

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 14

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Budak tiga tahun dijangkiti HFMD, bukan cacar monyet

Hasil ujian sampel Makmal Awam Kebangsaan nafikan dakwaan tular sebelum ini

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Putrajaya: Seorang kanak-kanak berusia tiga tahun yang didakwa dijangkiti cacar monyet, baru-baru ini, sebenarnya dijangkiti penyakit kaki, tangan dan mulut (HFMD) virus jenis Coxsackie A6.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata perkara itu disahkan melalui hasil ujian sampel dilakukan terhadap kanak-kanak berkenaan.

Beliau berkata, terdahulu kanak-kanak berkenaan dibawa ke Klinik Kesihatan Batu 14, Selangor, untuk pemeriksaan kerana mengalami gejala demam sejak 13 Mei lalu.

"Tiga hari selepas mengalami demam, timbul ruam yang kemudian menjadi *blister* (19 Mei) dan mula pecah pada 21 Mei lalu.

"Kanak-kanak itu dipantau di Hospital Kuala Lumpur (HKL). Dua sampel diambil dan Makmal Kesihatan Awam Kebangsaan membuat pengujian untuk be-

rapa jenis virus, termasuk HFMD dan cacar monyet.

"Keputusan ujian mengesahkan HFMD positif virus Coxsackie A6 dan negatif penyakit *Monkeypox* (cacar monyet) serta lain-lain virus yang diuji," katanya dalam ciapan melalui Twitter beliau, semalam.

Sebelum ini, KKM dilaporkan memaklumkan tiada menerima sebarang notifikasi berhubung jangkitan cacar monyet di negara ini.

Ia susulan tular tangkap layar memaparkan dakwaan bahawa penyakit itu sudah merebak ke Malaysia, dengan menunjukkan gambar seorang kanak-kanak mengalami gejala seakan-akan penyakit cacar monyet pada bahagian tangannya.



Dr Noor Azmi (dua dari kanan) meraikan kakitangan kesihatan dan guru pada majlis Aidilfitri dan RIMUP di Sekolah Kebangsaan Kuala Gula, Bagan Serai, semalam.

(Foto BERNAMA)

KKM pertingkat pengawasan di pintu masuk antarabangsa

Bagan Serai: Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) meningkatkan pengawasan semua pintu masuk antarabangsa bagi memastikan penularan virus cacar monyet tidak merebak ke negara ini.

Timbalan Menteri, Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali, berkata Bahagian Kawalan Penyakit diminta untuk mengumpul sampel dan mengenal pasti penumpang yang menunjukkan simptom ba-

gi mengawal penyakit itu.

Beliau berkata, saringan termasuk pemeriksaan suhu ditempatkan di semua pintu masuk antarabangsa.

"Untuk virus cacar monyet ini, kita lebih berhati-hati di pintu masuk seperti di Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa Kuala Lumpur dan sebagainya.

"Orang yang datang dari negara Eropah atau negara yang

ada kes, kita akan periksa tahap kesihatan dan buat saringan," katanya semalam.

Beliau berkata, KKM tidak pernah melindungi maklumat berkaitan virus itu dari orang ramai.

Kes cacar monyet direkod di beberapa negara seperti Kanada, Sepanyol, Portugal, Sweden, Perancis, Itali, Amerika Syarikat, Switzerland dan Austria.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : LOKAL

Kuala Lumpur

JANGKITAN HFMD NAIK 20 KALI GANDA

93 peratus kes babitkan budak bawah 6 tahun

Seminggu selepas meraikan Aidilfitri di kampung di Pekan, Pahang, Nur (bukan nama sebenar) menyedari anak bongsunya Nur Natrah Thihani, 2, mula demam panas selain terdapat ruam lepuh pada bahagian mulut, tangan dan kaki.

Kakak Natrah, Nur Naura, 5, seminggu kemudian pula demam serta mengalami ulser di mulut.

Risau dengan keadaan itu, Nur membawa kedua-dua orang anaknya itu ke klinik swasta yang berhampiran dan doktor mengesahkan mereka dijangkiti penyakit tangan, kaki dan mulut (HFMD).

"Doktor (di klinik) memberitahu saya ini antara gejala HFMD yang semakin menular dalam kalangan kanak-kanak di negara ini dan saya syak kemungkinan jangkitan ini berlaku semasa kami beraya di kampung. Saya dimaklumkan memang ada beberapa kes HFMD di kampung saya," Nur berkongsi pengalamannya dengan Bernama baru-baru ini.

