

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (36) in DH CDB/8/12/1 Pt.13

26 April 2024

Dear Doctor,

The first local case of dengue fever in 2024

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 2024 and to remind doctors to remain vigilant against the disease.

The patient is a 28-year-old man with good past health. He developed fever on 20 April and visited a private doctor the following day. He presented with generalised skin rash on 22 April, sought medical attention at St Paul's Hospital on 23 and 24 April, and was later admitted to Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital on 24 April. The patient is now in stable condition. His blood sample was tested positive for dengue virus.

Initial enquiries revealed that the patient lives in Cheerful Garden in Siu Sai Wan. He had no travel history within the incubation period and recalled no history of mosquito bites. His home contacts are currently asymptomatic and have been put under medical surveillance. CHP is working closely with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) to assess and prevent possible spread of the infection. FEHD's vector investigations, surveillance and control are ongoing and CHP's epidemiological investigations will continue.

DF is an acute febrile illness with symptoms including headache, retro-orbital pain, myalgia, arthralgia, rash, leucopenia, thrombocytopenia or haemorrhagic manifestations. The disease is transmitted by the bite of infective *Aedes* mosquito, which mainly 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 2371) to offer health advice to persons who have been to Cheerful Garden in Siu Sai Wan with DF symptoms. The hotline will operate from 9am to 5pm from today (26 April) to 28 April, and from 9am to 5pm starting from 29 April, Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays). 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 public 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
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