

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (60) in DH SEB CD/8/15/1 Pt.4

20 August 2014

Dear Principal / Person-in-charge,

### **Vigilance against Ebola Virus Disease**

We would like to draw your attention to the outbreak of Ebola virus disease (EVD) in Western Africa region involving cases in Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone. As of 16 August 2014, the World Health Organization (WHO) has reported a total of 2,240 cases and 1,229 deaths in these four African countries. The list of affected areas is available in our website at [http://chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/evd\\_affected\\_area.pdf](http://chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/evd_affected_area.pdf). Today, the Government has launched the Preparedness and Response Plan for EVD (the EVD Plan), and the “Alert Response Level” is activated with reference to the current epidemiological situation. The EVD Plan has been uploaded to the CHP's EVD page ([www.chp.gov.hk/en/view\\_content/34199.html](http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/view_content/34199.html)).

EVD, formerly known as Ebola haemorrhagic fever, is caused by Ebola virus. Human-to-human transmission is possible through direct contact with blood, secretions, organs or other body fluids of infected people, and indirect contact with environments contaminated with such fluids. The incubation period of the disease is around 2 to 21 days. The patients are not contagious during the incubation period but become contagious once they begin to show symptoms. Patients may present with sudden onset of fever, intense weakness, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhoea, rash, followed by impaired kidney and liver function. In some severe cases, internal and external bleeding may occur. There are no licensed vaccines and specific treatments for the disease.



In Hong Kong, EVD has been made statutory notifiable since July 2008 under the disease group viral haemorrhagic fever. Doctors in Hong Kong will notify Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health for any suspected cases. CHP will carry out prompt investigation and control measures once notification is received. If a member of your institution is confirmed to have

EVD after laboratory testing, CHP will inform you as soon as possible and may visit the premises where the patient resided/ frequented to carry out investigation and control measures. Your cooperation with CHP is crucial to the control of the disease.

Members of the public should avoid unnecessary travel to the affected areas. Good personal and environmental should be maintained. For children/ students/ staff returning from the affected areas, they should observe closely their health condition. If they develop symptoms of EVD within 21 days of returning from those affected areas, they should call 999 and inform the staff about their condition to arrange consultation in Accident and Emergency Department.

For more information and guidelines on prevention of EVD, please visit the CHP website at [http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/view\\_content/34199.html](http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/view_content/34199.html).

Yours faithfully,



(Dr S K CHUANG)

for Controller, Centre for Health Protection  
Department of Health