

April 24, 2013

INFORMATION UPDATE: Novel A (H7N9) avian influenza virus in eastern China

Communicable Disease Control, Manitoba Health, is currently monitoring reports received from the World Health Organization (WHO) regarding human cases of infection with novel A (H7N9) avian influenza virus. We are sending you this update to keep you informed of the situation.

Situation:

- As of April 23, 2013, the World Health Organization (WHO) is reporting 108 confirmed human cases of novel A (H7N9) avian influenza, including 22 deaths, in eastern China.
- Contacts of the confirmed cases are being closely monitored; however, to date there is **no evidence of sustained human-to-human transmission**.
- Investigations into the possible sources of infection and reservoirs of the virus are ongoing. Until the source of infection has been identified, it is expected that there will be further cases of human infection with the virus in China.
- Antigenic and genome sequencing of the virus suggests it is sensitive to neuraminidase inhibitors.

Recommendations:

- The Public Health Agency of Canada has posted a *Summary of Assessment of Public Health Risk to Canada Associated with H7N9 Avian Influenza Human Infections in China*, including **infection prevention and control recommendations** at: http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/eri-ire/h7n9/risk_assessment-evaluation_risque-eng.php
- Manitoba's Guidelines for ***Routine Practices and Additional Precautions: Preventing the Transmission of Infection in Health Care*** are available at: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/docs/ipc/rpap.pdf>
- Health care providers who suspect a novel pathogen (e.g. H7N9 or Novel Coronavirus owing to links to affected areas) should consult an Infectious Disease specialist, notify their local public health unit and/or Medical Officer of Health, and report cases of severe respiratory illness (SRI) to Manitoba Health using the form at: http://www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/surveillance/sri_form.pdf.
- If a nasopharyngeal or respiratory sample from a suspected case is being sent for diagnostic testing, please clearly mark the sample packaging with "**Travel History to China.**"

For links to the latest information on A (H7N9), please visit:

<http://www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/environmentalhealth/avian.html>

Thank you for sharing this information with all relevant colleagues in your facility or clinic.

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