

本署檔號 Our Ref.: (14) in DH SEB CD/8/84/1

20 November 2014

Dear Principal / Person-in-charge / Teacher,

Increase in Activity of Adenovirus in Hong Kong

We would like to inform you that according to our latest surveillance data, an increase in activity of adenovirus causing upper respiratory infection (URI) was noted in the past two weeks. Four URI outbreaks caused by adenovirus affecting 30 pupils (nine required hospitalisation) in three kindergartens (KGs) /child care centres and a primary school respectively were reported in the week ending November 15, while three outbreaks affecting 42 pupils (seven required hospitalisation) in KGs have been filed this week so far. Of note, only zero to two outbreaks per week were recorded in 2013 and 2014 until November 8.

Concurrently, laboratory surveillance by the CHP's Public Health Laboratory Services Branch also indicated a continual rise in adenovirus activity in recent three weeks. The percentage positive for adenovirus increased from 2.9 per cent (53 positive detections among 1 797 respiratory specimens) in the week ending October 25 to 6.4 per cent (115 positive detections among 1 812 specimens) in the week ending November 15.

Adenoviruses are a group of viruses that mainly cause respiratory illness. Symptoms include cough, runny nose, sore throat and fever. Some types of adenoviruses can also cause gastroenteritis, eye infection and rashes. Infection mainly spread through air droplets, direct contact of the oro-nasal secretions of patients, or ingestion of contaminated food or water. Young children, elderly and immunocompromised patients are more susceptible to infection.



In this regard, I would like to urge you to keep vigilance and implement prompt preventive measures against respiratory infections at your school/institution. Children with fever and respiratory symptoms are strongly advised not to attend school till 48 hours after fever has subsided. Besides,

parents should record the body temperature of their children and hand in the temperature record sheet to the school for inspection on a daily basis. Staff with fever and respiratory illnesses should also refrain from work.

In addition, the following measures are advised:

- Maintain good personal, food and environmental hygiene;
- Build up good body immunity by having a balanced diet, regular exercise and adequate rest, reducing stress and avoiding smoking;
- Cover nose and mouth while sneezing or coughing and dispose of nasal and oral discharge properly;
- Wash hands thoroughly before food handling and eating, and after going to toilets, handling of vomitus, faecal matter and oro-nasal secretions;
- Wear gloves while disposing vomitus, faeces and diapers, and wash hands afterwards;
- Clean and disinfect contaminated articles and surfaces promptly and thoroughly with 1:49 diluted household bleach (1 part of household bleach in 49 parts of water);
- Avoid touching the eyes with hands;
- Do not share towels and toilet articles;
- Avoid sharing eye medicines, eye make-ups and other items that may come into contact with the eyes;
- Avoid crowded places where the ventilation is unsatisfactory; and
- Children developing symptoms of infection should refrain from school and seek medical advice.

Moreover, you are reminded to monitor the sick leave pattern among your students and staff and report promptly to our Central Notification Office (Tel: 2477-2772; Fax: 2477-2770) if there is a suspected outbreak of respiratory infection in your school/institution. For more information, please visit the website of CHP at <http://www.chp.gov.hk>.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. S K CHUANG)

For Controller, Centre for Health Protection
Department of Health

