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20<sup>th</sup> May 2019

**Notice of Work to  
All Companies & Retail Tenants at Cyberport**

Dear Companies & Retail Tenants at Cyberport,

**Preventive Measure for Rodent Plague Problem (Rat Hepatitis E Virus Infection)**

Since the first case of rat hepatitis E infection in humans in 2018, Hong Kong Health Authorities found three new cases of rat hepatitis E infection in humans, including in elderly man who died of unspecified illness in Hong Kong.

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health report that investigations reveal the three patients resided in Kowloon City, Southern District and Tuen Mun respectively. They could neither recall having direct contact with rodents or their excreta, nor had noticed rodents in their residence. The 67-year-old patient had travelled to Taiwan and Korea during the incubation period (IP) while the other two patients had no travel history during the IP.

Officials could not at this point identify the source and the route of infection. Since hepatitis E virus (HEV) is a curable disease. To prevent HEV infection, all should pay special attention to maintain good personal, food and environmental hygiene. For example, they should wash hands thoroughly before eating, store food properly or in the refrigerator, not leave food at room temperature for a long time, and use 1-in-99 diluted household bleach for general cleaning purpose.

There should adopt pest control measures to prevent rodent infestation. Such as,

- Eliminate sources of food and nesting places for rodents in living environment. Store food in covered containers and handle pet food properly to avoid it becoming food for rodents;
- Store all refuse and food remnants in dustbins with well-fitted cover. Dustbins must be emptied at least once a day;
- Keep premises, especially refuse rooms and stairways clean. Avoid accumulation of articles;
- Inspect all flowerbeds and pavements for rodent infestation regularly; and
- Avoid high risk activities below to reduce rodent contact;
- Avoid rodent contact and places dirtied with rodent excreta;
- Avoid handling rodents with bare hands;
- Wash hands with liquid soap and water immediately after handling animals, and disinfect contaminated areas; and
- If wound appears, clean broken skin immediately and cover it properly with waterproof adhesive dressings.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

Yours faithfully,

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