

**For information  
on 11 May 2009**

**Legislative Council Panel on Health Services**

**Prevention and Control of  
Human Swine Influenza Infection in Hong Kong**

**PURPOSE**

The Secretary for Food and Health gave a briefing at the Joint Meeting of Panel on Health Services and Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene held on 2 May 2009 on prevention and control of human swine influenza (Flu A H1N1) infection in Hong Kong. This paper updates Members on the latest situation and measures being taken by the Government to prevent and control the spread of the disease.

**LATEST SITUATION**

Global situation

2. On 30 April 2009 (Hong Kong time), the World Health Organization (“WHO”) raised the alert level for swine influenza pandemic to Phase 5, signifying that a global pandemic is imminent. The Administration has been monitoring the global situation of human swine influenza infection closely, with reference to, amongst others, reports issued by WHO and other national health authorities. As at noon, 7 May 2009, 23 countries/areas (including Hong Kong SAR) in total have reported more than 2 300 confirmed cases of human swine influenza, including 44 fatal cases.

Local situation

3. Having regard to the outbreak of human swine influenza infection in Mexico and the United States in April 2009, we have stepped

up our local surveillance of the disease since 25 April 2009. Doctors and hospitals are requested to report to the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) cases that fulfil reporting criteria<sup>1</sup> for further investigation. As at 4 p.m., 7 May 2009, a total of 46 cases were reported since 25 April 2009; 43 of them tested negative for swine influenza, and 2 patients still under isolation pending results of laboratory testing. There was so far one patient tested positive for swine influenza in Hong Kong. The case was confirmed on 1 May 2009 involving a 25-year-old Mexican who arrived Hong Kong on 30 April. As at 4 p.m., 7 May 2009, the patient is under isolation at the Princess Margaret Hospital in stable condition.

4. The latest local and global situation of human swine influenza infection is set out at **Annex A**. A chronology of events concerning the threat of human swine influenza is at **Annex B**.

## **PREVENTIVE STRATEGY AND MEASURES**

5. All Government bureaux and departments, the Hospital Authority (HA) as well as relevant parties have stepped up their disease preventive effort on all fronts. The strategy for preventing and controlling human swine influenza focuses on the following -

- (a) Enhancing surveillance and controlling the disease at the border control points and in the community;
- (b) stepping up responses in hospitals and clinics and enhancing capacity;
- (c) mobilizing the community to step up disease prevention effort;
- (d) maintaining transparency of information;

---

<sup>1</sup> Under the current reporting criteria, an individual fulfilling both the clinical criteria and epidemiological criteria should be reported to CHP for further investigation. Clinical criteria include person with acute respiratory illness, characterized with body temperature > 38 degrees Celsius and cough and/or sore throat, or person with pneumonia, or person died of unexplained acute respiratory illness. Epidemiological criteria include person with history of recent (7 days before onset of illness) travel to affected areas, or person with recent (7 days before onset of illness) contact with patient with swine flu or patient who has febrile respiratory illness and has visited the affected areas during the 7 days preceding their illness onset.

- (e) fostering collaboration with WHO, Mainland and overseas health authorities; and
- (f) ensuring adequacy of legal powers in disease control.

6. A summary of measures being taken by Government bureaux and departments, HA and relevant parties are at **Annex C**. The more significant measures are highlighted below.

#### *Emergency response*

7. The Administration has taken prompt actions to deal with the emergence of this human swine influenza case. The Administration raised the response level from “alert response level” to “serious response level” under the Emergency Preparedness for Influenza Pandemic in Hong Kong on 26 April 2009. As soon as the confirmation of the first case in Hong Kong on 1 May 2009, we have raised the response level to “Emergency” level. An Emergency Response Level Steering Committee on Human Swine Influenza (Flu A H1N1) Pandemic chaired by the Chief Executive comprising Principal Officials of relevant bureaux and heads of concerned departments was established on 1 May 2009 to formulate and coordinate an overall disease control strategy and to oversee implementation of measures taken.

