

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (46) in DH SEB CD/8/22/1 III

13 July 2012

Dear Medical Superintendent,

WHO investigation of disease outbreak in Cambodia

Further to our letters sent on 5 July and 9 July 2012, I would like to provide you with the latest information on an unknown disease in Cambodia.

According to information from the Cambodian Ministry of Health (MoH) and the World Health Organization (WHO) on 12 July, severe form of hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD) was the cause of illnesses and deaths in the majority of the cases recently reported to the MoH in Cambodia. Based on the investigation, a total of 78 cases were identified. These included the initial 62 cases reported by the Kantha Bopha hospital, and cases reported from other hospitals. Of these, the investigation focused on 61 cases who fulfilled the case definition, of which 54 had died.

Laboratory samples were available for 31 patients. Of these, majority were tested positive for Enterovirus 71 (EV71). A small proportion of samples also tested positive for other pathogens including *Haemophilus Influenzae type B* and *Streptococcus suis*. The investigation revealed that most of the cases were under 3 years old, with some suffering with chronic conditions and malnutrition. The cases were from 14 different provinces and many of them were given steroids at some point during their illness. Steroid use has been shown to worsen the condition of patients with EV71.



The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) will continue to monitor the situation and provide you with updates. If you come across any suspected case with recent travel history to Cambodia, please report to our Central Notification Office (Tel: 2477 2772; Fax: 2477 2770; CENO On-line: <http://www.chp.gov.hk/ceno>). Thank you very much for your attention.

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