

Health Alert – Cases of Viral Pneumonia in Wuhan

Monday, 6 January 2020 3:04 pm

Dear colleagues and students,

Since December last year, health authorities in Wuhan have detected multiple cases of viral pneumonia. The symptoms are mainly fever, but some patients have more serious conditions including shortness of breath. The cause of these infections is still under investigation. The Hong Kong SAR Government has activated the Serious Response Level. A dedicated webpage <https://www.chp.gov.hk/tc/features/102465.html> has been set up to provide relevant information.

The HKUST has also stepped up disease surveillance and preventive measures. With immediate effect, the Medical Clinic will:

- All patients are advised to put on a surgical mask when visiting the clinic
- All patients will be screened with a forehead Infrared thermometer upon entering the clinic
- Patients with fever are required to put on a surgical mask and fill out a questionnaire regarding his/her travel history
- All fever patients will be given priority for consultation
- A separate room will be provided for “fever” consultations

To reduce the chance of fever and common flu, a limited number of Flu Shots are available at the Campus Medical Clinic. The cost of the shot is HK\$350/dose (standard), or \$210 for those under 12 or 50 or above, through IVSS.

- In the meantime, please be vigilant and observe strict personal and environmental hygiene.
- Wash your hands frequently;
- Use alcohol hand rub when handwashing facility is not available;
- Cover your mouth and nose with tissue paper when sneezing or coughing.
- When you have respiratory symptoms, wear a surgical mask, do not come to work or attending classes, and go to see a doctor ASAP.

When traveling outside Hong Kong:

- avoid touching animals or visiting wet markets and farms;
- adhere to food safety and hygiene rules;
- if feeling unwell, especially if having a fever or cough, wear a surgical mask, inform the hotel staff or tour escort and seek medical advice at once; and
- after returning to Hong Kong, consult a doctor promptly if having a fever or other symptoms.

Health, Safety and Environment Office