

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 17

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Penularan penyakit tangan, kaki dan mulut

Kes meningkat 20 kali ganda

Hampir 30 peratus jangkitan dilaporkan di Selangor

Oleh Noor Atiqah Sudaiman
dan Amir Mamat
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Putrajaya: Kes Penyakit Tangan, Kaki dan Mulut (HFMD) sehingga Sabtu lalu meningkat 20 kali ganda kepada 47,209 antara Januari hingga 21 Mei lalu berbanding 2,379 kes bagi tempoh sama tahun lalu.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata daripada jumlah berkenaan, Selangor menyumbang kes terbesar iaitu 13,640 kes atau 28.9 peratus, diikuti Kuala Lumpur dan Putrajaya masing-masing 6,209 kes (13.1 peratus) dan Perak (4,099 kes).

Katanya, peningkatan kes HFMD itu turut dilaporkan di Kelantan dengan 3,728 kes (7.9 peratus) dan Sabah 3,352 kes (7.1 peratus), manakala negeri lain mencatatkan kurang daripada 2,500 kes.

"Kes HFMD bagi Minggu Epidemiologi (ME) 20/2022 adalah sebanyak 15,548 kes berbanding ME 19/2022 iaitu hanya 7,526 kes di seluruh negara, iaitu peningkatan adalah sebanyak 106.6 peratus.

"Peningkatan kes pada ME 20/2022 sudah dijangkakan berikutan pergerakan penduduk di negara ini semasa sambutan Aidilfitri.

"Berdasarkan surveilans jenis virus (enterovirus) di Malaysia,

terdapat tiga virus utama yang menyebabkan penularan penyakit HFMD dalam komuniti pada tahun ini iaitu Coxsackie A16 (CA16), Coxsackie A6 (CA6) dan Enterovirus 71 (EV71).

"Pada tahun ini, terdapat dua kes HFMD positif EV71 yang dimasukkan ke ICU (unit rawatan rapi) kerana mengalami komplikasi radang otak (encephalitis) dan kedua-dua kes berkenaan adalah kanak-kanak berusia bawah enam tahun," katanya dalam kenyataan semalam.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, kes HFMD banyak berlaku dalam kalangan kanak-kanak berusia enam tahun ke bawah iaitu sebanyak 43,736 kes (93 peratus), diikuti oleh kumpulan umur tujuh hingga 12 tahun dengan 2,765 kes (6 peratus) dan selebihnya berumur lebih 12 tahun iaitu 696 kes (1 peratus).

"Majoriti lokasi penularan wabak ini berlaku di taska, tadika dan prasekolah iaitu 711 wabak (61 peratus), diikuti oleh rumah persendirian dengan 407 wabak (35 peratus) serta pusat jagaan kanak-kanak sebanyak 42 wabak (3 peratus).

"Wabak dikira apabila terdapat dua atau lebih kes dalam satu komuniti dan kes mempunyai kaitan epidemiologi serta berlaku dalam tempoh inkubasi penyakit HFMD.

"Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri dan Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah sudah menjalankan sesi libat urus dengan agensi yang menyelia penguurusan taska, tadika dan prasekolah, selain mengeluarkan surat 'alert'.

"Sesi libat urus ini sudah diadakan sejak ME 17/2022 berikutan

peningkatan kes HFMD di kebanyakan negeri," katanya.

Dalam pada itu, Dr Noor Hisham memaklumkan, sehingga Sabtu lalu, sebanyak 5,124 premis sudah diperiksa, manakala 3.15 premis diberi tunjuk ajar serta dipantau pelaksanaan disinfeksi dan penutupan premis secara sukarela (41), selain 138 premis ditutup mengikut peruntukan Akta Pencegahan dan Pengawalan Penyakit Berjangkit 1988.

"Orang ramai terutama ibu bapa yang mempunyai anak kecil dinasihatkan untuk tidak membawa anak ke tempat berisiko berlaku penularan jangkitan HFMD seperti taman permainan awam.

"Masyarakat juga dinasihatkan untuk melaporkan kejadian kes HFMD yang berlaku di taska, tadika dan sekolah kepada Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah berhampiran untuk tindakan kawalan," katanya.

Di Melaka, EXCO Pendidikan dan Teknologi negeri, Datuk Rais Yasin, berkata HFMD sudah menular ke 22 sekolah rendah di negeri itu selepas 38 murid, termasuk prasekolah, disyaki dijangkiti sejak beberapa hari lalu.

Katanya, daripada jumlah itu, 37 kes membabitkan murid prasekolah dan murid sekolah rendah di Alor Gajah, manakala satu lagi kes di Melaka Tengah.

"Setakat ini, tiada sekolah atau kelas yang ditutup, manakala sesi pembelajaran dan kegiatan kokurikulum di sekolah berjalan seperti biasa," katanya selepas menghadiri perasmian Sambutan Hari Guru peringkat negeri, di sini semalam.



Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : LOKAL

SELANGOR SUMBANG KES TERBESAR

HFMD meningkat 20 kali ganda!

