



衛生防護中心

Centre for Health Protection

Infection Control Branch

Health Advice on Prevention of Avian Influenza for Media Workers

Media workers should take the following precautionary measures to minimise the risk of contracting and spreading Avian Influenza.

Disease information

2. 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

3. Please refer to the Centre for Health Protection website for affected areas updates:

https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/global_statistics_influenza_e.pdf

Preventive measures

4. Visit to hospitals and clinics

- (a) In hospitals and clinics (include private clinics, hospital clinics, General Outpatient Clinics, day care centres, specialist clinics etc.):
- (i) Wear surgical mask while visiting the hospital patient-care areas such as wards. It is not necessary to wear surgical masks in non-patient areas (e.g. offices).
 - (ii) Avoid unnecessary contact with the public facilities/ objects.
 - (iii) Follow the visitor registration policy so as to facilitate



- contact tracing if necessary.
- (iv) Perform hand hygiene before and after removal of personal protective equipment (PPE).
 - (v) Perform hand hygiene before leaving hospitals and clinics.
- (b) During media interview
- (i) During the interview, make sure the patient is wearing a mask.
 - (ii) Avoid direct contact with patient.
 - (iii) Use appropriate PPE (e.g. surgical masks, gowns, goggles) according to the guidance of the respective settings.
 - (iv) Used PPE should be treated as contaminated and should not be brought into non-clinical areas.
 - (v) If special approval is granted to visit infected or suspected cases or enter high-risk areas in wards and triage areas in AED, you should check in advance with the in-charge staff the appropriate infection control precautions and use of appropriate PPE.
 - (vi) Perform hand hygiene immediately and properly after the interview.
 - (vii) Avoid shared use of interviewing equipment which can be easily contaminated with droplet e.g. microphone & audio recorder.
 - (viii) Clean and disinfect the equipment with appropriate disinfectant after individual interview, such as 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 with water and keep dry. For metallic surface, disinfect with 70% alcohol.
 - (ix) When staff having respiratory symptoms, including fever, cough and/or sore throat; and with history of close contact with suspected or confirmed avian influenza patients or recent travel to affected areas, Wear surgical mask, refrain from work, avoid going to crowded places and seek medical advice promptly.
- (c) Leaving for or returning from avian influenza affected areas
- (i) Before departure: if running a temperature or having a sore-throat or cough, or feeling unwell, you are advised cancel or postpone your trip until recovery.
 - (ii) Check body temperature daily throughout the trip and after

returning from the affected areas.

- (iii) Wear appropriate PPE (e.g. surgical mask, eye protection) when visit to high risk areas i.e. farms or markets with reports of avian influenza.
- (iv) Use serving chopsticks and spoons at meal time. Do not share food and drinks with others.
- (v) Whenever you feel unwell during your visit to these areas, especially if you run a fever, You and your collaterals should put on a surgical mask immediately; Seek medical consultation at once.
- (vi) Re-arrange the itinerary and follow the quarantine/confinement measures as instructed by local health authority;
- (vii) Media workers feel unwell when returning from affected areas should seek medical advice at once. Inform doctor of recent travel history, including transit.

5. At all time, media workers should maintain good personal hygiene:

- (a) Avoid touching birds, poultry or their droppings and visiting wet markets, poultry markets or farms.
- (b) Cover mouth and nose with tissue paper when sneezing or coughing. Dispose the soiled tissues into a lidded rubbish bin, then clean hands thoroughly.
- (c) Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- (d) 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.
- (e) 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.

6. For more information about Avian Influenza, please visit the Centre for Health Protection thematic website at <https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/24244.html>

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