

Safety & Health Alert No. 35/2018

Mosquito Control and Personal Protective Measures on Construction Sites

Date : 31 August 2018

Our Ref. : HD(C)TS 4/49/26

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health was investigating on August 22 one additional local case of dengue fever (DF) and again urged the public to maintain strict environmental hygiene, mosquito control and personal protective measures both locally and during travel. Please access the links below for the details of the press release:

<http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201808/22/P2018082200964.htm>

In the rainy season, personnel on construction sites are reminded to take heed of the following advice on mosquito control:

- Thoroughly check all gully traps, roof gutters, surface channels and drains to prevent blockage;
- Scrub and clean drains and surface channels with an alkaline detergent compound at least once a week to remove any deposited mosquito eggs;
- Properly dispose of refuse, such as soft drink cans, empty bottles and boxes, in covered litter containers;
- Completely change the water of flowers and plants at least once a week. The use of saucers should be avoided if possible;
- Level irregular ground surfaces before the rainy season;
- Avoid staying in shrubby areas; and
- Take personal protective measures such as wearing light-coloured long-sleeved clothes and trousers and apply insect repellent containing DEET to clothing or uncovered areas of the body when doing outdoor activities.

For more guidelines on mosquito prevention, please refer to following publications of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department:

- Guidelines on Mosquito Prevention for Contractors of Construction Sites
https://www.fehd.gov.hk/english/pestcontrol/library/pdf_pest_control/mosquito_construction_contractors.pdf
- Guidelines on Mosquito Prevention for Workers in Construction Sites
https://www.fehd.gov.hk/english/safefood/library/pdf_pest_control/mosquito_construction_workers.pdf
- Advice for Construction Sites – Anti-mosquito Measures
https://www.fehd.gov.hk/english/pestcontrol/library/pdf_pest_control/mosquito_construction_site.pdf

You should call 1823 in case of mosquito problems and may visit the following websites for more information:

- DF pages of the CHP
<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/38847.html>
- DF pages of Travel Health Service of Department of Health
https://www.travelhealth.gov.hk/english/popup/popup_dengue.html
- Latest Travel Health News from Department of Health
<https://www.travelhealth.gov.hk/english/outbreaknews/outbreaknews.html>
- Tips for using insect repellents from CHP
<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/38927.html>
- CHP Facebook Page
<https://www.facebook.com/CentreforHealthProtection>
- CHP YouTube Channel
<https://www.youtube.com/c/ChpGovHkChannel>
- FEHD's Guidebook on Control and Prevention of Mosquito Breeding
https://www.fehd.gov.hk/english/pestcontrol/handbook_prev_mos_breeding.html