

CHP investigates hand, foot and mouth disease outbreak at child care centre in Kowloon City District

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health is today (August 17) investigating an outbreak of hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD) at a child care centre in Kowloon City District, and again urged the public, schools and institutions to maintain strict hand, personal and environmental hygiene.

The outbreak affected 21 young children, comprising six boys and 15 girls aged 7 months to 2 years, who have developed fever, oral ulcers, rash and vesicles over hands or feet since August 6. All of them sought medical attention and one required hospitalisation. All patients are in a stable condition.

The rectal swab of an affected child tested positive for enterovirus (EV) upon laboratory testing.

Officers of the CHP have conducted a site visit to the centre and advised the management on necessary infection control and preventive measures. The centre has been placed under medical surveillance. Investigations are ongoing.

"HFMD is common in children while adult cases may also occur. It is usually caused by EVs such as Coxsackie virus and EV71. It is clinically characterised by maculopapular rashes or vesicular lesions occurring on the palms, soles and other parts of the body such as the buttocks and thighs. Vesicular lesions and ulcers may also be found in the oral cavity. Sometimes patients present mainly with painful ulcers at the back of the mouth, namely herpangina, without rash on the hands or feet," a spokesman for the CHP said.

"HFMD occurs throughout the year. A summer peak usually occurs from May to July. As young children are more susceptible, parents should stay alert to their health. Institutional outbreaks may occur where HFMD can easily spread among young children with close contact," the spokesman added.

To prevent HFMD, members of the public, and especially the management of institutions, should take heed of the following preventive measures:

- Maintain good air circulation;
- Wash hands before meals and after going to the toilet or handling diapers or other stool-soiled materials;
- Keep hands clean and wash hands properly, especially when they are dirtied by respiratory secretions, such as after sneezing;
- Cover the nose and mouth while sneezing or coughing and dispose of nasal and oral discharges properly;

- Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces such as furniture, toys and commonly shared items with 1:99 diluted household bleach (mixing one part of bleach containing 5.25 per cent sodium hypochlorite with 99 parts of water), leave for 15 to 30 minutes, and then rinse with water and keep dry. For metallic surfaces, disinfect with 70 per cent alcohol;
- Use absorbent disposable towels to wipe away obvious contaminants such as respiratory secretions, vomitus or excreta, and then disinfect the surface and neighbouring areas with 1:49 diluted household bleach (mixing one part of bleach containing 5.25 per cent sodium hypochlorite with 49 parts of water), leave for 15 to 30 minutes and then rinse with water and keep dry. For metallic surfaces, disinfect with 70 per cent alcohol;
- Children who are ill should be kept out of school until their fever and rash have subsided and all the vesicles have dried and crusted;
- Avoid going to overcrowded places; and
- Parents should maintain close communication with schools to let them know the latest situation of the sick children.

The public may visit the CHP's page on [HFMD and EV71 infection](#) and [Public Health Advice for Play Facilities](#) for more information.

Fraudulent websites and phishing email related to Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority:

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) wishes to alert members of the public to a press release issued by Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited on fraudulent websites and phishing email, which has been reported to the HKMA. Hyperlink to the press release is available on the [HKMA website](#) for ease of reference by members of the public.

Anyone who has provided his or her personal information to the websites concerned or has conducted any financial transactions through the websites should contact the bank concerned using the contact information provided in the press release, and report to the Police or contact the Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau of the Hong Kong Police Force at 2860 5012.

Fraudulent website and phishing emails related to China CITIC Bank International Limited

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Fraudulent website related to OCBC Wing Hang Bank Limited

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CS visits Central and Western District

The Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung, visited Central and Western District this afternoon (August 17) to keep abreast of the latest developments in the district.

Accompanied by District Officer (Central and Western), Mrs Susanne Wong, and the Chairman of the Central and Western District Council, Mr Yip Wing-shing, Mr Cheung first visited the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Western District Elderly Community Centre and was briefed on the "Public Furniture" and "District Drawings" programmes and various new initiatives organised for the elderly in the district, including promoting healthy ageing through development of recreational and sports facilities by using electronic technology and through cross-sectoral collaboration. The Centre also considers ways for the Government and the District Council to pilot the programmes more extensively within the district.

He said that to proactively promote gerontechnology, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government has earmarked \$1 billion for setting up a fund to subsidise elderly service units to trial use and procure or rent technology products so as to improve the quality of the life of elderly persons and reduce the burden and pressure on carers and care workers.

Mr Cheung then inspected the Central and Western District Promenade – Western Wholesale Food Market Section. He received a briefing on the development of Central and Western District's harbourfront and the next step of exploring more opportunities for interaction and collaboration with facilities in the vicinity such as the Western Wholesale Food Market so that more facilities and activities could be provided for non-government organisations and residents of the district.

Mr Cheung was pleased to note that the harbourfront promenade had been connected by a number of projects, offering quality leisure space for the public.

He then visited a Government, Institution or Community site in the district and was briefed on the suggestions for its use in the future.

To conclude the visit, Mr Cheung met Central and Western District Council members to listen to their views on various development issues and matters of concern to the community.