Oleh Noor Atiqah Sulaiman
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Putrajaya

Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) melaporkan jangkitan penyakit tangan, kaki dan mulut (HFMD) sehingga Sabtu lalu meningkat 20 kali ganda iaitu sebanyak 47,209 kes berbanding tempoh yang sama pada tahun lalu yang mencatatkan 2,379 kes.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, daripada jumlah berkenaan, Selangor menyumbang kes terbesar iaitu sejumlah 13,640 kes atau 28.9 peratus, diikuti Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur dan Putrajaya dengan 6,209 kes (13.1 peratus) dan Perak (4,099 kes).

Menurutnya, peningkatan kes HFMD itu turut disumbangkan oleh Kelantan de-

ngan 3,726 kes (7.9 peratus) dan Sabah 3,352 kes (7.1 peratus), manakala negeri lain mencatatkan kurang daripada 2,500 kes.

"Kes HFMD bagi Minggu Epidemiologi (ME) 20/2022 adalah sebanyak 15,548 kes berbanding ME 19/2022 iaitu hanya 7,526 kes di seluruh negara, iaitu peningkatan adalah sebanyak 106.6 peratus.

"Peningkatan kes pada ME 20/2022 sudah dijangkakan berikutan pergerakan penduduk di negara ini ketika sambutan Aidilfitri.

"Berdasarkan surveilans jenis virus (enterovirus) di Malaysia, terdapat tiga virus utama yang menyebabkan penularan penyakit HFMD dalam komuniti pada 2022 iaitu Coxsackie A16 (CA16), Coxsackie A6 (CA6) dan Enterovirus 71 (EV71).

"Pada tahun ini, terdapat dua kes HFMD positif EV71 yang dimasukkan ke unit rawatan rapi (ICU) kerana me-

ngalami komplikasi radang otak (encephalitis) dan kedua-dua kes berkenaan adalah kanak-kanak berusia bawah enam tahun," katanya dalam kenyataan semalam.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, kes HFMD banyak berlaku dalam kalangan kanak-kanak berusia enam tahun ke bawah iaitu sebanyak 43,736 kes (93 peratus), diikuti oleh kumpulan usia tujuh hingga 12 tahun dengan 2,765 kes (6 peratus) dan selebihnya berusia lebih 12 tahun iaitu 696 kes (1 peratus).

"Majoriti lokasi penularan wabak ini berlaku di taska, tadika dan prasekolah iaitu 711 wabak (61 peratus), diikuti oleh rumah persendirian dengan 407 wabak (35 peratus) serta pusat jagaan kanak-kanak sebanyak 42 wabak (3 peratus).

"Wabak dikira apabila terdapat dua atau lebih kes dalam satu lokaliti dan kes mempunyai

kaitan epidemiologi serta berlaku dalam tempoh inkubasi penyakit HFMD.

"Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri dan Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah sudah menjalankan sesi libat urus dengan agensi yang menyelia pengu- rusan taska, tadika dan prasekolah, selain men- geuarkan surat alert.

"Sesi libat urus ini sudah diadakan sejak ME 17/2022 berikutan pe- ningkatan kes HFMD di kebanyakan negeri," ka-

tanya.

Dalam pada itu, Dr Noor Hisham memaklumkan, se-

hingga Sabtu sebanyak 5,124 premis sudah diperiksa; premis diberi tunjuk ajar serta dipantau pelaksanaan disin- feksi (3,157) dan penutupan premis secara sukarela (41) serta 138 premis ditutup meng- ikut peruntukan Akta Pencegahan dan Peng- awalan Penyakit Berjang- kit 1988.

"Orang ramai terutama ibu bapa yang mem- punyai anak kecil dina- sihatkan untuk tidak membawa anak ke tem- pat berisiko berlaku pen- ularan jangkitan HFMD seperti taman permainan awam.

"Masyarakat juga dina- sihatkan untuk melaporkan kejadian kes HFMD yang berlaku di taska, tadika dan sekolah kepada Pejabat Ke- sihatan Daerah berhampi- ran untuk tindakan kawalan," kata- nya.

"Peningkatan kes pada ME 20/2022 sudah dijangkakan Dr Noor Hisham"



Hanya dua kematian direkodkan

Kuala Lumpur: Sebanyak 22,972,947 atau 97.6 peratus golongan dewasa di negara ini lengkap menerima dua dos suntikan vaksin setakat kelmarin.

Berdasarkan data mene- rusi laman web Covidnow, sejumlah 23,249,217 atau 98.8 peratus sudah mene- rima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos vaksin manakala 16,082,337 atau 68.4 peratus menerima suntikan dos penggalak.

Bagi remaja berumur 12

hingga 17 tahun, sebanyak 2,910,144 atau 93.5 peratus telah lengkap divaksin manakala 3,006,641 atau 96.6 peratus daripada kumpulan itu menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos vaksin.

Sementara itu, sebanyak 1,126,026 atau 31.7 peratus kanak-kanak berusia lima hingga 11 tahun telah leng- kap divaksin di bawah Pro- gram Imunisasi Kanak-Ka- nak Covid-19 Kebangsaan (PICKids).

Sebanyak 8,435 dos harian telah diberikan kel- marin, terdiri daripada 1,852 suntikan penggalak, 3,316 dos kedua dan 3,267 dos pertama, menjadikan jumlah kumulatif pem- berian vaksin di bawah Program Imunisasi Co- vid-19 Kebangsaan (Pick) kepada 70,813,162.

