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Dear Doctor,

### **Outbreak of Zika Virus Infection in Singapore**

We would like to draw your attention to the recent outbreak of local cases of Zika Virus Infection (ZVI) in Singapore. In view of the rapidly evolving situation in Singapore, all healthcare professionals should be highly vigilant against this disease. Patients suspected to have ZVI should be advised to have blood and urine tests. The Public Health Laboratory Services Branch (PHLSB) of the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) could be contacted for advice on laboratory testing.

Regarding the situation in Singapore, they reported the first local case of ZVI on 27 August 2016. According to the Ministry of Health (MoH) of Singapore, the 47-year-old female Malaysian patient developed fever, rash and conjunctivitis since 25 August. She sought treatment from a general practitioner on 26 August and was admitted to a hospital for management. She was confirmed to have ZVI on 27 August. She resided at Aljunied Crescent and had no recent travel history to any affected areas outside Singapore.

Singapore MoH has been carrying out Zika testing among the above patient's close contacts and others living / working in the affected areas who had symptoms of fever and rash. On 28 August, Singapore MoH announced that another 40 local cases of ZVI were confirmed with 36 identified through active testing of potentially infected persons. All the cases are residents or workers in the Aljunied Crescent or Sims Drive area who had no recent travel history to affected areas outside Singapore. **Local transmission of ZVI is therefore confirmed to have taken place in Singapore and more positive cases are expected to be identified.**



Singapore MoH cannot rule out further community transmission in Singapore, since some of those tested positive also live or work in other parts of Singapore. At this point, other areas of concern include Khatib Camp, Sembawang Drive and places where some cases live (Kranji Road, Joo Chiat Place, Senoko South Road, Toh Guan Road East and Lor 101 Changi). Please refer to the website of Singapore MoH ([www.moh.gov.sg/zika](http://www.moh.gov.sg/zika)) for the latest updates.

**Due to high volume of international travel, there is a high risk of introduction of the Zika virus to Hong Kong.** To prevent local spread of the disease, it is extremely **important to identify any cases promptly** so as to allow timely implementation of control measures such as vector control. In this regard, **early laboratory investigations of ZVI by blood and urine tests are advised for patients suspected to have ZVI, in particular those with travel history to affected areas** ([http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/view\\_content/43209.html](http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/view_content/43209.html)). **Confirmed** cases should be immediately reported to the Central Notification Office (CENO) of CHP via fax (2477 2770) using the reporting form, phone (2477 2772) or CENO On-line ([https://cdis.chp.gov.hk/CDIS\\_CENO\\_ONLINE/ceno.html](https://cdis.chp.gov.hk/CDIS_CENO_ONLINE/ceno.html)). If you report any case outside office hours, please call our Medical Control Officer at 7116 3300 a/c 9179 for prompt investigation.

**You are also reminded to alert CHP if you come across any unusual clusters / linkages of patients with suspicious symptoms.**

Please also draw the attention of the healthcare professionals and supporting staff in your institution to the above. Thank you for your unfailing support in prevention and control of communicable diseases.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. Liza TO)

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