

Information regarding the enterovirus 71 (Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease HFMD)

The Swiss representations in China want to inform the Swiss community in China about the above mentioned disease.

A serious outbreak of hand, foot and mouth disease due to the enterovirus 71 is underway in Fuyan City, Anhui Province. According to the latest information there were also numerous cases reported in Guangdong Province and in Beijing, a further spread is to be expected. The Chinese competent authorities have started an emergency plan due to reinforce the medical staff, to create an expert group with the purpose of investigate the situation and to improve the hygiene of local schools, kindergartens and villages in an attempt to prevent further spread of the disease.

The HFMD infects mostly infants and children. It has an incubation period of 3-7 days. The symptoms are fever, painful ulcers in the mouth, and a non-itchy rash that causes small blisters to appear on the hands, feet and buttocks.

The HFMD is spread from person-to-person via contact with infected secretions such as saliva, fluid from blisters or stool. For the time being there is no vaccine and no treatment.

Prevention: Strict hygiene measures must be followed to prevent the infection from spreading, i.e. wash hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and water, don't share food, drinks or eating utensils, avoid close contact such as kissing and hugging, think about a good ventilation of the living environment and disinfect the objects touched by children by washing them with water and soap, cleaning products and alcohol.

If your child develops symptoms, keep it at home, maintain adequate fluid intake, seek medical attention if there is persistent high fever or vomiting.

Source:

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