

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

May 24, 2010

Dear Doctor,

**Stand-down of Local Pandemic Response Level to Alert Response Level**

The activity of Human Swine Influenza (HSI) has been declining in the past several months and its clinical severity remains unchanged in the past one year. After reviewing the latest scientific evidence and local situation of HSI, the Government decided to lower the influenza response level under the 3-tiered Framework of Government's Preparedness Plan for Influenza Pandemic from "Emergency" to "Alert" Response Level from May 24, 2010.

The activity of HSI in Hong Kong reached its peak in late September 2009, after which it declined steadily. It remained at a low level during the recent traditional seasonal peak for influenza in March 2010. The clinical severity of HSI has not changed during the past one year. As of May 23, 2010, a total of 80 fatal cases were recorded, of whom 85% had at least one pre-existing chronic disease or risk factor.

We would continue to maintain vigilant surveillance of the local influenza activities through our established systems, including the sentinel surveillance on consultation rates of influenza-like illness (ILI) in sentinel private doctors and General Outpatient Clinics, monitoring of reported ILI outbreaks and laboratory surveillance on the positive influenza isolates. Besides, we will maintain the surveillance on severe and fatal HSI cases. You are reminded to continue to report **all laboratory confirmed HSI patients requiring admission to intensive care unit or fatal HSI patients** to our Central Notification Office (Fax: 2477-2770).



The infection control practices in hospitals and clinics can be normalised. For details, please refer to our Infection Control Guidelines (<http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/guideline1/13/346/365.html>). For the latest situation on influenza, you may wish to refer to the Swine and Seasonal Flu

Monitor at the website of the Centre for Health Protection (<http://www.chp.gov.hk>). Thank you very much for your attention.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SK CHUANG', written in a cursive style.

(Dr SK CHUANG)  
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Department of Health