

Dear HKU Staff and Students,

You may be aware that there have been a number of cases of viral pneumonia in Wuhan recently. The HKSAR Government has launched the Preparedness and Response Plan for Novel Infectious Disease of Public Health Significance on January 4, 2020. In parallel, the Serious Response Level was activated. Under the Serious Response Level, the immediate health impact caused by Novel Infectious Disease of Public Health Significance on local population is moderate.

The Department of Health advises members of the public should maintain good personal and environmental hygiene in order to prevent pneumonia and respiratory tract infection:

- 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;
- 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 or hand dryer. If hand washing facilities are not available, or when hands are not visibly soiled, hand hygiene with 70 to 80% alcohol-based handrub is an effective alternative;
- Cover your mouth and nose with tissue paper when sneezing or coughing. Dispose of soiled tissues into a lidded rubbish bin, then wash hands thoroughly; and
- 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.

Also, the public should take heed of the preventive measures below when travelling outside Hong Kong:

- Avoid touching animals, poultry / birds or their droppings;
- Avoid visiting wet markets, live poultry markets or farms;
- Avoid making close contact with patients, especially those with symptoms of acute respiratory infections;

- Adhere to food safety and hygiene rules such as avoiding consuming 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 having a fever or cough, wear a surgical mask, inform the hotel staff or tour escort and seek medical advice at once; and
- After returning to Hong Kong, consult a doctor promptly if having a fever or other symptoms, inform the doctor of recent travel history and wear a surgical mask to help prevent spread of the disease.

You may visit the following webpages for more information:

- ♦ Preparedness and Response Plan for Novel Infectious Disease of Public Health Significance (2020)
https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/govt_preparedness_and_response_plan_for_novel_infectious_disease_of_public_health_significance_eng.pdf
- ♦ Enhanced surveillance for the cluster of pneumonia cases in Wuhan of Hubei
<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/102465.html>

Thank you for your attention.

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Director University Health Service
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