

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (9) in DH SEB CD/8/27/1/1

May 24, 2010

Dear Managers / Infection Control Officer of Residential Care Home,

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 during March 2010. 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.

The infection control practices in institutions, including visiting arrangements, can be normalised. For details, please refer to our "Guidelines on Prevention of Communicable Diseases in Residential Care Homes for the Elderly" (<http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/grp-elderly-en-20071227.pdf>) and "Guideline on Prevention of Communicable diseases in Day Care Centers/Home Care Services/Home-based Training and Support Service for the Elderly and Disable Persons" (http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/grp-CSS_Guideline-tc-2004052100.pdf).



I would like to urge you to continue to keep vigilance and implement prompt preventive measures against influenza and other respiratory infections at your institution/organisation. Clients/staff with acute febrile illness should not attend institution/organisation till 48 hours after fever has subsided. To prevent outbreaks, clients with fever and respiratory symptoms should be promptly isolated. The following health measures are important:

- To maintain good ventilation;
- To maintain good personal hygiene, covering nose and mouth while sneezing or coughing and dispose of nasal and mouth discharge properly;
- Keeping hands clean and wash hands properly;
- Washing hands when they are dirtied by respiratory secretions e.g. after sneezing;
- To build up good body immunity by having a proper diet, regular exercise and adequate rest, reducing stress and avoiding smoking;
- To avoid visiting crowded places with poor ventilation, especially during influenza season; and
- To wear face masks and consult doctor promptly if influenza-like symptoms develop.

You are reminded to monitor the sick pattern or absenteeism among your staff or clients, and report promptly to our Central Notification Office (Tel: 2477-2772; Fax: 2477-2770) if there is a suspected outbreak of respiratory infection in your institution/organisation. For the latest information on influenza activity, please refer to our Swine and Seasonal Flu Monitor at the CHP website (www.chp.gov.hk).

Yours faithfully,



(Dr SK CHUANG)

Consultant Community Medicine (Communicable Disease)
Centre for Health Protection
Department of Health



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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