

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (27) in DH SEB CD/8/12/1 Pt.12

8 August 2017

Dear Principal/Persons-in-charge,

### **The first local case of dengue fever in 2017**

We would like to draw your attention to the first local case of dengue fever (DF) recorded by the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health in 2017 yesterday and to remind schools and institutions to remain vigilant against this disease.

The patient was a 45-year-old man with good past health. He has developed high fever, chills, headache and dizziness since 29 July 2017. He was sent to the Accident and Emergency Department of Kwong Wah Hospital and was admitted for management on the same day. Upon admission, he developed skin rash over his legs. He has all along been in stable condition and had been discharged on 7 August 2017 after symptoms subsided. His blood sample tested positive for dengue virus upon laboratory testing.

The patient lives in a unit on Cedar Street, Prince Edward. He works in the construction site of West Kowloon Station (WKS) of the Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL) near MTR Austin Station. During the incubation period, the patient had no travel history. He recalled frequent mosquito bites at his workplace and also some bites near his residence. His local movements before onset were mainly within his workplace and residence.

CHP is collaborating with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and other organisations to implement anti-mosquito measures. The public should also take part in mosquito control actions to prevent the spread of the disease.



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. 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; and
- Top up all defective ground surfaces to prevent the accumulation of stagnant water.

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; and
3. Place anti-mosquito devices near entrances such as windows and doors to prevent mosquitoes from entering indoor.

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,



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for Controller, Centre for Health Protection  
Department of Health