

# 流感信息發布要及時和一致

中英社評

隨着感染及死亡人數不斷增加，本港已進入甲型流感H3N2高峰期，由今年一月初至今短短三十多天，流感死亡人數已達一百三十四名，超過去年一至四月的總和，而全港公立醫院門診部每日診治流感病人逾七千宗，顯見情況的確非常嚴重，不容小覷。

有關情況，在港人社會已引起愈來愈大的關注以至緊張反應，街道上途人和公共交通車廂內乘客佩戴口罩的人數明顯增加，一些小學校方亦已開始在上課前為學生量體溫，各方都在採取措施希望加強對流感的防禦能力。

這種人人自覺、主動防禦，對遏止像流感這樣的高致病性病毒進一步散播，是一個最根本和最有效的辦法。港人社會經歷過年前的禽流感 and 「沙士」之疫，市民對個人和公共衛生的認識有了提高，政府應對大型傳染病風險的能力也有了改善，這也可算是當前疫情威脅中值得欣慰的地方。

眼前，從已經公布的數據可以看到，本港進入流感高峰期已殆無疑義，但有幾點情況仍值得提醒和注意：

一是要提高警覺和加強防禦，但也不必杯弓蛇影、相驚伯有。事實是，甲型流感在本港並非什麼罕見病症，而是每年冬季都會出現的「風土病」，關鍵在於發病率和死亡率。而今年流感之所以會引起緊張，主要是來勢比較兇猛，一個月內的染病人數和死亡人數與過去幾年同期相比都有明顯增加，疫情如此急兇，當然不可大意。

二是死亡率的變化，過去每年冬季，本港死於甲型流感的人數也總在六、七百人上下，其中以長者和長期病



▲全港公立醫院門診部每日診治流感病人逾七千宗，顯見情況的確非常嚴重，不容小覷 資料圖片

患者居多，但今年的疫情有個特點，就是患者和死者都未必是「高危一族」，有三、四十歲的患者在送院後病情急惡化而不治死亡。對此，港大微生物系教授袁國勇指出，死亡人數略增並不可怕，但如果六十歲以下患者的死亡率明顯增加，那就顯示問題嚴重和不能等閒視之了。

三是病毒出現「變種」，本港一貫使用的流感疫苗已不能有效防禦，已接種者比未接種者的抗病能力只多百分之五十左右，而變了種的病毒可以迅速進入人體的肺、腎、心臟以至腦部，令患者在短時間內致命。

因此，面對眼前這場「變種」冬季甲型流感病毒，各方特別是特區政府相關部門，必須以加倍的工作和力度來加強應對。日前有反對派議員在立法會惡罵食物及衛生局局長高永文工作不力、沒有預見，是無理取鬧的，如果有流感

死人，衛生局長就要下台，那全世界政府都不會有衛生局長了。但沒有失職也不等於工作就已經不需要改進，當前食衛局、醫管局及疾控中心必須立即加強以下兩方面的工作：

一是公立醫院的醫生、護士人手和病房、病床、藥物數目，必須為春節前後到來的流感最高峰期作好充分準備，公院醫護人手不足已是長期問題，但重大疫情當前，必須以加班加津貼及增聘兼職私營醫護作為補充，確保把救人放在第一位。

二是要全面加強對防疫的宣傳教育工作，目前市民對防疫的意識已有所提高，但當局的信息發布卻有點混亂，如應否佩戴口罩的問題，不同部門負責人有不同的說法，令到市民不知所措。相關疫情信息的發布必須及時、準確和一致，以免造成混亂，這點必須要注意。

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## Release of information about influenza epidemic must be timely and consistent

With the numbers of infected cases and deaths keeping growing, Hong Kong has entered Type-A Influenza (H3N2) peak season. In a short period from early January to today, the flu has killed as many as 134 people, more than the death toll in the first four months of last year. Out-patient departments of public hospitals all over Hong Kong now treats over 7,000 flu patients each day. Obviously the situation is very serious and must not be overlooked.

The situation has aroused growing attention and even tense reaction in Hong Kong society. The number of face mask-wearing people on streets and inside public transport facilities has increased noticeably. Some primary schools have also begun to take temperature for all pupils. All sectors are taking measures **in hopes of** enhancing their flu-prevention.

In this way, everyone now is aware of the disease and takes prevention measures on their own initiative. This is the most fundamental and effective way to contain the further spread of such highly infectious virus as Influenza. Having experienced the outbreaks of bird flu and SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) some years ago, Hong Kong people have heightened their awareness of personal and public hygiene, and the government has also improved its ability to deal with the outbreak of infectious diseases. This is something thankful when we face the current threat of influenza.

Right now, **judging from** released information, it is no doubt that Hong Kong has already entered the peak influenza season. Still, there are some things that are worthy to be reminded and paid attention to.

