

Epidemiology and Latest Outbreak of Chikungunya Fever in Foshan

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Outline of Presentation

- Background
- Global situation
- Latest situation in Guangdong
- Local situation
- Recent updates on actions taken by CHP

Background

Background on Chikungunya Fever (CF)

- Chikungunya fever (CF) is a mosquito-borne viral disease caused by the ribonucleic acid alphavirus chikungunya virus (CHIKV)
- It was first identified in Tanzania in 1952
- The name “chikungunya” derives from the Kimakonde language of southern Tanzania, meaning "to become contorted," which describes the stooped posture of patients afflicted by its hallmark symptom of **severe joint pain**

Transmission of Chikungunya Fever

- CHIKV is mainly transmitted to humans through the bites of infective female *Aedes* mosquitoes
- When a mosquito bites a patient with CF, it may become infected and, after an extrinsic incubation period of about 2 - 9 days, transmit the virus to other individuals through subsequent bites
- The primary vector *Aedes aegypti* is not found in Hong Kong, but *Aedes albopictus*, which can also spread the disease, is a mosquito commonly found in the locality

Symptoms of Chikungunya Fever (1)

- In symptomatic patients, disease onset is usually 3 – 8 days (range 2 – 12 days) after the bite of an infected mosquito
- Its symptoms are similar to those of dengue fever (DF) and Zika virus infection
- More than half of patients with CHIKV infection will experience symptoms that typically include acute onset of fever and severe joint pain

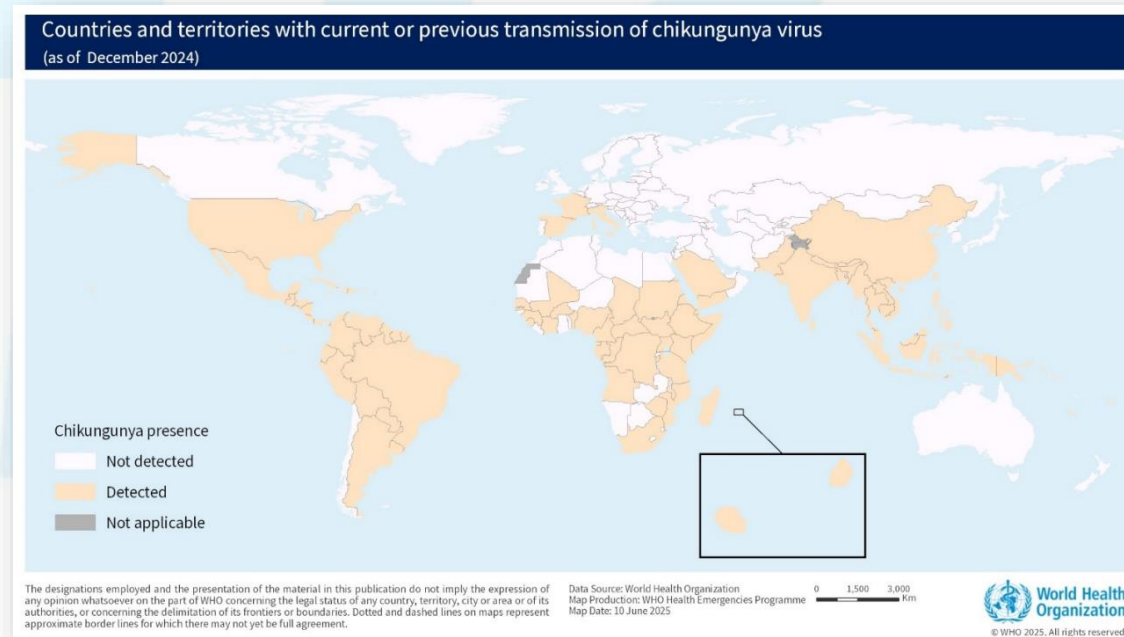
Symptoms of Chikungunya Fever (2)

- The joint pain is typically symmetric and affects multiple joints especially small joints on limbs, such as those in the wrists, hands, ankles, and feet
- Larger joints like knees, elbows, shoulders, and hips can also be affected, though less commonly
- Other common symptoms include muscle pain, headache, nausea, fatigue, rash, and conjunctivitis

Global situation

Global situation of Chikungunya Fever

- According to the World Health Organization, CHIKV transmission has been recorded in more than 110 countries and territories across Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas
- Exposing about 5.5 billion people to the risk of infection



