



**衛生防護中心**  
Centre for Health Protection

**Scientific Committee on Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases**

**Consensus Summary on Avian Influenza A (H7N9)**

**(Updated on 8 October 2014)**

Since the emergence of human infections with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus in Mainland China in March 2013, two distinct waves of human infections have been observed. The second wave occurred from October 2013 onwards and the disease activity has been decreasing since February 2014. In the meeting on 8 October 2014, the Scientific Committee on Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases (the Committee) has reviewed the latest scientific findings and the epidemiological situation of H7N9. The Committee noted that:

- Patients were likely to be infected through exposure to infected live poultry or contaminated environments, including live poultry markets. There is no evidence of sustained human-to-human transmission;
- The current disease activity of avian influenza A(H7N9) remained low but it is likely to increase in the winter months and upsurge of human cases in the Mainland is anticipated. Further importation of human cases to Hong Kong is possible. Also, the risk of importation of affected poultry continues to exist; and
- In preparing for the winter surge, the enhanced preventive and control measures for human infection with avian influenza should be continued. Surveillance for human avian influenza A(H7N9) infection is also crucial.

2. To prevent and control the spread of disease, the current recommendations made by the Committee previously to the Centre for Health Protection to work collaboratively with various stakeholders are still valid:



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- Continue intensive surveillance for avian influenza A(H7N9) virus infection in both human and poultry/birds;
- Maintain a high level of alertness, preparedness and response for avian influenza A(H7N9) virus infection;
- Strengthen publicity and public education on the prevention of the disease;
- Maintain close liaison with international and the Mainland health authorities and local academics to monitor the latest development;
- Carry out further studies to fill the knowledge gaps; and
- Monitor the progress of development of H7N9 vaccine closely.

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