

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (49) in DH CDB/8/12/1 Pt.13

29 June 2024

Dear Medical Superintendent,

A local case of dengue fever epidemiologically linked with previous case

Further to the letter issued on 19 June 2024 regarding a local case of dengue fever (DF) residing in Tin Shui (I) Estate in Tin Shui Wai, we would like to draw your attention to a new local case residing in the same estate.

The patient is a 44-year-old man who developed fever on 21 June. He attended the accident and emergency department (AED) of Tin Shui Wai Hospital (TSWH) on 22 and then 25 June, and was admitted for treatment on 25 June due to persistent fever, gum bleeding and skin rash. He is now in stable condition. His blood sample tested positive for dengue virus yesterday upon laboratory testing.

Investigation revealed that the patient lives in Shui Yee House, Tin Shui (1) Estate, which is next to the residence of the previous case involving a female patient residing in Shui Sing House of the same estate. As the residences of the two cases are close to each other and this patient had stayed in Hong Kong in the majority of the whole incubation period, the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health believes that they are epidemiologically linked. Home contacts of the patient are currently asymptomatic and have been put under medical surveillance. Considering the symptoms onset date of the patient and the incubation period of DF, the CHP does not rule out the possibility that the male patient had already been bitten by vector and infected before the enhanced anti-mosquito work subsequent to the first patient. The CHP is working closely with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) to enhance the anti-mosquito work in the vicinity of Tin Shui (I) Estate. The CHP is highly concerned about the epidemiologically linked cases, and will continue to work closely with the FEHD and relevant government department in enhancing vector investigations, surveillance and control with a view to preventing a possible spread of infection.

DF is transmitted by the bite of infective mosquito and cannot be spread directly from human to human. Dengue virus encompasses four different serotypes, each of which can lead to DF and severe dengue. With an incubation period ranges from 3 to 14 days, DF is clinically characterised by high fever, severe headache,



pain behind the eyes, muscle and joint pain, nausea, vomiting, swollen lymph nodes and rash. The symptoms of first infection are usually mild. Once recovered, lifelong immunity to that serotype of dengue virus will develop. However, cross-immunity to the other three serotypes after recovery is only partial and temporary. Subsequent infections with other serotypes of dengue virus are more likely to result in severe dengue which is a potentially fatal complication.

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.

We would also like to remind you to be vigilant about the possibility of local DF cases. For patient with compatible symptoms particular those residing in Tin Shui (I) Estate, please consider arrange further investigation and report to us.

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 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