

THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION












Handling of Influenza A (H1N1) / Human Swine Flu in Student Hall

(Updated in November 2009)

Background

The World Health Organization has declared the human swine influenza A/H1N1 (swine flu) outbreak a global pandemic. Confirmed cases of swine flu have been reported in many parts of the world, including Hong Kong. As announced by the Centre for Health Protection on 10 July 2009, there is no requirement for hospital isolation of swine flu patients or quarantine of close contacts.

General Advice to Hall Residents and Staff








-  Practice good hand hygiene. Wash hands frequently with soap and water or apply alcohol handrub;
-  Practice respiratory etiquette. Cover nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing;
-  Avoid touching the mouth, nose and eyes;
-  Do not spit. Always wrap nasal and mouth discharges with tissue paper, and dispose of the tissue paper in a rubbish bin with a lid;
-  Avoid visiting crowded or poorly-ventilated places;
-  Keep windows open to ensure adequate ventilation;
-  Wear surgical mask whenever you do not feel well to protect others;
-  Refrain from class or work if you develop signs or symptoms of influenza (fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose, muscle pain and headache);
-  Consult doctor immediately, and inform your roommate and hall manager;
-  Stay in your home or hall, except to go to the medical clinic, until at least 24 hours after you no longer have a fever;
-  Watch out for the following warning signs that might call for urgent medical attention.

Seek medical care right away if the sick person:

- ✓ Has difficulty in breathing or chest pain
- ✓ Has purple or blue discoloration of the lips
- ✓ Is vomiting and unable to swallow liquids
- ✓ Has signs of dehydration such as dizziness when standing, absence of urination
- ✓ Has seizures
- ✓ Is less responsive than normal or becomes confused

Consult your doctor if in doubt

Advice to Hall Residents whose Roommate is Suffering from Flu

-  The Hall Management will arrange separate room for sick students as far as possible;
-  Avoid staying with the sick roommate if you have chronic illnesses or with weakened immunity from diseases or drugs;
-  Minimise your contact with your sick roommate;
-  Try to maintain a distance of about 2 meters (6 feet) from him or her;
-  No sharing of linens, eating utensils and personal items, unless such items are washed thoroughly;
-  If close contact cannot be avoided, your sick roommate should wear a surgical mask;
-  Clean commonly-touched surfaces frequently.

Actions Taking by the Hall Management Office

- ✚ Thorough cleaning of hall facilities with disinfectants;
- ✚ Use diluted (1:49) bleach to clean lift buttons and door handles every 2 hours;
- ✚ Filling of U-traps in sewage pipes with water regularly;
- ✚ Provide alcohol-based handrub at the main entrance of each hall / quarters;
- ✚ Provide mask at the reception of each hall / quarters;
- ✚ Keep residents informed of the situations through email, poster, notice and leaflet;
- ✚ Brief hall attendants on the measures taken and hygiene concern;
- ✚ Prepare for possible quarantine need of resident (totally 5 sick rooms available);
- ✚ Keep close contact with International Office and the Mainland Development Office on list of exchange students;
- ✚ Keep close contact with the Medical Clinic on number of influenza cases;
- ✚ Keep close contact with the Estates Office and the Crisis Management Team.

Care for Sick Students

- ✚ At this time, there is no requirement for hospital isolation of swine flu patients or quarantine of close contacts (CHP, 10 July 2009);
- ✚ Strongly encourages local students having fever and flu symptoms to take rest at home;
- ✚ Move the sick student(s) who cannot leave campus to separate room/ floor;
- ✚ Hall attendants will visit sick students who are in separate room for 3-4 times a day, providing support whenever necessary
- ✚ When coming into contact with the sick student, Hall Attendants must
 - Wash hands before and after contact
 - Wear a surgical mask
 - Avoid face-to-face contact with the sick student to prevent catching the disease through coughs and sneezes.

When there is a Suspected / Confirmed Case (Determined by Medical Profession)

- ✚ Report to the Crisis Management Team via the Student Affairs Office immediately;
- ✚ Co-operate with the Center of Health Protection (CHP) in case of investigation to the affected hall;
- ✚ Hall activities that are not essential or might have close contact among participants like sweep soup gathering might be suspended;
- ✚ Require all residents to wear surgical mask in public areas;
- ✚ Implement voluntary temperature check at the entrance of hall/ quarters;
- ✚ Health declaration by staff and residents of affected halls / quarters;
- ✚ Suspend intake of new residents until the case is cleared;
- ✚ Address to the concern and emotion of staff and students;
- ✚ Forward media enquires to CIAO.

Criteria to be Considered as an Outbreak

- ✚ In line with the criteria set by the Institute, the Student Affairs Office would inform Crisis Management Team to announce an outbreak in a hall if:
 - 10% or more of the residents are on sick leave due to H1N1
 - Over 1% of the residents are hospitalized due to H1N1
 - One or more residents are admitted to intensive care unit due to H1N1
 - Death of an otherwise healthy resident due to H1N1
- ✚ Essential services such as cleaning and security will continue;
- ✚ Encourage healthy students to return home until the outbreak was over

The above information is based on existing information from the Centre for Health Protection and the current situations of the Institute. They may be updated when new information becomes available.

Flow Chart

