

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (78) in DH SEB CD/8/6/1 XVIII

12 March 2008

Dear Doctor,

### **Reporting Criteria for Human Influenza A(H5N1) infection**

I would like to inform you that the reporting criteria for human influenza A(H5N1) will be updated effective from 17 March 2008.

In order to facilitate early detection, a set of reporting criteria for human influenza A(H5), A(H7) and A(H9) infections is in place. To align with the reporting criteria of the World Health Organization, our reporting criteria are revised as follows (**Appendix A**):

- The reporting criteria only cover **H5N1 infection** and there will be no reporting criteria for H7 and H9 infection;
- Clinical criteria are revised to include **shortness of breath and difficulty breathing**;
- Exposure to **contaminated environment, consumption of raw and undercooked poultry products or contact with animals other than poultry** in affected areas are added as possible risk factors; and
- There are no changes to the definition of affected areas. The list of affected areas is regularly uploaded to the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) website (<http://www.info.gov.hk/info/flu/eng/global.htm>).

You are also reminded that the case definition for human influenza A(H5), A(H7) and A(H9) infections remains unchanged (**Appendix B**).

Please report any suspected cases to the Central Notification Office (CENO) of CHP via fax (24772770), phone (24772772) or CENO On-line ([www.chp.gov.hk/ceno](http://www.chp.gov.hk/ceno)). Please also refer patients fulfilling the reporting criteria to public hospitals for further clinical management.



Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read 'SK CHUANG', is centered below the text 'Yours faithfully,'.

(Dr. SK CHUANG)  
Consultant Community Medicine (Communicable Disease)  
Centre for Health Protection  
Department of Health

## **Reporting criteria for Human Influenza A (H5N1) infection**

(Last updated on 12 March 2008)

An individual fulfilling both the *Clinical Criteria AND Epidemiological Criteria* should be reported to CHP for further investigation.

### **Clinical Criteria**

- person with acute respiratory illness, characterized by fever (temperature >38°C) **AND** one or more of the following: cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, and difficulty breathing; **OR**
- person with severe pneumonia; **OR**
- person died of unexplained acute respiratory illness.

### **Epidemiological Criteria**

One or more of the following exposures in the 7 days prior to symptom onset:

- contact with a human case of influenza A (H5N1); **OR**
- contact with poultry or wild birds or their remains or to environments contaminated by their faeces in countries/areas with documented avian influenza H5N1 infection in birds and/or humans in the recent 6 months <sup>(see List of affected areas)</sup>; **OR**
- consumption of raw or undercooked poultry products in countries/areas with documented avian influenza H5N1 infection in poultry and/or humans in the recent 6 months <sup>(see List of affected areas)</sup>; **OR**
- close contact with a confirmed H5N1 infected animal other than poultry or wild birds; **OR**
- worked in a laboratory that is processing samples from persons or animals that are suspected from avian influenza infection

## **Case Definition**

### **Influenza A (H5), Influenza A (H7) or Influenza A (H9)**

(Last updated on 27 March 2006)

#### **Clinical description**

Person with acute respiratory illness, characterized by fever (temperature > 38°C) **and** cough and/or sore throat.

#### **Laboratory criteria**

Any one of the following:

- Positive viral culture for Influenza A (H5), Influenza A (H7) or Influenza A (H9)
- Positive Polymerase Chain Reaction for Influenza A (H5), Influenza A (H7) or Influenza A (H9) with verification by Virology Division, Public Health Laboratory Services Branch of Centre for Health Protection, or Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine of University of Hong Kong
- $\geq$  four-fold rise in Influenza A (H5), Influenza A (H7) or Influenza A (H9) specific antibody titre in paired serum samples

#### **Confirmed case**

An individual fulfilling the laboratory criteria.

#### **Probable case**

An individual presenting with fever (temperature > 38°C) **AND** one or more of the following symptoms:

- Cough
- Sore throat
- Shortness of breath

#### **AND**

Limited laboratory evidence of Influenza A (H5), Influenza A (H7) or Influenza A(H9) [e.g. immunofluorescence antibody test positive using Influenza A (H5) monoclonal antibodies]