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4 August 2025

Dear Principal/Persons-in-charge,

Be Vigilant Against Chikungunya Fever After Detection of First Imported Case

We would like draw your attention to the first imported case of chikungunya fever (CF) recorded this year by the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health on 2 August. We urge you to remain vigilant against the disease, and it is important to 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. Avoiding mosquito bites and eliminating mosquito breeding sites are effective ways to prevent CF.

The patient of the imported case is a 12-year-old boy with good past health living in Kwun Tong. He developed fever, rash and joint pain since 31 July and sought medical attention from a private doctor on the same day. He was referred to the Accident and Emergency Department of United Christian Hospital on 1 August due to his recent travel history to Foshan in Guangdong Province between 17 and 30 July and a history of mosquito bites during the stay. He was admitted for treatment in a mosquito-free environment on the same day. The patient is now in stable condition. His blood sample tested positive for CF virus. His household contacts (including one travel collateral) are currently asymptomatic and under medical surveillance. The CHP's epidemiological investigations is ongoing.

The CHP is working closely with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) to assess and prevent the potential spread of infection. The FEHD has conducted vector investigations and targeted mosquito control operations and will intensify mosquito prevention and control measures at the residence of the patient, as well as locations visited after the onset of symptoms.



According to the World Health Organization, CF cases have been recorded in more than 110 countries/regions. As of early June this year, over 220 000 cases had

been reported in 14 countries/regions worldwide (including the Mainland, Taiwan and Singapore which are popular tourist destinations for Hong Kong citizens). Of these cases, about 80 were fatal. Moreover, according to the information from the Foshan health authority, as of 2 Aug there were over 7,500 cases. The majority of cases (6,422 cases) were in Shunde District. All cases were mild, with no severe or fatal cases. As well, confirmed CF cases were also recorded in other cities in Guangdong Province recently. Regarding Macao, six imported cases and two local cases of CF were recorded since mid-July.

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. Members of the public are urged not to self-medicate, particularly with aspirin or non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (such as ibuprofen), as these drugs may cause serious side effects, for example increasing the risk of haemorrhage.

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

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Dr. Albert AU', written in a cursive style.

(Dr. Albert AU)
for Controller, Centre for Health Protection
Department of Health