

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (15) in DH SEB CD/8/84/1

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Dear Doctor,

Increase in Activity of Adenovirus in Hong Kong

I would like to update you on the latest activity of adenovirus in the community.

The latest surveillance data of the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) showed an increase in activity of adenovirus in Hong Kong in the past few weeks. There has been an increase in institutional outbreaks of upper respiratory infection (URI) caused by adenovirus. Four and three URI outbreaks caused by adenovirus were recorded in the past week (November 9 - 15) and during the first four days of this week (November 16 - 19) respectively, as compared with the usual level of 0 to 2 URI outbreaks caused by adenovirus recorded per week. Among these seven institutional outbreaks, six (85.7%) occurred in kindergartens/child care centres and the remaining one occurred in a primary school.

Concurrently, laboratory surveillance by the CHP's Public Health Laboratory Services Branch also indicated a continual rise in adenovirus activity in recent three weeks. The percentage positive for adenovirus increased from 2.9 per cent (53 positive detections among 1 797 respiratory specimens) in the week ending October 25 to 6.4 per cent (115 positive detections among 1 812 specimens) in the week ending November 15.

Human adenoviruses belong to a virus family consisting of different types/serotypes, and may cause a broad range of symptoms. Adenoviruses are known to cause acute respiratory tract infections, and some types of adenoviruses may also cause various illnesses, such as gastroenteritis and conjunctivitis.



Adenoviruses can be transmitted by respiratory droplets, faecal-oral route, direct inoculation to conjunctiva, or indirectly through contaminated hands or soiled articles and may cause outbreaks of acute respiratory or eye infections in

institutional settings. We would like to seek your assistance in providing the following health advice to your patients and/or their parents/guardians:

- Build up good body immunity by having a proper diet, regular exercise and adequate rest, reducing stress and avoiding smoking;
- Maintain good personal and environmental hygiene;
- Cover nose and mouth while sneezing or coughing and dispose of nasal and mouth discharge properly;
- Wash hands after sneezing, coughing, cleaning the nose and before eating;
- Avoid touching the eyes with hands and do not share items that may come into contact with the eyes such as towels, eye medicines and eye make-ups;
- Maintain good indoor ventilation;
- Avoid visiting crowded places with poor ventilation; and
- Children with acute febrile illness should not attend school till 48 hours post-defervescence.

Besides, you are reminded to report outbreaks of respiratory illnesses or other infectious diseases occurring in institutional settings to our Central Notification Office (Tel: 2477-2772; Fax: 2477-2770; CENO On-line: <http://www.chp.gov.hk/ceno>) for prompt epidemiological investigation and implementation of control measures. For more information, please visit the website of CHP at <http://www.chp.gov.hk>.

Yours faithfully,



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