Menurut portal rasmi MyHealth, Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM), HFMD adalah penyakit jangkitan kanak-kanak bawah 10 tahun dengan simptom atau gejala lepuhan berisi air muncul di tangan, kaki dan dalam mulut.

Tekak dan tonsil membentuk ulser kecil manakala tangan, kaki dan kawasan lampin dijangkiti ruam dengan ciri-ciri vesikel (lepuhan kecil) dan akan sembuh dalam masa antara lima ke tujuh hari.

HFMD selalunya terjadi dalam kelompok kanak-kanak yang ditempatkan bersama dan akan merebak melalui tangan yang tidak ducuci bersih selepas melakukan pertukaran lampin atau tersentuh air liur sekali gus menyebabkan virus berpindah daripada satu kanak-kanak ke kanak-kanak lain.

Bagi 2022, sehingga hari terakhir minggu epidemiologi (ME) 20/2022, pada 21 Mei 2022, KKM melaporkan sejumlah 47,209 kes HFMD iaitu peningkatan sebanyak 20 kali ganda berbanding hanya 2,327 kes sehingga ME yang sama pada tahun 2021.

Sementara bagi ME 20/2022, jumlah kes yang direkod di seluruh negara adalah 15,548 kes berbanding ME 19/2022 iaitu hanya 752 kes, menunjukkan peningkatan sebanyak 106.6%.

Menurut Ketua Pengarah



PENGUNAAN sabun dan sanitasi secara kerap mampu membunuh virus HFMD dan Covid-19.



GEJALA lepuhan berisi air di tangan, kaki dan dalam mulut antara simptom jangkitan HFMD.

Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah dalam kenyataan KKM pada 24 Mei lalu, peningkatan kes pada ME 20 dijangkakan berikutan pergerakan penduduk Malaysia semasa sambutan hari raya.

Dalam kenyataan yang sama, daripada 47,209 kes, Selangor mencatat jumlah kes terbesar berbanding negeri lain iaitu 13,640 kes (28.9 peratus). Ia diikuti oleh WP Kuala Lumpur & 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.

Kes HFMD dilaporkan banyak berlaku dalam kalangan kanak-kanak berumur 6 tahun ke bawah iaitu se-

banyak 43,736 kes (93 peratus), diikuti oleh kumpulan umur 7 hingga 12 tahun iaitu 2,765 kes (6 peratus). Manakala selebihnya berumur lebih 12 tahun iaitu 708 kes (1 peratus).

Berdasarkan surveilans jenis virus (enterovirus) di Malaysia, tiga (3) virus utama yang menyebabkan penularan penyakit HFMD dalam komuniti pada 2022, adalah Coxsackie A16 (CA16), Coxsackie A6 (CA6) dan Enterovirus 71 (EV71). Pada tahun 2022, sehingga kini, terdapat dua (2) kes HFMD positif EV71 yang dimasukkan ke ICU kerana mengalami komplikasi radang otak (encephalitis). Kedua-dua kes tersebut adalah kanak-kanak berumur bawah 6 tahun.

Mengulas situasi ini, Pakar Perubatan Kesihatan

15,548

Jumlah kes yang direkod di seluruh negara pada ME 20/2022

Awam Universiti Malaysia (UM), Prof Madya Dr Rafdzah Ahmad Zaki tidak menolok pengoperasian tadika, taska dan pusat jagaan kanak-kanak secara sepenuhnya bermula pada awal 2022 mendorong kepada peningkatan kes HFMD.

Bellau berkata, keadaan itu pastinya berbeza berbanding dua tahun lepas apabila premis berkenaan tidak dapat beroperasi akibat pelaksanaan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP).

"Kes HFMD biasanya memang akan merebak dengan cepat dalam kalangan kanak-kanak. Sebelum ini kes kurang kemungkinan sebab pusat jagaan kanak-kanak, taska mahupun tadika ditutup atau tidak beroperasi kerana pandemik Covid-19, jadi kes menurun sepanjang tempoh itu."

"Selain itu, apabila tiada interaksi antara kanak-kanak jadi tiada jangkitan antara mereka sekali gus jangkitan virus ini amat rendah. Apabila premis ini dibuka, risiko untuk mendapat jangkitan adalah lebih tinggi kerana kanak-kanak lebih terdedah kepada virus HFMD ini," katanya.

