



衛生防護中心
Centre for Health Protection

Scientific Committee on Vector-borne Diseases

Vector-borne Diseases in Hong Kong

The Scientific Committee on Vector-borne Diseases (SCVBD) was set up to advise the Controller of the Centre for Health Protection in formulating preventive strategies and public health control measures against the threat of vector-borne diseases in Hong Kong. This paper serves to guide members in prioritizing the Committee's work in 2005.

2. Vector-borne diseases may be categorized into three groups, namely parasitic, bacterial and viral.

- (a) parasitic vector-borne diseases e.g. malaria, leishmaniasis
- (b) bacterial vector-borne diseases e.g. Lyme disease, typhus, plague
- (c) viral vector-borne diseases e.g. dengue fever, yellow fever, Japanese encephalitis, West Nile virus infection.

3. Various government departments have on-going surveillance and mosquito control programs in place for malaria, typhus, plague, dengue fever, Japanese encephalitis and West Nile virus infection. The number of notifications for some of the vector-borne diseases in Hong Kong in 2004 is summarized in the following table -

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Total	
Plague	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Yellow fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Dengue fever	5	3	1	1	2	2	3	5	4	1	2	29
Japanese encephalitis *	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0	0	1	1	3
Malaria	1	2	0	1	5	2	6	9	2	5	2	35



衛生防護中心乃衛生署
轄下執行疾病預防
及控制的專業架構

The Centre for Health

Protection is a

professional arm of the

Department of Health for

disease prevention and

control

Relapsing fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Typhus	0	0	1	0	0	4	3	2	1	1	3	15

* notifiable since July 2004

4. Since the establishment in June 2004, the SCVBD has discussed the prevention and control of Japanese encephalitis and dengue fever. The Committee will prioritise topics for discussion during the year according to the incidence of a vector-borne diseases and its public health significance. We would also be proactive and consider disease(s) that might be introduced into Hong Kong. The SCVBD will therefore study West Nile virus, Rickettsial disease, malaria and yellow fever in the coming months.

Centre for Health Protection
January 2005

The copyright of this paper belongs to the Centre for Health Protection, Department of Health, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. Contents of the paper may be freely quoted for educational, training and non-commercial uses provided that acknowledgement be made to the Centre for Health Protection, Department of Health, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. No part of this paper may be used, modified or reproduced for purposes other than those stated above without prior permission obtained from the Centre.