

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (79) in DH SEB CD/8/6/1 Pt.36

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Dear Medical Superintendent,

Chilled chicken sample taken from fresh provision shop in Mong Kok tested positive for avian influenza A(H5) virus

We would like to inform you that the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) earlier took oropharyngeal swabs for avian influenza testing from a batch of chilled chickens (production date January 15, 2018) at a fresh provision shop (FPS) in Mong Kok. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department confirmed that H5 virus was detected in one sample. The FEHD's investigation showed that only chilled poultry was sold by the premises and no sale of live poultry was found. The FEHD has verified that the affected batch of chilled chickens was imported from the processing plant named "Huidong County Baishisheng Agricultural Co Ltd." (Chinese name: 惠東縣百事盛農牧有限公司) in Mainland China and the production date was January 15, 2018. According to information from the FEHD, the affected batch of chilled chickens had been sold out. The FEHD has stepped up its inspection of the premises concerned, and requested it to carry out thorough cleaning and disinfection, and provided health education to the staff.

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 chilled chickens.

In response to this incident, we would like to enhance surveillance for possible human cases. 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**
- Within seven days before onset of symptoms, having contact with the affected batch of chilled chickens processed by the processing plant "Huidong County Baishisheng Agricultural Co Ltd." (Chinese name: 惠東縣百事盛農牧有限公司) with the production date January 15, 2018.



Patients who are uncertain whether the chilled chicken belonged to the affected batch should be advised to refer to the external package of the chilled chicken for information about the processing plant and the production date or seek information from the retailer/shop.

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.

The recent two incidents of detection of avian influenza viruses from chilled poultry showed that chilled poultry sold in Hong Kong might be contaminated with avian influenza viruses. Please advise your patients that they should observe strict personal, hand and environmental hygiene when handling poultry or poultry products including chilled poultry. They should never touch the mouth, nose, or eyes when handling any poultry, poultry products or eggs. Afterwards, they must wash hands thoroughly with liquid soap and water. In addition, as high temperatures can kill avian influenza virus, they should cook poultry meat thoroughly before consumption.

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
Department of Health