

本署檔號 Our Ref. :

7 June 2008

Dear Doctor,

**Alert to Human Influenza A(H5N1) infection and
Activation of Serious Response Level of Government's Preparedness Plan**

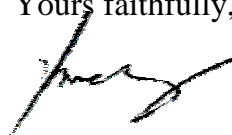
I refer to the report that 5 environmental specimens taken from three chicken stalls in the Po On Road Market were found to be H5N1 positive today. The specimens were taken as part of regular monitoring and there have not been any reports of massive chicken deaths. The sources of the chickens in the affected stalls are still being traced. So far no human case has been detected.

The Government has activated the Serious Response Level with reference to the Government's Preparedness Plan for Influenza Pandemic. Among others, DH will enhance surveillance to detect any potential human cases.

To this end, I attach again (Annex) for your attention the **Reporting Criteria for Human Influenza A(H5N1)** effective from 17 March 2008. In addition to the list of affected areas (normally defined as areas with reported H5N1 infection in human, poultry or wild birds by international or local authorities in the previous 6 months, updated list available at the CHP website at <http://www.info.gov.hk/info/flu/eng/global.htm>), I would like to urge you to pay special attention to *those who have visited or worked in Po On Road Market*.

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). For reporting outside office hours, please contact Medical Control Officer (MCO) of DH at Pager: 7116 3300 call 9179. Please also refer patients fulfilling the reporting criteria to public hospitals for further clinical management. Thank you.

Yours faithfully,



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Reporting criteria for Human Influenza A (H5N1) infection

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

Clinical Criteria

A person with acute respiratory illness, characterized by fever (temperature $>38^{\circ}\text{C}$) **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 ^{see List of affected areas}; **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 ^{see List of affected areas}; **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