

本署檔號 **Our Ref.** : (2) in DH/ICB/P3/AT/4

來函檔號 **Your Ref.** :

電 話 **Tel.** :

圖文傳真 **Fax No.** :

22 October 2026

Dear Principal / Person-in-charge,

**Enhanced Measures Required During the
Active Period of Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease**

As the activity of Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease (HFMD) in Hong Kong has increased significantly recently and is expected to persist until the end of this year, we are writing to you again to urge your institution to strengthen relevant measures for the prevention of HFMD.

Maintaining strict personal and environmental hygiene is of utmost importance in preventing HFMD and Enterovirus 71 (EV71) infection. Please remind staff, students, and parents to observe the following key points:

A. General Preventive Measures

- Staff can observe whether students develop symptoms of HFMD upon their arrival at school. Students suspected of being infected with HFMD should avoid attending school and can only return to classes after the fever has subsided and all the blisters have dried and crusted. As EV71 carries a higher risk of causing related complications and the virus can remain in the patient's excreta for several weeks, as an extra precautionary measure, it is recommended that infected student should not return to school for two weeks after all symptoms have completely subsided.



- Display promotional posters on the prevention of HFMD in prominent locations within the school to enhance the awareness of staff and students regarding HFMD. For the relevant posters, please refer to Part E of this letter.

B. Hand Hygiene and Personal Hygiene

- Institutions should provide adequate hand washing facilities.
- Keep hands clean and wash hands properly. Rub hands according to the 7 steps of hand hygiene technique for at least 20 seconds.
- **Alcohol-based handrub should not substitute hand hygiene with liquid soap and water, as alcohol does not effectively kill some viruses (e.g. EV71) causing HFMD.**
- Staff must supervise student on personal hygiene practices, paying closer attention to young student to ensure compliance.

C. Environmental Hygiene

- Maintain adequate fresh air exchange to ensure good indoor air quality.
- Keep the institutions clean, including play facilities, corridors, changing rooms, and toilets.
- Clean with detergent (especially for visible dirt) before disinfection.
- Increase the cleaning frequency of the high-touch surfaces based on frequency of use.
- All shared toys and activity areas within the institutions must be cleaned and disinfected at least twice daily.
- Thoroughly clean and disinfect the environment after all activities of the day.
- Disinfect frequently touched surfaces such as furniture, toys and commonly shared items with 1:99 diluted household bleach (mixing 1 part of household bleach containing 5.25% sodium hypochlorite with 99 parts of water), leave for 15 - 30 minutes, and then rinse with water and wipe dry.

- Use absorbent disposable towels to wipe away obvious contaminants such as respiratory secretions, vomitus or excreta, and then disinfect the surface and neighbouring areas with 1:49 diluted household bleach (mixing 1 part of household bleach containing 5.25% sodium hypochlorite with 49 parts of water), leave for 15 - 30 minutes and then rinse with water and wipe dry.

D. Advice on Toys and Play Facilities

- Select toys with suitable materials that can be easily cleaned and disinfected.
- Immediately and thoroughly clean and disinfect toys when they are visibly dirty or visibly soiled with body fluid.
- For play facilities that are difficult to clean and disinfect, such as ball pools, building block pools and climbing equipment, institution must ensure effective and frequent cleaning and disinfection. If their hygienic conditions cannot be guaranteed, the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) recommends that institution consider temporary closure of such facilities during the active period (October to December) of HFMD in Hong Kong, according to past surveillance data.

E. Guidelines, Videos and Health Education Materials

- Schools are reminded to take preventive and control measures in accordance with the following guidelines, as well as management of outbreaks, which should be reported to the CHP for prompt follow-up. For details, please visit the Centre for Health Protection websites:
 - i. Guidelines on Prevention of Communicable Diseases in Schools / Kindergartens / Kindergartens-cum-Child Care Centres / Child Care Centres (Section 5.6 Environmental disinfection during outbreak of communicable diseases and 5.7.3 Outbreak of hand, foot and mouth disease and enterovirus 71 infection)
https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/guidelines_on_prevention_of_communicable_diseases_in_schools_kindergartens_kindergartens_cum_child_care-centres_child_care_centres.pdf

- ii. Public Health Advice for Play Facilities
https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/health_advice_play_facilities.pdf
- For demonstration videos, please visit the YouTube Channel of the Centre for Health Protection:
 - i. Washing hands with liquid soap and water
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pN2C6AJ2_EA
 - ii. Environmental Hygiene
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZIYJ2H6B6qo>
- For health education materials of HFMD, please visit the Centre for Health Protection websites:

https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/prevention_of_hand_foot_and_mouth_disease.pdf

To request free application for printed health education materials, please visit the Centre for Health Protection websites:

<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/static/90123.html>

Yours faithfully,



(Dr Edmond MA)
for Controller, Centre for Health Protection
Department of Health