



HICMR INFORMATION SHEET 1: MAY 2008

SARS and Influenza A(H5N1):

Interim guidance for infection control measures

Refer to HICMR Policy: Acute Respiratory Infections eg SARS/Avian Influenza (Seasonal or Pandemic)

1. SCREENING (On admission)

Clinical: Fever > 38°C &/or history of fever and respiratory symptoms.

Epidemiological:

- Travel to SARS- affected area within 10 days of onset of symptoms or
- Travel to avian influenza A (H5N1)- affected area of South East Asia, and close contact with poultry or poultry houses **OR**
- Close contact with other cases of severe respiratory illness/ unexplained death from above area **OR**
- Part of healthcare worker (HCW) cluster of severe respiratory illness **OR**
- Laboratory worker with potential exposure to either agent.

2. INFECTION CONTROL PRECAUTIONS

During screening and assessment

Hospital:

- Location: Side room/single room/negative pressure room.
- Patient to wear mask (N95 preferred)
- Staff to wear mask (N95 preferred), gown and gloves)

Primary Care/Community:

- Location: At patient's home if possible
- Patient to wear mask (N95 preferred)
- Staff to wear mask, (N95 preferred) gown and gloves).

3. REPORTING: Inform relevant bodies

- ✓ Inform Management Team
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- ✓ Inform Infection Control Consultant/Coordinator And Infectious Disease Physician
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- ✓ Inform Local Public Health Unit

Nb. If required, transfer to a healthcare facility with appropriate isolation facilities, eg. negative pressure ventilation room, (NPVR).

4. DURING HOSPITALISATION:

STRICT STANDARD CONTACT AND RESPIRATORY PRECAUTIONS

- ❖ **Patient:** Strict respiratory isolation in negative pressure ventilation room, (NPVR).
- ❖ **HCWs:** Correctly fitted high filtration mask (N95), long sleeve gown, gloves and protective eyewear.

CURRENT (H5N1) AFFECTED AREAS

Countries reporting H5N1 outbreaks in poultry and wild birds to the OIE updated 29/04/08.

Benin	Nigeria	Russia
Bangladesh	India	Saudi Arabia
Canada	Japan	Thailand
China	Korea (Republic of)	Togo
Egypt	Kuwait	Turkey
Israel	Laos	United Kingdom
Germany	Malaysia	Vietnam
Poland	Myanmar	Ukraine
Hong Kong	Pakistan	Switzerland

NB. May change in the future. HICMR will monitor the situation and provide updates regularly.

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

- ✓ SARS guidance: www.health.gov.au/internet/wcms/publishing.nsf/content/health-sars-index.htm
- ✓ Current SARS- affected areas: www.who.int/csr/sars/areas/en/
- ✓ Influenza A (H5N1): www.health.gov.au/internet/wcms/publishing.nsf/content/health-avian-influenza-index.htm
- ✓ Current avian influenza A H5N1 affected areas: http://www.oie.int/downld/AVIAN%20INFLUENZA/A_AI-Asia.htm