

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (27) in DH SEB CD/8/12/1 Pt.VI

25 October 2014

Dear Doctor,

### A Local Case of Dengue Fever Reported

We would like to draw your attention to a local case of dengue fever reported in Hong Kong and to remind doctors to remain vigilant against this disease. A local case of dengue fever was confirmed by the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) today. The patient was a 63-year-old decoration worker who lived in Pok Hong Estate (博康邨) in Shatin. He worked at the Sai Ying Pun MTR construction site (西營盤港鐵站地盤) near Des Voeux Road West (德輔道西) and Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital (PYNEH) before symptoms onset.

The patient reported that he developed symptoms since 13 October but subsequently on 24 October 2014, he recalled that the symptoms actually started on 9 October 2014. He had fever, headache and generalized weakness. He consulted a general practitioner on 13 October 2014 and was treated as upper respiratory tract infection. His symptoms persisted and he attended the A&E of Prince of Wales Hospital (PWH) on 16 October and was admitted. Investigations were performed but the picture of laboratory results of different tests on specimens taken 18 October and 23 October were inconsistent with his onset date and his clinical picture and repeated tests were carried out. When the patient recalled the actual onset date, an earlier blood sample taken on 17 October 2014 was retrieved and, tested positive for dengue antigen on 25 October 2014. Based on this result and other earlier presumptive laboratory findings, together with the clinical course of illness, the diagnosis of recent dengue fever infection was confirmed today. He is clinically stable and afebrile now.



During the incubation period, the patient did not travel out of Hong Kong. He worked at the Sai Ying Pun MTR construction site where he recalled mosquito bites. He also worked indoors at Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital (PYNEH) on 3 and 4 October. He lived with his wife and daughter and both of them were

asymptomatic. Epidemiological investigation is ongoing.

The CHP would enhance surveillance with Hospital Authority, private hospitals and private doctors on suspected cases of dengue fever starting from 25 October 2014 to 7 November 2014. Definition for the enhanced surveillance for dengue fever is:

- 1) A person presented with acute febrile illness with **two or more** of the following features: headache, retro-orbital pain, myalgia, arthralgia, rash, haemorrhagic manifestations or leucopenia **AND**
- 2) History of visiting Pok Hong Estate (博康邨), Sai Ying Pun and Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital within the incubation period (two weeks before onset of fever)

For suspected cases of dengue fever fulfilling the above two criteria, please arrange blood test for dengue fever and report the case to Central Notification Office (CENO) of the CHP by fax (2477 2770), by phone (2477 2772), or via the CENO On-line website (<http://www.chp.gov.hk/ceno>). Please also call Medical Control Officer at 7116 3300 a/c 9179 outside office hour for prompt investigation. For febrile patients fulfilling both criteria above, please arrange hospital admission for further management.

A telephone hotline (2125 1122) will operate starting from 5:00 pm today to offer counselling to persons who frequented Sai Ying Pun, Pok Hong Estate or PYNEH since 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014. Laboratory investigation or referral to hospital will be arranged as appropriate.

In Hong Kong, majority of the dengue fever cases were imported but local cases had occurred in 2002, 2003 and 2010. The last local cases occurred in September of 2010, affecting a family residing in Deep Water Bay. In 2002, there was a local outbreak of dengue fever affecting 16 persons in which 6 were residents and 10 were workers in Ma Wan. Apart from these 16 cases, there were four locally acquired sporadic cases occurring 2002 and one sporadic local case reported in 2003. The local cases / outbreaks were contained after aggressive mosquito control measures.

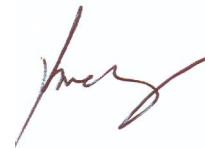
Besides these local cases, all dengue cases were imported from endemic areas mostly from Southeast Asia countries. From 2004-2013, there were totally 505 cases and the annual number of cases ranged between 30 and 103. As of 24 October 2014, there are 88 confirmed cases of dengue fever, including this local one.

There is recent upsurge in number of cases in Guangdong since September 2014. The cumulative number of cases increased from 2,175 on 11 September to over 40,733 as of 24 October. Most cases occurred in Guangzhou. In Taiwan, there are

7126 cases of dengue fever (as of 24 October 2014) of which, 6931 (97%) are local. The dengue fever activity in Taiwan has entered into the peak with most local cases occurred in 高雄市 (97.2%), 屏東縣 (1.4%) and 台南市 (0.6%). Dengue fever activities remain high in nearby regions including the various popular tourist attractions (Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia) among Hong Kong people.

Dengue fever is an acute febrile viral illness characterized by intense headache, retro-orbital pain, myalgia, arthralgia, rash, leucopenia or haemorrhagic manifestations. The disease is transmitted by the bite of infective *Aedes* mosquito, which mostly bites in the daytime. The incubation period ranges from 3 to 14 days. Dengue haemorrhagic fever is a severe and potentially fatal complication of dengue fever. To prevent dengue fever, members of the public should avoid mosquito bites both locally and while visiting dengue fever endemic areas. More information on the disease and further information on dengue fever situation in other areas can be found in the CHP's DF page ([www.chp.gov.hk/en/content/9/24/19.html](http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/content/9/24/19.html)) and the DH's Travel Health Service ([www.travelhealth.gov.hk](http://www.travelhealth.gov.hk)).

Yours faithfully,



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