

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (27) in DH SEB CD/8/12/1 Pt.13

5 November 2019

Dear Doctor,

The first local case of dengue fever in 2019

We would like to draw your attention to the first local case of dengue fever (DF) recorded by the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health in 2019 and to remind doctors to remain vigilant against this disease.

The patient was a 35-year-old man with good past health. He developed fever, myalgia and arthralgia on 25 October and further developed rash on 29 October. He attended the Accident and Emergency Department of Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital on 1 November and was admitted for management on the same day. His blood samples taken on 2 November tested positive for dengue virus upon laboratory testing. He is now in a stable condition.

The patient lives in Fung Yuen Lo Tsuen in Tai Po and stayed in Siu Sau Tsuen in Tuen Mun and the Hong Kong Police College in Wong Chuk Hang for work during the incubation period. He had no travel history within the incubation period. He reported use of insect repellents and could not recall history of mosquito bites.

DF is an acute febrile illness with headache, retro-orbital pain, myalgia, arthralgia, rash, leucopenia, thrombocytopenia or haemorrhagic manifestations. The disease is transmitted by the bite of infective *Aedes* mosquito, which mostly bites in the daytime. The incubation period ranges from 3 to 14 days. Severe dengue is a life threatening complication of DF characterised by high fever lasting 2 to 7 days, haemorrhagic phenomena, low numbers of platelets and sometimes circulatory failure.



The CHP has set up a telephone hotline (2125 1122) to offer health advice to persons who have been to the vicinity of Fung Yuen Lo Tsuen in Tai Po, Siu Sau Tsuen in Tuen Mun or the Hong Kong Police College in Wong Chuk Hang; and with DF symptoms. The hotline is operating since 5 November, from 9am till 5:45pm. Laboratory investigation or referral to hospital will be arranged as appropriate.

All cases with symptoms compatible with DF and any positive blood test results for DF should be reported to the Central Notification Office (CENO) of CHP by fax (2477 2770), by phone (2477 2772), or via the CENO On-line website (https://cdis.chp.gov.hk/CDIS_CENO_ONLINE/ceno.html). If you are reporting any suspected **local** cases with presumptive positive results (e.g. dengue IgM or dengue NS1 antigen) outside office hours, please also call our Medical Control Officer at 7116 3300 a/c 9179 immediately for prompt investigation.

As patients are infectious to mosquitoes during the viraemic phase, please admit laboratory-confirmed DF patients with fever to hospital for the purpose of isolation in a mosquito-free environment. Please also advise your patients suspected to have DF to take protective measures against mosquito bites, especially when they are febrile.

Please draw the attention of the healthcare professionals and supporting staff in your institution/ working with you to the above. Thank you for your unfailing support in prevention and control of communicable diseases.

Yours faithfully,



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