

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (134) in DH SEB CD/8/16/1/2 II
傳真 Fax No. : (852) 2711 4847

21 July 2014

Dear Doctor,

Second local case of Japanese encephalitis (JE)

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health writes to alert you to a local case of Japanese encephalitis recorded on 21 July 2014. The patient is a 35-year-old woman living in a building (菁雅苑) at Tai Shu Ha Road East (大樹下東路) of Yuen Long. She had onset of fever, headache and vomiting on 4 July 2014 and had poor response to medical treatment prescribed by general practitioners. She attended the Accident and Emergency Department of Tuen Mun Hospital on 14 July and was admitted and managed as central nervous system infection. She developed fever again on 17 July. The CSF and serum collected on 15 July and 17 July respectively were positive for JE IgM. The patient remained conscious and alert and is currently in stable condition.

According to the information from Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), there are four pig farms within two kilometres of the residence of the patient. This is the second local JE recorded in 2014 and the first one was recorded on 17 June 2014. Both patients of the cases recorded in 2014 resided in Yuen Long. During active case finding of the first case, blood taken from a 55-year-old asymptomatic lady resided in Tin Yuet Estate, Tin Shui Wai was positive for JE IgM. Vector survey also found larva and adults of the vector, *Culex tritaeniorhynchus* within 2 kilometres of the patient's residence. A batch of adult *Culex tritaeniorhynchus* collected from Mong Tseng Wai, Lau Fau Shan, Yuen Long on 26 June was positive for JE.

Japanese encephalitis is a viral disease transmitted by the bite of infective mosquitoes. The principal type of mosquito that transmits the disease is called *Culex tritaeniorhynchus* which breeds in water-logged fields, surface drainage channels, ponds, disused large water containers and sand pits. The mosquitoes become infected by feeding on pigs and wild birds infected with JE virus. Besides being widely distributed in rural areas, the vectors have also been found in urban areas in Hong Kong. The disease is not directly transmitted from person to person.



The incubation period of JE is usually 4 to 14 days. The disease may begin with non-specific prodromal symptoms lasting several days, followed by acute onset of high fever, severe headache, vomiting, photophobia, drowsiness, meningism and convulsion. Many infections are asymptomatic, but the case-fatality rate among those with encephalitis can be as high as 30%. Permanent neurologic or psychiatric sequelae can occur in 30%–50% of those with encephalitis. To prevent contracting the disease, one should take general measures to prevent mosquito bites. For more information on JE, please visit our website at <http://www.chp.gov.hk>.

If you encounter patients with signs and symptoms suggestive of JE, please inform the Central Notification Office (CENO) of the CHP (Telephone: 2477 2772, Fax: 2477 2770) or CENO On-line at <http://www.chp.gov.hk/ceno>.

Thank you for your unfailing support in prevention and control of communicable diseases.

Yours sincerely,



(Dr. S.K CHUANG)

for Controller, Centre for Health Protection
Department of Health