

# CHP investigates one additional local case of dengue fever

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health is investigating today (August 19) one additional local case of dengue fever (DF). The CHP again urged the public to maintain strict environmental hygiene, mosquito control and personal protective measures both locally and during travel.

The case involves a 52-year-old male patient with underlying illness, who developed fever, headache, retro-orbital pain, myalgia and skin rash since August 15. He sought medical attention at the Accident and Emergency Department of St John Hospital on August 18 and was subsequently admitted to Queen Mary Hospital on the same day. He is currently in a stable condition and his blood sample tested positive for dengue virus serotype 3 upon laboratory testing.

Initial enquiries revealed that the patient lives in Tsan Tuen Road in Cheung Chau and recalled history of mosquito bite in Fa Peng Road in Cheung Chau. During the incubation period, the patient had travelled to Dongguan in Guangdong for a day trip.

The home contacts of the patient have remained asymptomatic and have been put under medical surveillance.

"We are working closely with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) to assess and prevent possible spread of infection. The FEHD's vector investigations, surveillance and control are ongoing. Epidemiological investigations are ongoing," a spokesman for the CHP said.

"The CHP, together with the FEHD, will arrange a health talk in Cheung Chau. In addition, two health talks will be held at Kai Tak Community Hall (3pm) and Henry G. Leong Yaumatei Community Centre (noon) tomorrow (August 20) to deliver health advice. The CHP has also provided [information](#) and details of [geographical distribution](#) on the local DF cases on the CHP's designated webpage for DF to facilitate handy access of information for the public," the spokesman said.

"The CHP appeals to members of the public not to visit Lion Rock Park during the closure period in order to prevent contracting DF. People who had visited Lion Rock Park are advised to apply insect repellent for 14 days upon their last visit, and those with DF symptoms should seek medical advice as early as possible," the spokesman said.

Persons who have been to the vicinity of Wong Tai Sin (particularly Lion Rock Park), Kwai Shing West Estate, Clear Water Bay Second Beach, Cheung Chau (Hillside Road, Tsan Tuen Road and Fa Peng Road), Highland Park, Sai Tso Wan Recreation Ground, Wing Yiu Street, Tak Long Estate, Portland Street,

Shanghai Street and Greenfield Garden with DF symptoms should call the CHP's hotline (2125 1122) for laboratory investigation or referral as appropriate. The hotline operates from 9am to 5.45pm daily. Since August 14 to 5pm today, 91 enquiries had been received.

"We have informed the Guangdong and Macao health authorities to alert them to the latest situation," the spokesman added.

This is the 16th local case recorded this year. Excluding the local cases, as of August 17, 57 imported cases had been recorded in 2018. The cases were mainly imported from Thailand (25), the Philippines (10) and Cambodia (seven).

In the rainy season, the public should take heed of the following advice on mosquito control:

- Thoroughly check all gully traps, roof gutters, surface channels and drains to prevent blockage;
- Scrub and clean drains and surface channels with an alkaline detergent compound at least once a week to remove any deposited mosquito eggs;
- Properly dispose of refuse, such as soft drink cans, empty bottles and boxes, in covered litter containers;
- Completely change the water of flowers and plants at least once a week. The use of saucers should be avoided if possible;
- Level irregular ground surfaces before the rainy season;
- Avoid staying in shrubby areas; and
- Take personal protective measures such as wearing light-coloured long-sleeved clothes and trousers and apply insect repellent containing DEET to clothing or uncovered areas of the body when doing outdoor activities.

To reduce the risk of infections spread by mosquitoes, apart from [general measures](#), travellers returning from affected areas should apply insect repellent for 14 days (DF) or at least 21 days (Zika Virus Infection) upon arrival in Hong Kong. If feeling unwell, seek medical advice promptly and provide travel details to the doctor. DEET-containing insect repellents are effective and the public should take heed of the tips below:

- Read the label instructions carefully first;
- Apply right before entering an area with risk of mosquito bites;
- Apply on exposed skin and clothing;
- Use DEET of up to 30 per cent for pregnant women and up to 10 per cent for children\*;
- Apply sunscreen first, then insect repellent; and
- Re-apply only when needed and follow the instructions.

\* For children who travel to countries or areas where mosquito-borne diseases are endemic or epidemic and where exposure is likely, those aged 2 months or

above can use DEET-containing insect repellents with a DEET concentration of up to 30 per cent.

The public should call 1823 in case of mosquito problems and may visit the DF pages of the [CHP](#) and its [Travel Health Service](#), the latest [Travel Health News](#), [tips for using insect repellents](#), the CHP [Facebook Page](#) and [YouTube Channel](#), and the FEHD's [Guidebook on Control and Prevention of Mosquito Breeding](#) for more information.

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## **Acting SFH speaks on dengue fever**

Following is the transcript of remarks made by the Acting Secretary for Food and Health, Dr Chui Tak-yi, at a media session after attending a public event today (August 19):

Reporter: Will the Government consider stepping up mosquito eradication in other aspects or in other districts, not just closing down the Lion Rock Park?

Acting Secretary for Food and Health: For the measures to damp down the spread of dengue fever, of course for the affected areas where the individuals have either lived or travelled, we have a special protocol in place to intensify the mosquito eradication action. On the other hand, we have also implemented the all-out intensive anti-mosquito programme for all districts so that for areas where there is a high chance of mosquito gathering, we will have a weekly fogging exercise to eradicate adult mosquito because we know adult mosquito is a known vehicle to spread dengue fever.

Reporter: ...also suggests that, maybe, the Government should release real-time information about what districts are facing higher risks of having mosquitoes. So, will the Government consider doing that?

Acting Secretary for Food and Health: In the current system, in fact, when we collect all the ovitraps back into the laboratory, and when we find any ovitrap showing either eggs or larvae of the relevant mosquito, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will go to the area where the ovitrap showing positive result and start the eradication treatment immediately. We don't wait for the publication of the data. On one hand, we have immediate measure to implement the eradication measures. On the other hand, we won't wait for the results. Of course, if there is any need to speed up the publication of results, we will consider.

(Please also refer to the Chinese portion of the transcript.)

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## **Slick soccer tricks build confidence**

Some soccer freestylers have founded an academy which provides low cost and free training courses for youngsters from low income families and students with special educational needs.

News.gov.hk spoke to the academy's coaches to see how they train students' physical abilities and help build their confidence.

The story appears on news.gov.hk today (August 19) in both text and video format.

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## **Red flag hoisted at Clear Water Bay First Beach**

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Please broadcast the following as soon as possible:

Here is an item of interest to swimmers.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (August 19) that due to inclement weather, red flag has been hoisted at Clear Water Bay First Beach in Sai Kung District. Beach-goers are advised not to swim at the beach.

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