#### *Quarantine measures*

8. The Director of Health took prompt action to isolate the Metropark Hotel in Wanchai on 1 May 2009 where the index patient had stayed. Hotel guests and staff who were at the hotel at the same period of the index patient as well as other close contacts of the patient were under medical quarantine to prevent the spread of the disease. Apart from quarantine at the hotel and hospitals, two quarantine centres, namely the Lady MacLehose Holiday Village and the Lei Yue Mun Park and Holiday Camp were activated to accommodate quarantined persons.

9. A full range of support services has been provided by the Administration to the quarantined persons to meet their needs, including

provision of food, other daily necessities and entertainment. We have also assisted visitors to arrange with airlines for no additional costs for their onward air tickets. We have informed the relevant Consul Generals in Hong Kong of the details of their nationals staying at the Metropark Hotel and the quarantine centres. We have also made necessary arrangements to facilitate the smooth departure from the hotel and quarantine centres when the quarantine period expires.

*Tracing of other persons who have been in close contact with the index patient*

10. With the assistance of relevant departments and parties, all 38 passengers (including the 2 close contacts of the index patient) sitting in the vicinity of the index patient (three rows before, same row, and three rows behind) on the same flight MU505 from Shanghai to Hong Kong and the two taxi drivers who had taken the patient had been traced. Those who were still in Hong Kong were quarantined and their medical condition closely monitored.

*Measures taken at boundary control points*

11. In addition to the temperature screening arrangement at boundary control points, all inbound travelers are required to fill in health declaration forms starting 30 April 2009 at the airport. The same arrangements have been phased in from 2 May 2009 at Lo Wu boundary control point and fully implemented at all boundary control points on 7 May. Travelers who reported having flu-like symptoms will be screened at the boundary control points for medical assessment.

*Local disease control*

12. The HA has activated its e-flu system for public hospitals to report all influenza-like illness in patients with relevant travel and contact history since 27 April 2009. Isolation facilities at 14 HA hospitals have been receiving reported cases. The Department of Health (DH) has reminded the private healthcare sector to stay vigilant and to report suspected cases as soon as possible.

## *Communication*

13. To keep members of the public well informed of the latest situation, a mini-webpage on human swine influenza has been created at CHP's website to provide daily updates to the public. DH has also set up a hotline (852) 2125-1111 for the public to report any suspected cases and to answer enquiries. A dedicated Government website on "The Fight Against Pandemic Disease" was launched on 6 May. In addition, we have kept the WHO, Ministry of Health, the health authorities of Guangdong, Shanghai and Shenzhen, as well as the consulate generals in Hong Kong informed of the latest situation.

## **WAY FORWARD**

14. As there is still little information about the clinical severity of human swine influenza, we need to be very cautious in dealing with the situation. We would continue to take comprehensive and stringent measures to prevent and control the spread of the disease in Hong Kong. We will closely monitor the latest situation including the scientific development and advice from WHO; and to continue to implement appropriate measures to safeguard the health of our people.

**Food and Health Bureau**  
**May 2009**

**Local and Global Situation of  
Human Swine Influenza (Flu A H1N1) Infection**

**I. Local Situation of Infection in Humans (position as at 16:00, 7 May 2009)**

- Enhanced local surveillance for swine influenza infection in humans has been effective since 25 April 2009. Cases that fulfill the reporting criteria<sup>1</sup> will be reported by doctors and public/private hospitals to the Centre for Health Protection (CHP). They will be put under isolation in public hospitals pending the results of laboratory testing. Details as follows –

Cumulative number of cases reported since 25 April 2009	46
Number of patients tested negative for swine influenza	43
Number of patients still under isolation pending results of laboratory test for swine influenza	2
<b>Number of patients tested positive for swine influenza</b>	<b>1</b>

**II. Global Situation of Infection in Humans (position as at noon, 7 May 2009)**

- As of noon, 7 May 2009, 23 countries/areas in total (including

---

<sup>1</sup> Under the current reporting criteria, an individual fulfilling both the clinical criteria and epidemiological criteria should be reported to CHP for further investigation. Clinical criteria include person with acute respiratory illness, characterized with body temperature > 38 degrees Celsius and cough and/or sore throat, or person with pneumonia, or person died of unexplained acute respiratory illness. Epidemiological criteria include person with history of recent (7 days before onset of illness) travel to affected areas, or person with recent (7 days before onset of illness) contact with patient with swine flu or patient who has febrile respiratory illness and has visited the affected areas during the 7 days preceding their illness onset.

