



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

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(English Translation)

Clerk to Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene,  
Legislative Council Complex,  
1 Legislative Council Road,  
Central, Hong Kong  
(Attn: Ms Wendy LO)

8 October 2018

Dear Ms LO,

**Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene**

Thank you for the letter dated 24 September 2018. In response to the suggestions made by HON Wilson OR on our mosquito prevention and control work, an information paper is provided at **Annex** for Members' information please.

[signed]  
(Mr Gilford LAW)  
for Secretary for Food and Health

## **Mosquito Prevention and Control Work of the Government**

The Government attaches great importance to anti-mosquito work. In response to the several local dengue fever cases this summer, we have strengthened inter-departmental coordination to synergise the efforts of the bureaux and departments on mosquito control work. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) has maintained close liaison with other government departments and provided them with technical assistance in implementing effective anti-mosquito measures in their respective premises so as to prevent the spread of the disease.

### **Territory-wide Anti-mosquito Campaign**

2. FEHD conducts territory-wide anti-mosquito campaign in three phases annually, during which FEHD and relevant departments will strengthen their mosquito prevention and control work. Immediately after each phase of the campaign, FEHD will conduct special territory-wide thematic mosquito prevention and control operations so as to enhance the effectiveness. In light of local dengue fever cases, FEHD intensified the third phase of the anti-mosquito campaign by launching a ten-week program of territory-wide all-out anti-mosquito operations in mid-August, including carrying out fogging in the scrubby areas within 200-metre radius of the residences every week to kill adult mosquitoes; removing stagnant water, applying larvicides, disposing of abandoned water containers weekly; and trimming of grass to remove the potential mosquito habitats. FEHD conducted fogging operations at a total of 6 013 locations and cleared 49 573 potential mosquito breeding places between 15 August and 26 September 2018. To support FEHD's measures, relevant departments and the Hospital Authority also conducted territory-wide all-out anti-mosquito operations in their respective premises. Apart from the elimination of larvae, their operations also targeted against adult mosquitoes.

3. Following the Centre for Health Protection (CHP)'s finding of the infection source of the local dengue fever cases, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department closed the Lion Rock Park in mid-August 2018 to carry out anti-



mosquito operations against the spread of the disease. The Home Affairs Department, in collaboration with the Civil Aid Service, the Islands District Council and the Cheung Chau Rural Committee, launched two joint operations in Cheung Chau to disseminate information to the residents on mosquito control and anti-mosquito measures for households. CHP and FEHD also held dengue fever health talks.

### **Mosquito Surveillance Programme**

4. FEHD increased the number of surveyed areas where ovitraps for *Aedes albopictus* are placed from 52 to 57 in July 2018. Two different indices, namely Area Ovitrap Index for *Aedes albopictus* (AOI) and Monthly Ovitrap Index for *Aedes albopictus* (MOI), are enumerated. AOI indicates the extensiveness of the distribution of *Aedine mosquitoes* in that particular area surveyed while the MOI is the average of all AOIs within the same month, which reflects the overall situation of *Aedes albopictus* in Hong Kong. FEHD has placed temporary ovitraps at the locations of the confirmed local dengue fever cases to monitor the effectiveness of mosquito control measures. FEHD will consider extending its surveillance programme to cover the locations with confirmed local cases in due course. In response to the dengue fever cases in Hong Kong, FEHD will review the surveyed areas regularly, and explore ways to enhance the surveillance programme.

5. Moreover, starting from September 2018, FEHD has released additional results for the phased AOI to keep the public abreast of the latest situation of mosquito infestation and enhance the alerting function of the ovitrap indices. FEHD will also continue to announce MOI of various areas in Hong Kong to give the public a monthly overview of the infestation level of mosquitoes, which facilitates the public to implement timely mosquito prevention and control measures. FEHD is looking into technologies to enhance the current mosquito surveillance programme.

### **Inter-departmental coordination**

6. To improve coordination of different departments for pest control work, the Pest Control Steering Committee will hold a meeting in January 2019 to discuss the annual anti-mosquito plans of different departments. In March 2019, the Committee will review the progress of the plans of the departments

before the start of the rainy season. The Committee will also explore ways to enhance the Government's overall response strategies for mosquito prevention and control and to enhance accountability of departments.

### **Contract management and staff training**

7. To promote the coordination of mosquito control efforts of various government departments, the Food and Health Bureau (FHB) has issued letters to the heads of the departments drawing their attention in handling the cleansing contracts for different types of government facilities. FEHD has also provided a template of contractual clauses on pest control for follow-up by various departments so that these clauses can be included in the new contracts.

8. With regard to professional training, all pest control workers employed by pest control service contractors of FEHD must complete training programmes which are specifically designed for the Department's on pest control as well as occupational safety and health. To ensure service quality, supervisors and contract managers must possess years of experience in the field of staff management and mosquito, rodent or other pest control. They must also possess the knowledge and ability to deal with potential hazards and problems as well as ways and means to prevent accidents. Starting from August 2018, FEHD has arranged a number of workshops on pest control for managerial staff of the departments concerned (such as the Housing Department and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department) for more effective supervision of the performance and effectiveness of pest control work carried out by outsourced service contractors in venues under their purview.

### **Mosquito prevention and control work in campuses**

9. To strengthen anti-mosquito measures in schools, CHP has issued letters to all schools to remind them to carry out proper mosquito prevention and control work in their campuses. Students and staff are advised to take personal protective measures against mosquito bites. To prevent the spread of dengue fever, schools should maintain environmental hygiene in campus and remove stagnant water. Since August 2018, FEHD has contacted principals associations of different districts to arrange briefings highlighting matters for attention in mosquito prevention and control work in campuses. FEHD and the relevant departments have stepped up mosquito control work in the vicinity of schools and



provided technical support to schools.

### **Districts' collaboration**

10. To support the territory-wide all-out anti-mosquito operations in all districts, FHB has allocated extra funding of \$4 million to FEHD to facilitate the additional anti-mosquito work to be carried out by the District Environmental Hygiene Offices. FEHD has also strengthened communication with the environmental hygiene committees of the District Councils (DCs) to eradicate the black spots of mosquito breeding grounds in the districts. The extra funding will be used for the purchase of ultra-low-volume foggers for elimination of mosquitoes, procurement of additional Pest Control Teams and enhancement of publicity and educational work.

11. Apart from the concerted efforts of Government departments, district networks and private property management companies have provided support to anti-mosquito work. FHB has issued letters to the DCs, urging them to proactively take part in mosquito control work. Anti-mosquito posters and pamphlets have been widely distributed and various anti-mosquito operations have been organized through the participation of local organisations and local building management networks. These operations include inspecting concerned areas, educating the public on mosquito prevention and control, and encouraging the community's support in adopting anti-mosquito measures in private premises. Relevant Government departments have also issued letters to building owners, owners' corporations and property management companies, calling for concerted efforts to implement anti-mosquito measures and pointing out areas that require special attention in carrying out mosquito prevention and control work both outdoors and indoors.

### **Conclusion**

12. The success of mosquito prevention and control work hinges on the concerted efforts of all parties in the community. Members of the public should continue to implement appropriate mosquito prevention and control measures and adopt personal protective measures during outdoor activities. The Government will spare no effort in adopting necessary anti-mosquito measures to curb the spread of dengue fever and mosquito-borne diseases.