



People line up at the Capital Institute of Pediatrics in Beijing last Wednesday. — IC

NHC urges caution as influenza cases surge

CHINA is taking measures to address the recent increase in acute respiratory infections caused by different respiratory pathogens as the country enters the winter season.

Mi Feng, a spokesperson with the National Health Commission, told a press conference last Sunday that the recent respiratory infectious diseases are

mainly due to the influenza virus, with additional cases caused by rhinoviruses, mycoplasma pneumonia, respiratory syncytial viruses, and adenoviruses.

The commission has instructed localities to ensure the implementation of classified diagnosis and treatment.

China has also promoted online diagnosis and treatment to meet the needs

of patients, leveraging Internet hospital platforms to set up channels for fever clinics and pediatric treatments.

Online prescription services are provided, and patients can receive medications at home for free, said Ying Xumin, deputy director of the Hangzhou Municipal Health Commission, adding that online treatment can help

reduce the chances of cross-infections and waiting time of the patients in hospitals.

Monitoring data revealed a surge in influenza cases across China recently, with the dominant strain being influenza A virus (H3N2), followed by influenza B virus (Victoria).

(Xinhua)



A photo of Chinese students doing homework while getting infusion therapy. — Ti Gong

Hospital homework debate

Zhu Qing

A PHOTO of Chinese students apparently doing homework while receiving infusion therapy in a hospital has sparked discussion on X, previously known as Twitter. Overseas netizens expressed disbelief, with many saying, "This must be fake, probably AI-generated."

Some people think it's a footage from a movie. Some have even compared the number of fingers and the

shape of the students' ears in the images as evidence of artificial intelligence.

In fact, students doing homework while undergoing medical treatment is not uncommon in China.

As early as 2019, People's Daily reported that Nanjing Tongren Children's Hospital in east China's Jiangsu Province, had set up a "study area" next to the infusion center for students who needed to do homework while receiving treatment.

Also, on Chinese social media, many netizens have shared photographs of students studying while receiving medical care or of a "homework area" and "children's infusion learning zone" established by hospitals across the country.

It's worth mentioning that students undergoing infusion therapy are not necessarily severely ill; rather, the treatment is quite common in the Chinese healthcare system.