Dr Rafdzah berkata, jumlah individu yang ramai atau kepadatan penduduk di satu-satu lokaliti turut

Kes HFMD biasanya memang akan merebak dengan cepat dalam kalangan kanak-kanak. Sebelum ini kes kurang kemungkinan sebab pusat jagaan kanak-kanak, taska ditutup kerana Covid-19, jadi kes menurun sepanjang tempoh itu"

Dr Rafdzah

mempengaruhi kadar jangkitan penyakit tersebut sebagai contoh Selangor yang menyumbang jumlah kes terbesar seperti dilaporkan oleh KKM.

Turut bersetuju dengan jangkaan Dr Noor Hisham berhubung peningkatan kes HFMD sempena sambutan Hari Raya sebelum ini, Dr Rafdzah berkata, sebarang aktiviti melibatkan interaksi rapat antara individu contohnya aktiviti ziarah sepanjang musim Aidilfitri dan rumah terbuka boleh meningkatkan risiko kadar jangkitan apabila pesakit bersentuhan dengan individu lain atau batuk dan bersin.

"Ibu bapa harus memastikan kanak-kanak yang dijangkiti HFMD tidak terlibat dalam sebarang aktiviti sosial termasuk menghadiri rumah terbuka selain mereka ini perlu diasingkan bagi menghadkan risiko jangkitan kepada individu atau kanak-kanak lain," katanya.

Sementara itu, Pakar Pediatrik Sunway Medical Centre Velocity Dr Melanie Majaham berkata, kanak-kanak seharusnya tidak disentuh sesuka hati oleh individu lain ketika menghadiri rumah terbuka kerana perbuatan menyentuh, mencium dan memegang sememangnya berisiko untuk golongan itu dijangkiti HFMD.

"Elakkan mencium atau memegang kanak-kanak. Ini adalah satu cara untuk mencegah penularan mana-mana jenis virus atau bakteria yang boleh berjangkit melalui air liur," katanya, menambah amalan mencuci tangan menggu-

nakan sabun dan sanitasi adalah kunci utama bagi membendung penularan HFMD.

Menurut Dr Melanie, kesadaran ibu bapa untuk meneruskan Prosedur Operasi Standard (SOP) Covid-19 secara tidak langsung dapat membantu mencegah jangkitan HFMD.

"Ini kerana penggunaan sabun dan sanitasi secara kerap turut memitikan bukannya sahaja virus HFMD dan Covid-19, tetapi juga virus lain yang biasa menjangkiti kanak-kanak," katanya.

Pengusaha taska, tadika dan pusat jagaan kanak-kanak juga perlu mengambil langkah proaktif memastikan kebersihan premis mereka sebagai langkah membendung penularan penyakit tersebut.

Proses sanitasi atau nyah kuman perlu kerap dilakukan sebelum dan selepas penggunaan peralatan termasuk di kawasan permainan.

"Selain itu, saringan suhu badan dan simptom HFMD seperti ruam atau lepuhan di kulit, demam dan ulser mulut perlu dibuat di pintu masuk premis."

"Sekiranya terdapat kanak-kanak yang tidak sihat, disyorkan agar mereka menjalani isolasi di rumah. Komunikasi dua hala antara ibu bapa dan pihak sekolah juga membolehkan pihak sekolah memantau situasi sekiranya terdapat kanak-kanak yang telah dijangkiti HFMD," katanya.

"HFMD tidak mempunyai ubat khusus. Biasanya, kanak-kanak akan dirawat secara simptomatik dengan ubat demam, ubat semburan untuk mengekalkan ulser di dalam mulut dan memberikan rawatan drip air sekiranya kanak-kanak itu tidak dapat minum atau makan disebabkan oleh kesakitan mulut."

"Biasanya, simptom kanak-kanak boleh pulih sepenuhnya dalam masa tujuh ke 10 hari. Jangka masa untuk berjangkit biasanya adalah dalam minggu pertama jangkitan (HFMD). Terdapat juga segelintir individu yang boleh terus menjangkiti orang lain untuk tempoh berminggu-minggu selepas simptom sudah pulih," katanya.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 7

RUANGAN : LOKAL

CACAR MONYET

Tiga kit kesan virus

Geneva

Syarikat penjagaan kesihatan multinasional Switzerland, Roche sudah membangunkan tiga kit ujian untuk mengesan virus cacar monyet.

Dalam satu kenyataan, yang dipetik Xinhua, Roche memaklumkan syarikat itu dan anak syarikatnya, TIB Molbiol membangunkan tiga kit ujian *LightMix Modular Virus*.

Kit *LightMix Modular Virus* yang pertama mampu mengesan *orthopoxvirus*, termasuk semua virus cacar monyet dari kedua-dua virus di barat Afrika dan tengah Afrika.