The first is that, while vigilance should be heightened and prevention enhanced, there is no need to be **jittery** with imaginary fears. In fact, Type-A influenza is not a rare disease in Hong Kong, but rather an "endemic" that comes every winter. The crux of the matter lies in the incidence rate and death rate. This year's flu causes uneasiness mainly because it comes on quickly and hits people **like a ton of bricks**, so much so that the numbers of people infected and died within a month have noticeably increased compared with the same period in past several years. The epidemic spreads so fast and is so deadly that surely it must not be taken lightly.

The second is the change in the death rate. Every winter in the past, there was about 600 to 700 people in Hong Kong killed by Type-A influenza, most of whom were elderly people and patients of chronic diseases. But a feature of this year's epidemic is that people infected and died are not necessarily from the high-risk groups. Some infected patients in their 30s and 40s died after being rushed to hospital as their conditions worsened quickly. On this, Professor Yuen Kwok-Yung with the University of Hong Kong's Department of Microbiology pointed out that some increase in the number of deaths was not fearsome, but if the death rate of people under the age 60 noticeably increased, then it meant the problem was serious and should not be overlooked.

The third is that the influenza virus has developed a variant, so that the vaccine so far used in Hong Kong could no longer be effective. Vaccinators' disease-resistance ability is just 50 per cent higher than those who are not vaccinated. The variant virus could get into the lungs, kidneys, heart and even brains in a human body, killing the patient in a short period of time.

Therefore, in face of the spread of the variant virus of Influenza A, all sectors especially concerned departments of the SAR Government must double their efforts in dealing with it. At the Legislative Council (Legco) days ago, some opposition lawmakers accused Dr. Ko Wing-man, the Secretary for Food and Health, of not working effectively and being without foresight. By doing this, they in fact made trouble out of nothing. If the Secretary for Food and Health should step down because deaths are caused by influenza, then there won't be any chief health official anywhere

in the world. However, no dereliction of duty does not mean there is no room for improvement. Right now, the Bureau of Food and Health, Medical Authority and Centre for Health Protection (CHP) must act immediately to strengthen their efforts in the following works.

Firstly, public hospitals must get fully prepared to ensure there will be sufficient doctors, nurses, wards, beds and medicine to cope with the arrival of the influenza peak season around the Spring Festival. Shortage of medical personnel in public hospitals is a chronic problem. However, given the outbreak of the epidemic, measures must be taken to ease the problem such as offering over-time subsidies and hire more part-time hands from the private sector, so as to ensure that saving human lives **takes priority** over everything else.

Secondly, efforts must be strengthened in publicity and education on influenza prevention. Now citizens have heightened their awareness of the disease, but information released by authorities seems to be somewhat confusing. For instance, regarding the issue whether face masks should be worn, different departments have offered different advices, and people don't know which should be followed. Release of information about the epidemic must be timely, accurate and consistent, so as not to cause confusion. This must be given attention.

### WORDS AND USAGE

**In (high) hopes of sth** (idiom) – Expecting something.  
(抱着…希望)

*Examples : 1.He is cooperating with police in hopes of reducing his sentence.  
2.I was in hopes of getting there early.*

**Judging by/from sth** (phrase) – To make a decision or judgment based on something.  
(根據…來判斷)

*Examples : 1.Judging by the direction of the wind, it won't rain today.  
2.Judging from the mess that's left, the party must have been a good one.*

**Jittery** (adj.) – Nervous and anxious.  
(神經緊張的，戰戰兢兢的)

*Examples : 1.Financial markets are feeling very jittery about a possible rise in interest rates.  
2.He felt all jittery before the interview.*

**Like a ton of bricks** (idiom) – Very strongly or forcefully.  
(來勢兇猛，氣勢洶洶)

*Examples : 1.If father finds out what you've been doing, he'll come down on you like a ton of bricks !  
2.The sudden tax increase hit like a ton of bricks. Everyone became angry.*

**Take priority** (over sth) (phrase) – To be more important than other things and to be dealt with first.  
(優先於…)

*Examples : 1.His job seems to take priority over everything else.  
2.The search for a new vaccine will take priority over all other researches.*



時事英語

## 羊年談英文「羊」諺

再過兩天，就是農曆羊年了。在此恭祝各位讀者新春愉快、萬事勝意！

羊在英文裡叫做sheep（綿羊）、goat（山羊）和ram（公羊）等，因而「羊年」可譯為Year of the Sheep/Goat/Ram，要注意的是「羊」字之前一定要加定冠詞the。BB羊中文叫「羊羔」，英文叫lamb。

