

Swine Influenza

The serious response level under the Government's Preparedness Plan for Influenza Pandemic is activated. Swine influenza is a respiratory disease of pigs caused by type A influenza. Most of the recently isolated influenza viruses from pigs are H1N1 viruses. The symptoms of human swine flu are similar to the human seasonal flu which included fever, lethargy, loss of appetite, and coughing. However, some people may experience runny nose, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhoea.

Swine flu can be directly transmitted from pigs to human and from people to pigs. Also human-to-human transmission can also occur. If your child ever experiences any flu symptoms, wear a mask and seek medical advice promptly. Do not send your sick child to school until he or she is fully recovered.

The following precautionary measures recommended by the Centre for Health Protection are here for your attention:

- Keep hands clean and wash hands properly. Alcohol-based handrub is also effective when hands are not visibly soiled.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Wash hands with liquid soap promptly if they are dirtied by respiratory secretions, e.g. after sneezing or coughing.
- Cover nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing.
- Always wrap nasal and mouth discharges with tissue paper, and dispose of the tissue paper properly in a lidded rubbish bin.
- Wear mask when symptoms of respiratory tract infection or fever develop (Ear temp > 38.0C). Seek medical advice promptly.
- Refrain students from school if develop symptoms of influenza.

Let's be vigilant and prepared against human swine influenza. For more information, please visit the Centre for Health Protection website http://www.chp.gov.hk/view_content.asp?lang=en&info_id=16615

Regards,
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