

CHP investigates case of severe paediatric enterovirus infection

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health is today (August 28) investigating a case of severe paediatric enterovirus (EV) infection, and again urged the public and institutions to maintain strict hand, personal and environmental hygiene.

The case involves a 4-year-old girl, with underlying illnesses, who presented with fever since August 21. She was taken to the Accident and Emergency Department of Kwong Wah Hospital for medical attention on August 22 and was admitted on the same day for management. The patient is now in critical condition.

Laboratory tests of her rectal swab were positive for EV. The clinical diagnosis was meningoencephalitis.

Initial enquiries revealed that the patient had no travel history during the incubation period and her home contacts have remained asymptomatic so far. Investigations are ongoing.

A spokesman for the CHP said that as EV infection is transmitted by direct contact with nose and throat discharges, the public should be vigilant and observe the following preventive measures:

- Wash hands before eating and after going to the toilet and changing diapers;
- Cover the mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing;
- Maintain good ventilation; and
- Thoroughly clean toys or appliances which are contaminated by nasal or oral secretions.

Children suffering from EV infection should stay at home and avoid contact with other children until they have recovered.

The public may visit the CHP's page on [hand, foot and mouth disease and EV71 infection](#) for more information.