

MH 34:85

10 June 2009

All Registered Medical Practitioners
All Licensees of Healthcare Establishments

MOH CIRCULAR 62/2009

UPDATE: REFERRAL OF PREGNANT WOMEN AND CHILDREN TO KKH VIA THE 993 AMBULANCE

1 Currently, all suspected cases¹ of Influenza A (H1N1-2009), including children and pregnant women, are referred to the Emergency Department in Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH) via the 993 ambulance. From there, paediatric patients as well as pregnant women who are deemed to require further evaluation and / or paediatric and obstetric care, respectively, are subsequently transferred to KKH for investigation, and subsequent isolation and treatment, if necessary.

UPDATE FOR REFERRING SUSPECTED PAEDIATRIC & OBSTETRIC CASES

2 With effect from 08:00am, 11 June 2009, new arrangements have been made for:

- a) Children under the age of 16 years, and
- b) Pregnant women beyond 24 weeks gestation

who are suspected cases of Influenza A (H1N1-2009) to be sent directly to the Children's Emergency (CE) at KKH via the 993 ambulance (instead of going to TTSH ED for triaging, as currently practiced). The suspected cases will be attended by the respective paediatric and obstetric team on duty at the CE.

3 In situations where both parent(s) and child are suspected cases of Influenza A (H1N1-2009), they are to be referred to KKH together in the first instance.

¹ The definition of a suspected case of Influenza A (H1N1-2009) is as follows: an individual with an acute febrile respiratory illness (fever >38°C) with onset of symptoms:

- (i) Within 7 days of travel history to affected areas, (Please refer to MOH website for the latest list of Affected Areas: <http://www.moh.gov.sg>), or;
- (ii) Within 7 days of close contact with a person who is a confirmed case of Influenza A (H1N1-2009)

REQUIRED ACTION

4 For suspected cases of Influenza A (H1N1-2009) who fulfill the criteria in para 2, referring physicians are advised to specify the age of the patient (for paediatric cases) or weeks gestation (for obstetric cases) when calling the 993 ambulance call-centre to transport such cases to the KKH CE for further evaluation, and subsequent isolation and treatment, if necessary.

5 Referring physicians are also reminded to immediately notify the Communicable Diseases Division, Ministry of Health of the suspected case, at 9817 1463 (available 24 hours for notification purposes only)².

FOR DESSEMINATION TO RELEVANT STAFF

6 If you are a licensee of a healthcare establishment, please bring the contents of this circular to the attention of relevant healthcare professionals in your establishment.

7 Please refer to the MOH website www.moh.gov.sg for updates on this evolving situation. For further clarifications on this circular, please email moh_info@moh.gov.sg.



PROF K SATKU
DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL SERVICES
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

² 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)