Sementara kit kedua pula khusus untuk mengesan virus

cacar monyet sahaja.

Kit ketiga dikatakan berupaya mengesan *orthopoxviruses* serta memberikan maklumat sama ada virus cacar monyet ada atau tidak secara serentak.

Cacar monyet, pertama kali dikesan ke atas monyet makmal pada 1958, ia diandaikan menular daripada haiwan liar seperti tikus kepada manusia, atau daripada manusia kepada manusia.

Data Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO) menunjukkan sehingga Isnin, 19 negara sudah melaporkan 131 kes cacar monyet yang disahkan manakala 106 kes disyaki, hampir tiga perempat daripadanya adalah dari Sepanyol, Portugal dan Britain.

Enam kematian kelmarin

Kuala Lumpur: Seramai 1,137,100 atau 32 peratus kanak-kanak berusia lima hingga 11 tahun di negara ini sudah lengkap divaksin di bawah Program Imunisasi Kanak-Kanak Covid-19 Kebangsaan (PICKids), setakat kelmarin.

Berdasarkan data menerusi laman web Covidnow, sejumlah 1,687,515 atau 47.5 peratus daripada kumpulan itu sudah menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos vaksin.

Bagi remaja berusia 12 hingga 17 tahun, sebanyak 2,911,110 atau 93.6 peratus sudah lengkap divaksin manakala 3,007,571 atau 96.7 peratus daripada kumpulan itu mene-

rima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos vaksin.

Sementara itu, 16,087,068 atau 68.4 peratus orang dewasa di negara ini sudah menerima suntikan dos penggalak, 22,973,652 atau 97.6 peratus sudah lengkap dua dos suntikan vaksin dan 23,249,948 atau 98.8 peratus menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos vaksin.

Portal Github Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) melaporkan enam kematian akibat Covid-19 direkodkan kelmarin dengan tiga kes di Johor dan masing-masing satu kes di Sabah, Sarawak dan Putrajaya. - Bernama

HFMD DI KELANTAN MENINGKAT

17 premis kena tutup

Kota Bharu: Peningkatan kes jangkitan penyakit tangan, kaki dan mulut (HFMD) di Kelantan menyebabkan 17 taska dan pusat jagaan kanak-kanak di negeri itu ditutup sehingga semalam.

Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Kerajaan Tempatan, Perumahan dan Kesihatan Negeri, Dr Izani Husin berkata, 17 taska dan pusat jagaan kanak-kanak itu ditutup membabitkan beberapa daerah termasuk Kota Bharu dan Tumpat.

Katanya, selain itu, kes jangkitan HFMD di Kelantan juga meningkat kepada 4,000 kes sehingga semalam.

"Jangkitan kes ini kebanyakan membabitkan kanak-kanak berusia lima tahun ke bawah dan ada juga dalam kalangan ka-

nak-kanak berumur enam tahun ke atas.

"Kes yang serius di sesebuah taska dan pusat jagaan kanak-kanak menyebabkan Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Kelantan (JKNK) bersama Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat (JKM) mengambil keputusan untuk menutup premis itu.

"Namun, bagi kita jika ada satu kes HFMD, taska atau pusat jagaan kanak-kanak perlu ditutup untuk mengelakkan penularan kepada kanak-kanak lain. Jangan tunggu sehingga kes meningkat kepada empat atau lima kes, katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian selepas Perasmian Pembukaan Bangunan Wisma I-Medikal Kota Bharu di sini, semalam.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 11

RUANGAN : JANGKITAN CACAR MONYET

KKM buat persiapan vaksinasi kontak rapat wabak monkeypox dan pekerja kesihatan

Oleh MUKHRIZ MAT HUSIN

SHAH ALAM

Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) membuat persiapan untuk melakukan vaksinasi bagi kontak rapat wabak cacar monyet.

Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar berkata, langkah tersebut merupakan antara strategi dalam pengurusan kawalan kes bagi penyakit tersebut.

"Kita sedang menyediakan strategi untuk vaksin kepada kontak rapat dan juga pekerja kesihatan sekiranya berlaku wabak cacar monyet di Malaysia," katanya dalam

sidang media pada Khamis.

Dalam pada itu, Khairy yang juga Naib Presiden Perhimpunan Kesihatan Dunia ke-75 itu berkata, sebagai langkah pengesanan awal kes cacar monyet di negara ini, aplikasi MySejahtera turut akan dilengkapi dengan ciri khas iaitu 'Monkeypox Alert'.

