

## Scientific Committee on Vector-borne Diseases

### Proposed Work Plan for the Scientific Committee on Vector-borne Diseases (SCVBD)

The 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. The terms of reference of the Scientific Committee on Vector-borne Diseases (SCVBD) are as follows -

- (a) To advise the Controller of the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) on the scientific basis of public health actions aimed at protecting the community from vector-borne diseases.
- (b) To review and develop a strategy for public health management (including immunization and other relevant actions) of vector-borne diseases and their risk factors in the light of changing epidemiology of diseases and advances in medical science.
- (c) To make recommendations regarding vector-borne diseases in Hong Kong.

2. Members of the scientific committee have agreed to meet several times each year to exchange views and advice on the prevention and control of vector-borne diseases. Health protection programmes may be established to examine specific issues. In view of the local cases of Japanese encephalitis in June and the risk of Dengue Fever in summer months, the SCVBD has met twice in six weeks. It is proposed that the SCVBD could meet at an interval of 10-12 weeks in future.

3. The SCVBD will prioritise topics for discussion during the year according to the number of cases and public health significance. It is proposed that the Scientific Committee should deliberate 4-6 topics



each year.

4. Following discussions at the SCVBD meetings, it is suggested that the scientific committee could produce strategic plans, position statement and/or executive summary on certain topics for endorsement by the Board of Scientific Advisers. SCVBD may even produce topical reports. Each report will study the epidemiology of a particular vector-borne disease, current development in local and overseas cities/countries, vectors and disease surveillance, laboratory testing, surveys, public education, emergency response, difficulties encountered, lessons learned and even controversial topics etc. The report may be disseminated to the health professionals or even the public. The Scientific Committee will decide whether a press conference is necessary to raise public awareness. It is proposed that SCVBD will produce at least one strategic plan or topical report each year. Members are requested to peruse and comment on this paper.

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Annex

**Number of Notifications for Notifiable Infectious Diseases in 2004**

<b>Disease</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>July</b>
Dengue Fever	5	3	1	1	2	2	NA
Malaria	1	2	0	1	5	2	NA
Japanese Encephalitis	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
Plague	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
Typhus	0	0	1	0	0	2	NA

NA=not available

**Statistics on Dengue Fever (1994-2004)**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Imported Cases</b>	<b>Local Cases</b>	<b>Total</b>
1994	3	0	3
1995	6	0	6
1996	5	0	5
1997	10	0	10
1998	15	0	15
1999	5	0	5
2000	11	0	11
2001	17	0	17
2002	24	20	44
2003	48	1	49
Jan-July 2004	17	0	17