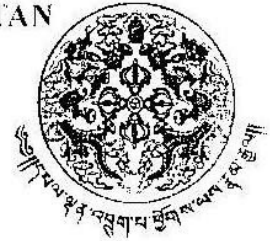


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ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN
MINISTRY OF HEALTH
THIMPHU : BHUTAN
P.O. BOX : 726



Ref.No. DoPH/IMCI/14/2009/ 868

April 29, 2009

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To
All DHOs/CMOs/Supdts

Bemaking

Sub: Notification on Swine Flu

As you may be aware there is a potential pandemic due to swine influenza with numerous countries affected. The situation is very worrying as more countries are reporting suspected cases of the infection every day. WHO has also heightened its alert to phase 4 which is one level below a pandemic and declared that the infection cannot be contained.

Many countries have accordingly drawn up measures to prevent/control the disease.

The Health service needs to gear up prevention and control measures in the event the disease reaches Bhutan. In line with this all health facilities have to carry out the weekly ARI surveillance and reporting for influenza with diligence.

Also, any unusual incidences of respiratory illnesses or pneumonia (i.e. increased numbers, clusters of cases, disease in people with history of travel outside Bhutan, pneumonia in healthy adults, Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome) have to be reported to the Public Health Laboratory using the Notifiable Disease Reporting form.

All hospitals in the country will need to manage and treat cases in the event of an epidemic. Therefore, it is very important that all health workers are prepared, hospitals have triage systems and infection control mechanisms in place and the public are adequately informed.

The Ministry is in the process of developing communication materials, care and treatment guidelines, assessing the Personal Protection Equipment and antiviral drug stocks and other guidelines. An emergency task force has already been formed which will develop prevention and control strategies. These will be shared with the districts as they are developed.

An FAQ adapted from WHO is also attached for your reference.

Please visit the health website: www.health.gov.bt for updates.

The world is at critical threshold of a Pandemic and we need to ensure that the health services in Bhutan can successfully prevent this disease or control it if it reaches Bhutan.

(Dr Ugen Dophu)
Offtg. Secretary

Copy to:

1. PS to Hon'ble Minster, MoH, for kind appraisal.
2. Director General, DMS, MoH, for information.
3. Director, DoPH, MoH.