

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (82) in DH CDB/8/76/1
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29 July 2025

Dear Principal/Persons-in-charge,

Vigilance Against Chikungunya Fever

We would like to draw your attention to the recent spike in chikungunya fever (CF) cases reported in multiple regions worldwide and neighbouring regions of Hong Kong including Guangdong Province. With more frequent travelling among members of the public during summer holidays, it would pose a significant risk of imported cases in Hong Kong. In addition, the increase in temperature and rainfall in summer is expected to aggravate mosquito infestation in Hong Kong. Hence, the risk of local transmission has increased. We urge you to remain vigilant against the disease, and remind the staff/students to take precautionary and personal protection measures against mosquitoes, both locally and when travelling outside Hong Kong, especially travelling to affected areas.

As of early June 2025, approximately 220,000 cases and 80 deaths have been reported in 14 countries/regions worldwide this year. Asia has recorded over 33,000 cases, primarily in India, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan.

As of 27 July, there were over 5,100 cases in Foshan city. The majority of cases (around 90%) were in Shunde District. All cases were mild, with no severe or fatal cases so far. Moreover, confirmed cases were also recorded in other cities in Guangdong Province (including Guangzhou, Zhongshan, Dongguan, Zhuhai, and Shenzhen, etc.) recently. As of 28 July, Macao also recorded five imported cases of CF, four of them travelled to Foshan city during the incubation period.



CF is transmitted to humans through the bites of infective female *Aedes* mosquitoes. Patients may experience fever and debilitating joint pain. Other common signs and symptoms include muscle pain, headache, nausea, fatigue and rash. Symptoms usually last for a few days, while in some cases joint pain may persist for several months, or even years. Severe symptoms and deaths from CF are rare and usually related to other coexisting health problems. Most patients recover fully.

Occasionally, CF can result in severe complications of the eye, heart and nerves. Newborns, the elderly, and persons with underlying medical conditions are at higher risk for severe disease.

We would like to seek your help in the prevention of CF 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.

Staff/students who return from affected areas should apply insect repellent for at least 14 days after arrival to prevent mosquito bites. If feeling unwell e.g. having a fever, the person should seek medical advice promptly, and provide travel details to the doctor.

For more information on CF, please visit the CHP website at <https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/healthtopics/content/24/6122.html>.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. Albert AU)

for Controller, Centre for Health Protection
Department of Health