

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (71) in DH CDB/8/27/1 Pt. 24

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Dear Principal / Person-in-charge,

**End of Influenza Season in Hong Kong**

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health announced the end of influenza season which started in early January this year. Schools should continue to advise students and staff to maintain personal, hand and environmental hygiene against respiratory infections. The normal practice on identification of students with fever in your school can be resumed. CHP has issued guidelines to schools on prevention of communicable diseases accessible at:

[http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/guidelines\\_on\\_prevention\\_of\\_communicable\\_diseases\\_in\\_schools\\_kindergartens\\_kindergartens\\_cum\\_child\\_care-centres\\_child\\_care-centres.pdf](http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/guidelines_on_prevention_of_communicable_diseases_in_schools_kindergartens_kindergartens_cum_child_care-centres_child_care-centres.pdf)

To prevent outbreaks of respiratory infections, students with fever (oral temperature higher than 37.5°C, or ear temperature higher than 38°C), regardless of the presence of respiratory symptoms, should not be allowed to attend school. Staff should be alert of their own conditions and should refrain from work if they have fever or respiratory symptoms.

If you notice an increase in fever or respiratory symptoms among students or staff, please report promptly to our Central Notification Office (Tel: 2477 2772; Fax: 2477 2770; Email: [diseases@dh.gov.hk](mailto:diseases@dh.gov.hk)) for prompt epidemiological investigations and appropriate control measures. For the latest information on influenza activity, please refer to the “COVID-19 & Flu Express” (<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/resources/29/100148.html>).

Although the winter influenza season is over, members of the public should not overlook the presence of those respiratory pathogens that will become more active in spring and summer, including rhinovirus/enterovirus, respiratory syncytial virus, human metapneumovirus and summer influenza season. There has also been a recent increase in the activity of COVID-19 in the local community. As such, students and staff should maintain good personal, hand and environmental hygiene. Those who have not received the initial dose of the COVID-19 vaccine should get vaccinated as soon as possible, while those at high risk (e.g. persons with underlying comorbidities) should receive a booster dose as soon as possible for effective prevention against COVID-19. Details of receiving COVID-19 vaccination is available online (<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/106934.html>).

Thank you for your unfailing support in prevention and control of communicable diseases.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr Albert AU)

for Controller, Centre for Health Protection, Department of Health