Hong Kong SAR) have reported 2,383 confirmed cases of Human Swine Influenza (Flu A H1N1), including 44 fatal cases in Mexico and USA. Details are as follows-

<b>Area/Country</b>	<b>Total No. of confirmed cases</b>	<b>No. of fatal cases</b>
Austria	1	0
Canada (Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island & Quebec)	201	0
Colombia	1	0
Costa Rica	1	0
Denmark	1	0
El Salvador	2	0
France	7	0
Germany	9	0
Guatemala	1	0
Hong Kong SAR	1	0
Ireland	1	0
Israel	4	0
Italy	5	0
Mexico	1,112	42
Netherlands	1	0
New Zealand	5	0
Portugal	1	0
Republic of Korea	2	0
Spain	81	0
Sweden	1	0
Switzerland	1	0
United Kingdom	32	0

<b>Area/Country</b>	<b>Total No. of confirmed cases</b>	<b>No. of fatal cases</b>
USA (Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington & Wisconsin)	912	2
<b>Total :</b>	<b>2,383</b>	<b>44</b>



**Chronology of events on the threat of  
Human Swine Influenza (Flu A H1N1) (Hong Kong time)  
(up to noon, 7 May 2009)**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
24 April 2009 (Friday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Human swine influenza cases were reported in USA.</li> </ul>
25 April 2009 (Saturday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WHO declared the event a Public Health Emergency of International Concern under the rules of the International Health Regulations.</li> <li>• Our surveillance was enhanced as a precautionary measure.</li> </ul>
26 April 2009 (Sunday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Administration raised the response level from “alert response level” to “serious response level” under the Emergency Preparedness for Influenza Pandemic in Hong Kong.</li> <li>• The Secretary for Food and Health (SFH) chaired the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Serious Response Level Steering Committee on Human Swine Influenza.</li> </ul>
27 April 2009 (Monday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swine Influenza was gazetted as a statutorily notifiable disease and a specified infectious disease under the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance (Cap. 599) and the Prevention and Control of Disease Regulation (Cap.599A) respectively starting from 27 April.</li> <li>• The Hospital Authority activated its e-flu system for all public hospitals to report all patients with influenza-like illness with relevant travel and contact history.</li> </ul>
28 April 2009 (Tuesday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WHO raised the level of influenza pandemic alert from phase 3 to phase 4.</li> <li>• SFH chaired the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Serious Response</li> </ul>

Date	Event
	<p>Level Steering Committee on Human Swine Influenza.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hong Kong residents were strongly advised to avoid all non-essential travel to human swine flu affected areas, particularly Mexico.</li> </ul>
29 April 2009 (Wednesday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site inspection at Lady MacLehose Holiday Village conducted by the Administration to prepare for use as quarantine centre if necessary.</li> </ul>
30 April 2009 (Thursday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WHO raised the level of influenza pandemic alert from phase 4 to 5.</li> <li>• The Chief Executive (CE) visited the Infectious Disease Centre of Princess Margaret Hospital.</li> <li>• SFH chaired the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Serious Response Level Steering Committee on Human Swine Influenza.</li> <li>• SFH briefed the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the District Council, and announced the provision of \$500,000 for each district to enhance cleansing at the district level.</li> <li>• All in-bound passengers arriving by air required to fill in health declaration forms starting 30 April.</li> </ul>
1 May 2009 (Friday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirmed a first imported case of human swine influenza infection in Hong Kong.</li> <li>• The Administration raised the response level from “serious response level” to “emergency response level” under the Emergency Preparedness for Influenza Pandemic in Hong Kong.</li> <li>• CE chaired the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Emergency Response Level Steering Committee on Human Swine Influenza (Flu A H1N1) Pandemic.</li> <li>• The Director of Health ordered the Metropark Hotel in Wanchai to be isolated under the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance (Cap.599). Hotel guests and staff were quarantined.</li> </ul>

