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16 July 2025

Dear Doctor,

**An Outbreak of Chikungunya Fever Reported in Guangdong**

We would like to draw your attention to an outbreak of chikungunya fever (CF) reported in Shunde District of Foshan City, Guangdong Province (廣東省佛山市順德區) and urge you to remain vigilant against this disease.

On 15 July, the Guangdong Provincial Disease Control and Prevention Administration (廣東省疾病預防控制局) reported an imported-related outbreak of CF in Shunde (順德) District of Foshan City. Epidemiological investigation with active case finding revealed 478 confirmed cases, primarily concentrated in three rural towns: Lecong Town (樂從鎮), Beijiao Town (北滘鎮), and Chencun Town (陳村鎮) of Shunde. All of them were mild cases. The health authority in Guangdong Province have implemented control measures and public health education to prevent further spread of the disease.

CF outbreaks are ongoing worldwide. In 2025, as of May, approximately 220,000 cases and 80 CF-related deaths have been reported in the Americas, Africa, Europe and Asia.

CF has been listed as a statutory notifiable disease in Hong Kong since March 2009. In the past ten years (2015-2024), the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) recorded 23 confirmed cases, ranged from zero to 11 cases per year. All of them were imported infections from endemic areas including India, Indonesia and Thailand. The most recent case, imported from India, was recorded in November 2019.



CF is most commonly transmitted to humans through the bites of infective female *Aedes* mosquitoes. The primary vector *Aedes aegypti* is not found in Hong Kong, but *Aedes albopictus*, which can also spread the disease, is a mosquito commonly found in the locality. The incubation period ranges from 2 to 12 days, commonly 3 to 8 days.

The common symptoms of CF include fever, headache, nausea, vomiting, arthralgia, malaise, myalgia, and rash. While most symptoms resolve within 1–2 weeks, joint pain in some cases may persist for several months, or even years.

CF can be diagnosed by isolation of chikungunya virus or detection of chikungunya virus genomic sequences by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) in clinical specimens. Alternatively, the diagnosis can be confirmed by a four-fold or greater rise in antibody titres to chikungunya virus antigen in paired serum samples. All these tests are available in Public Health Laboratory Services Branch of the CHP.

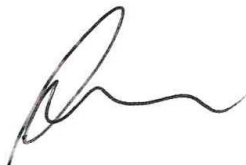
We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that all suspected cases of CF with compatible clinical presentation and recent travel history to endemic areas should be reported to the Central Notification Office (CENO) of the CHP by fax (2477 2770), by phone (2477 2772), or via the CENO On-line website ([https://cdis.chp.gov.hk/CDIS\\_CENO\\_ONLINE/ceno.html](https://cdis.chp.gov.hk/CDIS_CENO_ONLINE/ceno.html)). If you are reporting outside office hours, please also call our Medical Control Officer at 7116 3300 a/c 9179 for prompt investigation.

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

For more information on CF, please visit the CHP website at <https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/healthtopics/content/24/6122.html>.

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

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. Albert AU)

for Controller, Centre for Health Protection  
Department of Health