

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (42) in DH CDB/9/17/3 Pt.1

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Dear Principal / Person-in-charge,

Alert on the cluster of pneumonia cases in Wuhan of Mainland

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health is closely monitoring a cluster of pneumonia cases in Wuhan of Hubei Province (湖北省武漢市), and would like to alert you to remain vigilance.

According to available information, there were a total of 27 pneumonia cases associated with a market named “華南海鮮城” in Wuhan in December 2019 (as of December 31). Among them, seven cases were in serious condition and the remaining cases were in stable condition. Symptoms were mainly fever while a few had presented with shortness of breath. All patients have been isolated and receiving treatment. Contact tracing of close contacts and medical surveillance by the Wuhan health authority are ongoing. Assessment by relevant experts in Wuhan revealed that the cases were compatible with viral pneumonia. The causative pathogen and cause of infection are still under investigation.

Students or staff should wear a mask and consult doctors promptly if they have fever / respiratory symptoms, and inform the doctor of their travel and exposure history. Symptomatic students or staff should not attend schools. Guidelines on Prevention of Communicable Diseases in Schools / Kindergartens / Kindergartens-cum-Child Care Centres / Child Care Centres' published by the CHP can be accessed at the following link:

[http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/guidelines_on_prevention_of_communicable_diseases_in_schools kindergartens kindergartens cum child care-centres child care-centres.pdf](http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/guidelines_on_prevention_of_communicable_diseases_in_schools_kindergartens_kindergartens_cum_child_care-centres_child_care-centres.pdf)



To prevent pneumonia and respiratory tract infection, please kindly remind your students / staff to maintain good personal and environmental hygiene. They are advised to:

- Perform hand hygiene frequently, especially before touching the mouth, nose or eyes; after touching public installations such as handrails or door knobs; or when hands are contaminated by respiratory secretion after coughing or sneezing.
- Wash hands with liquid soap and water, and rub for at least 20 seconds. Then rinse with water and dry with a disposable paper towel or hand dryer. If hand washing facilities are not available, or when hands are not visibly soiled, hand hygiene with 70 to 80 per cent alcohol-based handrub is an effective alternative.
- Cover mouth and nose with tissue paper when sneezing or coughing. Dispose of soiled tissues into a lidded rubbish bin, then wash hands thoroughly.
- When having respiratory symptoms, wear a surgical mask, refrain from work or attending class at school, avoid going to crowded places and seek medical advice promptly.
- Avoid making close contact with patients, especially those with symptoms of acute respiratory infections.
- Avoid touching poultry/ birds or their droppings.
- Avoid visiting wet markets, live poultry markets or farms.
- Adhere to food safety and hygiene rules such as avoiding consuming raw or undercooked animal products, including milk, eggs and meat, or foods which may be contaminated by animal secretions, excretions (such as urine) or contaminated products, unless they have been properly cooked, washed or peeled.

If you notice an increase in fever / pneumonia / respiratory illnesses among students or staff, please report promptly to our Central Notification Office (Tel: 2477 2772; Fax: 2477 2770) for prompt epidemiological investigations and outbreak control.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. SK Chuang)

for Controller, Centre for Health Protection
Department of Health