

CHP investigates influenza B outbreak at kindergarten in Causeway Bay

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health is today (May 24) investigating an influenza B outbreak at a kindergarten in Causeway Bay, and reminded members of the public who have not yet received seasonal influenza vaccination in the 2018-19 season that they can still receive it for personal protection against seasonal influenza.

The outbreak involves 14 boys and nine girls aged 3 to 6 who developed fever, cough and sore throat since May 17. Among them, 22 sought medical attention and one has been discharged upon hospitalisation for management. All are in a stable condition. The respiratory specimens of four children tested positive for influenza B upon laboratory testing.

Officers of the CHP have conducted a site visit and advised the kindergarten to adopt infection control measures against respiratory tract infections. The kindergarten has been placed under medical surveillance.

A spokesman for the CHP said, "To prevent outbreaks of influenza and other respiratory infections, it is of prime importance that students with fever, regardless of the presence of respiratory symptoms, should not be allowed to attend school. They should seek medical advice and avoid school till 48 hours after the fever has subsided. Schools should also measure and record students' body temperature properly."

Schools are reminded to follow the Guidelines on Prevention of Communicable Diseases on preventive and control measures as well as management of outbreaks, which should be reported to the CHP for prompt follow-up.

"Although the winter influenza season has ended, members of the public aged 6 months or above (except those with known contraindications) who have not yet received a seasonal influenza vaccination in the 2018-19 season can still receive it for personal protection against seasonal influenza," the spokesman said.

"Meanwhile, the public should continue to adopt strict personal, hand and environmental hygiene practices against respiratory illnesses and other infectious diseases," the spokesman added.

The public may visit the CHP's influenza page and weekly Flu Express for more information.