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
2 May 2009 (Saturday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CE chaired the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Emergency Response Level Steering Committee on Human Swine Influenza (Flu A H1N1) Pandemic.</li> <li>• SFH briefed Members of the Panel on Health Services and Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene of the Legislative Council on the latest situation.</li> <li>• All in-bound passengers arriving at Lo Wu land boundary control point required to fill in health declaration forms starting from 2 May.</li> </ul>
3 May 2009 (Sunday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CE chaired the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Emergency Response Level Steering Committee on Human Swine Influenza (Flu A H1N1) Pandemic.</li> </ul>
4 May 2009 (Monday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health declaration arrangement implemented at Lok Ma Chau land boundary control point.</li> <li>• Lei Yue Mun Park and Holiday Camp activated as the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarantine centre.</li> </ul>
5 May 2009 (Tuesday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CE chaired the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Emergency Response Level Steering Committee on Human Swine Influenza (Flu A H1N1) Pandemic.</li> <li>• Health declaration arrangement implemented at Shenzhen Bay, LMC Spur Line and China Ferry Terminal control points.</li> </ul>
6 May 2009 (Wednesday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Four quarantined Mexicans left Hong Kong to return to Mexico on a chartered flight arranged by the Mexican Government with an undertaking signed by the Consulate General in Hong Kong on quarantine and health arrangements.</li> </ul>
7 May 2009 (Thursday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health declaration arrangement fully implemented at all boundary control points.</li> </ul>

**Actions/Measures taken to prevent and control  
Human Swine Influenza (Flu A H1N1) infection in Hong Kong**

<b>Action Areas</b>	<b>Actions/Measures taken</b>
<b>Isolation and Quarantine</b>	
1. The Metropark Hotel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Director of Health ordered the Metropark Hotel in Wanchai to be isolated under the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance. Hotel guests and staff were quarantined.</li> <li>• A help desk was set up at the Hotel with parties including the Department of Health (DH), Home Affairs Department (HAD), Social Welfare Department (SWD), Immigration Department, Civil Aid Service, Auxiliary Medical Service and the Police.</li> <li>• SWD, working with HAD on site, has been providing daily necessities and emotional support to the quarantined persons where necessary since 1 May 2009.</li> <li>• Cleansing and disinfection of the hotel lobby and common areas as well as bathrooms in individual guest rooms have been arranged by Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD). Laundry service for the quarantined persons has been provided.</li> <li>• The Immigration Department has arranged for extension of stay for hotel guests where necessary.</li> <li>• A hospitality package for the quarantined has been distributed to those under quarantine at the hotel, quarantine centres and hospitals.</li> <li>• About 500 books and magazines have been delivered and made available to quarantined people in the hotel.</li> <li>• Travel arrangements of visitors after expiry of the quarantine period are being worked out with the assistance of China Travel Service, Hong Kong Tourism Board, and the Travel Industry Council.</li> </ul>

<b>Action Areas</b>	<b>Actions/Measures taken</b>
2. Quarantine Centres (Lady MacLehose Holiday Village and Lei Yue Mun Park and Holiday Village)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Books, magazines, newspapers and game sets have been made available to quarantined persons at the two quarantine centres.</li> <li>• WiFi service and TV sets are available in common area/canteen of the quarantine centres.</li> </ul>
3. Close contacts tracing (situation as of noon, 7 May 2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All the 38 contact passengers of flight MU505 (including 2 of the close contacts of the index case) traced.</li> <li>• For the 12 cabin crews on board MU505, all were asymptomatic and had returned to the Mainland. The Centre for Health Protection had informed the Ministry of Health for follow up.</li> <li>• The two taxi drivers traced, and the two taxis have been cleansed and disinfected.</li> </ul>
<b>Border Control</b>	
4. Health declarations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All inbound travelers arriving at airport and other land and sea boundary control points are required to fill in health declaration forms.</li> </ul>
5. Health checks for in-bound travellers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All inbound passengers at all boundary control points are subject to temperature screening.</li> <li>• Travelers from affected places found to have swine influenza symptoms will be taken to hospitals for further investigation.</li> <li>• Help desks have been set up at all land boundary control points starting from 1 May 2009.</li> </ul>
6. Health advice to tourists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health education pamphlets have been distributed to travellers at all boundary control points. Health advice messages have been broadcast on board flights and vessels arriving Hong Kong.</li> <li>• The Hong Kong Tourism Board has distributed information leaflets at its Visitor Centres.</li> <li>• Travel Agents Registry and the Travel Industry Council have reminded tourist guides and inbound agents especially those receiving tours from affected areas to refer tourists with flu</li> </ul>

