

Health advice for Telecommunications Operators on the Prevention of Respiratory Tract Infections

Background

- In view of a recent outbreak of febrile respiratory illness among health care staff in Prince of Wales Hospital, 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 has informed the World Health Organization (WHO) about the latest developments. The Department is working closely with the WHO on disease control and prevention.

Health Advice

- Telecommunications operators are advised to instruct their staff, especially those who work in retail shops and service centres, to take the following precautionary measures 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.
 - Wash hands before touching eyes, nose or mouth.
 - Consult the doctor promptly if you develop symptoms of respiratory tract infection such as fever or cough.
- Keep shops and service centres clean:
 - Wash/wipe shops and service centres with diluted domestic bleach (mixing 1 part of bleach with 99 parts of water) regularly (at least once a day).
 - If shops or service centres are contaminated with vomitus, wash/wipe with diluted domestic bleach (mixing 1 part of bleach with 49 parts of water) immediately.

- Keep public phones clean:
 - Wash/wipe public phones with diluted domestic bleach (mixing 1 part of bleach with 99 parts of water) regularly (once every few hours where practicable).
 - If public phones are contaminated with vomitus, wash/wipe with diluted domestic bleach (mixing 1 part of bleach with 49 parts of water) immediately.
- Telecommunications operators or their staff who would like to obtain more information on the disease may visit the website of the Department of Health at www.info.gov.hk/dh or make enquiries with its hotline on 187 2222.

Office of the Telecommunications Authority
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