

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (49) in DH SEB CD/8/7/1
來函檔號 Your Ref :
電話 Tel. :
傳真 Fax No. :

22 November 2010

Dear Doctor,

Vigilant against Chickenpox

I would like to inform you that we are approaching the peak season of chickenpox. The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) has received 616 cases of chickenpox notifications in the first two weeks of November 2010, compared with 1,046 in October and 635 in September.

Chickenpox is a very common childhood infection. It occurs all year round but is more active in winter months. It is transmitted by direct person-to-person contact, through airborne droplets or airborne spread of the discharge from the respiratory tract, and indirectly from the articles freshly soiled by discharges from the infected persons' lesions. Children suffering from chickenpox may develop low-grade fever and skin rash on their scalp and body, which spreads to the face, arms and legs with formation of vesicles over a period of 5 days. The rashes occur mainly on the trunk and the vesicles are itchy. The vesicles dry up and form a scab in about three days and the patient usually recovers in about two to four weeks.

Although chickenpox is usually a mild and self-limiting disease, those with low body resistance are more likely to suffer from complications such as skin infection, scarlet fever, pneumonia and encephalitis. Newborn babies who develop chickenpox can result in severe generalised illness and even death. Infection in early pregnancy may associate with congenital malformation of the foetus.



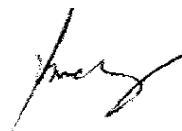
衛生防護中心乃衛生署
轄下執行疾病預防
及控制的專業架構
The Centre for Health
Protection is a
professional arm of the
Department of Health for
disease prevention and
control

We would like to seek your assistance in providing the following health advice to the patients and their parents. In particular,

1. The sick child should stay at home and be excluded from school or kindergarten for around one week or until the skin lesions crusted to prevent spreading the disease to others.
2. Patient should not come into contact with pregnant women and persons with low body resistance.
3. Parents should be advised to closely monitor their child's conditions and seek medical advice immediately if the child persistently runs a high fever, refuses to eat or drink, vomits, and deteriorates in mental state.
4. Parents should also watch out for whether other children in the household have also got infected by chickenpox.

If you suspect a chickenpox outbreak occurring in an institution, please inform the Central Notification Office of CHP as early as possible at Fax: 2477 2770 or Tel: 2477 2772. CHP will give advice on the management of such cases and take appropriate control measures. For more information, please visit the website of CHP at <http://www.chp.gov.hk>.

Yours sincerely,



(Dr SK CHUANG)

for Controller, Centre for Health Protection
Department of Health

