

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (21) in DH SEB CD/8/6/1 Pt. 27

8 December 2010

Dear Doctors,

Stand-down of "Serious" Influenza Response Level

I would like to update you on the case of human influenza A (H5N1) infection confirmed by the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) on 17 November 2010. This 59-year-old patient is now in stable condition. Her close contacts (three family contacts and another five ward contacts) have been traced and placed under quarantine. All were tested negative for H5 influenza A infection by reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR). All other contacts were either asymptomatic or tested negative for H5 influenza A infection by RT-PCR.

Since 17 November 2010, the CHP, in collaboration with the Hospital Authority and the private sector, has enhanced surveillance for avian influenza. Eight cases were reported and all were tested negative for H5 avian influenza infection. Three weeks of strengthened surveillance has passed and no secondary spread or further case of avian influenza was detected during the period.

Genetic analysis of the virus isolated from the patient showed that the genes were of avian origin. Re-assortment with genes of human origin has not been detected. The virus belonged to clade 2.3.2, which is a common avian influenza virus found in Asia. The virus did not contain the mutations associated with amantadine or oseltamivir resistance.

As the patient spent most of the incubation period in Mainland China and had visited a wet market there and there were no H5N1 avian influenza cases detected among poultries/wild birds and in farms in Hong Kong in the past six months, this case was classified as an imported sporadic infection. The Government decided to lower the influenza response level under the Framework of Government's Preparedness Plan for Influenza Pandemic from "Serious" to "Alert" Response Level on 8 December 2010.



The CHP will continue its close monitoring of the global situation on avian influenza. There are currently on-going activities of highly pathogenic avian influenza among poultry outside Hong Kong. Countries with outbreaks of H5N1 avian influenza among poultries in the past six months or endemic for H5N1 avian influenza among poultries include Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Japan, Nigeria and Vietnam.

Please be reminded that Influenza A (H5, H7, and H9) is a notifiable disease. Any suspected case meeting the reporting criteria (<https://ceno.chp.gov.hk/casedef/casedef.pdf>) should be reported to the Central Notification Office of CHP via fax (2477 2770), phone (2477 2772) or CENO On-line (www.chp.gov.hk/ceno). Please also contact the Medical Control Officer of the Department of Health at Pager: 7116 3300 call 9179 when reporting any suspected case.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. S K Chuang)
for Controller, Centre for Health Protection
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