Dear Students / Parents of IVE (Lee Wai Lee),

Stepping up Measures on the Prevention of Influenza Pandemic

The HKSAR has activated the Emergency Response Level under its Preparedness Plan for Influenza Pandemic upon confirmation of an imported case of human swine influenza (Influenza A H1N1) on 1 May 2009.

The Campus has stepped up precautionary measures to ensure a clean and hygienic campus environment, and in tandem with the activation of the Emergency Response Level, an even more stringent cleaning and disinfection schedule has taken place. The Vocational Training Council (VTC) also mobilized an emergency response team to steer relevant contingency plans.

It is incumbent upon all of us to prevent the spread of influenza. Students and their parents are kindly requested to take the following measures:-

- students shall check their body temperature everyday. If there are influenza-like symptoms (such as fever (body temperature >38°C), cough, lethargy, sore throat, nasal congestion and loss of appetite), wear a mask, seek medical advice immediately and stay at home. When the symptoms have improved and fever has subsided, do take rest for two more days before returning to the Campus for classes;
- inform your class tutor or the Campus Secretariat as soon as possible for further follow up in case of sickness or admission to hospital for surveillance;
- if your fellow classmate has developed influenza-like symptoms, advise him/her to follow the aforementioned instructions. Please also inform the class tutor or the Campus Secretariat as soon as possible;
- maintain household and personal hygiene, and strictly observe the following measures:
  - always keep hands clean and wash hands properly; alcohol-based handrub is also effective when hands are not visibly soiled;
  - avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth; germs spread that way;
  - wash hands with liquid soap promptly if they are contaminated by respiratory tract secretions, e.g. after sneezing or coughing;
  - cover nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing; and
  - no spitting; always wrap nasal and mouth discharges with tissue paper, and dispose of the tissue paper properly in a lidded rubbish bin; and
  - wear a mask when needed; used masks should be properly wrapped and disposed in a lidded rubbish bin.

The VTC and the Campus will keep track of the latest development on the spread of swine influenza. In case of staff or student infection, we would make reference to the guidelines of the Centre of Health Protection (CHP) and consider if there is a need for class suspension based on the infection/outbreak situation.

If the situation warrants class suspension, announcement will be made through Student Web-based Services (http://www3.vtc.edu.hk), the VTC Homepage (http://www.vtc.edu.hk), as well as radio and television.

In case of student being absent from class/test/examination owing to sickness (medical certificate is required), the Campus will allow flexibility in arranging make-up class, supplementary test/examination as far as possible.

Detailed information on the swine influenza and on preventive measures for influenza is available at the CHP Website (http://www.chp.gov.hk).

HK Institution of Vocational Education
(Lee Wai Lee)