

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (76) in DH SEB CD/8/6/1 Pt.36

January 13, 2018

Dear Doctor,

**Environmental swab and swabs of chilled duck from a fresh provision shop
tested positive for avian influenza A(H5N6) virus**

We would like to inform you that, under the routine surveillance programme for avian influenza at markets and fresh provision shops (FPS) commissioned by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) and conducted by the University of Hong Kong, samples taken from a FPS in Wan Chai were tested positive for avian influenza A(H5N6) virus. Traces of H5N6 virus were detected from an environmental swab of a chopping board collected on January 2, 2018 and skin swabs of a chilled duck collected on January 9, 2018 from the FPS named “新生肉食公司” located at G/F., 46 Wan Chai Road, Wan Chai were culture positive for H5N6. Swabs taken from the inside of the duck carcass were tested negative for avian influenza virus. The FEHD has immediately enhanced inspections of the premises concerned and instructed the stall to conduct thorough cleansing and disinfection.

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) has initiated medical surveillance for the staff concerned and other known contacts exposed to the FPS and the poultry.

Regarding human infections with avian influenza A(H5N6) virus, since the first case detected in 2014, a total of 18 sporadic human cases (including at least 12 deaths) have been reported by the National Health and Family Planning Commission and all occurred in Mainland China. The majority of them were known to have exposure to poultry before onset. The latest case affecting a 3-year-old girl from Fujian (福建) was reported on January 5, 2018. No human H5N6 case has been detected in Hong Kong so far.

In response to this incident, we would like to enhance surveillance for

possible human cases for two weeks. From 13-26 January, please report cases fulfilling the following criteria to the CHP for further investigation:

- Patients presenting with acute respiratory illness (fever and cough and/or sore throat), or with pneumonia; **and**
- Having contact with poultry or other products sold at 新生肉食公司 at the address: G/F., 46 Wan Chai Road, Wan Chai within seven days before onset of symptoms.

Cases fulfilling the above criteria should be managed as suspected cases of avian influenza and immediately reported to the Central Notification Office of the CHP via fax (24772770), phone (24772772) or CENO On-line (https://cdis.chp.gov.hk/CDIS_CENO_ONLINE/ceno.html). In addition, private doctors should contact the Medical Control Officer of DH 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, it is important to isolate the patient to minimise contact with or exposure to staff and other patients and advise the patient to wear a surgical mask while waiting for transfer.

For updates on the latest situation of avian influenza, please refer to the designated website of the CHP (English: http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/view_content/24244.html; Chinese: http://www.chp.gov.hk/tc/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
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