



MINISTRY OF HEALTH
SINGAPORE

MH 34:85

27 May 2009

All Registered Medical Practitioners
All Licensees of Healthcare Establishments

MOH CIRCULAR 55/2009
ALERT: FIRST CONFIRMED CASE OF INFLUENZA A (H1N1-2009) IN SINGAPORE

1. Singapore has confirmed its first case of Influenza A (H1N1-2009). The patient is currently being treated at the Communicable Disease Centre at Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH) and is in a stable condition.
2. The patient is a 22 year-old Singaporean female who was in New York from May 14-24 2009. She flew back in Singapore from New York on SQ25 on 26 May at 0630hrs. She began to develop a cough while onboard. She passed the thermal scanner uneventfully as she did not have fever then. Later in the morning, she consulted a GP who decided to send her to TTSH via a 993 ambulance, given her travel history. She was admitted for isolation and testing. Laboratory confirmation of her infection was made late on 26 May.
3. The patient has been vigilant in monitoring her own condition and had sought immediate medical attention once she realized that she was unwell. Her attending GP, through his quick response in activating the 993 ambulance for the patient, had also helped to minimize the spread of infection from this case.
4. We have initiated contact tracing of her close contacts. They will be quarantined and provided with antiviral prophylaxis.

CONTINUED VIGILANCE NEEDED

5. The Ministry would like to remind all medical practitioners and healthcare establishments to continue to be vigilant for suspected case. The case definition for a suspected case of influenza A (H1N1-2009) virus infection remains unchanged, and is defined as an individual with an acute febrile respiratory illness (fever > 38°C)¹ with onset of symptoms:

¹ Immunocompromised persons such as those on dialysis or immunosuppressive medications, may not manifest with fever but are likely to have other signs of respiratory illness.



Ministry of Health, Singapore
College of Medicine Building
16 College Road
Singapore 169854
TEL (65) 6325 9220
FAX (65) 6224 1677
WEB www.moh.gov.sg

- a) Within 7 days of travel history to affected areas², or;
- b) Within 7 days of close contact³ with a person who is a confirmed case of influenza A (H1N1-2009).

6. Any patient who meets the above case definition should be referred immediately to the Emergency Department at Tan Tock Seng Hospital⁴. Medical practitioners should arrange for these patients to be transferred by ambulance by calling the dedicated ambulance service at 993 (available 24 hours).

7. The Ministry of Health should also be **notified immediately** of suspected cases. Please contact the Communicable Diseases Division at 98171463 (available 24 hours)⁵. MOH will inform the notifying doctor of the need for contact tracing and prophylaxis.

8. For updates on this evolving situation, please refer to the MOH website www.moh.gov.sg. For further clarifications of this circular, please email moh_info@moh.gov.sg or contact MOH hotline on 1800-333-9999.

9. If you are a licensee of a healthcare establishment, or a manager of a laboratory, please bring the contents of this circular to the attention of the relevant healthcare professionals in your establishment/laboratory.



PROF K SATKU
DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL SERVICES
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

² Affected areas currently refer to the US, Canada and Mexico. Please refer to MOH website for the latest list of Affected Areas: <http://www.moh.gov.sg>

³ Close contacts are defined by persons who have sustained unprotected exposure to the confirmed case for at least 1 hour and within close proximity of 2 metres.

⁴ Medical practitioners in public sector institutions should follow advisories relevant to their institutions.

⁵ The hotline for Communicable Diseases Division, MOH is for notification of suspected cases of Influenza A(H1N1-2009). General enquiries should be directed to the MOH hotline numbers: **1800-225-4122**, or; **1800-333-9999**. Other useful contact numbers are CFPS: 6221 8608 (8:30am – 6pm, Mon- Fri), SMA: 62231264 (8:30am – 6pm, Mon – Fri)