



Be Vigilant Against Human Swine Influenza (HSI) and Other Communicable Diseases

This circular supersedes Special Circular No 14/2009 issued on 24 June 2009.

Latest surveillance data shows that HSI is now widely circulating in our community. Although HSI causes a relatively mild illness in most persons, it is efficiently spread, given the lack of antibodies in the population, especially among children and adolescents. Besides HSI, outbreaks of other communicable diseases, like chickenpox, influenza, norovirus, and hand, foot and mouth disease may occur in our community from time to time. Nevertheless, normal social functions and activities can continue without disruption.

In order to reduce transmission and avoid large-scale outbreaks of HSI and other communicable diseases, Scouters-in-charge should implement prevention measures and strengthen the precautionary measures in the course of meetings or activities as follows:

- Pay attention to announcements from the government on the latest public health policy and advice on public functions.
- Avoid overcrowding especially during activities in indoor venues.
- Avoid visiting crowded places or where ventilation and hygienic conditions are poor. Outdoor/semi-outdoor settings are preferred.
- Provide adequate hand hygiene facilities (e.g. alcohol handrub), and keep sufficient face masks for use by members who may need one.
- Request members to measure their body temperature before attending meetings or activities.
- In the event that respiratory symptoms as fever, sore throat, cough or influenza like illness are observed, leaders should instruct the member concerned to wear a face mask, and contact their parents as soon as possible for prompt medical treatment.
- A full list of all attendants for the activity should be kept.
- Visits or activities to be held in Mainland China or Overseas could be organized on condition that the prior written consent from the host unit(s) has been obtained. Leader should comply with the guidelines and notice issued by International and Liaison Branch 【Guidelines on Visits to/ Participation in/ Receiving Parties from Mainland China】 issued on 15 August 2009, 【Guidelines for Holding Overseas Visit/Activity】 issued on 15 June 2001 and Special Notice Regarding Prevention of Spread of Influenza A(Swine Flu) issued on 27 June 2009, and also refer to the latest public health policy and advice from Centre for Health Protection.
- Remain vigilant and prepared to fight against pandemic. Draw up the contingency plan for preparation of the outbreak of HSI or other communicable diseases in the place of meeting or activity. The contingency plan should be circulated to all the related people such as members, participants, parents and leaders concerned in advance.

If any confirmed case of HSI, or 3 or more members in the same group develop similar symptoms of respiratory tract infections or other communicable diseases in succession within a short period of time after meetings, programmes or training activities, the Scouters-in-charge should adopt the following measures immediately:

- Notify all the participants and leaders who have attended that particular activity or training course, and maintain close communication with them on their health conditions.
- Report to Group Scout Leaders / Scouters-in-charge and / or his / her supervisor, and inform the related District, Region or Association Headquarters.

This circular is applicable to all activities organized by Groups, Districts, Regions and Association Headquarters. For further advices on the prevention of influenza, please visit the website of the Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health (www.chp.gov.hk). For enquiries, please contact Scout Executive (Administration) Miss Florine FUNG at 2957 6334.

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