

Safety & Health Circular No. 06 / 2016

Prevention against Zika virus

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According to the Feature Topics dated 1 March 2016 from the Centre for Health Protection (CHP), Zika virus infection is a mosquito-borne disease caused by Zika virus. The most common symptoms of Zika virus infection are fever and skin rash, usually accompanied by conjunctivitis, muscle or joint pain and general malaise. Zika virus is mainly transmitted to humans through the bite of the vector, an infected Aedes mosquito.

There is currently no effective vaccine against Zika virus infection. Your actions are required to avoid mosquito bites and prevent their proliferation:

- Provide support in vector control by strengthening vector prevention and control in housing estates managed by HD.
- Step up regular inspection and to conduct surprise visits to estates and commercial properties, construction and maintenance sites to demonstrate commitment and to ensure adequate alertness and preventive measures in place.
- For construction sites and estates located in districts where Area Ovitrap Index for Aedes albopictus (AOI) exceed 20%, to take the following measures-
 - Providing insect repellent to workers/ staffs working outdoors
 - Carrying out inspections in estates and construction sites
 - Clearing floor drains, roof gutters, sand traps, manhole covers and surface channels
 - Applying larvicidal pesticide to stagnant water at potential black spots
 - Applying pesticide by fogging in appropriate areas for killing adult mosquitoes

- For estates, to take the following measures –
 - Encouraging tenants to report on mosquito breeding hotspots through HD's express hotline
 - Arousing tenants' awareness and participation in combating against Zika virus infection through regular Estate Management Advisory Committee (EMAC) meetings and EMAC newsletters
 - Arranging articles in EMAC newsletters appealing concerted effort in eliminating mosquito breeding places
 - Broadcasting educational video inside lobbies of estate offices
 - Putting up posters on mosquito prevention at prominent places of housing estates

You may visit the pages below for more disease information and health advice:

The CHP's Zika Virus Infection page

http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/view_content/43086.html

The Zika page of the Department of Health's Travel Health Service

http://www.travelhealth.gov.hk/english/popup/popup_zika.html