

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (151) in DH CDB/8/103/1  
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6 February 2023

Dear Doctors,

### **Detection of the Second Case of Mpox (Monkeypox) in Hong Kong**

We would like to inform you that Hong Kong confirmed the second case of mpox (monkeypox) recently and the **alert response level** under the “Preparedness and Response Plan for Monkeypox” of the Hong Kong SAR Government remains in force.

This case is an imported case involving a 40 year-old Chinese male with good past health who visited Japan during 14 to 24 January 2023 with high risk exposure amid his stay in Japan. He developed oral ulcers on January 31, and developed low grade fever, headache, lymphadenopathy, as well as skin rash since 1 February 2023. He has been isolated in a public hospital in stable condition. As a precautionary measure, the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health has arranged close contacts/household members of the patient to undergo quarantine and receive post-exposure vaccination.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you to watch out for patients presenting with atypical symptoms like unexplained genital, ano-genital or oral lesion(s) (for example, ulcers, nodules) or proctitis. Under the enhanced laboratory surveillance on mpox, private medical practitioners could collect swab specimens for mpox testing from patients irrespective of their travel history while having compatible skin lesions and other risk factors, and submit them to the Public Health Laboratory Services Branch for free testing. Details could be referred to our earlier letter to private medical practitioners dated 2 August 2022 accessible via [https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/letter\\_to\\_doctors\\_on\\_enhanced\\_laboratory\\_surveillance\\_20220802.pdf](https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/letter_to_doctors_on_enhanced_laboratory_surveillance_20220802.pdf)



Worldwide, according to the World Health Organization as at 30 January 2023, a total of 85 449 laboratory confirmed cases including 89 deaths had been reported from 110 countries or areas since 1 January 2022. Generally, severity has been low, with few reported hospitalisations and deaths. The vast majority of cases with available data (96.6%) were males, and the median age was 34 years. Among cases with known data on sexual orientation, 84.1% were identified as men who have sex with men, and 48.1% of cases with known HIV status were positive for HIV. WHO remarked that some countries in Europe and North America had a sustained decline in cases that reflected the effectiveness of public health interventions and community engagement to track infections and prevent transmission. WHO assesses the global risk as moderate and regards the risk in the Western Pacific region as low.

Last but not least, 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), or CENO online ([https://cdis.chp.gov.hk/CDIS\\_CENO\\_ONLINE/ceno.html](https://cdis.chp.gov.hk/CDIS_CENO_ONLINE/ceno.html)) 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