Update on number of dengue fever cases

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health today (June 6) reported the latest number of cases of dengue fever (DF), and again urged the public to maintain strict environmental hygiene, mosquito control and personal protective measures both locally and during travel.

From May 24 to June 5, the CHP recorded three imported DF cases. The patients had been to Cambodia (one case), Singapore (one case) and Thailand (one case) during the incubation period.

As of yesterday (June 5), 54 cases had been confirmed this year, all of which were imported. The cases were mainly imported from Malaysia (11), Thailand (11) and Indonesia (10).

DF remains endemic in some areas of Asia and beyond. The latest figures for 2019 reveal that 26 430 cases had been recorded in Thailand, 4 463 in Singapore (since December 30, 2018) and 124 in Japan. In Taiwan, 16 local cases have been recorded in 2019.

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 loose, light-coloured, long-sleeved tops and trousers and apply insect repellent containing DEET to clothing or exposed parts of the body when doing outdoor activities.

To reduce the risk of infections spread by mosquitoes, apart from general measures, travellers returning from areas affected by DF and Zika virus infection should apply insect repellent for 14 days or at least 21 days respectively 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 two months or above can use DEET-containing insect repellents with a DEET concentration of up to 30 per cent.

The public may refer to the CHP's <u>tips for using insect repellents</u> for details.

<u>Tender amounts submitted for site in</u> Kai Tak

The Lands Department announced today (June 6) that in respect of the tender for the site New Kowloon Inland Lot No. 6552 at Kai Tak Area 4C Site 2, Kai Tak, Kowloon, which was awarded on May 7 to the successful tenderer, Marble Edge Investments Limited (parent company: China Overseas Land & Investment Limited, Chime Corporation Limited, Empire Development Hong Kong (BVI) Limited, Henderson Land Development Company Limited, New World Development Company Limited and Wheelock Properties Limited), on a 50-year land grant at a premium of \$12,590,000,000, the tender amounts submitted by the unsuccessful tenderers in descending order are published on an anonymous basis as follows:

- (1) \$11,869,999,000
- (2) \$11,806,400,000
- (3) \$11,469,213,286
- (4) \$10,581,000,000
- (5) \$10,100,000,000
- (6) \$8,100,000,000

The information disclosed in this press release is for information only.

Update on cluster of Parainfluenza Virus Type 3 cases in Siu Lam Hospital

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

Regarding an earlier announcement on a cluster of patients infected with Parainfluenza Virus Type 3 in a male ward for severe intellectual disability, the spokesperson for Siu Lam Hospital made the following update today (June 6):

One more 67-year-old patient in the ward had presented with respiratory symptoms. Appropriate viral tests were arranged for the patient and the test results were positive for Parainfluenza Virus Type 3. The patient concerned is being treated under isolation and is in a stable condition.

Admission to the ward has been suspended and restricted visiting has been imposed. Infection control measures have already been stepped up according to established guidelines. All other patients in the ward are under close surveillance.

The case has been reported to the Hospital Authority Head Office and the Centre for Health Protection for necessary follow-up.

HAD to open temporary night heat shelters

The Home Affairs Department will open 19 temporary night heat shelters tonight (June 6) for people in need of the service.

The shelters will be open from 10.30pm until 8am tomorrow.

For further information, please call the department's hotline before midnight on 2835 1473.

The 19 night heat shelters are located at:

Hong Kong Districts:

Central and Western — Sai Ying Pun Community Complex Community Hall

3/F, Sai Ying Pun Community Complex 2 High Street, Sai Ying Pun

Eastern —
Causeway Bay Community Centre
3/F, 7 Fook Yum Road, Causeway Bay

Southern — Lei Tung Community Hall Lei Tung Estate, Ap Lei Chau

Wan Chai — Wan Chai Activities Centre LG/F, Wan Chai Market, 258 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai

Kowloon Districts:

Kowloon City — Hung Hom Community Hall 1/F, Kowloon City Government Offices 42 Bailey Street, Hung Hom

Kwun Tong —
Lam Tin (West) Estate Community Centre
71 Kai Tin Road, Lam Tin

Sham Shui Po — Shek Kip Mei Community Hall G/F, Block 42, Shek Kip Mei Estate Sham Shui Po

Wong Tai Sin — Tsz Wan Shan (South) Estate Community Centre 45 Wan Wah Street, Tsz Wan Shan

Yau Tsim Mong — Henry G. Leong Yaumatei Community Centre 60 Public Square Street, Yau Ma Tei

New Territories Districts:

Islands —
Tung Chung Community Hall
G/F, Tung Chung Municipal Services Building,
39 Man Tung Road, Tung Chung

Kwai Tsing —
Kwai Shing Community Hall
Podium, Block 6, Kwai Shing West Estate, Kwai Chung

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North -
Cheung Wah Community Hall
Cheung Wah Estate, Fanling
Sai Kung -
Hang Hau Community Hall
G/F, Sai Kung Tseung Kwan O Government Complex,
38 Pui Shing Road, Hang Hau, Tseung Kwan O
Sha Tin -
Lung Hang Estate Community Centre
Lung Hang Estate, Sha Tin
Tai Po -
Tai Po Community Centre
2 Heung Sze Wui Street, Tai Po
Tsuen Wan -
Lei Muk Shue Community Hall
G/F, Hong Shue House, Lei Muk Shue Estate, Tsuen Wan
Tuen Mun -
Butterfly Bay Community Centre
Butterfly Estate (near Tip Sum House), Tuen Mun
Yuen Long -
Long Ping Community Hall
Long Ping Estate, Yuen Long
Yuen Long -
Tin Yiu Community Centre
Tin Yiu Estate, Tin Shui Wai
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<u>Grading of beach water quality</u> <u>released</u>

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (June 6) released the latest grading of water quality for 38 gazetted beaches that are open for swimming and one non-gazetted beach (i.e. Discovery Bay*).

Fourteen beaches were rated as Good (Grade 1), 15 as Fair (Grade 2), nine as Poor (Grade 3) and one as Very Poor (Grade 4).

Grade 1 beaches are:

Grade 2 beaches are:

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Grade 3 beaches are:

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Grade 4 beach is:

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* Discovery Bay is a non-gazetted beach without lifeguard service.

Compared with the grading released last week, Lower Cheung Sha Beach has been upgraded from Grade 4 to Grade 2 and Kiu Tsui Beach and Trio Beach from Grade 2 to Grade 1. Pui O Beach, Shek O Beach and Stanley Main Beach have been changed from Grade 1 to Grade 2; Ting Kau Beach from Grade 2 to Grade 3; and Big Wave Bay Beach from Grade 3 to Grade 4.

"The deterioration of water quality at Big Wave Bay Beach was due to the frequent heavy rain since late May, while the changes in other beaches are generally within the normal range of fluctuation of the bacteriological water quality of the beaches," an EPD spokesman said.

Under the present grading system, beaches are classified into four grades according to the level of E. coli in the water. Grades are calculated on the basis of the geometric mean of the E. coli counts on the five most recent sampling occasions.

While the ratings represent the general water quality at the beaches,

the EPD spokesman reminded members of the public that water quality could be temporarily affected during and after periods of heavy rain. Bathers should avoid swimming at beaches for up to three days after a storm or heavy rainfall.

A summary of beach grades is published weekly before the weekend. The latest beach grades based on the most current data may be obtained from the department's website on Beach Water Quality (www.epd.gov.hk/epd/beach) or the beach hotline, 2511 6666.