<b>Action Areas</b>	<b>Actions/Measures taken</b>
	symptoms to seek medical consultation.
<b>Local disease surveillance and control strategy and measures</b>	
7. Surveillance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swine influenza was gazetted as a statutorily notifiable disease with immediate effect from 27 April 2009 under the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance (Cap. 599) and as a specified disease under the Prevention and Control of Disease Regulation (Cap.599A).</li> <li>• The Hospital Authority (HA) activated an e-flu system for public hospitals to report all influenza-like illness in patients with relevant travel and contact history since 27 April 2009.</li> <li>• Surveillance at private hospitals has also been stepped up.</li> </ul>
8. Public Health and Clinical aspects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Laboratory testing for swine influenza for suspected cases conducted by HA and Centre for Health Protection.</li> <li>• 1400 isolation beds in 14 HA hospitals have been mobilized to receive reported cases. The first 20 confirmed cases will refer to Infectious Disease Centre of Princess Margaret Hospital and subsequent cases will be referred to other hospitals.</li> </ul>
9. Supplies of drugs and masks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Department of Health (DH) and HA have stockpiled around 20 million doses of antiviral drugs. A 3-month stock of personal protective equipment has been maintained by DH and HA.</li> <li>• DH and HA has been monitoring closely the adequacy of its drug supplies and personal protective equipment in light of latest development.</li> </ul>
10.Environmental hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Metropark Hotel as well as 8 other hotels/hostels in which passengers of flight MU505 had stayed have been disinfected.</li> <li>• Lift and escalators in public markets and cemeteries and crematoria venues are disinfected on an hourly basis.</li> <li>• Walls and floors of all public markets, public toilets and refuse collection points are disinfected daily. Disinfection of various facilities in public toilets has been increased to once every two hours.</li> </ul>

<b>Action Areas</b>	<b>Actions/Measures taken</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Street washing of public area at busy locations, hawker permitted places and hygiene blackspots have been increased to once every two days, using disinfectant.</li> <li>• Each District Council will be provided with a provision of \$500,000 to enhance cleansing at the district level.</li> <li>• Hygiene guidelines have been issued to all owners' corporations, owners' committee, mutual assistance committees and the Hong Kong Association of Property Management Companies, licensed hotels/guesthouses, bedspace apartments, karaokes and clubs to encourage enhanced cleansing and improvement of hygiene.</li> </ul>
11. Food Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) has been monitoring closely World Health Organization (WHO)/OIE (World Organization for Animal Health)/FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) and other regulatory authorities' advice/action related to food safety. So far, WHO/OIE/FAO have not issued advice to suspend import of live pigs or pork products from affected areas. Relevant information on swine flu has been uploaded onto CFS' website for the general public's information.</li> </ul>
<b>Social and Economic Impact</b>	
12.Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Education Bureau has issued letters to all kindgartens, kindergarten-cum-child care centres, primary and secondary schools as well as tertiary institutions on preventive measures against swine influenza. Masks and cover for thermometers will be provided to schools upon request.</li> <li>• Schools with cross-boundary students have been informed of the need to fill out health declaration forms at the land control points. Assistance has also been provided to students in completing the health declaration forms at collection counters.</li> <li>• A meeting with school councils, associations of school heads and teacher union was held on 4 May 2009 to exchange views on preventive measures at schools.</li> <li>• We have informed the public examination candidates, principals of participating schools, centre supervisors and invigilators on the influenza contingency and enhanced precautionary measures of the Hong Kong Examination and Assessment Authority.</li> </ul>

