

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (170) in DH SEB CD/8/12/1 Pt.12

20 August 2018

Dear Principal/Persons-in-charge,,

Update on local dengue fever cases in 2018

Further to our letter to you dated 15 August 2018, we would like to update you on the latest situation of local cases of dengue fever (DF) and remind schools and institutions to remain vigilant against this disease.

From 14 to 19 August, the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health has recorded a total of 16 local DF cases. The 16 cases involved nine males and seven females, with ages ranging from 17 to 84 years (median: 61 years). Their dates of symptom onset ranged between 2 and 15 August. Fever was the commonest presenting symptom (15 cases, 93.8%), followed by myalgia (13 cases, 81.3%), headache (10 cases, 62.5%), arthralgia (9 cases, 56.4%) and rash (8 cases, 50.0%). Other symptoms included eye pain and non-specific symptoms such as dizziness and malaise. All of them have remained in stable condition.

Among the 16 cases, 13 had been to the Lion Rock Park during the incubation period, including three patients who worked in the park and another ten patients visiting the park. One patient reported that he had not visited Lion Rock Park but had visited the vicinity of Wong Tai Sin MTR Station during the incubation period. The remaining two patients live in Cheung Chau.

Further laboratory investigation showed that all 16 cases belonged to serotype 1. Among the 14 cases related to Lion Rock Park/Wong Tai Sin, nucleotide sequences of ten cases were available so far, and nine were identical while the remaining one was highly similar. For the two cases living in Cheung Chau, the nucleotide sequences were highly similar but different from that of the cluster in Lion Rock Park/Wong Tai Sin, suggesting that both patients living in



Cheung Chau acquired the infection from the same source.

Epidemiological investigation so far showed that Lion Rock Park is the likely source for at least 13 confirmed cases who had been to the park during the incubation period. It has been closed since the evening on 17 August. Members of the public should not visit Lion Rock Park during the closure period in order to prevent contracting DF. People who had visited Lion Rock Park are advised to apply insect repellent for 14 days upon their last visit, and those with DF symptoms should seek medical advice as early as possible. A mini-web on the latest information, locations of the residences and local movements of the local DF cases has been set up and is available on the CHP website via the link: <https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/38847.html>.

This is the first local outbreak of dengue fever of this scale since the major local outbreak in Ma wan in 2002. The situation is still evolving and it is possible further cases are occurring in the community. Prompt, continuous, intensive and effective anti-mosquito operation must be carried out at this stage to prevent DF from further spread and becoming an endemic disease. 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 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.

Besides, a telephone hotline (2125 1122) has been set up operating from 9am till 5:45pm, Monday to Friday, to offer health advice to persons who have been to the vicinity of Wong Tai Sin (particularly Lion Rock Park), Kwai Shing West Estate, Clear Water Bay Second Beach, Cheung Chau (Hillside Road, Tsan Tuen Road and Fa Peng Road), Highland Park, Sai Tso Wan Recreation Ground, Wing Yiu Street, Tak Long Estate, Portland Street, Shanghai Street and Greenfield Garden with DF symptoms. Laboratory investigation or referral to hospital will be arranged as appropriate.

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
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