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To: All Public Dance Hall Licensees,

10 April 2013

Health Information on Cases of Influenza A (H7N9)

As advised by the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health, the National Health and Family Planning Commission has recently notified CHP of a number of confirmed human cases of influenza A (H7N9), which is a type of avian influenza (AI). The CHP is maintaining liaison with the Mainland health authorities and monitoring the development of the outbreak closely.

So far, there is no evidence of human-to-human transmission and no human case of H7N9 AI has been detected in Hong Kong. However, mortality from Influenza A (H7N9) is high and the mutation potential of the virus has been reported to be high. As such, the disease should not be treated lightly. The CHP advises the public that they should pay particular attention to personal and environmental hygiene and avoid direct contact with animals, birds or poultry. They should wash hands frequently and avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with bare hands.

In order to enhance awareness to guard against human infection with avian influenza, the CHP has developed guidelines on its preventive measures. Electronic version of the guideline for **prevention of AI in the workplace** can be downloaded from the CHP's at http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/healthadvice2013_en.pdf. More information on AI is also available on CHP's website (http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/her_list/463/24/13.html)

We should be most grateful if you could help disseminate the content of this letter to your colleagues, work associates and business partners so that they would be kept informed of the situation and to adopt preventive measures.

Thank you very much for your attention and assistance.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed)

(Winston SK LEUNG)
Chief Officer, Licensing Authority