Dear HKU members,

The second imported case of Zika Virus Infection

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) reported the second imported case of Zika Virus Infection in Hong Kong on 15 November 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 measures on preventing mosquito bites and mosquito breeding, we would like to draw your attention to the special notes below:

A. Travelling abroad

- If going to affected areas, travellers, especially those with immune disorders or severe chronic illnesses, should consult 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 fever, seek medical advice promptly and provide travel details to the doctor;

B. Sexual transmission

- Consider not having sex during travel to affected areas, or else condoms should be used;
- Those arriving from affected areas should consider not having sex for at least six months upon arrival, or else condoms should be used;

C. Pregnant women

- Pregnant women and those planning pregnancy should not travel to affected areas. All travellers including pregnant women should use mosquito repellent containing DEET during travel and for at least 21 days upon arrival;
- Attend antenatal follow-up regularly and provide travel history to the doctor;
- Observe for compatible symptoms and seek medical advice as soon as possible if feeling unwell; and
- Abstain from sex with a partner who has travelled to affected areas, or else condoms should be used throughout the pregnancy.

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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