



衛生防護中心
Centre for Health Protection

Infection Control Branch

Guidance Note on Monitoring of Body Temperature

When there is a spread of infectious diseases in community, routine monitoring of body temperature can aid early detection and segregation of persons with fever and respiratory symptoms with others, which is an effective measure to prevent the spread of infectious diseases.

Use of infrared forehead thermometer

2. Infrared forehead thermometer is often employed for temperature screening because of its convenience. A study* reported that infrared forehead thermometer does not provide a reliable temperature readings. Therefore, it is prudent to have a second mean (e.g. infrared ear thermometer) for those with doubt of the first reading by infrared forehead thermometer.

Persons with fever and respiratory symptoms should

- (a) refrain from work or school, and minimize social contact;
- (b) wear masks, be vigilant to hand hygiene and respiratory manners;
- (c) seek medical advice as soon as possible.



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轄下執行疾病預防
及控制之專業機構
The Centre for Health
Protection is a
professional arm of the
Department of Health for
disease prevention
and control

Special Attention during Serious or Emergency Response Level

3. Schools

Schools are places where people congregate, students should have temperature check daily before attending school. When having fever, refrain from school. Schools also have the discretion to initiate the measure at according to own situation.

4. Offices and other institutions

Apply the same principles as temperature monitoring in schools.

5. Hospitals

- (a) Patients (administered by hospital staff): At least daily temperature check for inpatients and report of clustering to hospital infection control team.
- (b) Staff (including contract out staff): staff should conduct daily body temperature check. Mandatory record is not required. Supervisors and the hospital infection control team should monitor the number of sick staff and alert to any clustering.
- (c) Visitors: General publics will be advised to take temperature check by themselves. They should not visit hospital if they have fever.

July 2009

(Last updated in January 2019)

Reference

- 1. Hausfater P, Zhao Y, Defrenne S, Bonnet P, Riou B. Cutaneous infrared thermometry for detecting febrile patients. *Emerging Infectious Diseases*. 2008 Aug.

Annex

Reference range for temperature screening

There are few methods for measuring body temperature, categorized as oral, rectal, armpit, ear and forehead. Before using a thermometer, read the instructions carefully for proper operation as well as the reference range of the readings. Accuracy, suitability, convenience and acceptability by user should all be taken into account when choosing the appropriate thermometer.

Body temperature varies with age, time of day and level of physical activity. For screening purpose, temperature above the reference range quoted below will be considered as significant and one should consult a doctor for suspected fever.

Measuring method	Celsius scale (°C)	Fahrenheit scale (°F)
Oral	37.5	99.5
Tympanic	38	100.4
Rectal	38	100.4
Armpit	37.3	99.1

Remarks: Read the instructions carefully for the reference range of the readings when using different methods of taking body temperatures.

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