

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (44) in DH CDB/8/12/1 Pt.13

19 June 2024

Dear Principal/Persons-in-charge,

**A probably locally acquired case of dengue fever in 2024**

Further to the letter issued on 26 April 2024 regarding the first local case of dengue fever in 2024, we would like to draw your attention to another case of dengue fever (DF) recorded by the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health who is likely to have acquired the infection locally and to remind schools and institutions to remain vigilant against the disease.

The patient is a 54-year-old woman with underlying illnesses. She developed fever and retro-orbital pain on 6 June and consulted a private doctor on 9 June. She attended the accident and emergency department of Tin Shui Wai Hospital on 11 June, and was admitted for treatment on the same day. She was transferred to Pok Oi Hospital for further treatment on 14 June. The patient is now in stable condition. Her blood sample was tested positive for dengue virus upon laboratory testing.

Initial enquiries revealed that the patient lives in Tin Shui (1) Estate in Tin Shui Wai. Except for a few hours, the patient stayed in Hong Kong during the whole incubation period and is likely to have acquired the infection locally. Her home contact is currently asymptomatic and has been put under medical surveillance. The CHP is working closely with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) to assess and prevent possible spread of the infection. FEHD's vector investigations, surveillance and control are ongoing. Preliminary investigation has not revealed any epidemiological linkage with the previously recorded local dengue fever case in late April. The CHP's epidemiological investigations will continue.

DF is an acute febrile illness. The disease is transmitted by the bites of infective mosquitoes 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:-



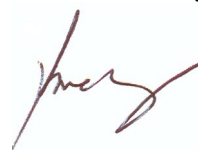
- Thoroughly check all gully traps, roof gutters, surface channels and drains to prevent blockage;
- Scrub and clean drains and surface channels with an alkaline detergent compound at least once a week to remove any deposited mosquito eggs;
- Properly dispose of refuse, such as soft drink cans, empty 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) will operate from today (June 19), Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) from 9am to 5pm, to offer health advice to persons who have been to Tin Shui (1) Estate in Tin Shui Wai with DF symptoms. Laboratory investigation or referral to hospitals will be arranged as appropriate. Furthermore, the CHP will hold a health talk jointly with the FEHD at 6pm today in the Tin Shui Community Centre, during which the CHP will also conduct free DF antibody test for people in the district with relevant symptoms.

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