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1 May 2009

Dear Doctors,

An Imported Case of Human Swine Influenza A /H1N1 in Hong Kong

I am writing to inform you that we have confirmed an imported case of Human Swine Influenza A (H1N1) on 1 May 2009. The Chief Executive has announced the activation of the Emergency Response Level of the Government's Preparedness Plan for Pandemic on the same day.

The patient is a 25-year-old Mexican man who lives in Uruapan of Mexico. The patient cannot speak English and information such as clinical symptoms were collected through his friend. He developed cough with sputum, sore throat, myalgia and bone pain on 28 April 2009. He travelled with his brother and his friend from Tijuana, Mexico to Shanghai via AeroMexico (flight number AM98) on 29 April 2009, and from Shanghai to Hong Kong via China Eastern Airline (flight number MU505) on 30 April 2009.

He stayed at the Metropark Hotel in Wan Chai. He attended the Accident and Emergency Department of Ruttonjee Hospital on 30 April 2009 and was admitted for treatment and isolation. He started to develop low-grade fever on 1 May 2009 and the PCR of the specimen was positive for influenza A (H1N1) on 1 May. His condition is now stable and has been transferred to Princess Margaret Hospital. The two travel collaterals remained asymptomatic and are also put under isolation.

The Director of Health has ordered Metropark Hotel in Wan Chai to be isolated since 1 May to prevent the spread of human swine flu (Influenza A/H1N1). The order requires all staff and lodgers to be remained in the hotel. Some of them will be removed to Lady Maclehole Holiday Village, a designated isolation camp on 2 May. They will be quarantined for a period of seven days. Public health personnels from

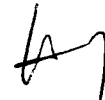


the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health have conducted health inspections for people staying in the hotel. Those who have developed flu-like symptoms will be sent to hospital for treatment. Staff of the Food and Environment Hygiene Department will conduct thorough cleansing and disinfection in the hotel.

CHP has also started tracing people with opportunities to have contact with the patient. Travellers boarding AeroMexico (flight no. AM98) from Tijuana to Shanghai on 29 April or China Eastern Airlines (flight no. MU505) from Shanghai to Hong Kong on 30 April, or those stayed in the hotel on the same day and have left are urged to call the CHP hotline 2125 1111 to facilitate prompt investigations by the health authority.

Human Swine Influenza has been made a statutory notifiable disease in Hong Kong since 27 April 2009. Please be reminded to report any suspected case of Human Swine Influenza infection meeting the reporting criteria to the Central Notification Office of CHP via fax (2477 2770), phone (2477 2772) or CENO On-line (www.chp.gov.hk/ceno).

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. Christine WONG)

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