

Dear HKU members,

Local Cases of Dengue Fever

You may be aware that there have been a number of local cases of dengue fever reported in Hong Kong since last week. Dengue fever is an acute mosquito-borne infection caused by the dengue viruses. It cannot be spread from human to human directly. Dengue fever is found in tropical and sub-tropical regions around the world, and is an endemic illness in many countries in South East Asia. Strict environmental hygiene, mosquito control and personal protective measures both locally and during travel are important in preventing dengue fever.

For your information, the Estates Office has already stepped up the mosquito control and prevention measures across campus. Members of the University community can report to the Facilities Management Team of the Estates Office should they find any areas of the campus infested with mosquitos. The University will continue to closely monitor the situation, and act in accordance with advice from the Government.

The Centre for Health Protection also advises the public to take heed of the following measures:

Personal Measures:

1. Wear loose, light-coloured, long-sleeved tops and trousers, and use DEET-containing insect repellent on exposed parts of the body and clothing.
2. Take additional preventive measures when engaging in outdoor activities:
 - Avoid using fragrant cosmetics or skin care products; and
 - Re-apply insect repellents according to instructions.
3. Avoid staying in shrubby areas.

Environmental Hygiene:

1. Prevent accumulation of stagnant water.
2. Cover water containers tightly.
3. Ensure air-conditioner drip trays are free of stagnant water.
4. Put all used cans and bottles into covered dustbins.
5. Store food and dispose of garbage properly.

To reduce the risk of infections spread by mosquitoes, apart from [general measures](#), travellers returning from affected areas are advised to apply insect repellent for 14 days (Dengue Fever) or at

least 21 days (Zika Virus Infection) upon arrival in Hong Kong. Travellers not feeling well should seek medical advice promptly and give travel details to their doctor. DEET-containing insect repellents are effective and the public are advised to:

- Read the label instructions carefully first;
- Apply right before entering an area with risk of mosquito bites;
- Apply on exposed skin and clothing;
- Use DEET of up to 30 per cent for pregnant women and up to 10 per cent for children;
- Apply sunscreen first, then insect repellent; and
- Re-apply only when needed and follow the instructions.

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

1. [Dengue fever](#)
2. [The Press Releases of dengue fever](#)
3. [Statistics on Dengue fever, 2018](#)

Thank you for your attention.

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