傳 染 病 處

衞生防護中心
Centre for Health Protection
保障市民健康
Protecting Hong Kong's health

Communicable Disease Branch

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14 November 2025

Dear Principal/Persons-in-charge,

A New Local Case of Chikungunya Fever and Vigilance against Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease

We would like to draw your attention to a local case of chikungunya fever (CF) recorded by the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health on 13 November and the recent local hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD) activity, which remains at a high level. We urge you to stay vigilant against CF and remind the staff/students to take precautionary and personal protection measures against mosquitoes, both locally and when travelling outside Hong Kong, especially to affected areas. At the same time, it is important to maintain good personal and environmental hygiene to prevent HFMD.

Information on the local CF case

The patient involved a 68-year-old female who developed joint pain since 10 November, followed by fever and rash on 11 November. She consulted a private doctor on 11 November and then attended the Accident & Emergency Department of Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital. She was admitted on the same day for treatment in a mosquito-free environment. Her blood sample tested positive for the chikungunya virus upon laboratory testing. The patient is currently in stable condition.

The patient resides in Tung Hei Court in Shau Kei Wan, Eastern District. She did not have travel history outside Hong Kong in the past two months. Her household contacts are currently asymptomatic and under medical surveillance.

The CHP has set up a health consultation booth at 2/F, Hing Tung Shopping Centre, where assessments will be provided to residents with relevant symptoms. The CHP inquiry hotline (2125 2373) set up earlier will continue to operate from 9am to 6pm daily. People who have visited the vicinity of Tung Hei Court in Shau Kei Wan and are experiencing symptoms of CF can call the hotline for health advice and appropriate follow-up as needed.

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 to remind teachers and students in the prevention of CF and other mosquito-borne diseases 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. If staff or students develop CF symptoms, such as fever, joint pain, and rash, they should promptly seek medical advice.

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.

Latest situation of HFMD

Surveillance data of the CHP showed that the HFMD activity has increased significantly since late August this year and remained at an elevated level over the past few weeks. The CHP has recorded a total of 17 outbreaks affecting 49 persons in the week ending 1 November and 20 outbreaks affecting 49 persons in the week ending 8 November. Twenty-three outbreaks have already been recorded in the first five days of this week. In addition, three cases of severe paediatric enterovirus infection (other than EV71 and poliovirus) have been reported so far this year. In view of the HFMD activity is still at a high level, we would like to remind you to remain vigilant in preventing the spread of HFMD in schools.

HFMD is a common disease in children caused by enteroviruses such as coxsackieviruses and enterovirus 71 (EV71), and is mainly transmitted by contact with an infected person's nose or throat discharges, saliva, fluid from broken vesicles or stool, or after touching contaminated objects. In Hong Kong, the peak season for HFMD is usually from May to July and from October to December every year. Most HFMD patients have mild symptoms. It usually begins with fever, poor appetite, tiredness and sore throat. Painful sores may develop in the mouth one to two days after fever onset and then often become ulcers. Patients usually recover within 7 to 10 days. Although most patients recover without complications, some patients, especially those infected with EV71, may develop complications like myocarditis, encephalitis or poliomyelitis-like paralysis.

Maintaining good personal and environmental hygiene is the most important measure to prevent HFMD, including performing hand hygiene frequently and washing hands with liquid soap and water, cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces, toys and shared items, etc. To prevent the spread of HFMD within school settings, affected children should remain at home and refrain from attending school until they have completely recovered.

If there is a suspected HFMD outbreak (e.g. two or more students in the same class or in the same setting in a KG/CCC developing symptoms of HFMD in succession within a short time), please inform the Central Notification Office of the CHP as early as possible by fax (2477 2770), phone (2477 2772) or email (diseases@dh.gov.hk). The CHP will give health advice on the management of such cases and take appropriate control measures.

For more information on HFMD, please visit the CHP website at https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/16354.html

Yours faithfully,

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