

CHP investigates case of severe paediatric enterovirus infection

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health is today (September 4) 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 5-month-old baby boy with good past health, who has presented with fever, cough and runny nose since August 29. He attended the Accident and Emergency Department of Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital on August 30 and was admitted for further management in the small hours on the following day. The patient has all along been in a stable condition and was discharged yesterday (September 3).

His cerebrospinal fluid specimen tested positive for EV upon laboratory testing. The clinical diagnosis was meningitis.

Initial enquiries revealed that the patient had no recent travel history. His mother had recent history of upper respiratory tract infection, while his elder sister had fever since August 29. Both sought medical attention and had recovered. Other 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.