

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (77) in DH SEB CD/8/6/1 Pt.27

17 April, 2013

Dear Medical Superintendent,

Latest Situation on Avian Influenza A(H7N9)

Further to our letter to you dated 15 April 2013, we would like to provide you with the latest situation on avian influenza A(H7N9).

As of 16 April 2013, 77 cases of human infection caused by the avian influenza A(H7N9) virus have been reported from Anhui Province (3 cases including 1 death), Beijing Municipality (1 case), Henan Province (2 cases), Jiangsu Province (20 cases including 2 death), Shanghai Municipality (30 cases including 11 deaths) and Zhejiang Province (21 cases including 2 deaths) since 31 March 2013. According to available information, the onset dates of these cases were between 19 February and 12 April 2013. Sixteen patients died (case-fatality ratio=21%), more than 80% were severe cases. The median age was 63 years with a range between 4 and 87 years; 21 of them were females.

Investigations into the possible sources of infection and reservoirs of the virus are ongoing by the World Health Organization (WHO) and Mainland health authorities. So far, there is no evidence of ongoing human-to-human transmission. WHO does not advise special screening at points of entry nor does it recommend that any travel or trade restrictions be applied.

According to the latest risk assessment by the National Health and Family Planning Commission, the H7N9 virus is of avian origin and people are mainly infected through exposure to infected poultry or its contaminated environment. Hence, contact with infected poultry or visiting wet markets with live poultry are important risk factors of human infection caused by the avian influenza A(H7N9) virus.



In this connection, please note that *visiting wet markets with live poultry per se without contact with poultry* in an affected area is considered as exposure to a contaminated environment and is an important exposure under the epidemiological reporting criteria for influenza A(H7N9). While reporting criteria remains unchanged, I would like to urge you to pay special attention to those who presented with influenza-like-illness and **had history of visiting wet markets with live poultry or contacting poultry** in countries/areas with documented avian influenza A(H7N9) infection in birds and/or humans in the recent 6 months within the incubation period (i.e. 7 days before onset of symptoms). Please kindly be reminded that the list of affected areas is regularly updated and is available at the CHP website: (http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/global_statistics_avian_influenza_e.pdf).

Any suspected case meeting the reporting criteria (<https://ceno.chp.gov.hk/casedef/casedef.pdf>) should be immediately 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 (MCO) of the Department of Health (DH) at Pager: 7116 3300 call 9179 when reporting any suspected case. DH will make arrangement to send the patient to regional public hospitals for isolation, testing and treatment. Please kindly isolate patient to minimize contact/exposure to staff and other patients and advise the patient to wear a surgical mask while waiting for transport.

For updates on the latest situation of avian influenza, please visit CHP website at http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/view_content/24244.html. Thank you for your ongoing support in combating communicable diseases.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. SK CHUANG)
for Controller, Centre for Health Protection
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