

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (50) in DH CDB/8/12/1 Pt.13

29 June 2024

Dear Principal/Persons-in-charge,

**A local case of dengue fever epidemiologically linked with previous case**

Further to the letter issued on 19 June 2024 regarding a local case of dengue fever (DF) residing in Tin Shui (I) Estate in Tin Shui Wai, we would like to draw your attention to a new local case residing in the same estate.

The patient is a 44-year-old man who developed fever on 21 June. He attended the accident and emergency department (AED) of Tin Shui Wai Hospital (TSHW) on 22 and then 25 June, and was admitted for treatment on 25 June due to persistent fever, gum bleeding and skin rash. He is now in stable condition. His blood sample tested positive for dengue virus yesterday upon laboratory testing.

Investigation revealed that the patient lives in Shui Yee House, Tin Shui (I) Estate, which is next to the residence of the previous case involving a female patient residing in Shui Sing House of the same estate. As the residences of the two cases are close to each other and this patient had stayed in Hong Kong in the majority of the whole incubation period, the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health believes that they are epidemiologically linked. Home contacts of the patient are currently asymptomatic and have been put under medical surveillance. Considering the symptoms onset date of the patient and the incubation period of DF, the CHP does not rule out the possibility that the male patient had already been bitten by vector and infected before the enhanced anti-mosquito work subsequent to the first patient. The CHP is working closely with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) to enhance the anti-mosquito work in the vicinity of Tin Shui (I) Estate. The CHP is highly concerned about the epidemiologically linked cases, and will continue to work closely with the FEHD and relevant government department in enhancing vector investigations, surveillance and control with a view to preventing a possible spread of infection.

DF is transmitted by the bite of infective mosquito and cannot be spread directly from human to human. Dengue virus encompasses four different serotypes, each of which can lead to DF and severe dengue. With an incubation period ranges from 3 to 14 days, DF is clinically characterised by high fever, severe headache, pain behind the eyes, muscle and joint pain, nausea, vomiting, swollen lymph



nodes and rash. The symptoms of first infection are usually mild. Once recovered, lifelong immunity to that serotype of dengue virus will develop. However, cross-immunity to the other three serotypes after recovery is only partial and temporary. Subsequent infections with other serotypes of dengue virus are more likely to result in severe dengue which is a potentially fatal complication.

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) has been set up for operation from 9am to 1pm today, tomorrow (30 June) and 1 July, and will continue to operate from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) starting 2 July 2024. Persons who have been to Tin Shui (I) Estate with DF symptoms may call the hotline for health advice and further management as appropriate.

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