

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (29) in DH CDB/8/12/1 Pt.13

15 April 2020

Dear Doctor,

The first local case of dengue fever in 2020

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 2020 and to remind doctors to remain vigilant against the disease.

The patient was an 84-year-old man with underlying illnesses. He was found to have fever during consultation at a general out-patient clinic in Yuen Long on April 3 for his underlying illnesses. His deep throat saliva specimen was tested negative for the COVID-19 virus on April 6. He attended the Accident and Emergency Department of Pok Oi Hospital on April 7 due to persistent fever and was transferred to Tuen Mun Hospital for management on the same day. His blood sample was tested positive for dengue virus. He is now in stable condition.

Initial enquiries revealed that the patient lives with his wife in Sung Shan New Village in Yuen Long. He regularly visited the backyard garden of another family member in the same village for farming. He had no travel history within the incubation period. He claimed that there were mosquitoes in the village and the backyard garden but 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 2374) to offer health advice to persons who have been to the vicinity of Sung Shan New Village in Yuen Long with DF symptoms. The hotline will start operating since 16 April from 9am till 9pm. Laboratory investigation or referral to hospitals 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 hospitals 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