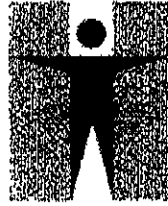


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THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HONG KONG
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17 December 2007

Mr. Joseph TUNG, JP
Executive Director
Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong
Fax : 2510 9907

Dear Mr. TUNG,

**First confirmed human case of H5N1 Avian Influenza in Myanmar and
Eight suspected human cases of H5N1 Avian Influenza in Pakistan**

On 14 December, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported that the Ministry of Health in Myanmar confirmed the country's first human case of H5N1 avian influenza. The case is a 7-year-old female from Kyaing Tone Township, Shan State (East). She developed symptoms on 21 November and has now recovered.

On 15 December, the Ministry of Health in Pakistan has informed WHO of 8 suspected human cases of H5N1 Avian Influenza infection in the Peshawar area of the country. These cases were detected following a series of culling operations in response to outbreaks of H5N1 in poultry. One of the suspected cases has recovered and two died. Multiple poultry outbreaks of H5N1 influenza have been occurring in Pakistan since 2006. In 2007, there have also been outbreaks in wild birds.

To minimize the risk of contracting the disease, tour groups to Avian Influenza affected areas should avoid visiting poultry markets or places where live birds are concentrated. Travellers should take the following precautions:

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- ✧ Avoid contacting patient with fever or respiratory symptoms;
- ✧ Avoid touching birds or poultry and their droppings;
- ✧ If travellers have contacted birds or poultry, they should wash hands thoroughly with liquid soap and water immediately;
- ✧ Poultry and eggs should be thoroughly cooked before eating; and
- ✧ If having a fever or feeling unwell after returning to Hong Kong, travellers should consult a doctor promptly and tell the doctor the recent travel history.

Please pass the above information to travel agencies and advise travellers to take the above mentioned precautions. For more information, they may also visit our Travel Health Service Website at www.travelhealth.gov.hk or the website of the Centre for Health Protection at www.chp.gov.hk.

Yours sincerely,



(Dr. Samuel YEUNG)

for Chief Port Health Officer
Department of Health

c.c. Commissioner for Tourism (Fax: 2801 4458)

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