

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (38) in DH CDB/8/12/1 Pt.13

26 April 2024

Dear Principal/Persons-in-charge,

The first local case of dengue fever in 2024

We would like to draw your attention to the first local case of dengue fever (DF) recorded yesterday (25 April) by the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health in 2024 and remind schools and institutions to remain vigilant against the disease.

The patient is a 28-year-old man with good past health. He developed fever on 20 April and visited a private doctor the following day. He presented with generalised skin rash on 22 April, sought medical attention at St Paul's Hospital on 23 and 24 April, and was later admitted to Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital on 24 April. The patient is now in stable condition. His blood sample was tested positive for dengue virus.

Initial enquiries revealed that the patient lives in Cheerful Garden in Siu Sai Wan. He had no travel history within the incubation period and recalled no history of mosquito bites. His home contacts are currently asymptomatic and have been put under medical surveillance. CHP is working closely with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) to assess and prevent possible spread of the infection. FEHD's vector investigations, surveillance and control are ongoing and CHP's epidemiological investigations will continue.

DF is an acute febrile illness. The disease is transmitted by the bite of infective mosquito and the incubation period ranges from 3 to 14 days. Symptoms include high fever, severe headache, pain behind the eyes, rash, muscle and joint pains. In severe cases, manifestations of bleeding tendency and even death may occur. We would like to seek your help in the prevention of DF by taking part in mosquito control actions and adopting personal protective measures against mosquito bites. The following preventive measures should be taken to



prevent accumulation of stagnant water and eliminate mosquito breeding sites:-

- Thoroughly check all gully traps, roof gutters, surface channels and drains to prevent blockage;
- Scrub and clean drains and surface channels with an alkaline detergent compound at least once a week to remove any deposited mosquito eggs;
- Properly dispose of refuse, such as soft drink cans, empty bottles and boxes, in covered litter containers;
- Completely change the water of flowers and plants at least once a week. The use of saucers should be avoided if possible;
- Level irregular ground surfaces before the rainy season; and
- Avoid staying in shrubby areas.

Members of the public are also advised to take personal protective measures such as wearing light-coloured long-sleeved clothes and trousers and apply insect repellent containing DEET to clothing or uncovered areas of the body when doing outdoor activities.

Besides, a telephone hotline (2125 2371) is operating from 9am to 5pm from today (April 26) to April 28, and from 9am to 5pm starting from April 29, Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays), to offer health advice to persons who have been to Cheerful Garden in Siu Sai Wan with DF symptoms. Laboratory investigation or referral to hospitals will be arranged as appropriate.

More information on preventive measures could be found in the CHP website at <http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/content/9/24/19.html>.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. SK CHUANG)
for Controller, Centre for Health Protection
Department of Health