

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (92) in DH SEB CD/8/16/1/2 Pt. 5

7 October 2017

Dear Medical Superintendent,

Fifth local case of Japanese encephalitis in 2017

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health writes to alert you the fifth local case of Japanese encephalitis (JE) recorded in 2017. The patient is a 59-year-old man with good past health and lives in Healthy Village in North Point. According to the attending physician and the patient's family, he has developed confusion and abnormal behaviour since 11 September 2017. He attended the Accident and Emergency Department of Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital on 18 September and was found to have fever, left sided weakness and confusion and was admitted for management. The clinical diagnosis was viral encephalitis. His cerebrospinal fluid specimen was tested positive for IgM antibodies against JE virus on 6 October. He is now in stable condition.

Initial enquiries revealed that the patient had no travel history outside Hong Kong during the incubation period. His local movements before onset were mainly from his residence to Tsuen Wan to the Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities (HKBCF) of Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) for work. According to information from the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, there is no pig farm within two kilometres of the residence of the patient.

JE is a viral disease principally 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.

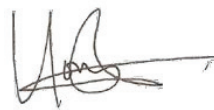


mild, with symptoms such as fever and headache or without apparent symptoms, but approximately 1 in 250 infections results in severe clinical illness. More severe infection is marked by quick onset of headache, high fever, neck stiffness, impaired mental state, coma, tremors, convulsions (especially in children) and paralysis. The case-fatality rate can be as high as 30% among those with symptoms. Of those who survive, 20%–30% suffer permanent intellectual, behavioural or neurological problems such as paralysis, recurrent seizures or inability to speak. 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/en/content/9/24/28.html>.

If you encounter patients with signs and symptoms suggestive of JE, please report to the Central Notification Office (CENO) of CHP via fax (2477 2770), phone (2477 2772) or CENO On-line (https://cdis.chp.gov.hk/CDIS_CENO_ONLINE/ceno.html).

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