Portal Github Kementeri- an Kesihatan melaporkan dua kematian akibat Co- vid-19 kelmarin direkodkan di Selangor. - Bernama

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 10

RUANGAN : PENULARAN PENYAKIT TANGAN, KAKI DAN MULUT (HFMD)

Kes HFMD meningkat 20 kali ganda

FOTO: SUMBER INTERNET

Peningkatan kes pada ME 20 telah dijangkakan berikutan pergerakan penduduk Malaysia semasa sambutan Aidilfitri.

Oleh NURHIDAYAH HAIROM

SHAH ALAM

Sejumlah 47,209 kes penyakit kaki, tangan dan mulut (HFMD) direkodkan setakat 21 Mei tahun ini iaitu peningkatan sebanyak 20 kali ganda berbanding tempoh sama pada tahun 2021 yang hanya mencatatkan 2,237 kes.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, kes dilaporkan bagi minggu epidemiologi (ME) 20/2022 adalah 15,548 kes berbanding ME 19/2022 iaitu hanya 7,526 kes di seluruh negara, di mana peningkatan sebanyak 106.6 peratus.

Menurutnya, peningkatan kes pada ME 20 telah dijangkakan berikutan pergerakan penduduk Malaysia semasa sambutan Hari Raya Aidilfitri.

"Pada tahun 2022, sehingga 21 Mei 2022, negeri Selangor menyumbang jumlah kes terbesar berbanding negeri-negeri lain iaitu 13,640 kes (28.9 peratus).

"Ia diikuti oleh Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur dan Putrajaya sebanyak 6,206 kes (13.1 peratus), Perak 4,099 kes (8.7 peratus), Kelantan 3,726 kes (7.9 peratus) dan Sabah 3,352 kes (7.1 peratus).

"Sementara negeri-negeri lain sekitar atau kurang daripada 2,500 kes," katanya dalam kenyataan pada Selasa.

Beliau berkata, berdasarkan surveilans jenis virus (enterovirus) di Malaysia, tiga virus utama yang menyebabkan penularan penyakit HFMD dalam komuniti pada tahun 2022 adalah Coxsackie A16 (CA16), Coxsackie A6 (CA6) dan



DR NOOR HISHAM

Enterovirus 71 (EV71).

"Pada tahun 2022, sehingga kini, terdapat dua kes HFMD positif EV71 yang dimasukkan ke unit rawatan rapi (ICU) kerana mengalami komplikasi radang otak (encephalitis).

Kedua-dua kes tersebut adalah kanak-kanak berumur bawah 6 tahun," katanya.

Jelas beliau lagi, sehingga kini, sebanyak 1,168 wabak dilaporkan di Malaysia di mana tiga negeri tertinggi mencatatkan kejadian wabak ialah WPKL dan Putrajaya iaitu 413 wabak (35.4 peratus), diikuti Selangor 143 wabak (12.2 peratus) dan Perak 130 wabak (11.1 peratus).

Katanya, wabak dikira apabila terdapat dua atau lebih kes dalam satu komuniti dan kes mempunyai kaitan epidemiologi serta berlaku dalam tempoh inkubasi penyakit HFMD.

"Majoriti lokasi penularan wabak berlaku di taska, tadika dan pra-sekolah iaitu 711 wabak (61 peratus) diikuti oleh rumah persendirian dengan 407 wabak



Jumlah kes HFMD di negara meningkat pada kadar membimbangkan iaitu sebanyak 20 kali ganda dengan 47,209 kes dilaporkan setakat 21 Mei lepas berbanding hanya 2,237 kes bagi tempoh sama tahun lepas.

(35 peratus) dan juga pusat jagaan kanak-kanak sebanyak 42 wabak (3 peratus)," katanya.

Pada masa sama, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, Kementerian Kesihatan telah melaksanakan tindakan kawalan dan langkah pencegahan bagi penyakit HFMD di seluruh Malaysia meliputi sejumlah 5,214 premis yang diperiksa.

"Sejumlah 138 premis telah ditutup di bawah peruntukan Akta Pencegahan dan Pengawalan Penyakit Berjangkit

1988 manakala 41 premis ditutup secara sukarela.

"Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri dan Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah turut menjalankan sesi libat urus dengan agensi yang menyelia pengurusan taska, tadika dan pra-sekolah, sejak minggu epid 17/2022 berikutan peningkatan kes HFMD di kebanyakan negeri.

"Sesi dibuat dalam bentuk sesi townhall, webinar, taklimat dan tunjuk cara terutama berkaitan proses disinfecti," kata beliau.

22 kes HFMD babit 39 murid pra sekolah di Melaka

MELAKA - Sekolah Kebangsaan (SK) di Alor Gajah merekodkan kes paling tinggi penyakit tangan, kaki dan mulut (HFMD) dengan bilangan 21 sekolah membabitkan seramai 39 murid prasekolah di Melaka.

Exco Pendidikan dan Teknologi, Datuk Rais Yasin berkata, setakat malam Isnin, sebanyak 22 SK telah dilaporkan termasuk satu kes yang direkodkan di daerah Melaka Tengah menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan murid yang telah dijangkiti HFMD seramai 39 murid.

