



MINISTRY OF HEALTH
SINGAPORE

MH 34:85

27 May 2009

All Registered TCM Practitioners
All TCM Clinic Managers/Owners

MOH CIRCULAR 56/2009
ALERT: FIRST CONFIRMED CASE OF INFLUENZA A(H1N1-2009) IN SINGAPORE

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 14-24 May 2009. She arrived 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 TCM practitioners and TCM clinic managers/owners to continue to be vigilant for suspected cases. The case definition for a suspected case of influenza A (H1N1-2009) virus infection remains unchanged,



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and is defined as an individual with an acute febrile respiratory illness (fever $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$)¹ with onset of symptoms:

- 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 case definition should be referred immediately to the Emergency Department at Tan Tock Seng Hospital. TCM 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)⁴. MOH will inform the notifying TCM practitioner 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 TCM clinic manager/owner, please bring the contents of this circular to the attention of the relevant healthcare professionals in your clinic.



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MINISTRY OF HEALTH

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.

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 as persons who have sustained unprotected exposure to the confirmed case for at least 1 hour and within close proximity of 2 metres.

⁴ 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**.