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Subject: FW: SBAR: avian influenza H7N9 in travelers from China  
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**SBAR: avian influenza H7N9 in travelers from China**

**S**  Infection Prevention & Control is notifying clinicians to be alert for human infections with avian influenza A (H7N9) in travelers from China.

**B**  Avian flu strains can occasionally be transmitted to humans and can cause severe disease. As of January 16, China has confirmed 120 human cases of avian influenza A (H7N9). Most of these patients have reported exposure to live poultry or poultry markets.

- All patients with influenza-like illness (e.g. fever with cough or sore throat, myalgias, etc.) should be asked about travel to China within 10 days prior to onset of symptoms
- Consider the possibility of H7N9 if travel to China is present, particularly if the patient reports exposure to birds or poultry markets

**A**  If you suspect possible avian influenza H7N9:

- **Immediately initiate airborne, droplet, and contact precautions.** This means:
  - **Negative pressure room,** if available (otherwise, regular room with the door closed at all times)
  - Wear an **N95 respirator or PAPR** to enter the room
  - Use **eye protection** (goggles or face shield within 6 feet of the patient)
  - Wear **gown and gloves** to enter the room
- Page Infection Prevention and Control on-call (pager 2058) right away
- Send influenza/RSV PCR from nasopharyngeal swab
  - A result of “Influenza A virus detected by PCR. Unable to subtype” could indicate the potential for novel avian flu such as H7N9
- Initiate antiviral treatment with oseltamivir as early as possible for all hospitalized patients, and for outpatients with severe, progressive, or complicated illness (e.g. pneumonia)