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Dear Operator/ Manager/ Infection Control Officer of Residential Care Home,

A confirmed dengue fever case suspected to be acquired locally

We would like to draw your attention to a confirmed case of dengue fever (DF) and remind schools and institutions to remain vigilant against this disease.

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health confirmed a DF case suspected to be acquired locally on 6 August 2016. The female patient aged 60 presented with fever, muscle pain, red eyes and skin rash since 29 July 2016. She consulted two general practitioners for treatment. She had subsequently attended a private hospital on 4 August and was admitted. The patient was stable all along and is now afebrile.

The patient lives in Caine Road, Central and works in Li Yuen Street West, Central. During the incubation period, the patient stayed at her home, workplace and visited the Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens (香港動植物公園) regularly. She had travelled to Guangzhou for one day on 25 July 2016. She recalled mosquito bites at both the Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens and Guangzhou. According to Guangdong health authority, although there are local DF cases in some places of Guangzhou this year, no known local case has been recorded in the places visited by the patient. The possibility of being a locally acquired infection could not be ruled out. The CHP will continue to communicate with the Guangdong health authority.



The CHP is collaborating with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and other organisations to implement anti-mosquito measures. The public should also take part in mosquito control actions to prevent the spread of the disease.

Dengue fever is an acute febrile viral illness. The disease is transmitted by the bite of infective mosquito and the incubation period ranges from 3 to 14 days. Symptoms include high fever, severe headache, pain behind the eyes, rash, muscle and joint pains. In severe cases, manifestations of bleeding tendency and even death may occur. Schools and institutions are crowded places where we have much concern with the risk of dengue fever. To prevent dengue fever, the following preventive measures should be taken to prevent accumulation of stagnant water and eliminate mosquito breeding sites:-

- Put all used cans and bottles into covered dustbins;
- Change water for plants at least once a week, leaving no water in the saucers underneath flower pots;
- Cover tightly all water containers, wells and water storage tanks;
- Keep all drains free from blockage; and
- Top up all defective ground surfaces to prevent the accumulation of stagnant water.

Members of the general public are also advised to protect themselves from mosquito bite by taking the following measures:-

1. Wear loose, light-coloured, long-sleeved tops and trousers, and apply effective mosquito repellent containing DEET to exposed parts of the body and clothing;
2. Use mosquito screens or bed nets when the room is not air-conditioned; and
3. Place anti-mosquito devices near entrances such as windows and doors to prevent mosquitoes from entering indoor.

More information on preventive measures could be found in the website of CHP: <http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/content/9/24/19.html>.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. SK CHUANG)
for Controller, Centre for Health Protection
Department of Health