

Dear HKU members,

Outbreak of Measles Infection in Hong Kong

You may be aware that there have been a number of measles infections in Hong Kong recently. Measles is a highly contagious infection caused by measles virus. It can be transmitted airborne by droplet spread, or by direct contact with nasal or throat secretions of infected persons, or less commonly, by articles soiled with nasal or throat secretions.

Affected persons will present initially with fever, cough, runny nose, red eyes and white spots inside the mouth. This is followed 3 to 7 days later by a red blotchy skin rash, which usually spreads from face to the rest of the body. The rash usually lasts 4 - 7 days, but can persist for up to 3 weeks, with brownish staining and sometimes fine skin peeling. In severe cases, lung, gut and brain can get involved, which could lead to serious consequences or even death. Affected persons should avoid contact with non-immune persons, especially those with weakened immunity, pregnant women and infants.

Should you develop any signs of illness e.g. fever, cough, runny nose and red eyes, please do not come to school and please seek medical advice promptly.

- The Centre for Health Protection advises the public should take the following measures to prevent infection:
- Maintain good personal and environmental hygiene;
- Maintain good indoor ventilation;
- Keep hands clean and wash hands properly;
- Wash hands when they are dirtied by respiratory secretions, such as after sneezing;
- Cover the nose and mouth while sneezing or coughing and dispose of nasal and mouth discharge properly;
- Clean used furniture properly; and
- Persons with measles should be kept out of school/work till four days from the appearance of rash.

Vaccination against measles is the most effective preventive measure. In Hong Kong, the overall coverage rate of measles vaccination has maintained at a high level and the local seroprevalence rates of measles virus antibodies reflect that most of the people in Hong Kong are immune to measles.

Unfortunately, there is a shortage of measles vaccines as well as reagents for measles serology blood test in Hong Kong currently, and the University Health Service is unable to provide either measles vaccine or measles serology blood test.

Please visit the following webpages for more disease information, health and travel advice from Department of Health:

1. [Measles](#)
2. [The Press Releases of Measles](#)
3. [Statistics on Measles](#)
4. [Travel Health Advice](#)
5. [Frequently Asked Questions on Measles](#)

Thank you for your attention.

Dr. M K Cheung
Director
University Health Service

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