

香港特別行政區政府
衛生署
香港灣仔皇后大道東 213 號
胡忠大廈 17 及 21 樓



THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HONG KONG
SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
WU CHUNG HOUSE, 17th & 21st FLOORS,
213 QUEEN'S ROAD EAST, WAN CHAI
HONG KONG

本署檔號 OUR REF.: (61) in DHCR/1-60/22C
來函檔號 YOUR REF.:
電 話 TEL.:
圖文傳真 FAX.:

Dear Principal:

Prevention of Influenza in Schools

According to infectious diseases surveillance by the Department of Health (DH), 12 influenza outbreaks were reported in schools from 8-16 February 2004. The sharp increase in influenza outbreaks signals that Hong Kong is entering the peak season for influenza. Influenza is highly infectious that can spread easily among students. Please ensure that all students running a fever should stay away from school and they should seek medical consultation as soon as possible.

If you notice an unusual pattern of illness or sick leaves among students, please take the following steps:

1. ascertain whether student absences are due to a similar illness (e.g., fever) by calling up parents;
2. notify the Regional Offices of DH and the Education & Manpower Bureau's District School Development Section promptly; and
3. designate a staff to work with DH's medical staff, including the distribution and collection of the questionnaires to monitor the outbreak.

Please see Annex 1 for more information on the prevention of influenza in schools.

(Dr. Thomas Tsang)
for Director of Health

19 February 2004

Prevention of Influenza in Schools

Advice to students and staff:

- consult doctor promptly, and stay at home if respiratory symptoms develop;
- measure temperature of children daily before they go to school;
- build up good body resistance through a balanced diet, regular exercise, adequate rest, reducing stress, and not smoking.
- cover nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing and wash hands with soap and water afterwards;
- keep hands clean and wash hands properly with soap, and use disposable towel for drying hands;
- do not share towels; and,
- If any students or staff develop respiratory symptoms, they should
 - consult their doctor promptly;
 - wear a surgical mask; and
 - take rest at home and refrain from going to school.

Advice to school management:

- inform parents/guardians if there is an outbreak occurring;
- check students' temperature records and make random spot checks on students' temperature; prevent students who run a fever from entering school and spreading germs to other children
- clean toys and furniture properly; and
- maintain good ventilation.

Department of Health
19 February 2004