

CHP investigates case of severe paediatric influenza A infection

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health is today (June 1) investigating a case of severe paediatric influenza A infection.

The 12-year-old boy, with good past health, has presented with fever, cough and sore throat since May 28. He attended the Accident and Emergency Department of Yan Chai Hospital yesterday (May 31) where he was admitted on the same day. He was subsequently transferred to the paediatric intensive care unit of Princess Margaret Hospital for further management today.

His respiratory specimen tested positive for influenza A (H1) virus upon laboratory testing. The clinical diagnosis was shock. He is now in a serious condition.

Initial enquiries revealed that the patient had received seasonal influenza vaccination for the current season and had no travel history in the incubation period. His younger brother was also confirmed to have Influenza A infection recently and has recovered. His other home contacts are asymptomatic so far. Investigations are ongoing.

The public should maintain good personal and environmental hygiene for protection against influenza and other respiratory illnesses:

- Receive seasonal influenza vaccination for personal protection;
- Wash hands with liquid soap and water properly whenever possibly contaminated;
- When hands are not visibly soiled, clean them with 70 to 80 per cent alcohol-based handrub as an effective alternative;
- Wash or clean hands frequently, especially before touching the mouth, nose or eyes, or after touching public installations such as handrails or door knobs;
- Cover the nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing, and wash hands thoroughly afterwards;
- Dispose of soiled tissue paper properly in a lidded rubbish bin;
- Put on a surgical mask when respiratory symptoms develop;
- Maintain good indoor ventilation;
- Avoid going to crowded or poorly ventilated public places; high-risk individuals may consider putting on surgical masks when staying in such places; and
- Maintain a balanced diet, exercise regularly, take adequate rest, do not smoke and avoid overstress.

For more information, please visit the CHP's [influenza page](#) and weekly [Flu Express](#).