



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部食物及衛生局  
Food and Health Bureau, Government Secretariat  
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region  
The People's Republic of China

Our Ref.: FHB/F 7/31

Fax No.: 2136 3282

4 July 2014

Clerk to Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong  
(Attn. : Ms Alice LEUNG)  
[Fax: 2185 7845]

Dear Ms LEUNG,

**LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene**

**Confirmed Local Case of Japanese Encephalitis**

Thank you for your letter of 24 June 2014, referring to us a letter on the captioned subject from Dr. Hon. Kwok Ka-ki to the Chairman of the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene. I am authorised to reply as follows.

In response to the recent confirmed local case of Japanese encephalitis (“JE”) in Tin Shui Wai on 17 June 2014, the Administration has taken immediate follow-up actions, in terms of enhancing the anti-mosquito measures and strengthening mosquito control work.

Upon receipt of the notification from the Director of Health (“DH”) about the case, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (“FEHD”) conducted comprehensive disease vector surveys to obtain

information for targeted vector control operation. Pesticide for killing mosquito larvae was applied for about 6 weeks to the water-logged field in scrubby areas that fall within the two-kilometre radius around the living place of the patient concerned, i.e. Tin Heng Estate. Between 20 June and 1 July 2014, 66 fogging operations were carried out in scrubby areas, including the public places in the vicinity of the pig farms at Fu Tso Tsuen, Tsim Bei Tsui and Sha Kiu Ha Wan for more effective vector killing.

Dr. Hon. Kwok mentioned in his letter the four pig farms that were located within the two-kilometre radius around Tin Heng Estate. Apart from strengthening the mosquito control work in public places in the vicinity of the pig farms, FEHD staff visited the four pig farms soon after the confirmation of the recent JE case. They gave the farm operators the relevant health advice and reminded them of the importance of upkeeping anti-mosquito measures within the pig farms.

On 19 June 2014, FEHD convened a meeting with an inter-departmental task force on anti-mosquito work to discuss measures to strengthen mosquito prevention and control at the district level. The departments and organisations concerned (including Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, Education Bureau, Housing Department (“HD”), Yuen Long District Lands Office, Yuen Long District Office, Leisure and Cultural Services Department and the Hong Kong Wetland Park) were requested to step up mosquito control work at venues under their purview.

Since the confirmation of the recent JE case, FEHD staff have conducted joint inspections with HD at a number of public housing estates located within the two-kilometre radius around Tin Heng Estate. Some Yuen Long District Council members have also joined the inspections.

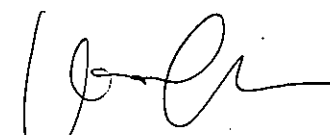
On top of the regular promotion work, FEHD and DH conducted five health talks during the period from 17 to 27 June 2014, relaying to members of the public messages on personal protection against mosquito bite and the elimination of potential mosquito breeding places. Two publicity booths were set up in Tin Chak Shopping Centre and Tin Tsz Shopping Centre to raise public awareness of the potential risk of mosquito-borne diseases and appeal for active public participation in anti-mosquito work.

Taking into account the JE risk to which Yuen Long District (including Tin Shui Wai) is exposed, FEHD started since 2013 a surveillance programme on JE vectors between April to October each year to test for the presence of JE virus in the vector mosquitoes collected from Yuen Long District. About 159, 1 569 and 1 187 JE vectors were collected in April, May and June 2014 respectively. All of them tested negative to the JE virus.

Following the recent report of JE case, FEHD has further collected JE vectors for testing by DH. Results show that the JE virus is found in specimens collected from Mong Tseng Wai. In response to this finding, relevant government departments have strengthened inspections and mounted special vector prevention and control operations in the vicinity by stepping up larviciding and fogging operations. DH has conducted home visits to residence in Mong Tseng Wai, delivered health advice to the residents and arranged blood test for them.

All relevant Government departments will work together and stay vigilant in eliminating the potential breeding places of mosquitoes. The Government will closely monitor the effectiveness of the measures and make timely adjustment if necessary, so as to better control the mosquito problem and minimise the threat of JE and other mosquito-transmitted diseases.

Yours sincerely,



(Vinci CHAN)

for Secretary for Food and Health

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