<b>Action Areas</b>	<b>Actions/Measures taken</b>
	<p>Additional face masks and infrared thermometers have been prepared for public exam use. Centre supervisors are asked to report on a daily basis where candidates with a fever or flu symptoms take the examination at the back/in a corner of the exam hall/room or in another classroom.</p>
<b>Government/community mobilization</b>	
13.Farm and slaughterhouses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and FEHD have strengthened inspection and cleansing of farms and slaughterhouses and have conducted tests on pigs in farms and slaughterhouses. Testing of samples taken from the farms and the slaughterhouses so far is negative for human swine influenza. Mainland authorities have been informed to strengthen surveillance and inspection at registered farms supplying pigs to Hong Kong.</li> <li>• Health advisory notices and guidelines on prevention of pig diseases including swine influenza have been issued to all pig farmers. Guidelines on personal hygiene were provided to staff and workers in the slaughterhouses. AFCD also met with pig farmers and poultry farmers to brief them on the latest situation and remind them on biosecurity measures. A hotline has been set up for pig farmers.</li> </ul>
14.Public transport/ essential services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public transport operators, public utilities, telecommunication operators, the Housing Authority and the Housing Society have been asked to step up their cleansing efforts and to implement appropriate precautionary measures against swine influenza.</li> <li>• Telecommunication operators have been reminded to clean all telephone booths and public telephones on a regular basis.</li> <li>• Social welfare service units of SWD and non-government organizations have been requested to guard against swine influenza, especially at institutions, child care centres and elderly homes. All residential care homes for the elderly and for disabled persons, and day service units have been advised to conduct a thorough cleansing and disinfectant exercise on the premises. SWD has also activated its Departmental Emergency Response Team.</li> <li>• IT companies (e.g. Hong Kong Cyberport Management</li> </ul>



<b>Action Areas</b>	<b>Actions/Measures taken</b>
	Company Ltd and Hong Kong Internet Registration Corporation Ltd) have been reminded to step up preventive and response measures against swine influenza.
<b>Communication</b>	
15.General public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A mini-webpage on human swine influenza has been created at CHP’s website on 26 April 2009 to provide daily updates to the public.</li> <li>• DH has started running a 24-hour telephone hotline (2125 1111) on 30 April 2009 to answer any public enquiry.</li> <li>• A new dedicated Government website “The Fight Against Pandemic Disease” was launched on 6 May.</li> <li>• New radio and TV Announcement of Public Interests on human swine influenza have been broadcast.</li> <li>• Swine flu leaflet is being translated into 7 languages for distribution to ethnic minorities.</li> </ul>
16.Medical Sector/Expert Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letters have been issued to healthcare professionals and Chinese Medicine practitioners to keep them abreast of the development.</li> <li>• The Hong Kong St John Ambulance and the Auxiliary Medical Services have been providing assistance in building surge capacity when necessary.</li> <li>• Briefings have been provided to the Hong Kong Medical Association, the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine, Hong Kong Doctors’ Union, the Private Hospitals Association, and the Scientific Committee of CHP.</li> </ul>
17.External	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CHP has been providing daily report on the latest situation of swine influenza to WHO, health authorities of the Mainland and Macao since 1 May 2009.</li> <li>• Briefings on the latest development have been provided to Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of District Council (DC). DH has started attending meetings of DCs to brief all DC members on human swine influenza.</li> </ul>

<b>Action Areas</b>	<b>Actions/Measures taken</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Briefings for Heung Yee Kuk, and all Consulate Generals in Hong Kong have also been provided.</li> <li>• All local chambers/industrial association have been informed of the latest situation and remind them of the need to take precautionary measures.</li> <li>• DH will continue to provide health talks to various parties including the Employers' Federation of Hong Kong.</li> </ul>
18.Overall preparedness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employers and employees have been called to step up flu precautionary measures. Mobilisation plan has been activated to further enhance inspections of workplaces at a higher risk of infection, including 15 designated HA hospitals, 18 fever clinics and 38 elderly homes.</li> <li>• Guidelines for employers and employees on prevention of human swine influenza and related employment issues have also been issued. In collaboration with the Occupational Safety and Health Council, a public seminar will be organized on 18 May 2009 to raise public awareness of preparedness for human swine influenza in the workplace.</li> </ul>