

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (78) in DH CDB/8/27/1 Pt. 24

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Dear Doctor,

### **Hong Kong Enters 2025 Summer Influenza Season**

We would like to inform you that the local seasonal influenza activity continued to increase in the past few weeks and exceeded the threshold levels, indicating that Hong Kong has entered the 2025 summer influenza season.

The latest surveillance data from the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health showed that the weekly percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for seasonal influenza viruses during the week of August 31 to September 6 has further increased to 6.94% from 6.16% recorded during the preceding week (August 24 to 30), exceeding the baseline threshold of 4.94%. Currently, about 60% of the circulating viruses are influenza A(H3), followed by influenza A(H1) (about 35%). The highest admission rates were observed among children aged less than 12 years and elders aged 65 years or above.

Private medical practitioners are reminded to continue to report severe influenza infections and deaths fulfilling the following criteria to the CHP through the infection control officer or designated responsible officer of the respective private hospital: ***adult patients (aged  $\geq 18$  years) who (i) required ICU admission or died; AND (ii) had any positive laboratory result of influenza infection.*** In addition, all doctors in both public and private sectors are reminded to continue to **report any paediatric patients who fulfil the reporting criteria for severe paediatric influenza-associated complication/death** to the CHP. The related reporting criteria and online reporting are available at 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)).



We would be grateful if you could advise your patients aged six months or above especially the priority groups to receive the seasonal influenza vaccine for the 2025/26 season for personal protection. Moreover, you may consider empirical treatment with neuraminidase inhibitor (e.g.

oseltamivir) for patients suspected to have influenza infection early based on clinical assessment, especially patients at higher risk of complications, such as young children, elders, people with chronic diseases, pregnant women, etc. Studies have shown that neuraminidase inhibitors can reduce severe outcomes of influenza. We would like to draw your attention to the Hospital Authority's internal clinical guideline on "Use of neuraminidase inhibitors in out-patient settings" (<http://icidportal.ha.org.hk/Home/File?path=/Use%20of%20neuraminidase%20inhibitors%20in%20out-patient%20settings.pdf>).

The 2025/26 Seasonal Influenza Vaccination (SIV) Programmes, including the SIV School Outreach Programme, the Residential Care Home Vaccination Programme (RVP) and the Vaccination Subsidy Scheme (VSS), will commence on 25 September 2025. Eligible high-risk groups can receive free or subsidised SIV through various vaccination programmes. Doctors can join the VSS, RVP and/or the SIV School Outreach Programme to provide free or subsidised SIV and pneumococcal vaccination to eligible persons. For details, please refer to the designated webpage for medical practitioners (<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/100633.html>). The recommendations of the CHP's Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases on SIV for the 2025/26 season can be found at [https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/recommendations\\_on\\_seasonal\\_influenza\\_vaccination\\_for\\_the\\_2025\\_26\\_season\\_in\\_hong\\_kong\\_mar2025.pdf](https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/recommendations_on_seasonal_influenza_vaccination_for_the_2025_26_season_in_hong_kong_mar2025.pdf).

Please refer to the weekly "COVID-19 & Flu Express" for the latest surveillance data on seasonal influenza (<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/resources/29/100148.html>). More information on seasonal influenza can be found at <https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/14843.html>.

Thank you for your continuous support in combating infectious diseases in Hong Kong.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr Albert AU)

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