Latest global situation

- Since the beginning of 2025, and as of early June, approximately 220 000 CHIKVD cases and 80 CHIKVD-related deaths have been reported in 14 countries/territories
- The Americas have reported the highest number of CF cases, with Brazil reported over 140,000 cases, followed by Argentina reporting more than 2,500
- As of June 2025, over 33 000 CHIKVD cases were reported in Asia from India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan
- As of 16 July 2025, two countries in Europe have reported cases of CF this year: France (38 cases) and Italy (1 case)

Latest situation in Guangdong

Latest outbreak in Guangdong

- In mid-July 2025, the Guangdong Provincial Disease Control and Prevention Administration reported an outbreak of CF linked to imported cases in Shunde District (順德區) of Foshan City (佛山市), initially involving nearly 500 local cases
- In the subsequent weeks, there has been a significant increase in the number of cases in Shunde District and the outbreak spread to neighboring districts in Foshan City
- Most recently, other cities in Guangdong Province also reported cases

Latest outbreak in Guangdong

- As of 26 July, a total of 4,824 cases were reported in Guangdong Province. In the week (20 to 26 July), new cases were reported in:
 - 2,882 in Foshan City (mostly in Shunde District);
 - 22 in Guangzhou (廣州);
 - 18 in Zhongshan (中山);
 - 3 each in Dongguan (東莞), Zhuhai (珠海), and Heyuan (河源);
 - 2 each in Jiangmen (江門), Yangjiang (陽江), and Zhaoqing (肇慶); and
 - 1 each in Qingyuan (清遠), Shenzhen (深圳), and Zhanjiang (湛江)
- All cases were mild, with no severe cases or deaths

Imported CF cases in Macao

- The Health Bureau of Macao SAR reported 4 imported CF cases since mid-July 2025.
- The cases were imported from
 - Shunde District, Foshan City (2);
 - Nanhai District of Foshan City (1); and
 - The Philippines (1)

衛生局接獲2例輸入性 基孔肯雅熱病例報告

來源：衛生局 (SS)

