

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (126) in DH SEB CD/8/27/1 Pt.21

May 4, 2017

Dear Doctor,

**Increase in Seasonal Influenza activity in Hong Kong**

We would like to inform you that the local activity of seasonal influenza has increased in the past few weeks. The latest surveillance data of the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) showed that the percentage positive for seasonal influenza viruses increased from 8.4% recorded in the week ending April 22 to 10.1% last week.

The average ILI consultation rate among sentinel general practitioners increased from 31.6 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations in the previous week to 49.9 last week. The rate among sentinel general out-patient clinics also increased from 3.6 to 4.0 in the same period.

Besides, there has been an increase in the public hospital admission rates with principal discharge diagnosis of influenza (per 10,000 population) in children aged 0-4 and 5-9 from 0.89 and 0.34 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations in the previous week to 1.47 and 0.48 last week respectively, while the public hospital admission rates in those aged ten or above last week remained similar to the previous week.

To monitor the severity of influenza infection, the CHP will collaborate with the Hospital Authority (HA) and private hospitals to reactivate the enhanced surveillance system for influenza-associated intensive care unit (ICU) admissions and deaths starting from May 5, 2017. During the period between May 5 and June 2, 2017 (i.e. a total of four weeks tentatively), **private doctors** should report patients aged 18 years or above who required ICU admission or died AND had any positive laboratory result of influenza infection to the CHP through the infection control officer, infection control nurse or designated responsible officer in the respective hospital. For patients admitted to public hospitals under HA, the CHP will collaborate with the HA Head Office to exchange the data on ICU admissions and deaths with laboratory confirmation of influenza infection. The CHP will review the situation at the end of this period to see if this enhanced surveillance needs to be extended. We will then inform private hospitals and HA



accordingly.

In addition, both private and HA doctors are reminded to continue to report any paediatric patients (aged below 18 years) who fulfill the reporting criteria for *severe paediatric influenza-associated with complication/death* to the Central Notification Office (CENO) of the CHP by fax (2477 2770), by phone (2477 2772), or via the CENO On-line website ([https://cdis.chp.gov.hk/CDIS\\_CENO\\_ONLINE/ceno.html](https://cdis.chp.gov.hk/CDIS_CENO_ONLINE/ceno.html)). Please call our Medical Control Officer (pager: 7116 3300 call 9179) when reporting cases during non-office hours.

Since influenza vaccination remains the best protection against influenza infection, we would like to solicit your support to advise all persons aged six months or above especially the priority groups, except those with known contraindications, to receive influenza vaccination as soon as possible.

The latest surveillance data on influenza and severe cases are published in the “*Flu Express*”, a weekly report available on the CHP website ([http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/guideline1\\_year/29/134/441/304.html](http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/guideline1_year/29/134/441/304.html)). Further information on influenza can be found from the following link: [http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/view\\_content/14843.html](http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/view_content/14843.html). Please draw the attention of the healthcare professionals and supporting staff in your institution/ working with you to the above.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your continuous support in combating infectious diseases in Hong Kong.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. SK Chuang)

for Controller, Centre for Health Protection  
Department of Health