

Dear Colleagues and Students,

### **Institutional Advice on Human Infections with Avian Influenza A (H7N9)**

The recent cases of human infections with avian influenza A (H7N9) virus as reported in some provinces of Mainland China, coupled with the first imported case confirmed most recently in Taiwan, have raised health concerns among colleagues, students and their parents, especially for those planning to join study tours to the affected areas in the coming summer.

It should be noted, however, that no evidence of human-to-human transmission is found for the time being according to the World Health Organization; nor has the Security Bureau of HKSAR Government issued any outbound travel alert to these areas at this stage. Nevertheless, it is understandable that colleagues and students may wish to obtain some advice from the Institute on deciding their trip arrangements.

In this regard and in view of the uncertainty and possible spread of the virus, the Institute has set up a special taskforce convened by Acting VP (RD) Professor Joshua Mok with members drawn from the Faculty of Humanities, Estates Office, Registry, Greater China Affairs Office, Student Affairs Office, Communications Office and Finance Office to look into the possible impact of H7N9 on the Institute's outbound activities to be held in the coming months. Moreover, at its scheduled meeting last week, the Communicable Disease Prevention Subcommittee (CDPS), based on the inputs from the special task force, has also discussed and worked out the following guidelines ***for those intending or planning to travel to the affected areas for various activities.***

#### **A. Credit bearing study tours, language immersion courses**

The CDPS strongly advises the organizing units to consider, in light of the potential risks, the preferences of the colleagues, students and their parents, deferring or making alternative arrangement for the scheduled trips to the Mainland China with the understanding that such re-arrangement will not affect the graduation period of the students concerned. The organizing units are also urged to consult their respective faculties and Registry and make the necessary arrangement and announcement as soon as possible.

#### **B. *Non-credit bearing learning programmes, summer activities, outreach activities, internships and other duty trips***

For other non-compulsory activities, the organizing units/individuals should consider, in light of the potential risks of the visiting regions, the preferences of the colleagues, students and their parents in case of group activities, as well as health condition of

individuals, whether going ahead with the original plans or otherwise. Again, the CDPS strongly advises the organizing units/individuals to consider deferring or making alternative arrangement for the scheduled trips to the Mainland China as far as possible.

In any circumstances, the following general advice should be observed for anyone making any outbound activities regardless of their natures:

- Take into account the personal health conditions and discuss with family members whether or not to take part in the outbound activities in the affected regions;
- Pay attention to announcements/updates from the HKSAR Government and the relevant authorities;
- If you are travelling of your own accord, please take out comprehensive medical and travel insurance before the trip. Among other things, the insurance policy should cover expenses relating to sickness, injuries, medical evacuation, accidental death and repatriation, etc.; in case the trip is organized by the Institute or for duty purposes, please check with your department the insurance coverage taken by the Institute and take out any additional insurance as deemed necessary by yourselves;
- Seek medical advice from the Health Centre or your physician before travelling;
- Ensure that you are well aware of the emergency contacts at the host universities;
- Report to your department (for colleagues) or Student Affairs Office at 2948 6720 (for students) if you are diagnosed with avian influenza; and
- Read the “Health Advice for Travellers Planning to Visit Avian Influenza Affected Areas” carefully and take necessary precautions.

Meanwhile, we will closely monitor the latest developments and keep you posted. For most updated information, please visit the “Communicable Disease Corner” under MyIED at

<https://intranet.ied.edu.hk/CommunicableDisease> or the Centre for Health Protection website at <http://www.chp.gov.hk>.

Should you have any questions or need any further information, please contact the Estates Office at 2948 6269 or via email at [safety@ied.edu.hk](mailto:safety@ied.edu.hk).

Communicable Disease Prevention Subcommittee

致同事及學生：

## 校方對有關人類感染甲型禽流感（H7N9）的建議

近期內地多個省份均接獲甲型禽流感（H7N9）的人類感染個案報告，加上台灣最近亦出現首宗外地傳入個案，引起各同事、學生及家長對相關健康問題的關注，特別是計劃今年暑期參加學習之旅或課程而需要前往受感染地區的人士。

根據世界衛生組織指出，現時仍未有證據顯示病毒在人與人之間傳播，而香港特區政府保安局現階段亦未有對相關地區發出任何旅遊警告，但惟校方深切理解同事及學生在旅程的安排上，期望獲得校方相關的指引。

鑑於目前對 H7N9 病毒認識有限，疫情亦有可能持續擴散，校方成立了專責小組，由署理副校長（研究與發展）莫家豪教授擔任主席，並邀請來自人文學院、物業處、教務處、大中華事務處、學生事務處、傳訊處及財務處的同事出任成員，研究 H7N9 對校方未來數月內舉辦之外遊活動可能帶來的影響。基於專責小組的意見，傳染病預防小組委員會亦於上星期的會議中討論及作出以下對有意或計劃前往受感染地區人士的指引：

### 甲、學分制的學習之旅及語言沉浸課程

傳染病預防小組委員會強烈建議主辦部門就潛在風險以及同事、學生和家長的意願，在不影響學生的畢業進度的情況下，考慮將已計劃到內地的行程延期或另作安排，亦促請主辦部門諮詢所屬學院及教務處，以盡早作出相應安排及公佈細則。

### 乙、非學分制的學習課程、暑期活動、外展活動、實習體驗及其他公幹外遊

對於其他非必修活動，主辦部門及參加者應就到訪地區的潛在風險，同事、學生和家長的意願（如屬於團體活動）以及個人健康狀況考慮是否繼續原定計劃，傳染病預防小組委員會強烈建議主辦單位及參加者盡可能考慮將已計劃到內地的行程延期或另作安排。

在任何情況下，不論外遊活動所屬性質，應緊記以下各點：

- 基於個人健康狀況，與家人商討應否參與外遊活動前往受感染地區；
- 留意香港特區政府及相關部門的公佈及最新信息；
- 如外遊屬於個人性質，出發前應為旅程購買全面的醫療及旅遊保險，保單應包括有關病疾、受傷、醫療運送、意外死亡及遺體送返等開支保障；倘若行程是由學院安排或屬公務性質，請向所屬部門查詢學院保險的保障範圍，在有需要時自行購買額外保險；
- 出發前應先諮詢保健中心或家庭醫生；
- 確定清楚接待大學的緊急聯絡電話；

- 如確診患上甲型禽流感，教職員請通知所屬部門，學生請致電 29486720 通知學生事務處；
- 參閱【 給準備到訪受甲型禽流感感染地區人士之健康建議】，並採取適當的預防措施。

校方會密切注意最新發展，並不時向大家通報。如欲取得最新資訊，請登入 MyIEd 內的「Communicable Disease Corner」（<https://intranet.ied.edu.hk/CommunicableDisease>）或瀏覽衛生防護中心網頁（<http://www.chp.gov.hk>）。

如有任何查詢，請致電 2948 6269 或電郵至 [safety@ied.edu.hk](mailto:safety@ied.edu.hk) 與物業處聯絡。

傳染病預防小組委員會