Menurutnya, kes berkenaan membabitkan murid-murid prasekolah berusia lima dan enam tahun, malah ada di antara sekolah mencatatkan sehingga empat murid di daerah Alor Gajah yang disahkan mengalami HFMD.

"Setakat ini keadaan masih terkawal dan tiada sekolah mahupun kelas prasekolah yang diarahkan



Rais (enam dari kiri) dan Sulaiman (lima dari kiri) bergambar bersama penerima Anugerah Tokoh Guru pada Majlis Sambutan Hari Guru Peringkat Negeri di Banda Hilir pada Selasa.

tutup oleh Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Melaka.

"Di daerah Jasin tidak ada cuma kita akan berikan sedikit tumpuan di daerah Alor Gajah bagi mengekang penularan HFMD," katanya di sini pada Selasa.

Mengulas lanjut, Rais berkata, sesi persekolahan secara bersempena masih berjalan seperti biasa termasuk aktiviti di luar bilik darjah iaitu aktiviti kokurikulum dan sukan dibenarkan.

Justeru beliau berharap ibu bapa tidak panik dan Jabatan Pendidikan Negeri juga telah memaklumkan kepada pihak sekolah sekiranya ternampak gejala itu, ia perlu diberikan perhatian dan tindakan agar agar tidak merebak kepada murid lain.

"Kita juga berpesan kepada ibu bapa kalau terdapat anak yang mempunyai gejala HFMD diminta jangan hantar anak mereka ke sekolah," ujarnya.

Penularan HFMD di sekolah, KPM minta pandangan KKM

KOTA KINABALU - Kementerian Pendidikan Malaysia (KPM) akan mendapatkan pandangan daripada Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) untuk sebarang tindakan berkaitan penularan jangkitan penyakit tangan, kaki dan mulut (HFMD) di sekolah.

Timbalan Menteri Pendidikan II, Datuk Mohamad Alam berkata, KKM juga akan melakukan penilaian untuk memutuskan sama ada kes HFMD yang meningkat di Sabah membimbangkan atau sebaliknya.

"Setakat ini kita akan minta pandangan daripada KKM, jadi KKM yang memutuskan serius atau tidak kerana penilaian dilakukan oleh KKM bukan KPM.

"Kita akan minta KKM (jika kes meningkat) pandangan. Apa saja pandangan KKM, kita akan terima sebab merekalah yang bertanggungjawab sama ada serius atau tidak," katanya di sini pada Selasa.



MOHAMAD

Dalam pada itu, Mohamad berharap, pihak pentadbiran sekolah serta ibu bapa mengambil perhatian dengan keadaan semasa penyakit berkenaan.

"Saya minta ibu bapa dan semua pentadbiran sekolah supaya mengambil perhatian perkara ini khususnya dalam menjaga kebersihan serta langkah

pencegahan seperti disarankan KKM.

"Saya yakin KKM sudah bersedia dan kita juga bersedia untuk menghadapi selain mengambil langkah yang perlu untuk pencegahan," katanya.

Jangkitan penyakit HFMD di Sabah ketika ini mula menunjukkan trend peningkatan bermula pada Minggu Epidemiologi 14 (ME 14/2022) iaitu dari 3 hingga 9 April lalu dan semakin meningkat dengan ketara pada ME ke-20 dari 15 hingga 21 Mei.

Pengarah Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Sabah (JKNS), Datuk Dr Rose Nani Mudin memaklumkan kumulatif kes HFMD di Sabah sehingga ME ke-20 adalah sebanyak 3,351 kes.

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA

MUKA SURAT : 7

RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI

Kes HFMD: Dua kanak- kanak di ICU

PUTRAJAYA: Sehingga kini terdapat dua kes penyakit tangan, kaki dan mulut (HFMD) positif EV71 yang dimasukkan ke Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU) kerana mengalami komplikasi radang otak (encephalitis), berdasarkan data pada tahun ini.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr. Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, kedua-dua kes tersebut melibatkan kanak-kanak masing-masing berusia bawah enam tahun.

"Berdasarkan surveilans jenis virus (enterovirus) di Malaysia, tiga virus utama yang menyebabkan penularan penyakit HFMD dalam komuniti pada tahun ini adalah Cocksackie A16 (CA16), Cocksackie A6 (CA6) dan Enterovirus 71 (EV71)," katanya dalam kenyataan semalam.

Dalam pada itu, beliau berkata, sehingga hari terakhir minggu epidemiologi (ME) 20/2022 (pada 21 Mei), sejumlah 47,209 kes HFMD telah dilaporkan iaitu peningkatan sebanyak 20 kali ganda berbanding pada tahun 2021 sehingga ME yang sama, hanya mencatatkan 2,237 kes.

"Manakala kes dilaporkan bagi ME 20/2022 adalah 15,548 kes berbanding ME 19/2022 iaitu hanya 7,526 kes di seluruh negara, peningkatan sebanyak 106.6 peratus.

"Peningkatan kes pada ME 20 telah dijangkakan berikutan pergerakan penduduk Malaysia semasa sambutan hari raya," katanya.

Dr. Noor Hisham berkata, sehingga 21 Mei lalu, Selangor menyumbang jumlah kes terbesar berbanding negeri-negeri lain iaitu 13,640 kes (28.9 peratus).

