H5N1)**. In addition, I would like to urge you to pay special attention to *those who developed symptoms and signs of*



avian influenza with the following exposures within 7 days prior to symptom onset:

- 1. had travelled to Shenzhen or Guangdong province; AND*
- 2. had contact with poultry or wild birds or their remains or to environments contaminated by their faeces.*

Please report any suspected cases to the Central Notification Office (CENO) of CHP via fax (2477 2770), phone (2477 2772) or CENO On-line (www.chp.gov.hk/ceno). For reporting outside office hours, please contact Medical Control Officer (MCO) of DH at Pager: 7116 3300 call 9179. Please also refer patients fulfilling the reporting criteria to public hospitals for further clinical management. You may wish to find the latest information on avian influenza at the CHP website (www.chp.gov.hk). Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Yonnie Lam', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

(Dr Yonnie Lam)

for Controller, Centre for Health Protection
Department of Health

Annex

Reporting criteria for Human Influenza A (H5N1) infection

An individual fulfilling both the *Clinical Criteria AND Epidemiological Criteria* should be reported for further investigation.

Clinical Criteria

A person with acute respiratory illness, characterized by fever (temperature $>38^{\circ}\text{C}$) **AND** one or more of the following:

- cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, and difficulty breathing; **OR**
- person with severe pneumonia; **OR**
- person died of unexplained acute respiratory illness.

Epidemiological Criteria

One or more of the following exposures in the 7 days prior to symptom onset:

- contact with a human case of influenza A (H5N1); **OR**
- contact with poultry or wild birds or their remains or to environments contaminated by their faeces in countries/areas with documented avian influenza H5N1 infection in birds and/or humans in the recent 6 months ^{see List of affected areas}; **OR**
- consumption of raw or undercooked poultry products in countries/areas with documented avian influenza H5N1 infection in poultry and/or humans in the recent 6 months ^{see List of affected areas}; **OR**
- close contact with a confirmed H5N1 infected animal other than poultry or wild birds; **OR**
- worked in a laboratory that is processing samples from persons or animals that are suspected from avian influenza infection

The list of affected areas is regularly uploaded to the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) website (<http://www.info.gov.hk/info/flu/eng/global.htm>).