

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (73) in DH SEB CD/8/15/1 R Pt.23

30 March 2016

Dear Medical Superintendent,

Stand-down of "Alert" Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) Response Level

We would like to draw your attention to the standing down of “Alert” response level of the Preparedness and Response Plan for EVD with effect from 30 March 2016.

The “Alert” Response Level of the Preparedness and Response Plan for EVD was activated on 20 August 2014, in response to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. Generally, the Alert Response Level depicts a situation when there is EVD with signs of geographic spread in human outside Hong Kong, but without imminent risk of causing any human infection in Hong Kong e.g. the human cases occur in countries where there are possibilities of travel and trade and there is recommendation from WHO to maintain global alert for this disease.

As reported by the World Health Organization (WHO) on 23 March 2016, there were a total of 28644 cases and 11320 deaths with an overall case fatality rate estimated to be 40%. On 29 March 2016, WHO has terminated the Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) regarding the EVD outbreak in West Africa, in accordance with the International Health Regulations (2005). WHO declared that all 3 countries (Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone) have met the criteria for confirming interruption of their original chains of EVD transmission. WHO considers that EVD transmission in West Africa no longer constitutes an extraordinary event, that the risk of international spread is now low, and that countries currently have the capacity to respond rapidly to re-emergences of the virus. However, WHO also cautions that new clusters of Ebola cases are expected to occur due to reintroductions of virus from the survivor population.

In response to the declaration of the World Health Organization (WHO) on



the latest development, the government announced the standing down of the Alert Response Level, the lowest level under the Government's three-tier Preparedness and Response Plan for Ebola virus disease on 30 March 2016.

Please kindly note that EVD has been made notifiable since July 2008 under the disease group Viral Haemorrhagic Fever (VHF). No confirmed case of EVD has been identified so far in Hong Kong. Medical practitioners should still maintain vigilance on the possibility of VHF for travelers returning from affected areas and present with clinically compatible picture. Suspected or confirmed case of VHF should be isolated immediately and notified to the Central Notification Office (CENO) of CHP via fax (2477 2770), CENO On-line (https://cdis.chp.gov.hk/CDIS_CENO_ONLINE/ceno.html) or phone (2477 2772). Please also call our Medical Control Officer at 7116 3300 a/c 9179 for prompt investigation.

Thank you for your continuous support in combating the disease.

Yours faithfully,

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