

Dear all:

As dengue activity has continued to increase and the number of new dengue cases has continued to report in southern Taiwan. In order to let all staffs and students to have a basic knowledge on Dengue, Division of Health Services has listed precautions regarding Dengue.

Dengue is transmitted by the bite of a mosquito infected with one of the four dengue virus serotypes. It is a febrile illness that affects infants, young children and adults with symptoms appearing 3-14 days after the infective bite.

Some of the most commonly asked questions include

1. *What are the symptoms of Dengue and Dengue fever?*

If you have any symptoms similar to dengue fever, you should go to the hospital for help as soon as possible. When under medical care, present this notice to the doctor. Tell the doctor at own initiative how long you have had the symptoms, travel, living conditions, and inform Division of Health Services.

- High Fever (38°C/ 100.4°F) is usually accompanied by at least two of the following symptoms:
 - Headaches
 - Pain behind eyes
 - Nausea, vomiting
 - Joint, bone or muscle pains
 - Rash
 - These warning signs as it could lead to severe dengue: Bleeding gums 、 Severe bleeding and etc. It is imperative to consult a doctor and seek hospitalization to manage the disease.

2. *What can be done to reduce the risk of acquiring Dengue ?*

The best preventive measure for areas infested with Aedes mosquito is to eliminate the mosquitoes' egg laying sites – called source reduction. Lowering the number of eggs, larvae and pupae will reduce the number of emerging adult mosquitoes and the transmission of the disease.

Items that collect rainwater or are used to store water should be covered or properly discarded. The remaining essential containers should be emptied and cleaned and scrubbed (to remove eggs) at least once a week. This will avoid the adult mosquitoes to emerge from the egg/ larva/ pupa stage. In fact, the community participation is the key to dengue prevention. As every household aims to reduce vector density, the transmission rate will decrease or maybe even stop.

For any questions or further information, please visit the Taiwan CDC's website at <http://www.cdc.gov.tw/> or call 1922 epidemic hotline.

NTHU Epidemic Notification Division: Division of Health Service

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September 14, 2015