

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (43) in DH CDB/8/12/1 Pt.13

19 June 2024

Dear Medical Superintendent,

A probably locally acquired case of dengue fever in 2024

Further to the letter issued on 26 April 2024 regarding the first local case of dengue fever in 2024, we would like to draw your attention to another case of dengue fever (DF) recorded by the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health who is likely to have acquired the infection locally and to remind doctors to remain vigilant against the disease.

The patient is a 54-year-old woman with underlying illnesses. She developed fever and retro-orbital pain on 6 June and consulted a private doctor on 9 June. She attended the accident and emergency department of Tin Shui Wai Hospital on 11 June, and was admitted for treatment on the same day. She was transferred to Pok Oi Hospital for further treatment on 14 June. The patient is now in stable condition. Her blood sample was tested positive for dengue virus upon laboratory testing.

Initial enquiries revealed that the patient lives in Tin Shui (1) Estate in Tin Shui Wai. Except for a few hours, the patient stayed in Hong Kong during the whole incubation period and is likely to have acquired the infection locally. Her home contact is currently asymptomatic and has been put under medical surveillance. The 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. Preliminary investigation has not revealed any epidemiological linkage with the previously recorded local dengue fever case in late April. The 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 bites of infective *Aedes* mosquitoes, which mainly bite 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 number of platelets and sometimes circulatory failure.



The CHP has set up a telephone hotline (2125 2374) to offer health advice to persons who have been to Tin Shui (1) Estate in Tin Shui Wai with DF symptoms. The hotline will operate from today (19 June), Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) from 9am to 5pm. Laboratory investigation or referral to hospitals will be arranged as appropriate. Furthermore, the CHP will hold a health talk jointly with the FEHD at 6pm today in the Tin Shui Community Centre, during which the CHP will also conduct free DF antibody test for people in the district with relevant symptoms.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that 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
Department of Health