

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (15) in DH CDB/8/27/1 Pt. 24

11 January 2024

Dear Medical Superintendent,

**Arrival of the 2023/24 Winter Influenza Season in Hong Kong**

We would like to alert you that the local seasonal influenza activity continued to increase. It indicates that Hong Kong has entered the 2023/24 winter influenza season.

Latest surveillance data of the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) showed that the weekly percentage of detections tested positive for seasonal influenza viruses rapidly increased in late December and reached 11.77% last week, exceeding the baseline threshold of 9.21%. Currently, the predominating circulating viruses are influenza A(H3). The overall admission rate with principal diagnosis of influenza in public hospitals also reached 0.68 per 10,000 population in the same week, which was above the baseline threshold of 0.25. The highest admission rates were observed with children aged 0-5 years and elders aged 65 years or above.

For the surveillance of influenza-associated admissions to intensive care unit (ICU) and deaths among patients aged  $\geq 18$  years, we solicit the support of private hospitals to report patients who satisfy the following criteria to the CHP: **adult patients (aged  $\geq 18$  years) who (i) required ICU admission or died; AND (ii) had any positive laboratory result of influenza infection.** Whenever there is a case satisfying the above criteria, the attending doctor or the designated staff should send the completed form (**Appendix**) to the Central Notification Office (CENO) of the CHP (Fax number: 2477 2770; Email: [diseases@dh.gov.hk](mailto:diseases@dh.gov.hk)). When the condition of previously reported patients has changed, it is essential to fill in the details in the **Appendix** and send to the CENO again. In addition, please remind your doctors to continue to **report any paediatric patients who fulfil the reporting criteria for severe paediatric influenza-associated with complication/death** to the CENO. Please call our Medical Control Officer (pager: 7116 3300 call 9179) when reporting paediatric severe cases during non-office hours. The



reporting criteria are available on 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)).

Grateful if you could advise your patients who are aged six months or above especially the priority groups to receive the seasonal influenza vaccine as soon as possible 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. Studies have shown that neuraminidase inhibitors can reduce severe outcomes of influenza. We would like to draw your attention to HA'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 latest surveillance data on seasonal influenza are published in the weekly "*COVID-19 & Flu Express*" at the CHP website (<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/resources/29/100148.html>) and more information on influenza can be found at <https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/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

**Reporting of Patients with Influenza Associated Intensive Care Unit Admission and Death**

**(New case / Change of condition of previously reported case)**

For patients aged 18 years or above who are admitted to intensive care unit or died, AND tested positive for influenza in the same episode of admission, please complete this form and send to CHP's Central Notification Office (Fax: 2477 2770; Email: diseases@dh.gov.hk).

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Patient particulars**

Name in English (please affix patient's gum label if applicable)	
Name in Chinese	
Sex / Age	
HKID / Passport No.	
Patient / guardian contact phone number	
Date of admission	
Date of ICU admission (if applicable)	
Ward / Bed no.	

**Clinical information**

Onset date (please specify symptoms)	
Diagnosis	
Past health	
Obesity (please specify BMI if available)	
Influenza vaccination history	
Current condition of patient (Stable/satisfactory/serious/critical/fatal)	
Date of death (if applicable)	
Influenza test type	
Influenza test result	
Further laboratory test results	

**Attending Physician**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Person**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Hospital: \_\_\_\_\_