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21 April 2023

Dear Doctors,

Confirmation of the Third Case of Mpox (Monkeypox) in Hong Kong

We would like to inform you that Hong Kong confirmed the third case of Mpox (monkeypox) on 20 April 2023, which is related to a suspected imported case under investigation. The Alert response level under the “Preparedness and Response Plan for Monkeypox” of the Hong Kong SAR Government remains in force.

The confirmed case involves a 34-year-old male patient with good past health who has not received Mpox vaccination. He developed localised rash over his body since April 12. He consulted a private doctor on April 19 due to his unresolved symptoms and was admitted to a public hospital for further treatment on the same day. The patient is isolated in an isolation room and is now in stable condition. His specimen was tested positive for Mpox by the Centre for Health Protection (CHP)’s Public Health Laboratory Services Branch.

CHP’s initial investigation revealed that he had high risk exposure during the incubation period. According to the patient, one of his close contacts has recent travel history to Mpox-affected areas (including Korea and Taiwan) and has developed body rash since April 12. This close contact has been identified as a suspected imported case and the CHP has arranged admission for that close contact for further treatment and tests. Separately, the confirmed case has travelled to Macao from 4 April to 5 April. The CHP has arranged two household contacts of the patient to undergo quarantine and receive post-exposure vaccination. They remained asymptomatic so far. Epidemiological investigations of the case are ongoing.



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. You could refer to our earlier letter to private medical practitioners dated 2 August 2022 for details (accessible via https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/letter_to_doctors_on_enhanced_laboratory_surveillance_20220802.pdf).

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), as at 18 April 2023, a total of 87,039 laboratory confirmed cases including 120 deaths have 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 (96.4%) 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 48.5% of cases with known HIV status were positive for HIV. Globally, the number of Mpox cases reported weekly continues to decline; however, the Western Pacific region is reporting an increase in the last few weeks. Of note, recent local transmissions of Mpox cases are observed in nearby countries/areas including Japan, Korea and Taiwan.

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) 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. Albert Au)

for Controller, Centre for Health Protection
Department of Health