

## Update on measles cases

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) is today (April 1) investigating two additional cases of measles infection involving workers at Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA).

â€‹ The first case involves a 37-year-old man with good past health, who developed fever on March 28 and rash on March 30. He consulted a general practitioner on March 28 and sought medical attention at the Accident and Emergency Department at Princess Margaret Hospital on March 30 and was admitted for treatment. A laboratory test of his respiratory specimen was positive for measles virus. He has been in a stable condition and could not recall measles vaccination history. He had no travel history during the incubation period or the communicable period.

The second case involves a 24-year-old woman with good past health, who developed fever on March 26 and rash on March 29. She sought medical attention at the Accident and Emergency Department at Yan Chai Hospital on the same day and was admitted for treatment. A laboratory test of her respiratory specimen was positive for measles virus. She has been in a stable condition and had received two doses of measles vaccination. She had travelled to Shenzhen during the incubation period but had no travel history during the communicable period.

According to the patients, both of them did not have contact with measles patients during the incubation period. Their home contacts have remained asymptomatic so far and have been put under medical surveillance.

â€‹ Upon notification of the cases, the CHP immediately commenced epidemiological investigations and conducted relevant contact tracing. Initial investigations revealed that no contact has shown measles-related symptoms so far. The public places the patients visited during the communicable period are listed in the appendix.

The DH anticipates that the measles outbreak at the airport will not be concluded in the near future, hence the control measures at the airport including vaccination and blood testing services will continue for a period of time till further notice. Detailed arrangement will depend on the latest situations and will be announced in due course.

"In view of the tight supply of measles vaccines around the globe currently, the DH has to reserve vaccines for people who are most in need and arrange vaccination for those who do not have sufficient immunity against measles in a more effective and timely manner," the spokesman said.

From today to April 4, the vaccination quota for the measles vaccination stations at the airport is set at 500 doses daily. Eligible airport staff will be limited to the following target groups:

(1) Born in or after 1967, and have not received two doses of measles vaccination, and have not been infected with measles before, and with evidence of living with infants under 1-year-old or living with pregnant women; or

(2) Have laboratory evidence of testing not positive against measles antibody (IgG).

Details of evidence are as follows:

(a) Supporting documents for living with infants under 1-year-old: for example birth certificate, discharge summary or vaccination card of the infant

(b) Supporting documents for living with pregnant women: for example, positive pregnancy tests or antenatal follow-up cards of the pregnant women

(c) Supporting documents for laboratory evidence: for example blood results from the DH's measles serology test or any laboratory within the past 12 months

The vaccination arrangements at the airport vaccination stations are as follows:

Venue:	Port Health Office Health Post (South Arrival Apron Passenger Vehicle Lounge, Level 4, Terminal 1)
	Multi-function Room, HKIA Tower (Level 5, Terminal 2)
Hours:	April 2 to 4 10am to 1pm 2pm to 5pm 6pm to 9pm

A total of 144 persons received measles vaccination at the vaccination stations as at 5pm today, bringing the cumulative number of vaccinations given to 7 502. A hotline (2125 1122) has been set up for public enquiries and operates from 9am to 5.45pm daily. As of 5pm today, the hotline had received a total of 2 491 enquiries.

The spokesman reiterated that for airport staff who do not belong to the target groups, there is no pressing need for them to receive measles vaccination and resources should be reserved for those in most need.

In addition, the DH will continue with the provision of a measles serology test service for airport staff belonging to target group (1) to identify those who need measles vaccination. The DH will be able to provide blood test service to around 100 airport staff daily tomorrow to April 4. Fifteen blood samples have been collected today.

The blood test station is located at the south side before the Immigration Hall at Level 3 of Terminal 2 (non-restricted area). The station will be open from 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 4pm. The DH will notify the

participants individually of the serology results by phone.