

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (47) in DH SEB CD/8/12/1 Pt.VI

8 November 2014

Dear Principal/Persons-in-charge,

The Third Local Case of Dengue Fever

Further to our earlier letters on 27 October and 4 November, we would like to draw your attention to the third local case of dengue fever (DF) in Hong Kong and to remind schools and institutions to remain vigilant against this disease.

The third local case of DF in 2014 was confirmed by the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) on 7 November. The patient was a 36-year-old woman who had onset of symptoms on 2 November 2014. She consulted a private doctor in Tsing Yi and was referred to Princess Margaret Hospital and admitted on 5 November. The patient's blood sample collected on 6 November and received by the laboratory on 7 November was tested positive for dengue virus type 4 on 7 November. She is now clinically stable with low grade fever.

Epidemiological investigation revealed that the patient lives in Chung Mei Lo Uk Village, Sheung Ko Tan Street, Tsing Yi, New Territories (新界青衣上高灘街涌美老屋村), where she recalled mosquito bites. She also recalled mosquito bites in Tsing Yi Northeast Park (TYNEP), Tsing Yi (青衣東北公園). She did not travel outside Hong Kong recently and did not visit the vicinity of the construction site of MTR Sai Ying Pun Station during incubation period. Epidemiological investigation is ongoing.

On the other hand, the blood sample of the second local case was positive for dengue virus type 1. We are highly concerned with the additional case as the epidemiological and laboratory findings are suggestive of more than one source of infection and there might be possible local transmission of dengue virus in other areas of Hong Kong.



A hotline (2125 1122) operating from 9am to 6pm has been set up for public to enquire about their concerns with DF infection.

DF is an acute febrile viral illness. The disease is transmitted by the bite of infective mosquito and the incubation period usually 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 may occur.

Schools and institutions are crowded places where we have much concern with the risk of DF. To prevent DF, the following preventive measures should be taken to prevent accumulation of stagnant water and eliminate mosquito breeding sites:

- Put all used cans and bottles into covered dustbins.
- Change water for plants at least once a week, leaving no water in the saucers underneath flower pots.
- Cover tightly all water containers, wells and water storage tanks.
- Keep all drains free from blockage.
- Top up all defective ground surfaces to prevent the accumulation of stagnant water.

The members of the general public are also advised to protect themselves from mosquito bite by taking the following measures:

1. Wear loose, light-coloured, long-sleeved tops and trousers, and apply effective mosquito repellent containing DEET to exposed parts of the body and clothing.
2. Use mosquito screens or bed nets when the room is not air-conditioned.
3. Place anti-mosquito devices near possible entrance such as window.

More information on preventive measures could be found in the website of CHP: <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