

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (20) in DH SEB CD/9/12/1 Pt. 9

5 July 2012

Dear Doctor,

**An Unknown Disease with Severe Respiratory and Neurological Symptoms  
in Cambodia**

I would like to draw your attention to an outbreak of an unknown disease with severe respiratory and neurological symptoms in Cambodia.

The Department of Health (DH) received a report from the World Health Organization (WHO) about the disease outbreak in Cambodia. According to a joint press issued by WHO and the Ministry of Health of the Kingdom of Cambodia (MoH Cambodia) on July 4, 2012, a total of 62 children were admitted to hospitals with severe respiratory disease and neurological symptoms since April 2012. To date, 61 of them have died from the disease. The cases presented with high fever followed by respiratory and/or neurological symptoms with rapid deterioration of respiratory functions. Majority of the cases came from the southern part of Cambodia. No apparent clustering of cases has been detected so far. WHO and MoH Cambodia are currently investigating the cases. The etiology remains unknown at this time and investigation is ongoing.

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of DH is monitoring the disease outbreak in Cambodia closely. To this end, CHP is actively communicating with the Western Pacific Regional Office of WHO and MoH Cambodia about the development of the event including the latest progress on laboratory and epidemiological investigations.



In this connection, we would like to remind you to pay attention to patients returning from Cambodia, presenting with respiratory or neurological symptoms with unknown disease cause and report the case to our Central Notification Office (Tel: 2477 2772; Fax: 2477 2770; CENO On-line: <http://www.chp.gov.hk/ceno>) for prompt epidemiological investigations and control measures.

Thank you very much for your ongoing assistance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Yonnie LAM', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

(Dr Yonnie LAM)  
for Controller, Centre for Health Protection  
Department of Health