



02 October 2009

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Dear British Residents

I am writing to you today to follow up on my letter of 1 May, regarding the outbreak of swine flu A/H1N1.

You may already be aware that the WHO is currently advising countries in the Northern Hemisphere to prepare for a second wave of pandemic spread predicted for this autumn/winter. Hong Kong is already seeing a rapid increase in the number of confirmed cases each day, and has recorded over 26,000 cases since the first case was confirmed in Hong Kong on 1 May. Macao has recorded almost 2,700 cases attributed to A/H1N1 since its' first confirmed case on 18 June.

As we move into the autumn, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of some key points:

- The situation is unpredictable. Please keep up to date with medical advice, including on vaccinations, and ensure access to medical care and medication for you and your family. Please note that the British Consulate-General has no in-house medical facilities and cannot provide medical treatment (including anti-viral medication). It is therefore essential that you make appropriate arrangements for access to healthcare and medication for you and your family.
- The WHO are reporting that the overwhelming majority of patients continue to experience a mild illness only. However, they advise that large numbers of

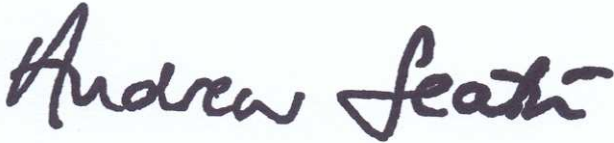
people in all countries remain susceptible to infection. Furthermore, the impact of the pandemic during the second wave could worsen as larger numbers of people become infected. This may have an impact on the level of consular, passport and visa services provided by the British Consulate-General and we may need to suspend non-urgent services, or even to close temporarily. I would therefore urge you to ensure your travel documents are in order and are valid for at least the next six months. You may also wish to consider holding a stock of water and dry goods.

- Please note that in the event of the severity of the pandemic increasing dramatically, or a major deterioration in the situation in Hong Kong, the British Consulate-General would be unable to offer repatriation or evacuation back to the UK. Such action would not be feasible due to the large number of British nationals in Hong Kong, and may not be desirable given the risks inherent in large groups, even if only one person is infected.

For the latest information on swine flu A/H1N1, please visit the websites of the Centre for Health Protection Hong Kong (www.chp.gov.hk), the WHO (www.who.int) and the UK Department of Health (www.dh.gov.uk/pandemicflu). These websites give important information to help you consider your options and give advice on precautions you might take to reduce your risk of infection with an influenza virus.

I would also like to take this opportunity to urge you to register with the British Consulate-General, if you have not yet done so: <https://www.locate.fco.gov.uk/locateportal> and to continue to monitor the FCO (www.fco.gov.uk) and Consulate-General (www.ukinhongkong.fco.gov.uk) websites for updates.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Andrew Seaton". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Andrew Seaton