

Health Advice for Environmental Activities Organiser on the Prevention of Respiratory Tract Infections

Background

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) recently received reports of “Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome” in various parts of the world. In Hong Kong, a number of health care workers and other people have also been affected by atypical pneumonia.
- The Department of Health is conducting a detailed investigation with the Hospital Authority, the University of Hong Kong and the Chinese University of Hong Kong to identify the cause of infection. The situation will be monitored closely.
- The Department of Health is working closely with the WHO on disease control and prevention.

Atypical Pneumonia

Atypical pneumonia is usually caused by influenza virus and other unknown micro-organisms. Common symptoms include fever, chills, cough, headache and general malaise.

Health Advice

- Staff of the Organisers of environmental activities are advised to take the following precautionary measures at the venue of the event to prevent respiratory infections:
 - Maintain good personal hygiene. Cover the nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing.
 - Wash hands after sneezing, coughing or cleaning the nose.
 - Consult the doctor promptly if you develop symptoms of respiratory tract infection,
 - Persons with symptoms of respiratory infection are advised to wear a mask to reduce the chance of spread of the infection.
- Maintain good ventilation at the venue of the event.
- Keep the venue clean, and make tissue paper and vomit bags

available for use by the visitors and event participants when necessary;

- Please advise the visitors and event participants as follows:
 - Observe personal hygiene. Cover the nose and mouth with handkerchief or tissue paper when sneezing or coughing.
 - Dispose of used tissue paper properly.
 - Use a vomit bag to hold vomitus and dispose of it properly.
 - Consult the doctor promptly if they develop symptoms of respiratory tract infection.

Further information about the disease

Further information about the disease can be found in the website of the Department of Health at <http://w.w.w.info.gov.hk/dh> or the Enquiry hotline at 187 2222.