## Appendix 6: Template letter to GP for close contacts of avian source

<Insert Department of Public Health address>

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Doctor,

Re:

Date of Birth:

Address:

The above named patient has been in close contact with poultry, which have been or may be potentially infected with avian influenza. Avian Influenza may cause a range of human illnesses, the severity of which is determined by the particular subtype involved. Symptoms may include fever, and acute respiratory symptoms. With some types of avian influenza conjunctivitis may also be a symptom.

Oseltamivir protects against this infection when taken as post exposure prophylaxis (PEP) and can also be used to treat the disease. Your patient has been given a supply of oseltamivir by Public Health as post exposure prophylaxis, (75mg/day for 10 days) as he/she has been identified as a contact of an avian source of avian influenza. He/she is being asked to monitor for symptoms suggestive of avian influenza, and is being monitored daily by Public Health. Please let me know if he/she contacts you with symptoms

For further information on avian influenza, please see guidance at the HPSC website [www.hpsc.ie](http://www.hpsc.ie) and also the enclosed algorithm for assessment of febrile patients with possible avian influenza.

Yours etc