Stepping up Precautionary Measures to Prevent the Spread of Influenza in Schools

Summary

In view of recent reports of avian influenza in a number of countries, this circular calls on schools to remain vigilant and step up precautionary measures to prevent the spread of influenza in schools. They should remind students and school personnel to be alert and maintain good personal and environmental hygiene to avoid any possible infection especially when traveling outside Hong Kong.

Details

2. The school authorities, staff members and students should pay heed to the following:

- Refrain from keeping live birds in school where possible;
- Establish barriers to prevent children from touching live birds;
- Avoid organising activities that may expose children to live birds;
- Do not touch live birds, poultry and their excreta (Wash hands with soap and water immediately after contact with live birds or surfaces contaminated by bird droppings);
- Cover nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing and wash hands with soap and water afterwards;
- Keep hands clean and wash hands properly, use liquid soap for hand washing and disposal towel for drying hands, do not share towels;
- Cleanse used toys and furniture properly;
- Maintain good ventilation;
- Keep sufficient stock of face masks in the school for staff/students who may need one; and
- If any students/staff develop respiratory symptoms, they should consult their doctor promptly, wear a face mask, and take rest at home and refrain from going to school as advised by their doctor.

4. Should unusual pattern of illnesses/sick leave among school personnel/students after major school holidays be noticed, schools should notify the respective District School Development Section of the Education and Manpower Bureau as well as the Central Notification Office for Infectious Diseases of the Department of Health:

   Telephone number: 2477 2772
   Fax number: 2477 2770


Enquiries

6. If you have any enquiries, please contact your District School Development Section.

   K S LEE
   for Secretary for Education and Manpower

   c.c. Heads of Sections – for information