Safety Guidelines for the Protection of Personnel Handling and Disposing of Dead Birds (Updated 11th December 2008)

Since 2005 Influenza H5N1 has been found in some dead birds in Hong Kong. The Government has decided that it will continue to collect all dead birds for further investigation. Please note the following updated guidelines.

1. To minimize the remote chance of getting infected by dead birds, any member of the public who discovers a dead bird should NOT handle and dispose of it by themselves.

2. Please inform the relevant government department by telephoning the Government Hotline, 1823 if a dead bird is found.

3. If a dead bird is found within the University's public areas, please also call the Estates Office:
   - Office Hours : 2857-8282
   - After Office Hours : 2859-2882

4. Where a dead bird is found within sites or buildings not patrolled by HKU Security e.g. Student Halls of Residence, Sports Centres, Amenities Centres, RBC, KARC, and SWIMS, please contact the Government Hotline, 1823 so that the relevant department can carry out disposal of the carcass.

5. If the dead bird is close to a busy pedestrian area, it should be covered, the area cordoned off and disinfected once the carcass has been collected. Any one doing this should put on personal protective equipment including disposable waterproof rubber gloves and a disposable mask.

6. The relevant Government department will collect the bird carcass. Staff should comply with any instructions given by them.
1. **Personal Protection**
   - Avoid direct contact with the carcass, and any blood and body fluid discharged from the dead bird.
   - When covering the bird, staff should wear disposable waterproof rubber gloves and a disposable mask.

2. **Disinfection of Environmental Surfaces**
   - Treat the potentially contaminated environmental surfaces e.g. floor, platform, stairs etc. with diluted household bleach (1 part household bleach in 49 parts water).

3. **Removal of Personal Protection**
   - Remove and dispose the used gloves into a black plastic bag and seal the bag up.
   - Then wash hands thoroughly with soap and water
   - Remove the surgical mask and dispose into rubbish bin with lid
   - Then wash hands again thoroughly with soap and water or clean hands with disinfection items containing 70% alcohol.