Dear colleagues and students,

**Establishment of a Task Force on Swine Influenza**

As you may be aware, the World Health Organisation has raised the influenza pandemic alert level from phase four to five, the second-highest level. In view of the situation, the University has established a Task Force on Swine Influenza to formulate and coordinate the necessary steps to protect the health and safety of the University community. The Task Force, convened by myself, comprises staff from the Academic Registry, Communication and Public Relations Office, Environmental Health and Safety Unit, Estates Office, Finance Office, Personnel Office and Student Affairs Office.

An [e-bulletin board on Swine Influenza](#) has been set up on the University’s homepage and contains a contingency plan, announcements and other useful material on Swine Flu for easy reference.

Special precautionary measures have been taken on campus. All campus facilities that are frequently used by members of the University community will be cleaned and disinfected more often than usual. These include study areas, libraries, student hostels, washrooms, lecture rooms, examination halls, lifts and lift lobbies. Special measures have been implemented for the clinic and the Chinese medicine clinic, such as requiring all patients to measure body temperature and to wear face masks.

The University has a considerable stock of face masks reserved for staff with specific needs due to the nature of their jobs, and in special situations for staff and students in need. In the meantime, the Finance Office may coordinate the purchase of face masks for **OFFICE USE**. Please call ext. 7909 for details.

Meanwhile, the School of Chinese Medicine is working on some Chinese herb prescriptions for the prevention of flu and is planning to organise a seminar on the subject next week for staff and students.

The Task Force will continue to keep a close watch on the latest developments and to make further announcements as the situation warrants. At present, members of the University community are advised to maintain good personal hygiene, wash their hands frequently, wear a mask if symptoms of respiratory tract infection manifest themselves and to check the e-bulletin board frequently for updated information on Swine Flu.

If colleagues and students have any queries on Swine Flu, please feel free to contact the Environmental Health and Safety Unit through their hotline at ext. 7997 or email ehsu@hkbu.edu.hk.

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Convenor, Task Force on Swine Influenza  

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