

本署檔號 Our Ref.: (10) in DH SEB CD/8/27/1/1

May 24, 2010

Dear Principal / Person-in-charge / Teacher,

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 extra preventive and control measures implemented in relation to the HSI pandemic can be normalised. I would like to urge you to continue to keep vigilance and implement prompt preventive measures against infectious diseases at your school/institution. For details, please refer to our "Guidelines on Prevention of Communicable Diseases in Schools / Kindergartens / Kindergartens-cum-Child Care Centres / Child Care Centres"

(http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/School_full_eng_20090115.pdf).



To prevent possible outbreak of respiratory diseases especially influenza, children with fever and respiratory symptoms are strongly advised not to attend school till 48 hours after fever has subsided. Besides, parents should record the body temperature of their children and hand in the temperature record sheet to the school everyday. Staff with respiratory illnesses who are suspected to be epidemiologically linked to an outbreak should refrain from work.

In addition, the following measures are also advised:

- Maintaining good personal and environmental hygiene;
- Keeping hands clean and wash hands properly;
- Washing hands when they are dirtied by respiratory secretions e.g. after sneezing;
- Covering nose and mouth while sneezing or coughing and dispose of nasal and mouth discharge properly;
- Having a balanced diet, regular exercise, adequate rest, avoid too much stress and passive smoking;
- Avoiding crowded public places where the ventilation is not good; and
- To consult doctor for medical advice promptly upon development of influenza-like symptoms such as fever, sore throat and cough.

You are reminded to monitor the sick leave pattern among your students and staff 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 school/institution. 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)

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