

THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

Advice for Students Participating in Offshore Summer Programmes (Revised)

Introduction

The World Health Organisation has raised the level of pandemic alert to Level 5 on 29 April 2009. The emergency response level of Hong Kong has been activated on 1 May 2009 in response to the confirmed import case of Human Swine Flu (Influenza A H1N1).

General Advice

Human-to-human transmission has occurred in the present human swine flu outbreak. Participants of offshore summer programmes are advised to observe the following guidelines:

- Wear a mask during travel;
- Avoid contact with sick people;
- Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth;
- Wash hands frequently with soap and water, or apply alcohol-based hand cleaners;
- If signs or symptoms of influenza appear, seek medical advice promptly and provide details of your recent travel.

Before the Trip

- Pay attention to your health;
- If signs or symptoms of influenza appear, seek medical advice promptly;
- Sick people are advised not to travel until they have recovered;
- Purchase additional insurance to ensure comprehensive coverage on health, hospitalization, medical evacuation, accidental death and repatriation;
- Visit related websites like the Centre of Health Protection and World Health Organisation to know the latest situation of the area you intend to visit;
- Attend all briefing sessions or pre-departure meetings organized by the Student Affairs Office and the HKIED.

During the Trip

- Pay attention to announcements from the local government;
- Strict adherence to personal and environmental hygiene;
- Avoid crowded area;
- Avoid contact with sick people;
- Maintain regular contact with your family and the Student Affairs Office;
- If signs or symptoms of influenza appear, wear a mask and seek medical advice promptly;
- Follow local public health guidelines, including any movement restrictions and prevention recommendations;

While on Board

- If signs or symptoms of influenza appear while on board, notify the crew immediately and wear a mask;
- After landing, complete the health declaration form accurately and honestly;
- Never attempt to suppress a fever by medication and other means in order to evade the infrared thermoscanner.

After the Trip

If signs or symptoms of influenza appear within 7 days after the trip:

- Put on a mask;
- Seek medical consultation from public clinics or hospital immediately;

- Contact the Department of Health hotline 2125 1111;
- Inform the Student Affairs Office or HKIEd

Please be assured that the Student Affairs Office is always with you to make your overseas programmes safe and rewarding.

Student Affairs Office
22 May 2009