



To all citizens of Switzerland and
Liechtenstein in China

Our reference: 453.3-3

BEIJING, 16.06.2009

Influenza A (H1N1) (swine flu) – update following pandemic phase 6 announcement

Dear fellow citizens,
Dear Madam, dear Sir,

On 11th June 2009, the World Health Organization (WHO) has raised the A (H1N1) influenza pandemic alert from phase 5 to phase 6. This means that we are now in a full-fledged influenza pandemic worldwide and that there is evidence of significant and sustained human-to-human transmission of H1N1 in more than one WHO region.

The pandemic alert system reflects the geographic spread of the virus infection. It does not indicate the severity of the disease, which has been mild to moderate outside North America. As far as China is concerned, *this change in the pandemic alert degree does not change the situation locally.*

At this stage, it is difficult to predict how this pandemic will develop in the coming weeks and months. We would nevertheless like to seize this opportunity to remind you of the following:

Recommendations

- General health recommendations: The best way to protect yourself and your family from the pandemic is to stick to simple hygiene rules, i.e. wash regularly and thoroughly your hands, avoid large crowds, and seek immediate medical advice if you develop suspect symptoms and stay home to avoid further contaminating other people.
- Tamiflu®: The information given so far remain valid (see our communication of 12th May 2009). Should you develop suspect symptoms, immediately contact your Doctor or go to the nearest Hospital for medical advice. Do not buy Tamiflu® on the free market without medical supervision since it could be fake medicine dangerous to your health.

- Information: Keep yourself regularly informed about the pandemic through the official websites of the WHO (www.who.int) and the Federal Office of Public Health (www.bag.admin.ch and www.pandemia.ch), as well as through local media concerning the situation of the disease in China.

Yours sincerely

The Chargé d'affaires

Krystyna Marty
(Sig. on original)