Dear HKU members,

The first imported case of Zika Virus Infection

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) reported the first case of imported Zika Virus Infection in Hong Kong on 25 August 2016. Please adopt strict anti-mosquito measures and safe sex during travel. Pregnant women and those planning pregnancy should not travel to affected areas.

To prevent Zika Virus Infection, in addition to general anti-mosquito measures, we would like to draw your attention to the special notes below:

A. Travelling abroad

- If going to areas with ongoing Zika virus transmission (affected areas), travellers, especially those with immune disorders or severe chronic illnesses, should arrange consultation with a doctor at least six weeks before the trip, and take extra preventive measures to avoid mosquito bites;
- Those arriving from affected areas should apply insect repellent for at least 21 days upon arrival. If feeling unwell, such as having a fever, seek medical advice as soon as possible, and provide travel details to the doctor;
- Travellers should consider not having sex during travel to affected areas, or else condoms should be used;
- Travellers returning from affected areas should consider abstinence for at least two months upon return, or else condoms should be used. If diagnosed with Zika Virus Infection or having compatible symptoms, they should consider abstinence for at least six months upon onset, or else condoms should be used;

B. Pregnant women and those preparing for pregnancy

- Pregnant women and those preparing for pregnancy should not travel to affected areas. Those who must travel should seek medical advice from their doctor before the trip, adopt contraception if appropriate, strictly follow steps to avoid mosquito bites during the trip, and consult and reveal their travel history to their doctor if symptoms develop after the trip;
- Women preparing for pregnancy are advised to continue to adopt contraception for at least two months after returning from affected areas if they have no symptoms of Zika Virus Infection, or six months if one or both members of the couple are symptomatic;

C. Special notes for prevention of sexual transmission regarding adverse pregnancy outcomes
Pregnant women should not have sex with partners who have travelled to affected areas, or else condoms should be used;

Travellers returning from affected areas should:

1. Abstain from sex with pregnant partners, or else use condoms throughout the pregnancy; and
2. Use condoms for at least six months if female partners may get pregnant.

You may visit the following webpages for more disease information and health advice:

1. The Zika Page of the Centre for Health Protection
2. Department of Health’s Travel Health Service
3. The Outbound Travel Alert page of the Security Bureau
4. Anti-mosquito precautions for women
5. The World Health Organization Zika virus situation reports.

Thank you for your attention.

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