"Ia diikuti oleh Kuala Lumpur dan Putrajaya 6,206 kes (13.1 peratus), Perak 4,099 kes (8.7 peratus), Kelantan 3,726 kes (7.9 peratus) dan Sabah 3,352 kes (7.1 peratus), sementara negeri-negeri lain sekitar atau kurang daripada 2,500 kes," ujarnya.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NEWS/NATION

MOST CASES IN SELANGOR

SIGNIFICANT RISE IN HFMD CASES

Infections up 20-fold compared with same period last year, says Health D-G

MOHAMED BASYIR AND
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CASES of Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease (HFMD) this year rose exponentially by 20-fold compared with last year.

In a statement, Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said 47,209 HFMD cases were recorded in Malaysia up to the 20th epidemiology week (EW) compared with 2,237 cases recorded last year for the same period.

He said there had been an increase of 106.6 per cent from the 19th EW's 7,526 cases to 15,548 cases for the 20th EW, which was expected due to movement of people during the Hari Raya celebration.

"Until May 21, Selangor contributed the most number of cases with 13,640, equivalent to 28.9 per cent, followed by Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya with 6,206 cases or 13.1 per cent.

"Perak recorded 4,099 cases, Kelantan 3,726 cases, and Sabah 3,352 cases. Other states reported below 2,500 cases," he said yesterday.

He said 43,736 of this year's to-



Children doing schoolwork according to the standard operating procedures at a kindergarten in Puncak Alam, Selangor, yesterday.
PIC BY GENES GULITAH

tal cases involved children aged 6 and below while 2,765 cases were those aged 7 to 12 and the remaining 708 aged 12 years and above.

Based on surveillance of types of enterovirus this year, Dr Noor Hisham said, there were three main viruses — Coxsackie A16 (CA16), Coxsackie A6 (CA6) and Enterovirus 71 (EV71).

Two children, he said, were found positive to have EV71 and had been admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU) following encephalitis (brain inflammation) complications.

"Both of them are below 6 years old," he added.

Dr Noor Hisham said 1,168 HFMD outbreaks were reported

in Malaysia so far.

Highest number of outbreaks were in Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya with 413 outbreaks, followed by Selangor with 143 outbreaks and Perak had 130 outbreaks, he said.

Majority of the outbreak locations, he said, involved kindergartens, taska (nurseries) and preschools with 711 outbreaks, 407 outbreaks at private homes and 42 outbreaks at childcare centres.

Up to May 21, 5,124 premises had been inspected. A total of 3,157 of these premises were instructed to carry out disinfection exercise and are being monitored. Forty-one premises had closed voluntarily and 138

premises were told to close in accordance with Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Act 1988.

Dr Noor Hisham said the Health Ministry had conducted engagement sessions and premises' owners were briefed on measures that could be taken to curb HFMD from spreading.

Among the measures are symptom screening at the premises entrance, frequent hand washing as well as cleaning and disinfecting children's toys and house floors, especially toilets with chlorine-based solution.

"Others are proper handling of disposable diapers by throwing them into a covered trash can and using separate eating and drink-

ing utensils.

"The public, especially parents with young children, are advised against taking their children to places where there are risk of HFMD infection, such as public playgrounds," he said, adding that HFMD cases at taska, kindergartens and schools must be reported to the nearest district health office for the next course of action to be carried out.

In Kota Kinabalu, Sabah Health director Datuk Dr Rose Nani Mudin said the state recorded 702 cases between May 15 and 21, an increase by 111 per cent compared with the same period last year.

Dr Rose added that five districts that recorded the highest number of cases were Tawau (541), Sandakan (451), Lahad Datu (325), Papar (309) and Kota Belud (269).

Deputy Education Minister Datuk Mohamad Alamin said the ministry would work closely with the Health Ministry in addressing the HFMD issue.

Mohamad said the number of cases recorded in Sabah was considered high.

He urged parents and schools to pay attention to cleanliness and take preventive measures as recommended by the health ministry.

"I'm concerned because the number of cases reported (until today) are over 2,000 but I'm sure the Health Ministry is ready, and we are also prepared to face this situation," he said after the Teachers' Awards Presentation Ceremony in conjunction with the Sabah State Teachers' Day Celebration at a hotel here yesterday.

Covid-19 cases on downward trend

KUALA LUMPUR: Covid-19 cases have been on a downward trend the last four days with 1,544 infections reported on Monday.

This has brought the cumulative count of cases to 4,492,864 with 25,148 active cases throughout the country.

The highest number of cases was reported in Selangor at 828 cases, followed by 113 in Kuala Lumpur.

The rest of the states recorded cases below 100.

A total of 24,009 patients, or 95.5 per cent of total active Covid-19 cases, are undergoing home quarantine, with 22 being treated at Low-Risk Covid-19

Quarantine and Treatment Centres (PKRC).

Another 1,078 patients, or 4.3 per cent, are hospitalised, with 14 receiving treatment at intensive care units (ICU) unventilated and 25 others ventilated.

A total of 2,905 patients recovered on Monday.

Two deaths were reported, both in Selangor.

The death toll now stands at 35,645 since the pandemic began two years ago.

Almost 70 per cent of adults aged 18 and above have taken their Covid-19 booster shots up to Monday.

