

Guidelines For Prevention of Influenza Pandemic (For Staff)

Level 1: Alert Response Level

When:

- there is confirmation of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) outbreaks in poultry populations **outside** Hong Kong; or
- there is confirmation of HPAI **in** Hong Kong in imported birds in quarantine, in wild birds, in recreational parks, in pet bird shops or in the natural environment; or
- there is confirmation of human case(s) of avian influenza **outside** Hong Kong.

Measures:

- Maintain normal way of life.
- Maintain practice of personal and environmental hygiene, such as frequent hand washing.
- Consult your doctor if you feel unwell especially when you run a fever, and follow your doctor's advice to stay at home.
- Wear a proper surgical mask when you suffer respiratory tract infection such as coughing or sneezing.
- Maintain general awareness and vigilance of possible Influenza Pandemic outbreak.
- Keep track of the development of Influenza Pandemic and visit the University website: [Campus Prevention of Influenza](#) and Government website: [Centre for Health Protection](#) regularly for updated information.

Level 2: Serious Response Level

When:

- there is confirmation of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) outbreaks in the environment of or among poultry population in retail markets, wholesale markets or farms **in** Hong Kong due to a strain with known human health impact; or
- there is confirmation of human case(s) of avian influenza **in** Hong Kong **without** evidence of efficient human-to-human transmission.

Measures:

- Maintain normal way of life.
- Report to your Head of Department or Health Centre if you consider yourself a HPAI Close Contact or have been told by the Department of Health that you are a Close Contact, or suspected or confirmed HPAI patient.
- Follow the advice from the Department of Health to stay at home or designated centres during the incubation period if being identified as a HPAI Close Contact by the Department of Health.
- Staff who are HPAI Close Contacts as identified by the Department of Health may be granted leave of absence from the University.
- Consult a doctor if you are sick especially with respiratory symptoms with or without fever, and follow your doctor's advice to stay at home.
- Staff may approach Health Centre for issuance of health certificates if they plan to leave Hong Kong.

Level 3: Emergency Response Level

When:

- there is evidence confirming efficient human-to-human transmission of novel¹ influenza occurring overseas or in Hong Kong. Efficient human-to-human transmission is defined as the ability of the virus to readily spread from person to person in the general population and cause multiple outbreaks of disease leading to epidemics. Clear evidence of human-to-human spread² in the general population may be inferred when secondary cases result from contact with an index case, with at least one outbreak lasting over a minimum 2-week period in one country. In confirming efficient human-to-human transmission, one must not overlook other possible explanations, such as acts of terrorism, or an unusual ecological situation with an animal vector spreading virus to humans in different locations.
- World Health Organization (WHO) declares an influenza pandemic. It means the influenza strain is beginning to cause several outbreaks in at least one country, and spread to other countries, with consistent disease patterns indicating serious morbidity and mortality is likely in at least one segment of the population.

Measures:

- Report to your Head of Department or Health Centre if you consider yourself a Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Close Contact or have been told by the Department of Health that you are a Close Contact, or suspected or confirmed HPAI patient.
- Follow the advice from the Department of Health to stay at home or special designated centres during the incubation period if being identified as a HPAI Close Contact by the Department of Health.
- Staff who are HPAI Close Contacts as identified by the Department of Health may be granted leave of absence from the University.
- Staff who are not in close contact with a HPAI patient and have no symptoms of illness but are seriously concerned about their health may apply for their own accrued/advance annual/vacation or unpaid leave.
- Consult a doctor if you are sick especially with respiratory symptoms with or without fever, and follow your doctor's advice to stay at home.
- Staff may approach Health Centre for issuance of health certificates if they plan to leave Hong Kong.

¹ Novel Influenza refers to the emergence of an influenza A virus with different haemagglutinin sub-type than strains circulating in humans for many preceding years.

² World Health Organization, Influenza Pandemic Plan. The role of WHO and Guidelines for National and Regional Planning. Geneva, Switzerland, April 1999. WHO/CDS/CSR/EDC/99.1