

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (36) in DH SEB CD 8/6/1 Pt. 27

21 December 2011

Dear Manager / Infection Control Officer of Residential Care Home,

**Confirmation of a Chicken Carcass Sample
with H5N1 Avian Influenza Infection**

We are writing to inform you that a chicken carcass sample taken from the Cheung Sha Wan Temporary Wholesale Poultry Market was tested positive of the highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza virus on 20 December 2011. The Government is tracing the source of the chicken carcass. No human cases have been detected in relation to this incident so far.

The Government has raised the influenza response level under the Framework of Government's Preparedness Plan for Influenza Pandemic from "Alert" to "Serious".

Avian influenza (H5N1) is one type of Influenza A viruses. It mainly affects birds and poultry. Occasionally, it can be transmitted to human if a person has close contact with infected birds/poultry. In Hong Kong, human H5N1 infection first reported in 1997. As of today, there were 21 human H5N1 infections reported, including 18 in 1997, 2 in 2003 and 1 in 2010.

To prevent avian influenza, the following measures are advised:

- Avoid touching poultry, birds or their droppings, because they may carry the avian influenza virus;
- Wash hands thoroughly with liquid soap and water immediately in case of contact with poultry, birds or their droppings;
- Keep hands clean and wash hands properly;
- Cover nose and mouth while sneezing or coughing. Dispose sputum or secretions wrapped in tissue paper into rubbish bins with lids. Wash hands with liquid soap and water afterwards;
- Build up good body resistance and have a healthy lifestyle. This can be achieved through a balanced diet, regular exercise, adequate rest, reducing stress and no smoking;
- Poultry and eggs should be thoroughly cooked before eating;



- Maintain good environmental hygiene;
- Maintain good indoor ventilation;
- Avoid crowded places with poor ventilation if feeling unwell; and
- Seek medical advice if fever or respiratory symptoms develop.

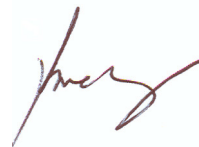
Separately, two bird carcasses with H5N1 avian influenza infection were found in schools recently. We would like to take this opportunity to remind institutions to take appropriate precautions in handling bird carcasses. You may wish to find the relevant details at http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/Handling_of_Dead_Birds_Eng.pdf

Staff or residents who develop symptoms of fever or influenza-like illness should seek medical advice early. The affected staff and residents should avoid returning to the institution.

If you notice any increase in respiratory illnesses or absenteeism among your staff or residents, please report to our Central Notification Office (Tel: 2477 2772; Fax: 2477 2770) for immediate epidemiological investigations and outbreak control.

More information on Avian Influenza is available at CHP website (<http://www.chp.gov.hk>).

Yours faithfully,



(Dr SK Chuang)
for Controller, Centre for Health Protection
Department of Health



衛生防護中心乃衛生署
轄下執行疾病預防
及控制的專業架構
The Centre for Health
Protection is a
professional arm of the
Department of Health for
disease prevention and
control