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Dear Doctor,

Vigilance Against Dengue Fever During And After Holidays

We would like to draw your attention to the recent increase in dengue fever (DF) activity in neighbouring areas and remind you to remain vigilant against the disease, in particular when assessing returning travellers during and after the National Day holiday.

In September 2024, the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health recorded 18 imported DF cases. These patients had travelled to Guangdong Province (9), India (4), Nepal (2), the Philippines (2) and Malaysia (1) during the incubation period. The CHP has been closely monitoring the latest DF situation locally as well as in neighbouring and overseas areas.

DF is endemic in many tropical and subtropical areas of the world. The latest surveillance data showed that there was a significant increase in DF cases in some places in Asia compared to the same period last year. According to the Singapore Ministry of Health, over 12,000 DF cases have been recorded from January to September 21, 2024, a 70% increase compared to the same period in 2023. Besides, Malaysia has recorded over 98,000 cases from January to September 7, 2024, which was a 19.3% increase compared to the same period last year.

According to the Health Commission of Guangdong Province, the number of DF cases recorded in Guangdong Province in the past three months has been increasing, with 233 and 1,220 cases in July and August 2024 respectively. Most of the cases were locally acquired infection. Information from the Guangdong Provincial Center for Disease Control and Prevention further showed that more than 2,000 DF local cases have been recorded in September (as of September 22), with cases detected in various areas within the province. The top



five areas affected between 9 and 22 September were Foshan (佛山), Guangzhou (廣州), Zhongshan (中山), Jiangmen (江門) and Shenzhen (深圳).

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that all cases with symptoms compatible with DF and any positive blood test results for DF should be reported to the Central Notification Office (CENO) of CHP by fax (2477 2770), by phone (2477 2772), or via the CENO On-line website (https://cdis.chp.gov.hk/CDIS_CENO_ONLINE/ceno.html). If you are reporting any suspected **local** cases with presumptive positive results (e.g. dengue IgM or dengue NS1 antigen) outside office hours, please also call our Medical Control Officer at 7116 3300 a/c 9179 immediately for prompt investigation.

As patients are infectious to mosquitoes during the viraemic phase, please admit laboratory-confirmed DF patients with fever to public hospitals for isolation in a mosquito-free environment. Please also advise your patients suspected to have DF to take protective measures against mosquito bites, especially when they are febrile.

For more information on DF, please visit the CHP website at <http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/content/9/24/19.html>.

Please draw the attention of healthcare professionals and supporting staff in your institution/ working with you to the above. Thank you for your unfailing support in the prevention and control of communicable diseases.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. Albert AU)
for Controller, Centre for Health Protection
Department of Health