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Dear Doctors,

**Two human cases of influenza A(H5N1) infection in Mainland China**

I would like to draw your attention to two confirmed cases of human influenza A(H5N1) infection notified by the Ministry of Health of Mainland China from Shanxi and Shandong province on 17 January and 18 January 2009 respectively. The first patient was a 2-year-old girl who developed symptoms on 7 January 2009 while in Hunan and was brought to Shanxi for medical treatment on 11 January. She is now in critical condition. The second patient was a 27-year-old woman living in Shandong Province. She developed symptoms on 5 January and passed away on 17 January. Respiratory specimens taken from both patients were tested positive for H5N1. We are liaising with the Ministry of Health of Mainland China to obtain more epidemiological information concerning these cases.

Please be reminded that the reporting criteria of Influenza A (H5, H7, and H9) remain unchanged (*Appendix*). Any suspected case should be reported to the Central Notification Office of CHP via fax (24772770), phone (24772772) or CENO On-line ([www.chp.gov.hk/ceno](http://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 meeting the reporting criteria to public hospital for further clinical management and investigation.

Yours sincerely,



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## *Appendix*

### **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  $>38^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) **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

**Countries / areas with documented avian influenza H5N1 infection in birds  
or human in the recent 6 months**

<b>Country/ Area</b>	<b>Date of last report of human or animal case</b>	<b>Human cases</b>	<b>Poultry cases</b>	<b>Wild bird cases</b>
Bangladesh	2009-01-06	N	Y	N
Benin	2008-08-25	N	Y	N
Cambodia	2008-12-25	Y	Y	N
China				
Beijing	2009-01-07	Y	N	N
Hong Kong	2008-12-09 <sup>&amp;</sup>	N	Y	Y <sup>#</sup>
Hunan	2009-01-17 <sup>^</sup>	Y <sup>^</sup>	N	N
Jiangsu	2008-12-19	N	Y	N
Shandong	2009-01-18 <sup>*</sup>	Y	N	N
Shanxi	2009-01-17 <sup>^</sup>	Y <sup>^</sup>	N	N
Egypt	2009-01-14	Y	Y	N
Germany	2008-10-10	N	Y	N
India	2009-01-13	N	Y	N
Indonesia	2008-12-09	Y	Y	N
Laos	2008-12-01	N	Y	N
Nepal	2009-01-16	N	Y	N
Nigeria	2008-07-25	N	Y	N
Thailand	2008-11-17	N	Y	N
Togo	2008-09-18	N	Y	N
Vietnam	2009-01-07	Y	Y	N

<sup>&</sup> Avian influenza (H5) was detected in poultry on a farm in Yuen Long. Source: The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, Hong Kong

<sup>#</sup> Source: The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, Hong Kong

<sup>\*</sup> Source: The Ministry of Health of China, on January 18, 2009.

<sup>^</sup> Source: The Ministry of Health of China, on January 17, 2009. This case stayed in Hunan province and was brought to Shanxi province for medical treatment.