

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (57) in DH CDB/8/27/1 Pt. 24

9 January 2025

Dear Medical Superintendent,

Arrival of the 2024/25 Influenza Season in Hong Kong

We would like to inform you that the local seasonal influenza activity continued to increase, indicating that Hong Kong has entered the 2024/25 influenza season.

The latest surveillance data from the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) showed that the weekly percentage of respiratory specimens tested positive for seasonal influenza viruses has increased rapidly in late December and reached 5.69% last week, exceeding the baseline threshold of 4.94%. Currently, the predominating circulating viruses are influenza A(H1). The overall admission rate with principal diagnosis of influenza in public hospitals also reached 0.36 per 10,000 population in the same week, which was above the baseline threshold of 0.27. The highest admission rates were observed among 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 18 years or above, we solicit the support of private hospitals to report patients who satisfy the following criteria to the CHP: ***adult patients (aged ≥ 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). 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

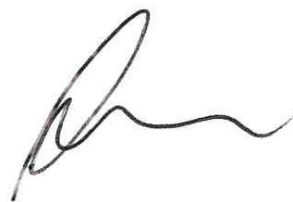


non-office hours. The related reporting criteria and online reporting are available on the CENO On-line website (https://cdis.chp.gov.hk/CDIS_CENO_ONLINE/ceno.html).

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 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 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 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Dr. Albert AU', written in a cursive style.

(Dr Albert AU)
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: _____