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6 October 2011

Dear Doctor,

Wild Poliovirus in Mainland China

Hong Kong, as part of Western Pacific Region of World Health Organization, has declared polio-free since 2000. Currently, there are four polio-endemic countries: Afghanistan, India, Pakistan and Nigeria. Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (新疆維吾爾自治區) of Mainland, which neighbors the former three countries, reported a cluster of cases of wild poliovirus type 1 in August 2011. Genetic sequencing revealed that the viruses in Xinjiang are related to viruses circulating in Pakistan. As of 22 September 2011, ten polio cases affecting 6 children and 4 adults had been reported. Mainland has started vaccination campaign in affected areas.

According to Beijing Municipal Health Bureau, wild poliovirus type 1 had been detected in stool samples from three students arriving in Beijing after 20 August coming from Hotan Prefecture (和田地區) of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. So far, they remained asymptomatic and there was no linked case or outbreak in Beijing.

In Hong Kong, coverage of poliomyelitis vaccination of local children has been maintained at over 98%. Poliomyelitis is a statutorily notifiable disease. If you encounter a suspected case, please report at once to the Central Notification Office (CENO) of the Centre for Health Protection by fax (2477 2770), by phone (2477 2772) or CENO On-line (<http://www.chp.gov.hk/ceno>). Medical practitioners working at Hospital Authority may also report via the Notifiable Diseases and Outbreak Reporting System (NDORS) of the Clinical Management System (CMS). Outside office hour, please call Medical Control Officer of the Department of Health at 7116 3300 A/C 9179. Thank you very much for your assistance.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. S K Chuang)

for Controller, Centre for Health Protection
Department of Health

