



香港特別行政區政府 工業貿易署

Trade and Industry Department

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

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Directory of Hong Kong Trade and Industrial Organisations

2 May 2009

Dear Sir/Madam,

Human Swine Influenza

Further to the combined trade circular dated 30 April 2009 (Ref. TRA202/090), please note that a case of influenza A H1N1 is confirmed in Hong Kong in the evening of 1 May 2009 (local time). I would like to inform you of the related details and appeal to your continuous support on the preventive measures to guard against the swine flu.

The patient is a 25-year-old Mexican who arrived Hong Kong on 30 April. On 29 April, he took a flight from Mexico to Hong Kong via Shanghai. He arrived Hong Kong at around 1:00 pm on 30 April, then went to the hotel right away and stayed at the hotel until around 8:00 pm when he attended a hospital. He was directly transferred to an isolation ward. He developed fever on 1 May. Nasal samples were taken from the patient for test of influenza A H1N1. The samples were confirmed as positive in the evening of 1 May. The condition of the patient is stable so far.

The patient travelled with two persons and had contact with one person in Hong Kong. All three are now in the isolation ward of a hospital for quarantine.

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government is taking prompt actions to deal with the emergence of the case of influenza A H1N1. As soon as the confirmation of the case, the Government has raised the three-level response system to the highest Emergency Response Level. The Chief Executive immediately convened a Steering Committee meeting with all relevant Government bureaux and departments to formulate an overall disease control strategy and to decide on measures to be taken.

In parallel, the Centre for Health Protection of Department of Health has taken prompt action to quarantine the hotel guests and staff immediately for seven days. It is now tracing other people who may have contacts with the patient, including passengers on the same flight from Shanghai and other hotel guests who have left the hotel.

All passengers arriving in Hong Kong by air and sea are subject to temperature screening. They also have to fill in a health declaration form to facilitate tracking of possible patients. This arrangement will be extended to land boundary points in the next few days.

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government has kept the World Health

Organization, Ministry of Health of the People's Republic of China, the health authorities of Shanghai, and the consulate generals in Hong Kong informed. We have stepped up publicity measures to remind the public of the importance of personal and environmental hygiene.

As this is the first confirmed case in the Greater China region and there is still little information about the severeness of the influenza, we need to be very cautious in dealing with the situation. We decided to take comprehensive and stringent measures to prevent any massive outbreak in Hong Kong.

As this is an imported case, and there is no indication of massive spread of the influenza in Hong Kong, there is no reason for panic. Currently all normal public and social activities will continue, but we would need to appeal to traders and the public to be vigilant in observing good personal and environmental hygiene, to protect themselves and make sure they are living in a clean environment and also looking after their personal health. For further information on the swine flu, please visit the following websites :

CHP's swine flu website at
http://www.chp.gov.hk/view_content.asp?lang=en&info_id=16615

Department of Health's travel health service website at
<http://www.travelhealth.gov.hk>

World Health Organization's swine flu website at
<http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu>

Yours faithfully,

(Mrs Louisa Cheung)
For Director-General of Trade and Industry