

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (80) in DH SEB CD/8/6/1 Pt.27

23 April, 2013

Dear Doctor,

**Latest Situation on Avian Influenza A(H7N9)**

Further to our letter to you dated 17 April 2013, we would like to provide you with the latest situation on avian influenza A(H7N9).

On 23 April 2013, the National Health and Family Planning Commission (NHFPC) reported the first confirmed case of human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus in Shandong Province, making a total of 105 cases of human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus in Anhui Province (3 cases including 1 death), Beijing Municipality (1 case), Henan Province (3 cases), Jiangsu Province (24 cases including 3 death), Shandong Province (1 case), Shanghai Municipality (33 cases including 12 deaths) and Zhejiang Province (40 cases including 5 deaths) since 31 March 2013.

The case in Shandong Province involves a 36-year-old man who is receiving treatment in hospital. His condition is critical.

According to available information, the onset dates of the confirmed cases were between 19 February and 16 April 2013. Twenty one patients died (case-fatality rate=20%). The median age was 62 years with a range between 2 and 89 years. Male to female ratio is approximately 2.2:1. Higher age appears to be a risk factor. Fifty-five of 102 cases (54%) were aged 60 or above with an age specific case fatality rate (CFR) of 25%. When stratified by age and sex, elderly men were the most affected demographic group. Although the CFR in all males at 20% (14/69) was close to females at 16% (5/32), when restricted to elderly cases  $\geq$  60 years of age, the CFR in males was 28% (11/39) as compared with 19% (3/16) in females. The reasons for the current age and sex distribution among reported cases require further studies.



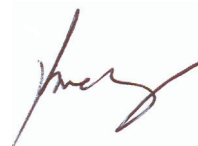
Investigations into the possible sources of infection and reservoirs of the virus are ongoing by the World Health Organization (WHO) and Mainland health authorities and it is believed that exposure to infected poultry or visiting wet markets with live poultry are important risk factors of human infection. So far, there is no evidence of ongoing human-to-human transmission.

In response to the newly confirmed case in Shandong Province, while reporting criteria remains unchanged, in addition to **Anhui Province, Beijing Municipality, Henan Province, Jiangsu Province, Shanghai Municipality and Zhejiang Province**, I would like to urge you to pay special attention to those who presented with influenza-like-illness and had history of visiting wet market with live poultry or contact with poultry in **Shandong Province** within the incubation period (i.e. 7 days before onset of symptoms). Please kindly be reminded that the list of affected areas is regularly updated and is available at the CHP website: ([http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/global\\_statistics\\_avian\\_influenza\\_e.pdf](http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/global_statistics_avian_influenza_e.pdf)).

Any suspected case meeting the reporting criteria (<https://ceno.chp.gov.hk/casedef/casedef.pdf>) should be immediately reported to the Central Notification Office of CHP via fax (2477 2770), phone (2477 2772) or CENO On-line ([www.chp.gov.hk/ceno](http://www.chp.gov.hk/ceno)). Please also contact the Medical Control Officer (MCO) of the Department of Health (DH) at Pager: 7116 3300 call 9179 when reporting any suspected case. DH will make arrangement to send the patient to regional public hospitals for isolation, testing and treatment. Please kindly isolate patient to minimize contact/exposure to staff and other patients and advise the patient to wear a surgical mask while waiting for transport.

For updates on the latest situation of avian influenza, please visit CHP website at [http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/view\\_content/24244.html](http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/view_content/24244.html). Thank you for your ongoing support in combating communicable diseases.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. SK CHUANG)  
for Controller, Centre for Health Protection  
Department of Health