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Dear Medical Superintendent,

Vigilance against Mpox (monkeypox)

We would like to draw your attention to the recent increase in mpox cases in Hong Kong and remind you to remain vigilant against the disease.

Mpox is a statutorily notifiable disease in Hong Kong. Since 2022, a total of 103 mpox cases have been recorded locally. We have observed a recent increase in mpox cases. As of September 10, 2026, 19 cases have been reported this year, 10 of which have been recorded since August. The number of cases this year already surpasses the annual case numbers for 2025 (16 cases) and 2024 (14 cases). Epidemiological investigations by the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) reveal that all the 19 cases recorded this year occurred among men who have sex with men (MSM) or bisexual men, including 14 locally acquired cases and 5 imported cases. No epidemiological linkage could be identified among the recent 10 cases recorded since August. All patients reported high-risk sexual exposures during the incubation period, primarily unprotected sex and intimate contact with anonymous or casual partners. Additionally, 11 of the 14 local cases recorded this year were associated with the use of dating applications or visits to sex-on-premises venues.

Mpox is an infectious disease caused by the monkeypox virus. It presents with a painful rash, enlarged lymph nodes, fever, headache, muscle ache, back pain and lethargy. Most people fully recover. The virus spreads mainly through close physical contact, including sexual contact. According to the World Health Organization, outside of Africa Region, the vast majority of cases with available data were male (97%). Of those reporting sexual behaviour, the majority self-identified as MSM (90%). The most common mode of transmission is via sexual contact (89%). Over 50% of cases with known HIV status were positive for HIV.



We would like to take this opportunity to remind you to maintain a high index of suspicion for patients presenting with compatible symptoms, such as unexplained anogenital or oral lesions (e.g., ulcers or nodules) or proctitis. Should you identify patients with suspected mpox, please report to Central Notification Office (CENO) of the CHP via fax (2477 2770), phone (2477 2772), or CENO online (https://cdis.chp.gov.hk/CDIS_CENO_ONLINE/ceno.html).

Mpox vaccination is effective in preventing infection and reducing the risk of severe disease. The Department of Health provides free mpox vaccination services for high-risk individuals on a walk-in basis at the following designated service points:

1. Social Hygiene Service Clinics -
 - Male clinics: dh.gov.hk/english/tele/tele_chc/tele_chc_shcm.html
 - Female clinics: dh.gov.hk/english/tele/tele_chc/tele_chc_shcf.html
2. Yau Ma Tei Integrated Treatment Centre -
 - 7/F, Yau Ma Tei Jockey Club Polyclinic, 145 Battery Street, Yau Ma Tei, Kowloon

Please encourage eligible high-risk persons to receive the vaccine. Target groups include individuals engaging in high-risk sexual practices (such as having multiple sexual partners or engaging in commercial sex) and those with a history of sexually transmitted infections within the past 12 months.

For more information about mpox, including health promotion materials, consensus interim recommendation by the joint scientific committee on the use of mpox vaccine, and mpox vaccination programme, please refer to the thematic webpage (<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/105683.html>).

Thank you for your continuous support in combating infectious diseases.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. Albert Au)

for Controller, Centre for Health Protection
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