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Licensing Office of Drug Dependents
Treatment Centres
24/F, Southorn Centre
130 Hennessy Road
Wan Chai, Hong Kong

16 August 2018

To : Specified Operators of Drug Dependent Persons Treatment and Rehabilitation Centres

Four local cases of dengue fever in 2018

I would like to enclose the letter regarding “Four local cases of dengue fever in 2018” issued by the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health on 15 August 2018 for your reference and to remind centres to remain vigilant against this disease.

To prevent the spread of dengue fever, you are advised to follow the preventive measures mentioned in the letter to prevent accumulation of stagnant water and eliminate mosquito breeding sites, as well as to protect yourselves from mosquito bite. More information on preventive measures could be found in the website of CHP: <http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/content/9/24/19.html>.

Yours sincerely,

Signed

(Ms HAR Man-lai)
for Director of Social Welfare

Encl.

c.c. Business Director (Service Development), HKCSS
SEO (Narcotics)2, Narcotics Division
Consultant Community Medicine (Communicable Disease), CHP, Department
of Health

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (155) in DH SEB CD/8/12/1 Pt.12

15 August 2018

Dear Operator/ Manager/ Infection Control Officer of Residential Care Home,

Four local cases of dengue fever in 2018

We would like to draw your attention to the first four local cases of dengue fever (DF) recorded by the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health in 2018 and to remind schools and institutions to remain vigilant against this disease.

The first case affected a 17-year-old male patient with good past health, who developed fever, sore throat, myalgia and arthralgia on 7 August. He was admitted to Hong Kong Baptist Hospital on 12 August developed skin rash over left lower limb after admission. He has all along been in a stable condition and his blood sample taken on 12 August was tested positive for dengue virus.

The patient lives in Highland Park in Kwai Tsing District. He had no travel history during the incubation period. He frequently visited Sai Tso Wan Recreation Ground in Lam Tin for baseball game and claimed that a lot of mosquitos were present at the site. However, he did not recall any mosquito bites. He also went to Lion Rock Park Baseball Field during incubation period.

The second case affected a 78-year-old male patient with underlying illnesses, who developed fever, headache, cough and shortness of breath on 2 August. He was admitted to Princess Margaret Hospital on 4 August. He has all along been in a stable condition and his blood sample taken on 7 August was tested positive for dengue virus.



The patient lives in Kwai Shing West Estate in Kwai Tsing District. He had no travel history during the incubation period. He frequently visited Clear Water Bay Second Beach for swimming and recalled mosquito bites there.

The third case affected an 84-year-old female patient with underlying illnesses, who developed dizziness, fever, headache and arthralgia on 7 August. She was admitted to St. John Hospital on 8 August and was subsequently transferred to Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital for further management on 10 August. She has all along been in a stable condition and her blood sample taken on 12 August was tested positive for dengue virus.

The patient lives in Hill Side Road in Cheung Chau. The patient had no travel history during the incubation period. She mainly stayed at home and did not recall any mosquito bites.

The fourth case affected a 76-year-old female patient with underlying illness, who developed dizziness, myalgia and unsteady gait on 8 August. She was admitted to Queen Elizabeth Hospital on 10 August and was noted to have fever and skin rash after admission. She has all along been in a stable condition and her blood sample taken on 13 August tested positive for dengue virus upon laboratory testing.

The patient lives in Tsui Chuk Garden in Wong Tai Sin. She did not recall any mosquito bites. Separately, the patient went hiking at Lion Rock Park daily and frequently visited Sheung Fung Street Market near Fung Wong San Tsuen.

The finding of four local DF cases within a short period is a highly unusual situation. It is possible that undiagnosed DF cases are occurring in the community. We would like to seek your help in the prevention of DF by taking part in mosquito control actions and adopting personal protective measures against mosquito bites. The following preventive measures should be taken to prevent accumulation of stagnant water and eliminate mosquito breeding sites:-

- Put all used cans and bottles into covered dustbins;
- Change water for plants at least once a week, leaving no water in the saucers underneath flower pots;
- Cover tightly all water containers, wells and water storage tanks;
- Keep all drains free from blockage; and
- Top up all defective ground surfaces to prevent the accumulation of stagnant water.

Members of the general public are also advised to protect themselves from mosquito bite by taking the following measures:-

1. Wear loose, light-coloured, long-sleeved tops and trousers, and apply effective mosquito repellent containing DEET to exposed parts of the body and clothing;
2. Use mosquito screens or bed nets when the room is not air-conditioned; and
3. Place anti-mosquito devices near entrances such as windows and doors to prevent mosquitoes from entering indoor.

Besides, a telephone hotline (2125 1122) has been set up operating from 9am till 5:45pm, Monday to Friday, to offer health advice to persons who have been to the vicinity of Wong Tai Sin, Kwai Shing West Estate, Clear Water Bay Second Beach, Hill Side Road in Cheung Chau, Highland Park and Sai Tso Wan Recreation Ground with DF symptoms. Laboratory investigation or referral to hospital will be arranged as appropriate.

More information on preventive measures could be found in the website of CHP: <http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/content/9/24/19.html>.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. SK CHUANG)
for Controller, Centre for Health Protection
Department of Health