

本署檔號 Our Ref.: (15) in DH SEB CD/8/6/1 VIII

6 March 2006

Dear Doctors,

**Confirmed H5N1 Infection in Guangzhou and
Enhanced pneumonia surveillance program in Hospitals**

I would like to draw your attention to the case of H5N1 infection in Guangdong Province confirmed on 5 March 2006. As notified by the Ministry of Health, the patient was a 32-year-old man who lived in Guangzhou. He developed fever and pneumonia on February 22 and died on March 2. He had history of prolonged stay in poultry stalls before onset of symptoms.

In view of the latest development, the Government has put in place the following measures to safeguard public health:

- a) Suspend the supply of live poultry, day-old chicks and pet birds from the Guangdong Province for three weeks
- b) Enhance health education for travelers at all immigration control points in addition to maintaining temperature screening for inbound travelers
- c) Set up an enhanced pneumonia surveillance program, tentatively for 3 weeks starting from 8 March 2006, to increase the sensitivity in detecting human avian influenza infection among pneumonia patients admitted to public and private hospitals. (If relevant, please enquire your affiliated hospitals.)



Please be reminded that the reporting criteria of Influenza A (H5, H7, and H9) remain unchanged (*Appendix*). Any suspected case should be reported to the Central Notification Office of CHP via fax (24772770), phone (24772772) or CENO On-line (www.chp.gov.hk/ceno). Please also refer patients meeting the reporting criteria to public hospital for further clinical management and

investigation.

Latest information of avian influenza will be uploaded to the CHP website (www.chp.gov.hk). Please kindly visit the site regularly for updated information.

Yours sincerely,



(Dr Thomas Tsang)

Consultant Community Medicine (Communicable Disease)
Centre for Health Protection
Department of Health



衛生防護中心乃衛生署
轄下執行疾病預防
及控制的專業架構
*The Centre for Health
Protection is a
professional arm of the
Department of Health for
disease prevention and
control*

香港九龍亞皆老街 147C 號 2 樓
2/F, 147C Argyle Street, Kowloon, Hong Kong

Appendix

Reporting Criteria for suspected human influenza A (H5, H7, or H9) infection

(revised on 2 February 2006)

(a) Person with acute respiratory illness, characterized by fever (temperature $>38^{\circ}\text{C}$) and cough and/or sore throat, **AND EITHER**

- contact with a human case of Influenza A (H5), Influenza A (H7) or Influenza A (H9) during the infectious period, **OR**
- recent (less than 1 week) visit to a bird farm/zoo in an area known to have outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), **OR**
- recent (less than 1 week) contact with diseased poultry or wild bird, or their carcasses, **OR**
- worked in a laboratory that is processing samples from persons or animals that are suspected from HPAI infection

OR

(b) Person with severe pneumonia caused by Influenza A (e.g. Directigen test positive for Influenza A) **AND** had contact with live or diseased bird, or their carcasses within 1 week before onset of illness

OR

(c) Death from an unexplained acute respiratory illness **AND EITHER**

- residing in area where HPAI is suspected or confirmed, **OR**
- contact with a human case of Influenza A (H5), Influenza A (H7) or Influenza A (H9) during the infectious period