

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (102) in DH CDB/8/103/1
來函檔號 Your Ref :
電話 Tel. :
傳真 Fax No. :

2 August 2022

Dear Private Medical Practitioners,

Enhanced Laboratory Surveillance on Monkeypox

Following my previous letter dated 25 July 2022, I would like to inform you about enhanced laboratory surveillance on monkeypox in response to further detection of cases outside Hong Kong, and solicit your support to collect specimens from relevant patients.

As at 27 July 2022, the World Health Organization (WHO) recorded 19,178 laboratory confirmed cases of monkeypox and 73 probable cases, including five death, from 78 countries/areas during 1 January to 27 July 2022. WHO commented that, with the exception of countries/ areas of West and Central Africa, the ongoing outbreak of monkeypox continues to primarily affect men who have sex with men (MSM) who have reported recent sex with one or multiple partners, and there is no signal suggesting sustained transmission beyond these networks. While Hong Kong has not recorded any confirmed human case of monkeypox so far, at least 60 cases has been reported in at least seven countries / areas within the Western Pacific region and the risk of importation of undetected cases into Hong Kong leading to local transmission exists in Hong Kong.

According to the experience of United Kingdom, patients could present with atypical symptoms like unexplained genital, ano-genital or oral lesion(s) (for example, ulcers, nodules) or proctitis. Systemic symptoms including fever, lymphadenopathy and myalgia are common but do not always precede mucocutaneous manifestations and approximately 10% of patients do not exhibit any systemic symptoms. As such, enhanced laboratory surveillance on monkeypox targeting patients **without** relevant travel history while having compatible skin lesions and other risk factor on voluntary basis would be warranted.



You may collect swab specimens for monkeypox testing from above lesions into any container suitable for PCR testing. The specimens should be delivered to the Public Health Laboratory Services Branch (PHLSB) of the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) (Address: No. 382 Nam Cheong Street, Shek Kip Mei, Kowloon) before 5 pm from Monday to Friday (except public holidays) together with the request form in **Annex**. The service is free of charge. You may contact PHLSB for further enquiries (Tel: 2319 8254).

You are not required to notify CHP for patients who do not fulfill the case definition of monkeypox. On the other hand, should you identify patients with suspected monkeypox fulfilling the case definition for reporting, please isolate the patient from other clients and report as soon as possible to CENO of CHP via fax (2477 2770), phone (2477 2772) during the office hour, or call our Medical Control Officer (pager: 7116 3300 call 9179) outside office hours.

Thank you for your continuous support in combating infectious diseases.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. SK CHUANG)

for Controller, Centre for Health Protection
Department of Health

