

CHP investigates food poisoning outbreak related to wild mushrooms

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health is today (August 1) investigating a food poisoning outbreak related to the consumption of wild mushrooms, and urged the public not to pick and eat wild mushrooms.

The patients are two women aged 49 and 21 who developed abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea two to three hours after consuming wild mushrooms at home on July 23. Both were admitted to Yan Chai Hospital on the same day. They remained in a stable condition and have been discharged.

Initial investigations revealed that the wild mushrooms consumed by the patients were picked near Butterfly Beach in Tuen Mun on July 21. The CHP's investigation is ongoing.

"Members of the public should not pick wild mushrooms for consumption as it is difficult to distinguish edible mushroom species from inedible ones," a spokesman for the CHP said.

"Mushroom poisoning is generally acute. Common presentations include gastrointestinal symptoms such as nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain appearing shortly after ingestion. Depending on the mushroom species, patients may also have other symptoms like profuse sweating, hallucination, coma or other neurological symptoms, as well as liver failure. Death may result in severe cases," he added.

"If mushroom poisoning is suspected, the patient should seek immediate medical attention and bring along any available remnant for identification," the spokesman said.