

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (125) in DH SEB CD/8/16/1/2 II
傳真 Fax No. : (852) 2711 4847

17 June 2014

Dear Medical Superintendent,

A local case of Japanese encephalitis (JE)

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health writes to alert you a local case of Japanese encephalitis recorded on 17 June 2014. The patient is a 26-year-old woman living in Tin Heng Estate of Tin Shui Wai. She had onset of fever, headache and vomiting on 9 June 2014 and attended the Accident and Emergency Department of Tuen Mun Hospital on 10 June and was subsequently admitted. The CSF and serum taken on 11 June were negative but those taken on 15 June were reported to be positive for JE IgM on 17 June. The patient remained conscious and alert and is currently in stable condition.

2. Japanese encephalitis is a viral disease transmitted by the bite of infective mosquitoes. The principal type of mosquito that transmits the disease is called *Culex tritaeniorhynchus* which breeds in water-logged fields, surface drainage channels, ponds, disused large water containers and sand pits. The mosquitoes become infected by feeding on pigs and wild birds infected with JE virus. Besides being widely distributed in rural areas, the vectors have also been found in urban areas in Hong Kong. The disease is not directly transmitted from person to person.

3. According to the information from Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), there are four pig farms within two kilometres of the residence of the patient.

4. The incubation period of JE is usually 4 to 14 days. The disease may begin with non-specific prodromal symptoms lasting several days, followed by acute onset of high fever, severe headache, vomiting, photophobia, drowsiness, meningism and convulsion. Many infections are asymptomatic, but the case-fatality rate among those with encephalitis can be as high as 30%. Permanent neurologic or psychiatric sequelae can occur in 30%–50% of those with encephalitis. To prevent contracting the disease, one should take general measures to prevent mosquito bites. For more information on JE, please visit our website at <http://www.chp.gov.hk>.



5. If you encounter patients with signs and symptoms suggestive of JE, please inform the Central Notification Office (CENO) of the CHP (Telephone: 2477 2772, Fax: 2477 2770) or CENO On-line at <http://www.chp.gov.hk/ceno>.

6. Thank you for your unfailing support in prevention and control of communicable diseases.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S.K. Chuang', written in a cursive style.

(Dr. S.K CHUANG)

for Controller, Centre for Health Protection
Department of Health