

## **Message No. 3 to All Staff and Students on Influenza A (H1N1) on 4 May 2009**

Dear Staff and Students,

### Updated Situation

You may already be aware with a confirmed imported case of infection of a Mexican traveler with human swine influenza {Influenza A(H1N1)} the HKSAR Government has elevated the level to the highest Emergency Response Level.

### Precautionary measures to be taken at the campuses

Regular cleaning of campuses and facilities has been enhanced in particular on the cleaning of the lift buttons and handrails, and filling of U-traps in sewage pipes etc. Instant hand disinfectant machines have been installed at various locations within the campus for use where necessary. Hygiene precautions are recommended as below:

- ✓ Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth because germs are spreading through that way
- ✓ Keep hands clean and wash hands properly. Alcohol-based handrub is also effective when hands are not visibly soiled.
- ✓ Wash hands with liquid soap promptly if they are contaminated by respiratory tract secretions, e.g. after sneezing or coughing.
- ✓ Cover nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing.
- ✓ No spitting. Always wrap nasal and mouth discharges with tissue paper, and dispose of the tissue paper properly in a lidded rubbish bin.
- ✓ Consult medical advice if respiratory symptom exists or in case of fever.
- ✓ Refrain from work or school if symptoms of influenza are developed.
- ✓ Develop good body resistance and have a healthy lifestyle. This can be achieved through a balance diet, regular exercise, adequate rest, reducing stress and no smoking.
- ✓ Observe good personal and environmental hygiene.
- ✓ Maintain good indoor ventilation.
- ✓ Avoid crowded places with poor ventilation if you are feeling unwell.

Please be considerate to wear a mask if you have any respiratory symptoms while at work, during lessons and on school bus, to seek medical advice and consider taking rest at home. If you need a mask urgently, you can get one from the Security Control Centre (A-G/F-03) or Information Centre (A-G/F-08).

### Class Arrangements

Staff and students are advised to pay attention to the updated news about the spread of human swine influenza {Influenza A(H1N1)} in Hong Kong and also the corresponding arrangements on classes, centrally administered examinations, teaching practice and/or other institute-wide teaching activities. For details, please refer to

the announcement in the Communicable Disease Corner on the intranet. You may also call the Registry hotline at 2948 6177 for relevant enquiries.

### Seminars and Events

Basically, seminars and events will be organized as usual. Please refer to new guidelines issued by the Institute from time to time.

### Field Experience

Students should contact the School Partnership & Field Experience Office (SPFEO) for enquiries on field experience arrangement at 2948 8757.

### Student Hall & Overseas Student Programs

The Student Affairs Office has been performing more thorough cleaning with disinfectants at student halls. Masks are available for use at the reception counter. Residents with flu symptoms are reminded to wear mask and consult doctor immediately. For overseas student programmes scheduled for the coming months, the Student Affairs Office is closely monitoring the situations of destination countries and will act according to Institute and government advice. Students who need to go to overseas countries during the summer vacation are advised to consult the Student Affairs Office in the first place at 2948 6720.

### Travelling Overseas

Students and staff are not advised travel to Mexico or affected countries as far as possible during the highly emergency period. For those who have recently returned from these countries, observe your health condition and wear masks for 7 days. In case any symptom of influenza appears, seek medical advice and keep the Institute informed. A set of Guidelines to Travelers has also been posted onto the Communicable Disease Corner.

### Psychological Support

Students who feel stressful or worry about the development are encouraged to consult the counselors. Staff who feel stressful are encouraged to consult our health clinic for assistance or advice at 2948 6262 if needed.

### Modes of Communication

The Institute and individual departments/offices will disseminate the most updated information, official notices and announcement via the intranet, the Communicable Disease Corner on the intranet, MyIED and / or to your HKIED email account. Please refer to the aforesaid channels regularly for the latest information.

Crisis Management Team

4 May 2009