

CHP investigates imported case of severe paediatric enterovirus infection

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health is today (August 1) investigating an imported 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 2-month-old baby girl with good past health, who has presented with fever since July 27. She was admitted to Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital on the following day and is now in a stable condition.

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

Initial enquiries revealed that the patient had travelled to Guangdong with her family from July 16 to 27. Her elder sister had fever and oral ulcers since July 25 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.