Hong Kong Christian Service Pui Oi School

School Notice: 2019/20_072

7th Jan, 2020

Dear Parents,

Re: Alert on the Cluster of Pneumonia Cases in Wuhan of Mainland

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health is closely monitoring a cluster of pneumonia cases in Wuhan of Hubei Province and would like to alert you to remain vigilance.

According to available information, there were a total of 27 pneumonia cases associated with a market named "華南海鮮城" in Wuhan in December 2019 (as of December 31). Among them, seven cases were in serious condition and the remaining cases were in stable condition. Symptoms were mainly fever while a few had presented with shortness of breath. All patients have been isolated and receiving treatment. Contact tracing of close contacts and medical surveillance by the Wuhan health authority are ongoing. Assessment by relevant experts in Wuhan revealed that the cases were compatible with viral pneumonia. The causative pathogen and cause of infection are still under investigation.

Students should wear a mask and consult doctors promptly if they have fever / respiratory symptoms, and inform the doctor of their travel and exposure history. Symptomatic students should not attend schools. Our school has already cleaned our campus according to the Guidelines suggested by CHP.

To prevent pneumonia and respiratory tract infection, please kindly remind your child to maintain good personal and environmental hygiene. You child and yourself are advised to:

1. 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.
2. 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 per cent alcohol-based handrub is an effective alternative.
3. Cover mouth and nose with tissue paper when sneezing or coughing. Dispose of soiled tissues into a lidded rubbish bin, then wash hands thoroughly.
4. When having respiratory symptoms, wear a surgical mask, refrain from attending class at school, avoid going to crowded places and seek medical advice promptly.

5. Avoid making close contact with patients, especially those with symptoms of acute respiratory infections.

6. Avoid touching poultry/ birds or their droppings.

7. Avoid visiting wet markets, live poultry markets or farms.

8. 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.

9. Temperature checking: please check temperature every morning before going to school. Please record the temperature reading on student handbook as well.

10. Prepare 4 surgical masks for your children. Please keep the surgical masks into a clean plastic bag with student's name stated. Our staff will help your children to put on surgical mask if needed.

11. Get a shot of influenza vaccine if not vaccinated.

12. School will keep an eye of flu surveillance and report to CHP promptly.

Visitors notice

1. Do not visit school if you have fever/flu-like symptoms/other discomforts.

2. Please perform hand hygiene while entering our school/boarding house (hand sanitary facilities locate at the main entrance and general office of school or boarding house).

3. You are advised to bring your own surgical mask and wear surgical mask when you enter our school/boarding house .

4. We provide temperature checking for visitors (automated infract temperature monitoring device at school/ tympanic thermometer at general office of boarding house).

For any enquiry, please contact the school nurse Ms Kan (2490 2955).

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Wan Chun-Ki
Principal