

# CHP appeals to public to take precautionary measures against carbon monoxide poisoning

Following a notification from Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) on a cluster of carbon monoxide poisoning, the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health today (August 23) appealed to members of the public to take precautionary measures against carbon monoxide poisoning.

The cluster involved one male and two females, aged between 13 and 48, who developed symptoms including dizziness and loss of consciousness while cooking with a gas stove at home on August 21. They were immediately sent to QEH and were later transferred to Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital for treatment. They are now in stable condition. A preliminary investigation revealed that the range hood at the kitchen was not turned on while all the windows of the flat were closed during the incident.

The CHP has referred the cluster to the relevant department for follow-up. A preliminary investigation revealed that the gas stove operation was in order, and the incident may have been caused by poor ventilation inside the room leading to an increase in the carbon monoxide level. The CHP said that carbon monoxide is a colourless, odourless and tasteless gas that is a by-product from incomplete combustion of any fuel that contains carbon.

Exposure to a low concentration of carbon monoxide can lead to a range of symptoms such as dizziness, headache, tiredness and nausea, whereas exposure to a high concentration of carbon monoxide can lead to impaired vision, disturbed co-ordination, unconsciousness, brain damage or even death.

â€‹The CHP reminded members of the public that if a gas stove is being used, it should be used in a well-ventilated area with regular maintenance. People should seek medical attention immediately if they are suspected of developing symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning.