

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (100) in DH SEB CD/8/6/1 Pt.27

6 November, 2013

Dear Managers / Infection Control Officers,

Latest Situation on Avian Influenza A (H7N9) Virus

We would like to update you with the latest situation on avian influenza A(H7N9).

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) received report from the Mainland health authorities of two recently laboratory-confirmed cases of human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus. The first case, involved a 3-year-old-boy from Guangdong Province. His condition was stable. The second case involved a 64-year-old woman from Zhejiang Province and she was receiving treatment in a hospital in critical condition.

Since March 2013, there have been a total of 138 confirmed cases of human infection with influenza A(H7N9) virus reported in the Mainland China, including 45 deaths (as of 6 November noon). One imported case from Jiangsu Province was also reported by the Centers for Disease Control of Taiwan, making a total of 139 cases. The CHP of DH has been maintaining close liaison with the World Health Organization and health authorities in Mainland China to obtain information and monitor the latest developments of the disease.

Epidemiological and laboratory investigations have shown that contact with infected poultry or poultry contaminated environment was the likely risk factor for H7N9 infection. So far, there has been no evidence of sustained human to human transmission.

To prevent avian influenza and other respiratory illnesses, please kindly remind your clients / staff to observe strict hand hygiene, avoid touching their mouth, nose or eyes and avoid visiting wet markets with live poultry or contacting poultry especially when travelling to H7N9 virus affected areas. Wash hands frequently with liquid soap, especially before handling food or eating, after going to toilet, or when hands are dirtied by respiratory secretion after coughing or sneezing. In addition, the following measures are also advised:



- Avoid touching poultry/birds/animals or their droppings;
- Wash hands thoroughly with liquid soap and water immediately in case of contact with poultry/birds/animals or their droppings;
- 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 going to crowded places with poor ventilation if feeling unwell; and
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces, furniture, commonly shared items and floor at least daily by using appropriate disinfectant (For non-metallic surface, disinfect with 1 part of household bleach in 99 parts of water, wait until dry and then rinse with water. For metallic surface, disinfect with 70% alcohol).

Clients / staff with recent history of contact with poultry or history of visiting wet markets with live poultry in avian influenza affected areas, should wear a mask and consult doctors promptly if they have respiratory symptoms, and inform the doctor of their exposure history. The affected clients / staff should avoid returning to institutions. You may wish to note that CHP has issued guidelines to residential care homes for the elderly and residential care homes for persons with disabilities on prevention of communicable diseases which can be accessed at http://chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/guidelines_on_prevention_of_communicable_diseases_in_residential_care_homes_for_the_elderly.pdf and http://chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/guideline_prevention_of_communicable_diseases_rchd.pdf respectively.

If you notice any increase in respiratory illnesses or absenteeism among clients or staff, 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 the CHP website (<http://www.chp.gov.hk>).

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. SK CHUANG)

for Controller, Centre for Health Protection
Department of Health