

監測及流行病學處



Surveillance
And
Epidemiology
Branch

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15 November 2004

Dear Doctor,

Early Notification of Institutional Outbreaks

Institutional settings such as hospitals, schools, childcare centers, and elderly homes may facilitate the transmission of many infectious diseases. During January through September 2004, the Centre for Health Protection recorded a total of 929 institutional outbreaks. These outbreaks most commonly involved respiratory tract infections (63%), gastroenteritis (14%), and hand-foot-and-mouth-disease (16%). Infectious diseases may spread within days in the institution, and attack rates of >10% are not uncommon. For this reason, it is important that the CHP be notified early so that investigative and control measures can be implemented promptly. For example, early intervention may limit the spread of infection within a section of the institution.

We have liaised with operators of institutions on numerous occasions asking them to report infectious disease outbreaks. In addition, doctors can also play an important role. In your daily work, you may come across patients with similar symptoms coming from the same institution. If you suspect an outbreak occurring in an institution, please inform us. Indeed, some alert doctors have helped us detect institutional outbreaks this way.

To report outbreaks in institutions, please contact our Central Notification Office (CENO) at the numbers below:

2477 2770 (fax)

2477 2772 (telephone)

Yours sincerely,

(Dr Thomas TSANG)
Consultant (Community Medicine)
Centre for Health Protection



衛生防護中心乃衛生署
轄下執行疾病預防
及控制的專業架構
The Centre for Health
Protection is a
professional arm of the
Department of Health for
disease prevention and
control