

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (37) in DH SEB CD/8/6/1 Pt. 27

21 December 2011

Dear Medical Superintendent,

**Confirmation of a Chicken Carcass Sample with H5N1 Avian Influenza Infection  
and Activation of Serious Response Level of Government's Preparedness Plan**

I would like to draw your attention to the report that a chicken carcass sample taken from the Cheung Sha Wan Temporary Wholesale Poultry Market (Wholesale Poultry Market) was tested positive of the highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza virus during regular surveillance of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) on 20 December 2011. The Government is tracing the source of the chicken carcass.

In view of the finding of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza virus in the local wholesale poultry market, the Government has raised the influenza response level under the Framework of Government's Preparedness Plan for Influenza Pandemic from "Alert" to "Serious" and has instituted a series of prevention and control measures. Among others, the Department of Health (DH) will enhance surveillance to detect any potential human cases.

To this end, I attach again (Annex) for your attention the **Reporting Criteria for Human Influenza A(H5N1)** effective from 21 December 2011. In addition to the list of affected areas (normally defined as areas with reported H5N1 infection in human, poultry or wild birds by international or local authorities in the previous 6 months, updated list available at the CHP website at <http://www.info.gov.hk/info/flu/eng/global.htm>), I would like to urge you to pay special attention to *those who visited or worked in the Cheung Sha Wan Wholesale Market*.



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](http://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. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read 'SK Chuang', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

(Dr. SK Chuang)

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 <sup>see List of affected areas</sup>; **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 <sup>see List of affected areas</sup>; **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>).*