畜牧業曾是許多英語系國家的重要經濟支柱，今天在新西蘭和澳洲仍扮演重要角色。也許因為如此，英語中有不少與「羊」有關的諺語，這裡選擇一些簡介如下。

1. Get someone's goat：故意為難某人或惹某人發火的意思。Goat在這裡比喻一個人的安寧，如果被人偷走，肯定大發光火。如果要故意撩撥某人，可以說：I'm going to get your goat!
2. Separate the sheep from the goats：區別好壞，分辨良莠。此諺語與separate the men from the boys同義。Working in a challenging place like this really separates the sheep from the goats。
3. Skin a goat：直接的字義是剝羊皮，做成諺語時指「嘔吐」。如：Was my cooking so bad that everybody had to skin a goat?
4. Act/Play the goat：人「扮山羊」的樣子當然可笑，所以此成語意指即胡鬧、行為如小丑。如：He resorted to acting the goat to get people's attention.
5. A black sheep：指的是給群體帶來恥辱的人，通常譯成「害群之馬」或「敗類」。Black sheep of the family就是「家族的敗類」即「敗家子」。
6. Wolf in sheep's clothing：披着羊皮的狼，已是我們所熟知的成語。
7. Cast/Make sheep's eyes at somebody：羊的眼睛鼓鼓的，看東西有點痴痴呆呆入迷的樣子，「用羊眼盯着某人」形容被某人所吸引而着了迷，接近中文所說的「送秋波」或「拋媚眼」的意思。如：You should have cast sheep's eyes at her。
8. Innocent as a [newborn] lamb：像剛出生的羊羔，當然是「天真無邪」的了。
9. Meek as a lamb：此成語形容一個人像羊羔那麼安詳溫順。
10. In two shakes of a lamb's tail：羊羔尾巴搖動得很

亦 然



喜慶新春

## 38藝羊38種祝福

港鐵商場PopCorn由即日起至三月八日，展出國際花藝大師Theresa Lam與日本賀卡插畫達人高橋三千男Michio Takahashi的作品：由高橋設計38隻色彩繽紛、設計別出心裁的藝羊模型及插畫作品，融入Theresa精心打造的新春花苑場景中！

高橋三千男入行近25年，一直是日本插畫界的中堅分子，首次在香港展出作品。是次38隻藝羊的造型和身上的插畫設計均獨一無二，也是他首次在藝羊模型上畫插畫，各自代表不同的新年祝福。PopCorn把這38隻藝羊模型及插畫設計概念與Theresa的花藝糅合，變化出「PopCorn新春迷上藝羊花苑」活動的四個賀年場景：「藝術彩羊巨型花苑」、「花與愛的桃花園」、「如意羊羊」和「花意羊羊」。

這四個賀年花苑場景當中，以一樓大舞台的「藝術彩羊巨型花苑」場景為至大亮點，當中所有花藝設計都由Theresa Lam親自創作搭配，建構成一個室內公園。

38隻藝羊有大有小，高至1.5米真人size，小至20厘米袖珍版都有。每一隻藝羊都代表一種幸福，38藝羊象徵38種祝福，包括財運、事業運、愛情運、學業運等。



走出校園

## 電影和現實中的單車竊賊

屯門、元朗、沙田等地單車徑四通八達，因此區內騎單車者眾多，或以之代步，或藉此多做運動，或用它宣傳環保。在21世紀的今天，單車不再是落後城市的風景線，而是一座城市活力、健康、綠色的象徵，因此愈是現代化的城市，愈盛行單車代步，歐洲、日本的城市便為明證。香港極為適合發展單車運動和促進單車代步，不少市民都引頸以待，但目前的風氣令人失望，窒礙單車的普及化，就是偷竊既普遍，又嚴重，這是必須正視的問題。

香港治安良好，犯罪率低，但單車偷竊的普遍卻到了令主政敢怒言而無可奈何的地步，車主十之八九都有失車經歷，無不感到麻木而深信這是「理所當然」的事。筆者敢說，單車偷竊是香港最普遍、最嚴重而又讓人無動於衷的罪案。如不扣鎖，全車一定不翼而飛；即使扣了鎖，車輪、座椅也會被抽離車身，單車泊場便普遍可見被肢解的單車躺在地上。筆者也經歷過數次單車被竊的切膚之痛，每次失竊都會想起1948年的意大利經典電影《單車竊賊》（Ladri di biciclette），這是新寫實主義（neorealism）電影的代表作，導演是狄西嘉（Vittorio De Sica，1901-1974年），影片的寫實在於反映了第二次世界大戰後意大利社會的實況。電影講述主角里奇（Rici）失業兩年後才獲派工作，條件是必須擁有單車，於是他太太把床單典當，換回一輛單車。翌日里奇興高采烈地騎着單車上班，工作的是到處張貼電影海報。怎料他在專注工作時，單車被人騎去，里奇追趕不及。單車就是里奇的「飯碗」，他苦苦尋覓而不得其果，最後鋌而走險，偷奪別人的單車，終被擒獲，但車主不予追究，全片在里奇的眼淚中落幕。「新寫實」就是要捕捉現實中的典型以反映現實。該片片名的英譯是Bicycle Thieves，眾數Thieves指兩名竊賊，一是偷里奇單車的賊，二是里奇本人，單是片名已達諷刺效果。這部電影是二十多年前筆者讀大學時史文鴻博士推介觀賞的，至今印象仍然深刻。

過去單車是謀生工具，不是人人都買得起。在香港，基本上誰都買得起單車，但單車竊賊依然如此橫行，實在令人大惑不解。希望這篇文章也能起到「新寫實」的效果吧！

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