



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部教育局
Education Bureau
Government Secretariat, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

本局檔號 Our Ref: EDB(SDCT)3/PRO/10/1/1

電話 Telephone:

來函檔號 Your Ref.:

傳真 Fax Line:

23 January 2020

To: Supervisors/Principals of All Schools

Dear Supervisor/Principal,

**Vigilance against Infection of Novel Coronavirus
and the Issue of Health Advice**

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) issued a letter to inform schools about a case of novel coronavirus (nCoV) infection and the latest situation of nCoV infection in the Mainland, Macao and the United States, and issued health advice on the prevention of nCov. A copy of the letter issued by CHP is enclosed at the Appendix for your reference.

The Education Bureau (EDB) would like to remind teachers and students that they should avoid unnecessary travel to Wuhan of Hubei Province. If it is unavoidable to travel to Wuhan, they should put on a surgical mask and continue to do so until 14 days after returning to Hong Kong. If they experience a fever or other symptoms, they should consult a doctor immediately, and inform the doctor of their travel and exposure history. Students or school staff with symptoms should not attend schools or return to schools for work. For preventive measures on travelling abroad, please visit the relevant webpages on CHP's website (website:https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/novel_infectious_agent_participants_for_travelers_en.pdf).

As for student exchange programmes on other cities of the Mainland, we understand that parents are concerned about the well-being of students amid the development of the epidemic outbreak. Schools may consider postponing the activities organized by the EDB or other organizations.

Besides, schools should clean the premises thoroughly during the holidays.

CHP has issued health advice (including on personal hygiene, maintaining environment clean and hygiene, etc.) to school for the prevention of severe respiratory disease associated with a novel infectious agent (Interim). For details, please refer to the following website

(website:https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/advice_to_school_on_prevention_of_nid_eng.pdf).

When classes are resumed after the school holidays, schools should take appropriate measures to safeguard the well-being of students, which includes asking parents to check the body temperature of their children at home, and schools to check students' body temperature upon their arrival. Schools should also advise them to maintain proper personal hygiene, such as proper handwashing. For cross-boundary students, parents should check their body temperature before boarding the cross-boundary school coaches or nanny vans. In any case, if students are feeling unwell or having symptoms, they should not attend schools. They should consult a doctor immediately and stay at home for rest.

We will continue to keep in close contact with relevant Government departments, including the CHP, to release the latest information and relevant measures on communicable diseases to schools. Schools are reminded to note our announcements. For enquiries, please contact your respective Senior School Development Officers/Senior Services Officers.

Yours sincerely,



(Ms Cynthia CHAN)
for Secretary for Education

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (4) in DH CDB/9/12/6 Pt.3

January 22, 2020

Dear Principal / Person-in-charge,

**A Highly Suspected Case of Novel Coronavirus Infection
and a New Guideline**

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) writes to inform you on a highly suspected case of novel coronavirus (nCoV) infection and the latest situation of nCoV infection in Mainland, Macao and the United States. You are urged to heighten vigilance and remind teachers and students to maintain strict personal, food and environmental hygiene both locally and when travelling abroad during the Chinese New Year holidays.

The highly suspected case involved a 39-year-old male patient who lived in Wuhan. He had fever and blocked nose since January 21, 2020. He travelled from Wuhan to Shenzhen and then from Shenzhen to Hong Kong by High Speed Rail yesterday. He was noted to have fever at Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong West Kowloon Rail Station by staff of Port Health Division of DH, and was sent to hospital for isolation and treatment immediately. Preliminary testing of his respiratory specimen was positive for nCoV.

According to the notification from the National Health Commission (NHC) on January 22, 2020, there were an addition of 149 cases of nCoV infection reported (as of January 21, 24:00), and the cumulative number of nCoV infections in the Mainland was 440, including 102 cases in serious condition and nine deaths (all from Hubei Province). Moreover, CHP is closely monitoring the first imported case of nCoV infection from Wuhan reported by Macao and the United States. Information on the number of cases reported in countries/areas is available on the designated webpage: https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/statistics_of_the_cases_novel_coronavirus_infection_en.pdf.



In view of the latest situation, schools and organisations are reminded

to maintain strict personal and environmental hygiene during the Chinese New Year holidays. School staff and students should avoid unnecessary travel to Wuhan of Hubei Province. If it is unavoidable to travel to Wuhan, they should put on a surgical mask and continue to do so until 14 days after returning to Hong Kong. Daily screening of body temperature of all staff and students in schools, kindergartens and child care centres should be enhanced and continued when school resumes after the holidays.

Health advice to school for the prevention of severe respiratory disease associated with a novel infectious agent (Interim) issued by the CHP can be accessed via this link: https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/advice_to_school_on_prevention_of_nid_eng.pdf.

To prevent pneumonia and respiratory tract infection, please kindly remind your students and staff to maintain good personal and environmental hygiene. They are advised to:

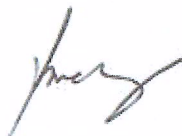
- Perform hand hygiene frequently, especially before touching the mouth, nose or eyes; after touching public installations such as handrails or door knobs; or when hands are contaminated by respiratory secretion after coughing or sneezing.
- Maintain drainage pipes properly and regularly (about once a week) pour about half a liter of water into each drain outlet (U-traps) to ensure environmental hygiene.
- Wash hands with liquid soap and water, and rub for at least 20 seconds. Then rinse with water and dry with a disposable paper towel. If hand washing facilities are not available, or when hands are not visibly soiled, performing hand hygiene with 70 to 80 per cent alcohol-based handrub is an effective alternative.
- Cover mouth and nose with tissue paper when sneezing or coughing. Dispose of soiled tissues into a lidded rubbish bin, then wash hands thoroughly.
- When having respiratory symptoms, wear a surgical mask, refrain from work or attending class at school, avoid going to crowded places and seek medical advice promptly.
- Avoid unnecessary travel to Wuhan of Hubei Province. If it is unavoidable to travel to Wuhan, put on a surgical mask and continue to do so until 14 days after returning to Hong Kong.
- Avoid close contact with persons with fever or respiratory symptoms in countries/areas with possible community transmission of novel coronavirus infection. If it is unavoidable to come into contact with them,

put on a surgical mask and continue to do so until 14 days after returning to Hong Kong.

- Avoid visiting hospitals. If it is necessary to visit a hospital, put on a surgical mask and observe strict personal and hand hygiene.
- Avoid making close contact with patients, especially those with symptoms of acute respiratory infections.
- Avoid touching animals (including game), poultry / birds or their droppings.
- Avoid visiting wet markets, live poultry markets or farms.
- Do not consume game meat and do not patronise food premises where game meat is served.
- Adhere to food safety and hygiene rules such as avoiding consumption of raw or undercooked animal products, including milk, eggs and meat, or foods which may be contaminated by animal secretions, excretions (such as urine) or contaminated products, unless they have been properly cooked, washed or peeled.
- If feeling unwell when outside Hong Kong, especially if experiencing a fever or cough, wear a surgical mask, inform the hotel staff or tour escort and seek medical advice at once.
- After returning to Hong Kong, consult a doctor promptly if experiencing a fever or other symptoms, take the initiative to inform the doctor of any recent travel history and any exposure to animals, and wear a surgical mask to help prevent spread of the disease.

Please draw the attention of the students and staff in your school to the above. Thank you for your ongoing support in combating communicable diseases.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. SK Chuang)

for Controller, Centre for Health Protection
Department of Health