According to the CovidNow website, 16,080,331 booster dos-

es were administered, equivalent to 68.3 per cent of the group.

On the other hand, 2,909,585 of adolescents, aged between 12 and 17, have completed their vaccination. This is equivalent to 93.5 per cent of the group.

For children aged five to 11, 1,119,411 of them, equivalent to 31.5 per cent, have completed their vaccination.

Another 47.2 per cent, or 1,676,457 of children, have taken at least one dose of the vaccine to date.

A total of 70,799,796 Covid-19 vaccines have been administered since the immunisation efforts began last year.

Dengue still a bigger concern than monkeypox, says MMA

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) has reminded members of the public that they should not be alarmed over the insurgence of monkeypox cases outside the country, as dengue cases are still a bigger concern here.

MMA president Dr Koh Kar Chai said although the spread of monkeypox outside its endemic region of the African continent is a matter of concern, the public nevertheless needed to be reminded that dengue posed a greater menace in our midst.

He said there had been discussions about getting the chicken-

pox vaccination prior to travelling to avoid contracting the virus.

"I am not aware of any evidence that shows the chickenpox vaccine will confer protection against monkeypox.

"But there is evidence proving that the smallpox vaccine confers a degree of protection.

"This vaccine is hard to come by as smallpox has been declared as being eradicated," he said in a statement yesterday.

"However, there is a monkeypox vaccine that has been registered but it is not easily available as yet."

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : NST POSTER

HFMD ALERT

Hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD) is highly contagious and linked to personal and environmental hygiene. Outbreaks had occurred in Malaysia in the past, but the recent increase in the number of cases has raised concerns. The Health Ministry has urged parents to promptly send children who show symptoms for medical treatment and to isolate those infected with HFMD. It is also advocating for awareness, and asking people to avoid any form of alternative remedy.

WHAT IS HFMD



It is caused by the coxsackieviruses A16, A5, A9, A10, B2 and B5, and enterovirus 71 (EV71).

First epidemic traced in California in 1969 before outbreaks in other parts of the United States, Australia, Sweden and Japan.

A HFMD epidemic occurred in Sarawak in 1997.



The biggest outbreak was in Taiwan in 1998 with more than 100,000 cases and 400 children hospitalised. It led to 78 deaths related to brainstem encephalitis with neurogenic pulmonary oedema.

NUMBER OF HFMD CASES IN MALAYSIA

MALAYSIA	31,661 (Up to May 14)
SELANGOR	8,864
KL & PUTRAJAYA	4,421
SABAH	2,650
PERAK	2,638
KELANTAN	2,493
PAHANG	1,589
NEGERI SEMBILAN	1,484
KEDAH	1,435
MELAKA	1,379
PENANG	1,306
JOHOR	1,237
TERENGGANU	907
SARAWAK	483
PERLIS	426
LABUAN	349

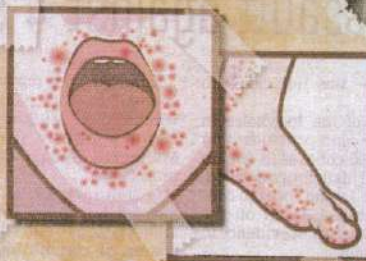
CASES INVOLVE:

- 575 Kindergartens/ nurseries/ preschools
- 305 Private homes
- 27 Childcare centres

[Note: All figures correct up to May 14]

IMPORTANT INFO

- HFMD is endemic in Malaysia.
- TRANSMISSION:** Person-to-person contact, respiratory droplets containing virus particles via coughing or sneezing and contact with contaminated surfaces and objects.
- COMMON SYMPTOMS:** Fever, painful sores in the mouth, and a rash with blisters on hands, feet and buttocks.
- SERIOUS SYMPTOMS:** Meningitis, encephalitis and polio-like paralysis.
- INCUBATION PERIOD:** 7 to 10 days, or 4 to 6 days.
- PREVENTION:** Frequent handwashing with soap or sanitising; cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces; avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth; avoiding close contact with infected people.



CONCERN ABOUT MONKEYPOX

Cases of monkeypox have been grabbing headlines worldwide as many countries in Europe and the Americas have detected cases within their borders. This viral zoonotic disease is said to spread from animals and can transmit to humans. As the world grapples with monkeypox amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, medical professionals are urging for better awareness and immediate medical attention for those afflicted with the ailment.

WHAT IS MONKEYPOX

Monkeypox is a viral zoonotic disease caused by an 'orthopoxvirus', which is transmitted to humans through bites (of infected animals) or direct contact with the blood of animals or body fluids of the infected animal.

INCUBATION PERIOD: 6 to 21 days.



It was first discovered in 1958 when two outbreaks of a pox-like disease occurred in colonies of monkeys kept for research, hence the name monkeypox.

However, the virus was first only identified in humans in 1970 in the Democratic Republic of Congo in a 9-year-old boy.



First outbreak outside Africa was reported in the United States — contact was made with infected pet prairie dogs.

Animal species susceptible to the monkeypox virus include rope squirrels, tree squirrels, Gambian pouched rats, dormice and non-human primates.

SYMPTOMS

Fever, rash and swollen lymph nodes. The swelling is different from other types of pox. Online photos show of monkeypox patients with their bodies covered in pockmarks that look larger than other types of pox.

