

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (111) in DH CDB/9/17/5 Pt. 1

4 January 2020

Dear Medical Superintendent,

Activation of the Serious Response Level under the Preparedness and Response Plan for Novel Infectious Disease of Public Health Significance

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health writes to inform you that the Government has launched the Preparedness and Response Plan for Novel Infectious Disease of Public Health Significance (The Plan) today, and alert you that the Serious Response Level has been activated with immediate effect.

The Plan sets out the Government's preparedness and response plan in case of an outbreak of Novel Infectious Disease of Public Health Significance. A three-tier response level is adopted in the plan. Three response levels, namely Alert, Serious and Emergency, will be activated based on the risk assessment of the Novel Infectious Disease of Public Health Significance that may affect Hong Kong and its health impact on the community.

'Novel Infectious Disease of Public Health Significance' refers to any infectious disease caused by a pathogen unknown to cause human disease before, but may have changed its property to cause human infection with or without the ability of efficient human-to-human transmission. The disease has the potential to lead to international spread and public health emergency.

The current cluster of viral pneumonia cases with unknown cause in Wuhan can be regarded as a Novel Infectious Disease of Public Health Significance. Upon risk assessment of the situation, the Serious Response Level has been activated. Under the Serious Response Level, the immediate health impact caused by Novel Infectious Disease of Public Health Significance on local population is moderate.



We will closely monitor the situation and assess the risk from time to time in view of the latest scientific evidence and situation, activate or deactivate the response level and implement corresponding measures. For more information, please refer to the Plan which has been uploaded to the CHP's website (https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/govt_preparedness_and_response_plan_for_novel_infectious_disease_of_public_health_significance_eng.pdf).

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,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'SK Chuang', written in a cursive style.

(Dr. SK Chuang)
for Controller, Centre for Health Protection
Department of Health