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25 July 2025

Dear Doctor,

**Vigilance Against Chikungunya Fever**

We would like to provide an update of the recent outbreak of chikungunya fever (CF) reported in Foshan City (佛山市) of Guangdong Province, and urge you to remain vigilant against the disease. We assessed that the risk of importation of CF to Hong Kong is high and there is a possibility of local transmission.

Disease situation

As at 24 July 2025, the health authorities in Guangdong reported a total of 3,645 confirmed cases from the five districts of Foshan City, namely Shunde District (順德區), Chancheng District (禪城區), Nanhai District (南海區), Sanshui District (三水區) and Gaoming District (高明區). Majority of the cases were reported in Shunde District (3,317 cases). So far, all cases were mild, with no severe cases or deaths. Recently, Macao also reported two imported CF cases from Foshan City.

CF outbreaks are ongoing worldwide. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), CF cases have been recorded in more than 110 countries/regions. As of May 2025, approximately 220,000 cases and 80 CF-related deaths have been reported in the Americas, Africa, Europe and Asia. Around one third of the population of La Réunion were currently estimated to be infected with CF. There had been transmissions occurring in Southeast Asia, Bangladesh, and India, as well as cases reported in Europe. Cases had been reported in France and Italy.



In Hong Kong, CF has been listed as a statutory notifiable disease since March 2009. From 2016 to 2019, between one and 11 CF cases were recorded in Hong Kong each year. All of which were imported cases. There have been no CF cases in Hong Kong since 2020.

### Disease characteristics

CF is transmitted to humans through the bites of infective female *Aedes* mosquitoes. The common symptoms include fever, arthralgia, headache, nausea, vomiting, malaise, myalgia, and rash. One notable feature of CF is that there is severe and bilateral/symmetric joint pain, primarily in distal joints (hands, wrists, feet, ankles). While most symptoms resolve within 1–2 weeks, joint pain in some cases may persist for several months, or even years. Rarely, CF may lead to severe complications of the eyes, heart and nerves. Newborns, the elderly and persons with underlying medical conditions are at higher risk for more severe disease.

### Management of suspected cases

We would like to remind you that all patients with clinical presentations compatible to CF and a recent travel history to areas with current outbreak or 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. Please admit suspected patients with fever to hospitals for investigation.

As CF patients are infectious to mosquitoes during the viraemic phase (about 2 days before onset to 6 days after onset), confirmed cases should be hospitalised for treatment in a mosquito-free environment until six days after onset of symptoms. 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 unfailing support in the prevention and control of communicable diseases.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. Albert AU)

for Controller, Centre for Health Protection  
Department of Health