HOW IT SPREADS

Transmits to humans through close contact with an infected person or animal.



Transmits from one person to another by close contact with lesions, body fluids, respiratory droplets and contaminated materials.

COUNTRIES AFFECTED SO FAR

Countries with confirmed cases:

- Canada
- Australia
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- The United Kingdom
- Spain
- Germany
- France
- Portugal
- Belgium
- Italy
- The Netherlands
- The United States

W.H.O. SAYS

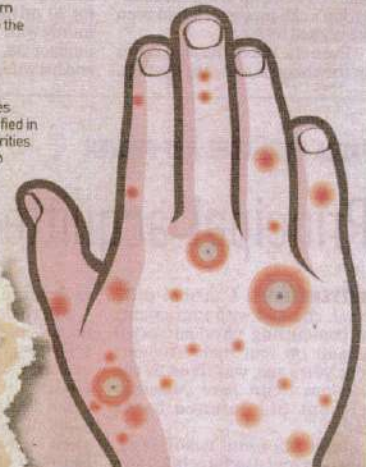
The World Health Organisation (WHO) says since May 13 this year, cases of monkeypox have been reported to the organisation from 12 member states that are not endemic to the monkeypox virus.

So far, the reported cases have no established travel links to endemic areas.

WHO says current data shows that cases have mainly but not exclusively been identified in homosexual men. On May 20, Spain authorities said 31 cases of monkeypox were traced to people who went to a gay bathhouse in Madrid and those who attended a pride festival on the Canary Islands.

REFER TO HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS IF:

- A child is dehydrated.
- Has a weakened immune system.
- Has severe HFMD symptoms, which last for 10 days.



AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NATION

'20-fold rise in HFMD cases a worrying trend'

KUALA LUMPUR: The number of hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD) cases in the country is increasing at a worrying rate of 20 fold with 47,209 cases reported as of May 21 compared with only 2,237 cases in the corresponding period last year.

Health Director-General Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said 15,548 cases were recorded nationwide in the 20th epidemiology week ending May 21, which is an increase of 106.6% from 7,526 recorded the previous week.

"The majority of the disease outbreaks occurred in nurseries, kindergartens and pre-schools with 711 outbreaks or 61% of the total

cases, followed by private homes with 407 outbreaks or 35% and childcare centres with 42 outbreaks (3%)," he said in a statement yesterday.

Selangor recorded the largest number of HFMD cases with 13,640 cases or 28.9% of the total, followed by Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya with 6,206 (13.1%), Perak with 4,099 (8.7%), Kelantan with 3,726 (7.9%) and Sabah with 3,352 (7.1%) while other states reported fewer than 2,500 cases.

Noor Hisham said a total of 1,168 outbreaks were reported in Malaysia so far with three states recording the highest number, namely Kuala Lumpur and

Putrajaya at 413 (35.4%), followed by Selangor at 143 (12.2%) and Perak at 130 (11.1%).

He said most of the HFMD cases occurred among children aged below six with a total of 43,736 cases (93%), followed by those aged seven to 12 (2,765 cases or 6%) and those aged above 12 (696 cases or 1%).

Noor Hisham said state health departments and district health offices nationwide had conducted engagement sessions with agencies that supervise the management of nurseries, kindergartens and pre-schools since the 17th epidemiology week following the increase in HFMD cases in most states.

He said the engagement sessions emphasised gatekeeping screenings, correct hand-washing practices, disinfection of children's toys, house floor and toilets, proper management of disposable diapers and use of separate eating and drinking utensils.

He also reminded the public, especially parents, with snuggly children, not to take them to play where there is a risk of infection such as public playgrounds.

The public is also advised to report cases at their children's nurseries, kindergartens and schools to the nearest district health office for control action.

- Bernama

More than 23m adults receive one vaccine dose

KUALA LUMPUR: A total of 22,972,947 adults or 97.6% of their population have been fully vaccinated against Covid-19, as of Monday.

According to the CovidNOW website, a total of 23,249,217 adults or 98.8% have received at least one dose of the vaccine, while 16,082,337

or 68.4% have received the booster dose.

As for adolescents aged between 12 and 17, a total of 2,910,144, or 93.5% of the population, have completed their vaccination, while 3,006,641 or 96.6% have received at least one vaccine dose.

A total of 1,126,026 children aged

five to 11, or 31.7% of the group, have been fully vaccinated under the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme for Children, while 1,679,475 or 47.3% have received at least one dose.

A total of 8,435 doses were administered on Monday with 1,852 as booster doses, 3,316 as second

doses and 3,267 as first doses, bringing the cumulative total vaccine administered under the immunisation programme to 70,813,162.

According to the Health Ministry's GidHub portal, two deaths were recorded in Selangor yesterday.

- Bernama

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NATION

More to fear from dengue

MMA: This greater menace is claiming lives here, not monkeypox

By JUNAID IBRAHIM
newsdesk@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: Dengue poses a greater threat than monkeypox which is not yet a concern to the public, says the Malaysian Medical Association (MMA).

Its president Dr Koh Kar Chai said the public should not be alarmed about monkeypox for now despite the disease having been recorded outside of its endemic

region in Africa.

