



# 衛生防護中心 Centre for Health Protection

## Infection Control Branch

### Health Advice on Prevention of Influenza for Drivers, Crews and Operational Staff of Public Transport

Drivers, crews and operational staff of public transport should take the following precautionary measures in workplaces to minimise the risk of contracting and spreading Influenza:

#### Disease Information

2. Please refer to thematic website of Centre for Health Protection for disease information update:

<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/14843.html>

#### Preventive measures

3. Maintain good personal hygiene
  - (a) Perform hand hygiene frequently, especially before touching the mouth, nose or eyes, after touching public installations such as handrails or door knobs or when hands are contaminated by respiratory secretion after coughing or sneezing. Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, then dry with disposable paper towel. If hand washing facilities are not available, or when hands are not visibly soiled, hand hygiene with 70-80% alcohol-based handrub as an effective alternative.
  - (b) Cover mouth and nose with tissue paper when sneezing or coughing. Dispose the soiled tissues into a lidded rubbish bin,



and then clean hands thoroughly.

- (c) When having respiratory symptoms such as fever and cough, wear surgical mask, refrain from work, avoid going to crowded places and seek medical advice promptly.
- (d) High risk individuals, such as those with underlying medical conditions or immunocompromised persons (and all members of the public during increasing trend of influenza activity), should wear surgical masks when using public transport or visiting crowded places.
- (e) Build up good body immunity by having a balanced diet, regular exercise, adequate rest, reducing stress, do not smoke and avoid alcohol consumption. Receive influenza vaccination annually if no contraindications.
- (f) Avoid touching birds, poultry or their droppings and visiting wet markets, poultry markets or farms.

#### 4. Maintain good ventilation in vehicle compartment

- (a) Ensure the air-conditioning system is well maintained with sufficient fresh air supply.
- (b) Ensure the air filters and ducts are cleaned regularly and maintained in good working condition.
- (c) Follow the “Practice Note on Managing Air Quality in Air-conditioned Public Transport Facilities” as recommended by Environmental Protection Department.

<https://www.iaq.gov.hk/en/resources-iaq-in-public-transport-facilities/>

#### 5. Maintain good environmental hygiene

- (a) Regularly clean and disinfect compartments. Pay attention to the cleaning of seats, handrails, safety belts and buckles and air inlet/outlet inside compartments.
- (b) If places are contaminated by respiratory secretions, vomitus or excreta, use absorbent disposable towels to wipe them away. Then disinfect the surface and neighbouring areas with 1:49 diluted household bleach (mixing 1 part of 5.25% bleach with 49 parts of water), leave for 15-30

minutes and then rinse the area with water and wipe dry. For metallic surface, disinfect with 70% alcohol.

- (c) Use appropriate personal protective equipment e.g. gloves or surgical mask when carrying out cleaning works.

## **When there is a confirmed human case of Avian Influenza in HK Disease Information**

- 6. Please refer to website of Centre for Health Protection for disease information update:

<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/healthtopics/content/24/13.html>

## **Affected Areas**

- 7. Please refer to website of Centre for Health Protection for affected area update:

[https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/global\\_statistics\\_avian\\_influenza\\_e.pdf](https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/global_statistics_avian_influenza_e.pdf)

## **Additional measures to the above**

- 8. Enhanced ventilation in vehicle compartment
  - (a) Keep windows open as appropriate and where possible to maintain good ventilation, including the driver/captain's cabin. Not applicable to trains.
  - (b) For enclosed or air-conditioning compartments, the fresh air inlet volume should be adjusted to the maximum level.
  
- 9. Enhanced environmental hygiene
  - (a) Step up cleaning schedule.
  - (b) Regularly disinfect compartments with 1:99 diluted household bleach

(mixing 1 part of 5.25% bleach with 99 parts of water), leave for 15-30 minutes, and then rinse with water and wipe dry. For metallic surface, disinfect with 70% alcohol.

- (c) Assign staff to monitor closely the cleaning works for compartments at termini/piers in between departures.

## 10. Public protection

- (a) Ensure passengers are not carrying any bird or live poultry.
- (b) Advise passengers with symptoms of respiratory infection or fever to wear surgical mask; and
- (c) Assist passengers to call ambulance service or the Marine Police (if on out-lying island) for conveyance them to the hospital.

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