

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (32) in DH SEB CD/8/12/1 Pt.12

10 August 2017

Dear Medical Superintendent,

Another case of dengue fever

Further to the letter issued on 8 August 2017 regarding the first local case of dengue fever in 2017, we would like to draw your attention to another case of dengue fever (DF) recorded by the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health yesterday and to remind doctors to remain vigilant against this disease.

The patient was a 25-year-old female with good past health. She developed fever, headache, muscle pain, retro-orbital pain and skin rash since 2 August 2017. She attended a Chinese medicine practitioner on 3 August, a private doctor on 4 August and another private doctor on 7 and 8 August when she was subsequently referred to the Accident and Emergency Department of Queen Elizabeth Hospital and was admitted for management on the same day. She has been in stable condition. Her blood sample tested positive for dengue virus NS1 antigen and immunoglobulin M (IgM) antibodies upon laboratory testing.

The patient lives in a unit on Boundary Street, Prince Edward and works in Central. Her local movements before onset were mainly within her workplace and residence. Initial enquiries revealed that the patient had travelled to Vietnam during the incubation period. She could not recall mosquito bites both locally and during travel. Given her residence is in close proximity to the first local case in 2017 reported on 7 August with onset date on 29 July, this case is managed as if it is a locally-acquired infection as a precautionary measure. Investigation is ongoing.



DF is an acute febrile illness with headache, retro-orbital pain, myalgia, arthralgia, rash, leucopenia, thrombocytopenia or haemorrhagic manifestations.

The disease is transmitted by the bite of infective *Aedes* mosquito, which mostly bites in the daytime. The incubation period ranges from 3 to 14 days. Severe dengue is a life threatening complication of DF characterised by high fever lasting 2-7 days, haemorrhagic phenomena, thrombocytopenia and sometimes circulatory failure.

A telephone hotline (2125 1133) has commenced operation since 8 August 2017 from 9am till 5.45pm, Monday to Friday to offer health advice on DF. Persons who have been to the vicinity of the construction site of West Kowloon Station of the Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link, Cedar Street or Boundary Street, Prince Edward with DF symptoms should call the hotline. Laboratory investigation or referral to hospital will be arranged as appropriate.

We would like to seek your help to report suspected cases presented with symptoms compatible with DF to the Central Notification Office (CENO) of the CHP by fax (2477 2770), by phone (2477 2772), or via the CENO On-line website (https://cdis.chp.gov.hk/CDIS_CENO_ONLINE/ceno.html). Please also call our Medical Control Officer at 7116 3300 a/c 9179 outside office hour for prompt investigation. Please also arrange blood test for DF. As patient during viraemia is infectious, please admit febrile patients with DF to hospital for further management. Please also advise your patients with suspected DF to take protective measures against mosquito bites, especially when they are febrile.

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

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