

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (31) in DH CDB/8/12/1 Pt.13

16 April 2020

Dear Principal/Persons-in-charge,

The first local case of dengue fever in 2020

We would like to draw your attention to the first local case of dengue fever (DF) recorded yesterday (15 April) by the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health in 2020 and remind schools and institutions to remain vigilant against the disease.

The patient was an 84-year-old man with underlying illnesses. He was found to have fever during consultation at a general out-patient clinic in Yuen Long on April 3 for his underlying illnesses. His deep throat saliva specimen was tested negative for the COVID-19 virus on April 6. He attended the Accident and Emergency Department of Pok Oi Hospital on April 7 due to persistent fever and was transferred to Tuen Mun Hospital for management on the same day. His blood sample was tested positive for dengue virus. He is now in stable condition.

Initial enquiries revealed that the patient lives with his wife in Sung Shan New Village in Yuen Long. He regularly visited the backyard garden of another family member in the same village for farming. He had no travel history within the incubation period. He claimed that there were mosquitoes in the village and the backyard garden but could not recall history of mosquito bites.

The 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. 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 public are also advised to take personal protective measures such as wearing light-coloured long-sleeved clothes and trousers and apply insect repellent containing DEET to clothing or uncovered areas of the body when doing outdoor activities.

Besides, a telephone hotline (2125 2374) has been set up today operating from 9am till 9pm, to offer health advice to persons who have been to the vicinity of Shun Shan New Village in Yuen Long with DF symptoms. Laboratory investigation or referral to hospitals will be arranged as appropriate.

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