



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

Translation

Legislative Council Secretariat
Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Complex,
1 Legislative Council Road,
Central, Hong Kong.
(Attn: Ms Wendy LO)
(Fax: 2509 9055)

8 February 2018

Dear Ms LO,

List of Follow-up Actions

As regards Legislative Council document CB(2)606/17-18(02), this Bureau provides the following responses to the items on the List of Follow-up Actions:

Item	This Bureau's Response
1. Measures on Mosquito and Biting Midge Control	Response at Annex A
2. Measures on Rodent Control	Response at Annex B

Yours sincerely

(Miss Diane WONG)
for Secretary for Food and Health

Mosquito and Biting Midge Control

Measures on Mosquito Control

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (“FEHD”) will strengthen the dengue vector surveillance programmes in both the community and port areas from mid-2018, including:

1. Survey areas in the community will increase from 52 to 57 and the frequency of survey will increase from one week per month to two weeks per month;
2. Frequency of surveillance in sea and land ports will increase from two weeks per month to a weekly basis; and
3. Continue to carry out virus test on dengue and Zika virus on mosquito samples collected from all port areas and from the community when the ovitrap index reaches or exceeds 10%.

FEHD will continue to keep in view the latest development in mosquito prevention and control technologies, and take into account recommendations from the World Health Organization, experiences from other countries/areas and results of scientific studies when considering the feasibility of introducing such methods into Hong Kong.

Studies on Biting Midges

To further enhance the control of biting midges, FEHD invited Professor YU Yi-xin of China, renowned for studying biting midges, to visit Hong Kong in June 2016 with a view to providing advices and recommendations for us to study the local fauna of biting midges in the territory and review our control methodology. As recommended by Professor YU, FEHD has commenced a one-year territory-wide survey on biting midges since mid-July 2017 to investigate the distribution and

species diversity of the blood sucking midges with a view to confirming the presence of any disease carrying biting midges and the seasonal fluctuation of biting midges which provide important baseline information for the formulation of prevention and control strategies.

FEHD will invite Prof. Yu to visit Hong Kong again in the first half of 2018 to review the survey and provide expert advice on the local situation of biting midges as well as prevention and control strategies.

At the same time, FEHD closely liaises with relevant government departments (such as the Housing Department (“HD”) and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department) to provide technical advice and assistance as well as training in prevention and control of biting midges.

Prosecution Instigated against Construction Sites with Mosquito Breeding

As regards the 269 cases of prosecution instigated from end May 2017 to end November 2017, the construction sites concerned include those of the works departments of the Government (including the Architectural Services Department, the Civil Engineering and Development Department, the Drainage Services Department, the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department, the Highways Department and the Water Supplies Department), the HD and private properties, among which the sites of private properties constitute the majority.

Ovitrap Indices of Tseung Kwan O North

The total rainfall recorded in May 2017 was about 31 percent above of the normal figure. The presence of large amount of dense vegetation, greening area, construction sites and vacant sites in Tseung Kwan O North could speed up proliferation of mosquitoes.

In response to the high ovitrap index of 55.9% in Tseung Kwan O North in May 2017, FEHD had immediately convened District Anti-mosquito Task Force meeting with the involved government departments,

hospitals and property management agents of residential estates. Technical advice was given to individual stakeholders.

For the elimination of potential breeding places, apart from increasing manpower, application of larvicides to accumulated water and prompt handling of complaints, FEHD carried out health education work in residential estates, schools and other organisations. Posters and pamphlets were delivered and the property management staff and residents were briefed of mosquito prevention and control messages. The ovitrap index of Tseung Kwan O North drastically decreased to 21.7% in June 2017.

Advice to Pig Farmers in Response to Local Cases of Japanese encephalitis

Joint inspections to all 43 pig farms are being conducted by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (“AFCD”) and FEHD to identify breeding places/potential breeding places inside the pig farms for remedial prevention and control actions. FEHD will also make recommendations on measures to reduce contact of pigs and JE vector mosquitoes, e.g. installation of mosquito nets and mosquito trapping devices. In addition, FEHD has conducted health education talks on mosquito prevention and control for pig farmers, and has liaised with AFCD and other relevant government departments to strengthen mosquito prevention and control measures in the surrounding areas of pig farms.

FEHD is conducting the JE vector surveillance on a monthly basis at seven districts to monitor the activities of local JE vectors. Test for JE virus will be conducted on mosquito samples collected with an aim to detect the presence of seropositive vector mosquitoes for prompt remedial prevention and control measures so as to reduce the risk of local transmission.

Rodent Control

Rodent Infestation in Public Markets

Routine rodent prevention and control programmes have been put in place in all public markets under the purview of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (“FEHD”). The programmes are run by contractors who are required to carry out regular inspection at individual markets to look for signs of rodent infestation and deploy poisonous baits and traps to prevent and contain rodent infestation whenever necessary. Records on inspection and result of baiting and trapping operations serve to indicate effectiveness of prevention and control measures and monitor the situation of rodent infestation in markets.

FEHD has also issued guidelines on rodent prevention and control in markets to LINK for reference in preventing and controlling rodents in markets under their purview.

Manpower Resources Deployed for Rodent Control Work

In addition to 702 departmental staff (including 19 Health Inspectors, 19 Senior Overseers, 19 Overseers, 19 Senior Foremen, 184 Foremen, 34 Gangers and 408 Workmen II) deployed on pest control (including rodent control), FEHD engages private contractors to provide pest control services across the territory through roving teams. Together with the additional roving teams under the District-led Actions Scheme, as at October 2017, there were 289 roving teams (with a private contractor workforce of 1 734 including 289 supervisors, 867 pest control workers and 578 general workers). In general, a departmental inspection team comprises of one Foreman and three to four Workmen II. A contractor roving team includes one supervisor, three pest control workers and two general workers.

FEHD has set up six Dedicated Enforcement Teams (including 6 Senior Foremen and 26 Foremen). Each team comprises of one Senior Foreman and four to five Foremen.