"The public is reminded that we have a greater menace in our midst that is still claiming lives, and that is dengue," he said.

On claims that chickenpox vaccine could protect against monkeypox, he said there was no evidence to back up the claims.

"There has been talk about getting the chickenpox vaccination prior to travelling to avoid catching monkeypox.

"I am not aware of any evidence that shows that the chickenpox vaccine will confer protection against monkeypox," he said in a statement yesterday.

"But there is evidence to show that the smallpox vaccine confers a degree of protection. This vaccine is hard to come by as smallpox has been declared as being eradicated.

"Those who have been vaccinated against smallpox received it ages ago and it's likely that the immunity

conferred by the vaccine would have waned, though I stand to be corrected," he added.

He said although a monkeypox vaccine had been registered, it was still not accessible to the masses.

Meanwhile, according to the Health Ministry on May 17, dengue cases have seen an increase of 51.5% or 1,074 cases in the 19th epidemiological week from May 8 to 14 this year compared to only 709 cases the week before.

HFMD cases at 15,548, up by 106% last week

PETALING JAYA: A total of 15,548 hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD) cases were recorded nationwide during the 20th epidemiological week (ME) – a 106.6% increase from the week before.

Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the 19th ME had recorded only 7,526 cases.

The 20th ME is from May 15 to 21, and the 19th is from May 8 to 14.

"The surge was expected due to the mobility of Malaysians during the Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebrations," the Health director-general said in a statement yesterday.

He added that cumulatively, the disease had recorded 47,209 cases nationwide this year, with the highest in Selangor (13,640), followed by Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya with a combined 6,206. Perak recorded 4,099 cases (8.7%), Kelantan 3,726 cases (7.9%) and Sabah 3,352 cases (7.1%) while the other states had fewer than 2,500 cases.

Dr Noor Hisham said 43,736 cases or 93% of the total were children aged six and below, 2,765 cases (6%) were children between seven and 12 years old, and the remaining 708 cases (1%) were over 12 years old.

"Based on the type of virus (enterovirus) surveillance in Malaysia, the three major viruses that cause the spread of HFMD in the community this year are Coxsackie A16 (CA16), Coxsackie A6 (CA6) and Enterovirus 71 (EV71).

"To date, there are two EV71-positive HFMD cases admitted to the intensive care unit due to encephalitis. Both cases are children under six years of age," he said.

To date, there were 1,168 HFMD outbreaks nationwide, with the most occurring in Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya, at 413, followed by Selangor (143) and Perak (130).

Dr Noor Hisham said the majority of the outbreaks took place in nurseries, kindergartens and preschools with 711, followed by private homes (407) and childcare centres (42).

Dr Noor Hisham said to curb the spread of the virus, state health departments and district health offices have conducted an engagement session with the relevant agencies to oversee childcare centres.



Innovation at work

SK Seri Bayu pupils (from left) Safiyyah Zahra Muhammad Zaki, 11, Nurul Izzah Muhammad Hafiz, 11, and Nur Izzah Syamini, 12, looking at a robot made of Lego on display at the launch of the Rural Outreach STEM programme (Prostem) at the school in Teluk Kumbar. Looking on are the school's STEM and Robotics chairman Muhammad Zaki MD Arshat (back row, right) and teacher Nik Ahmad Syafiq Afham Syah. The event was organised by the Penang Regional Development Authority as a measure to stimulate students' interest in studying STEM. — LIM BENG TATT/The Star

Children with HFMD must be isolated

JOHOR BARU: Parents have been reminded to isolate children who have caught the hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD) amid its current spike.

KPJ Puteri Specialist Hospital paediatric and neonatology specialist Dr Ismail Haron said since the disease could be transmitted through the sharing of utensils, toys, towels and blankets, the isolation is necessary to prevent further infections.

"Parents have a role to play in ensuring that these HFMD children are kept away from other contacts and not sending them to care centres or visiting public places," he said.

"HFMD is a mild disease with a patient having a fever followed by rashes on the hands, feet, mouth or tongue, though it could get serious if not monitored properly.

"If the child is unable to eat and drink, has a high fever or other signs of complications, the child needs to be admitted to hospital.

"However, if the child has a mild fever, is able to eat and drink to maintain body hydration, hospitalisation is not necessary, but parents are advised to take the child to see a doctor," he said yesterday.

Dr Ismail said children with HFMD could also experience symptoms of respiratory tract infections, vomiting, diarrhoea or poor appetite.

"The main factor to curb the spread of HFMD is to improve personal hygiene, wash hands often, and wear a face mask," he said.

He added that the majority of mildly symptomatic HFMD cases would heal within seven to 10 days.

State health and unity committee

chairman Ling Tian Soon said 2,240 cases of HFMD were reported in Johor until the end of the 20th epidemiological week (May 15 to 21).

He said this was 22 times the number of cases during the corresponding period last year when only 101 cases were reported.

"Currently, we have detected 14 outbreaks of the disease that are still active in several districts in Johor.

"A majority of the outbreaks started at childcare centres and there are also outbreaks at kindergartens, preschools and houses," he said in a statement on Monday.

He added that the majority of HFMD cases in Johor involved children aged six and below.

However, Ling assured the people that the situation is "under control".