

Response to WHO Swine Flu Pandemic Announcement

Dear students and colleagues,

Given that the World Health Organisation has declared a swine flu pandemic (or global epidemic) and the appearance of the first cluster of cases at a local secondary school, it is a timely moment to remind the CityU community to take the steps necessary to help contain the illness and to be reassured that the University is adopting all possible measures to prevent the spread of Influenza A (H1N1). The total number of confirmed cases in the city now stands at 63. From today, all Hong Kong primary schools, kindergartens, child care centres and special schools will close for two weeks.

The University has face masks available and recommends their use for anyone with flu-like symptoms. Cleaning services around the campus have been increased. Two counters for body temperature checks have been set up. Any CityU medical clinic patients with a fever will be directed to an open consultation area near the swimming pool entrance so as to allow special attention to be paid to these patients.

It is important that we all work together to protect each other's health. Please take all necessary precautions to prevent the contraction or spread of the disease. Preventive measures that can be adopted by all staff and students include the following safeguards:

- keep hands clean and wash hands frequently with soap and water or apply alcohol-based hand cleaners,
- avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth,
- cover nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing,
- do not spit and always wrap nasal and mouth discharges with tissue paper, and dispose of the tissue paper properly in a lidded rubbish bin,
- wear mask when symptoms of respiratory tract infection or fever develop, and seek medical advice promptly; and
- refrain from work or school if symptoms develop.

CityU has set up a dedicated hotline (3442 7466) to answer any queries regarding the University's preventive measures against the spread of Influenza A (H1N1) and related matters. For more useful links and information about the influenza, please visit the [Campus Prevention of Influenza website](#) of the University.

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