監測及流行病學處

衞生防護中心
Centre for Health Protection
保障市民健康
Protecting Hong Kong's health

Surveillance
And
Epidemiology
Branch

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (30) in DH SEB CD/8/15/1 Pt.9

3 October 2014

Dear Medical Superintendent,

Update on Ebola Virus Disease and
Importance of Collecting Travel History of Patients

We would like to provide you with updated information on overseas situation of Ebola virus disease (EVD) and highlight the importance of collecting travel history of patients.

The United States (US) has announced the confirmation of the first imported case of EVD. Based on the information from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the patient had arrived in the US on 20 September, with no symptoms presented when departing from Liberia. The patient fell ill on 24 September and initially sought medical care at a hospital in Dallas, Texas of the US on September 26. According to the hospital, the travel history, although being asked by the nurse, could not reach the attending physician. After developing symptoms consistent with EVD, the patient was subsequently admitted to hospital on 28 September. Samples from the patient were tested positive for Ebola virus. Investigations and control measures are being carried out by the US health authorities.

In West Africa, as of 28 September, there have been 7,178 cases and 3,338 deaths in the EVD outbreak according to WHO. The list of affected areas with active transmission of EVD and the latest distribution of cases have been uploaded to the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) website at http://chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/evd_affected_area.pdf.

As the initial symptoms of EVD are often non-specific, doctors and health professionals are reminded to stay vigilant and ask for travel history in the past 21 days for patients with fever.

衞生防護中心乃衞生署轄下執行疾病預防及控制的專業架構
The Centre for Health Protection is a professional arm of the Department of Health for disease prevention and control

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The reporting criteria of EVD (available at https://ceno.chp.gov.hk/casedef/casedef.pdf) and the list of affected areas with active transmission of EVD remain unchanged. Patients meeting the reporting criteria should be isolated immediately and notified to the Central Notification Office (CENO) of CHP via fax (2477 2770), phone (2477 2772) or CENO On-line (http://ceno.chp.gov.hk/). Please also call our Medical Control Officer at 7116 3300 a/c 9179 for prompt investigation and arrangement of patient to the Hospital Authority Infectious Disease Centre in Princess Margaret Hospital for isolation, testing and treatment. Your continuous support is essential to combat the disease.

For more information about EVD, please visit the CHP website at http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/view_content/34199.html.

Yours faithfully,

(Dr S K CHUANG)
for Controller, Centre for Health Protection
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