

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (199) in DH SEB CD/8/6/1 Pt.34

January 11, 2017

Dear Doctors,

An Imported Case of Human Infection with Avian Influenza A(H7N9) Virus

We would like to draw your attention to the fourth confirmed case of human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus in Hong Kong this winter and solicit your support to remain vigilant against avian influenza.

The case affected a 10-year-old boy with good past health. The patient developed fever, cough and vomiting on January 8. He attended the Accident and Emergency Department of North Lantau Hospital on January 8 and 9, and was referred to Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH) for admission on January 9. He has been in stable condition all along. His nasopharyngeal aspirate specimen was preliminarily tested positive for influenza A(H7) virus by PMH. Another nasopharyngeal aspirate specimen taken on January 11 was tested positive for influenza A(H7N9) by the Public Health Laboratory Services Branch of the Centre for Health Protection (CHP). He is currently isolated in PMH.

The CHP's epidemiological investigation revealed that the patient and his family travelled to Foshan, Guangdong between December 31, 2016 and January 3, 2017. During their brief stay in the Mainland, the patient visited a relative's home where a few live chickens were kept. The family had also visited a market there but denied entry into its poultry section. The patient's family members have remained asymptomatic so far and have been put under medical surveillance. Tracing of his other contacts is underway. The CHP's investigation is continuing.



We would like to draw your attention that the activity of avian influenza in our neighboring areas has been increasing since the end of 2016. Increasing numbers of human H7N9 cases have been reported in various areas in Mainland China including Guangdong. Since November 2016, at least 132 laboratory-confirmed human H7N9 cases have been reported, including 127 cases in Mainland China (57 cases in Jiangsu, 22 cases in Zhejiang, 15 cases in Guangdong, 14 cases in Anhui, 6

cases in Jiangxi, 4 cases in Shanghai, 3 cases in Fujian, and 2 cases each in Guizhou, Hunan and Shandong), 4 imported cases in Hong Kong and 1 case in Macau. The cases in Guangdong occurred in Guangzhou (3), Jiangmen (3), Jieyang (2), Shenzhen (2), Zhaoqing (2), Dongguan (1), Muizhou (1) and Zhongshan (1). Please also note that avian influenza A(H7N9) has become enzootic among poultry in many parts of Mainland China. The activity of avian influenza is expected to remain high in the winter based on its seasonal pattern.

If you encounter patients who present with fever or influenza-like illness, it is very important to obtain their travel history and relevant exposure history during travel as appropriate. Any patients with acute respiratory illness or pneumonia, and with at-risk exposure (including live poultry workers, history of visiting market with live poultry, contact with poultry, etc.) in affected areas within the incubation period (i.e. 10 days before onset of symptoms) should be managed as suspected cases and immediately reported to the Central Notification Office of the CHP via fax (2477 2770), phone (2477 2772) or CENO On-line (https://cdis.chp.gov.hk/CDIS_CENO_ONLINE/ceno.html).

Private doctors should contact the Medical Control Officer of the Department of Health at pager: 7116 3300 (call 9179) when reporting any suspected case outside office hours. The CHP will make arrangement to send the patient to a public hospital for isolation, testing and treatment. Besides, in order to minimise contact with or exposure to staff and other patients, it is important to isolate the patient and advise the patient to wear a surgical mask while waiting for transfer.

For updates on the latest situation of avian influenza and the affected areas, please visit the CHP's designated website at http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/view_content/24244.html. Please draw the attention of the healthcare professionals and supporting staff in your institution/ working with you to the above. Thank you for your ongoing support in combating communicable diseases.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. SK CHUANG)

for Controller, Centre for Health Protection
Department of Health