

CHP announces no new confirmed melioidosis infection cases today

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health today (November 1) said that no new confirmed melioidosis infection cases had been recorded as at 5pm today.

The CHP reminded members of the public that according to literature, infection cases are more common after typhoons or storms. The bacterium *Burkholderia pseudomallei* of melioidosis in the soil and muddy water may become exposed to the ground after typhoons or storms, and the bacteria would spread easier with strong wind or storms. As such, the number of melioidosis cases may increase. The CHP appealed to public to seek medical advice if they develop symptoms, in particular people with diabetes or other immunocompromised conditions, in order to receive appropriate medical diagnosis and treatment.

To enhance surveillance against melioidosis cases, the CHP has been working closely with the Hospital Authority, and has reminded doctors in Hong Kong to enhance vigilance on suspected cases and promptly refer patients (especially those with chronic illnesses) to hospitals for treatment and report to the CHP according to the test result for the bacteria.

Apart from arranging several health talks for Sham Shui Po residents in the past two weeks, the CHP will continue to deliver health messages to the local community and the general public via various channels.

The CHP reiterated that person-to-person transmission and animal-to-human transmission are rare, but Melioidosis bacteria can survive in the local environment and melioidosis cases have been recorded in Hong Kong each year. For more information on melioidosis, please visit the website of the CHP at www.chp.gov.hk/en/healthtopics/content/24/101110.html.