



感染控制處

衛生防護中心
Centre for Health Protection

Infection Control Branch

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18 April 2013

Dear Sir / Madam,

Latest Situation on Avian Influenza A(H7N9)

Further to our letter to you dated 5 April 2013, we would like to provide you with the latest situation on avian influenza A(H7N9).

As of 16 April 2013, 77 cases of human infection caused by the avian influenza A(H7N9) virus have been reported by the National Health and Family Planning Commission (NHFPC) in Anhui Province (3 cases), Beijing Municipality (1 case), Henan Province (2 cases), Jiangsu Province (20 cases), Shanghai Municipality (30 cases) and Zhejiang Province (21 cases). Among them, sixteen patients died (case-fatality ratio=21%) and more than 80% were severe cases.

According to the latest risk assessment by NHFPC, the H7N9 virus is of avian origin and people are mainly infected through exposure to infected poultry or its contaminated environment. Hence, contact with infected poultry or visiting wet markets with live poultry are important risk factors of human infection caused by the avian influenza A(H7N9) virus.

To prevent avian influenza, please kindly be reminded to avoid visiting wet markets with live poultry or contacting poultry especially when travelling to affected areas, always observe strict hand hygiene and avoid touching mouth, nose or eyes. Wash hands frequently with liquid soap, especially before handling food or eating, after going to toilet, or when hands are dirtied by respiratory secretion after coughing or sneezing. In addition, the following measures are also advised:

- Avoid touching poultry, birds or their droppings, because infected poultry, birds or their droppings may carry the avian influenza virus;
- Wash hands thoroughly with liquid soap and water immediately in case of contact with poultry, birds or their droppings;



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- Cover nose and mouth while sneezing or coughing. Dispose sputum or secretions wrapped in tissue paper into rubbish bins with lids. Wash hands with liquid soap and water afterwards;
- Build up good body resistance and have a healthy lifestyle. This can be achieved through a balanced diet, regular exercise, adequate rest, reducing stress and no smoking;
- Poultry and eggs should be thoroughly cooked before eating;
- Maintain good environmental hygiene;
- Maintain good indoor ventilation;
- Avoid crowded places with poor ventilation if feeling unwell; and
- Seek medical advice if fever or respiratory symptoms develop.

For those with recent travel history (especially to affected areas with avian influenza cases) and have contact with poultry or history of visiting wet markets with live poultry, they should wear a mask and consult doctors promptly if they have flu-like symptoms, and inform the doctor of their exposure history. Please be reminded that CHP has issued special notes on serving guests with travel history to or from the affected areas by human cases of influenza A(H7N9) which can be accessed from the CHP website at:

http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/hotel_industry_special_notes_on_h7n9.pdf

More information on avian Influenza is available at CHP website at <http://www.chp.gov.hk>.

Please disseminate the content of this letter to your colleagues, work associates and business partners so that they would be kept informed of the situation and to adopt preventive measures.

Thank you in advance for your support.



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Yours faithfully,

(Dr TY WONG)
for Controller, Centre for Health Protection
Department of Health

