

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (9) in DH SEB CD/8/84/1

8 June 2011

Dear Doctor,

Increase in Activity of Adenoviruses and Parainfluenza Viruses

I would like to update you on the latest activity of adenoviruses and parainfluenza viruses (PIVs) in the community.

Human adenoviruses belong to a virus family consisting of serotypes. Symptoms caused by adenoviruses vary with the serotypes. The prevailing serotypes identified were types 1, 2, 3 and 5, which mainly cause acute respiratory tract infections. Other subtypes of adenoviruses may also cause various illnesses, such as gastroenteritis and conjunctivitis. PIVs mainly cause upper respiratory tract infections, but occasionally may cause serious lower respiratory tract infections, especially among young children, the elderly and immunocompromised patients.

There has been a recent increase in the number of adenoviruses detected from respiratory specimens in the Public Health Laboratory Centre (PHLC) of the Centre for Health Protection (CHP), from 70 in the week ending 28 May to 99 in the week ending 4 June. Four outbreaks of upper respiratory infection caused by adenoviruses were recorded in the week ending 4 June, compared with one in the preceding two weeks (15 – 28 May). Besides, the number of PIVs detected in PHLC has also increased from 233 in the previous 4-week period (10 April - 7 May, 2011) to 316 in the recent 4-week period (8 May - 4 June, 2011).

Both adenoviruses and PIVs are transmitted by respiratory droplets, or indirectly through contaminated hands or soiled articles. They may cause outbreaks of respiratory infections in institutional settings. We would like to seek your assistance in providing the following health advice to your patients:

- Build up good body immunity by having a proper diet, regular exercise and adequate rest, reducing stress and avoiding smoking;
- Maintain good personal and environmental hygiene;
- Cover nose and mouth while sneezing or coughing and dispose of nasal



- and mouth discharge properly;
- Wash hands after sneezing, coughing , cleaning the nose and before eating;
 - Avoid touching the eyes with hands and do not share items that may come into contact with the eyes such as towels, eye medicines and eye make-ups;
 - Maintain good indoor ventilation;
 - Avoid visiting crowded places with poor ventilation; and
 - Children with acute febrile illness should not attend school till 48 hours post-defervescence.

You are reminded to report outbreaks of respiratory illnesses occurring in institutional settings to our Central Notification Office (Tel: 2477-2772; Fax: 2477-2770; CENO On-line: <http://www.chp.gov.hk/ceno>) for prompt epidemiological investigations and control measures. For more information, please visit the website of CHP at <http://www.chp.gov.hk>.

Yours faithfully,



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