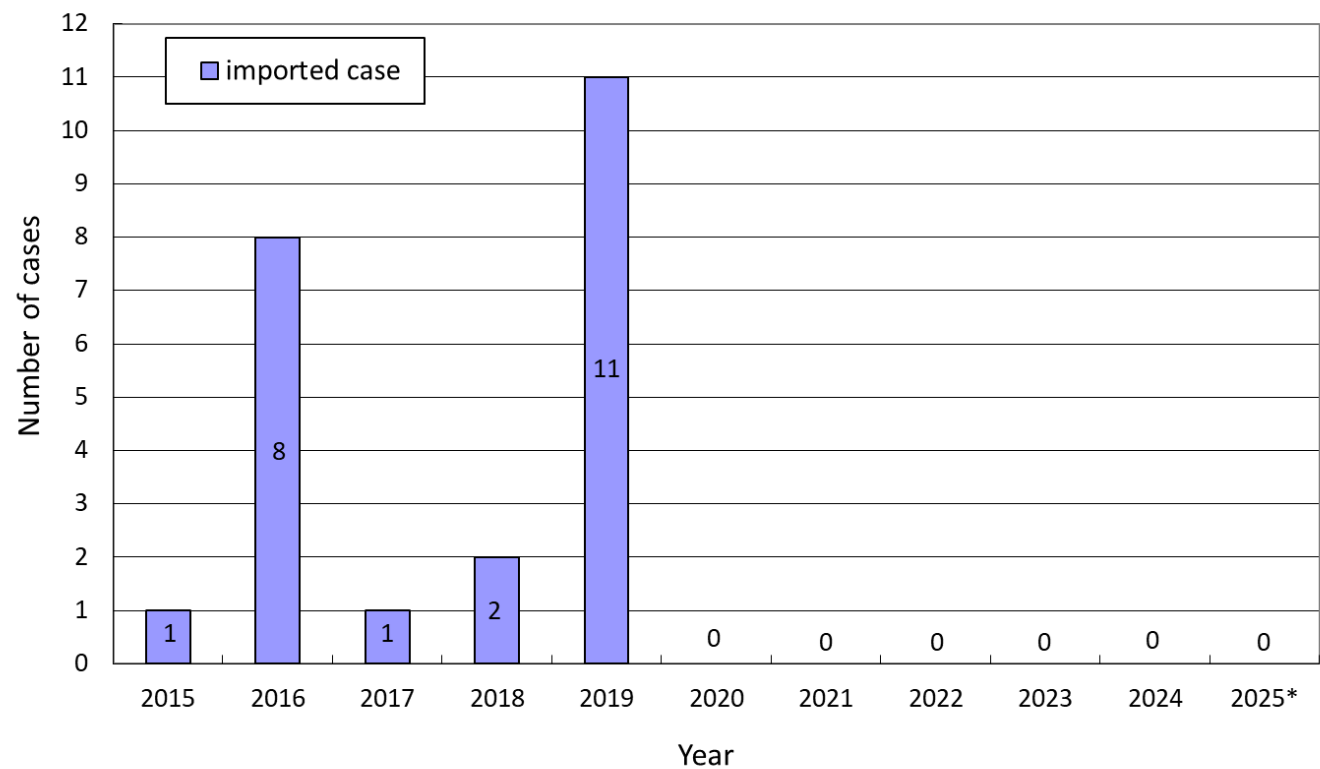
發布日期：2025年7月25日 20:16

Local situation

Local situation of Chikungunya Fever

- CF has been listed as a notifiable infectious disease in Hong Kong since March 2009
- Between 2015 and 2025*, 23 confirmed CF cases were recorded in Hong Kong, ranging from zero to 11 cases per year
- All of them were imported cases
- The last case was recorded in November 2019
- There have been no confirmed CF cases in Hong Kong since 2020

Chikungunya fever cases in Hong Kong (2015 - 2025*)



**As of 27 July 2025*

Epidemiology of local CF cases

- The cases involved 11 males and 12 females aged between 8 and 69 years (median: 45 years)
- All had travel history to Southeast Asian countries during the incubation period
- The majority of cases presented with fever (100%), joint pain (91%) and rash (57%)
- Except a family cluster consisting of four cases with travel history to Thailand recorded in 2019, all cases were sporadic infections with no other epidemiologically linked cases

Country of importation of imported cases recorded in Hong Kong (2015 – 2025*)

Country/ area of infection	Number of cases
India	8
Thailand	8
Myanmar	3
The Philippines	3
Undetermined	1 (travelled to multiple countries during incubation period)
Total	23

**As of 27 July 2025*

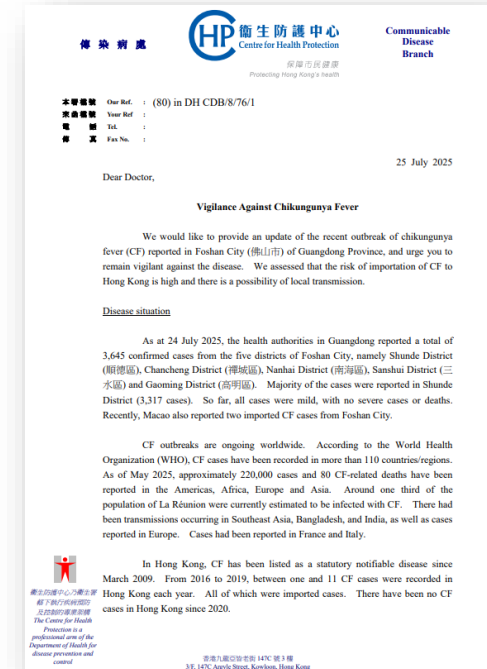
Actions taken by CHP

Risk Assessment

- Risk of importation of CF cases is high:
 - Hong Kong is an international travel hub
 - Frequent travel between Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao
- Risk of local transmission arising from imported cases cannot be excluded:
 - Increase in temperature and rainfall in summer, which would worsen mosquito breeding
 - Compared to DF, members of the public and healthcare professionals are in general less familiar with CF

Enhanced Measures by DH

- Solicit support of PCSC for vector control
- Maintain surveillance
- Epidemiological investigation for reported cases
- Port health measures and travel advice
- Risk communication and publicity



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DH ramps up health education on prevention and cor

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DH ramps up health education on prevention and control measures against Chikungunya fever amid global surge (with photos)

A surge in Chikungunya fever (CF) has been reported in different countries and regions worldwide. The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) said today (July 25) that it will continue to implement a multipronged approach to prevent the spread of CF in Hong Kong and safeguard public health. The CHP will hold two online seminars next week. Doctors will explain the symptoms of CF, how to prevent infection and how to properly use insect repellents. The seminars aim to enhance public understanding of this mosquito-borne disease and encourage active participation in prevention efforts to protect both oneself and others.

End of Presentation

Thank you