

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

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Question Serial
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Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

What are the specific plans for prevention of avian influenza in 2010-11? Subsequent to the substantial decrease in the number of blood samples taken from poultry for testing in 2009, will the Department step up efforts to collect chilled poultry samples for testing to safeguard food safety?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

Regarding the control of imported live poultry, the measures taken by the Department to prevent the outbreak of avian influenza in Hong Kong include: inspection of poultry farms and liaison with the Mainland authorities to ensure compliance with the requirements of animal health, quarantine and farm conditions; inspection of every consignment of imported poultry, including verification of Animal Health Certificates; collecting blood samples and cloacal swabs for laboratory testing of avian influenza H5. At the retail level, the Department has implemented various measures, including: enforcement of no overnight stocking of live poultry at retail outlets; maintaining comprehensive surveillance by engaging a local university to take environmental swabs for analysis, and conducting regular checks on retail outlets to ensure compliance with the relevant licensing conditions or tenancy requirements.

There is no plan to step up the testing of chilled poultry.

Signature _____

Name in block letters W H CHEUK

Post Title Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 15.3.2010