Menurutnya, ciri khas yang mula diaktifkan pada hari ini berfungsi dalam memberi peringatan kepada pengembara dari luar negara bahawa mereka berada di negara yang mempunyai kes cacar monyet dan disarankan untuk melakukan pemantauan pengasingan sendiri se-

Vaksin untuk cacar monyet



KHAIRY

lama 21 hari.

"Jadi pengembara dari negara (endemik) cacar monyet seperti Cameroon, Nigeria dan juga negara-negara bukan endemik di mana kes cacar monyet telah pun dikesan, seperti Belgium, Australia dan lain-lain, mereka tidak akan menerima Perintah

Pengawasan dan Pemerhatian di Rumah (HSO) tetapi akan dapat *pop-up alert*," ujarnya.

Dalam perkembangan lain, beliau berkata, KKM melaporkan sebanyak 57,510 kes penyakit tangan, kaki dan mulut (HFMD) telah dikesan dari tempoh 1 Januari sehingga 25 Mei tahun ini.

"Angka kes tersebut mencatat peningkatan sebanyak 24 kali ganda bagi tempoh sama pada tahun 2021 iaitu 2,333 kes.

"Peningkatan kes ketara itu berlaku sejak April tahun ini susulan pembukaan aktiviti sosial termasuk sesi kehadiran penuh sekolah, taska, tadika dan tabika," katanya.

Tahap pengawasan di KLIA dipertingkatkan - Dr Noor Azmi

BAGAN SERAI - Kerajaan akan meningkatkan tahap pengawasan di semua pintu masuk antarabangsa terutama di Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa Kuala Lumpur (KLIA) bagi memastikan jangkitan cacar monyet tidak merebak ke Malaysia.

Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali berkata, Bahagian Kawalan Penyakit Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) telah diminta mengumpul sampel dan mengenal pasti penumpang yang menunjukkan simptom bagi mengawal penyakit itu.

"Saringan termasuk pemeriksaan suhu akan dilakukan di semua pintu masuk antarabangsa," katanya kepada pemberita selepas majlis penyerahan Pusat Transformasi Perikanan (FTC) My

Komuniti Perikanan di Kampung Tepi Kolam Bukit Merah di sini pada Khamis.

Menurutnya, setakat ini tiada kes cacar monyet dilaporkan di negara ini dan KKM tidak pernah melindungi sebarang maklumat berkaitan virus berkenaan daripada pengetahuan rakyat selain menasihatkan rakyat yang demam dan mempunyai ruam di mulut supaya mendapat rawatan.

Virus cacar monyet atau *monkeypox* telah menyerang beberapa negara termasuk Kanada, Sepanyol, Portugal, Sweden, Perancis, Itali, Amerika Syarikat, Switzerland dan Austria manakala Pertubuhan Kesihatan Dunia (WHO) mengesahkan lebih 100 kes positif virus itu dilaporkan di seluruh dunia.

- Bernama

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 2

RUANGAN : NST POSTER



Deputy Health Minister Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali speaking at a press conference in Bagan Serai, Perak, yesterday. PIC BY SHAIFUL SHAHRIN AHMAD PAUZI

MONKEYPOX

GOVT TO STEP UP ENTRY POINT MONITORING

Screening tests will be conducted for all international arrivals, says deputy minister

SHAIFUL SHAHRIN AHMAD PAUZI
AND TEH ATHIRA YUSOF
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THE government will increase its monitoring at all international entrances to prevent the spread of monkeypox into the country.

Deputy Health Minister Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali said the Health Ministry's Disease Control Division had been asked to collect samples and identify passengers who showed symptoms to control the disease.

"Screening tests, including temperature checks, will be done for all international arrivals," he said.

"For the monkeypox virus, we are being more cautious at international entrances, such as the Kuala Lumpur International Airport.

"We will pay more attention to visitors from European countries or those that have confirmed cases and we will check their health and conduct screenings."

Dr Noor Azmi said this at the

handing over of My Fisheries Community's Fisheries Transformation Centre in Kampung Tepl Kolam, Bukit Merah, here yesterday.

He added that there were no recorded cases of monkeypox up to yesterday, and the ministry did not conceal any related information from the public.

Monkeypox has hit several countries, including Canada, Spain, Portugal, Sweden, France, Italy, the United States, Switzerland and Austria.

The World Health Organisation has confirmed more than 100 positive cases of the virus worldwide.

Meanwhile, a 3-year-old child, who had been previously suspected to have been infected with monkeypox, has been confirmed positive for the hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD) Coxsackie A6 virus.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, in a series of tweets yesterday, said a sample test was conducted on the child to confirm the results.

He said the toddler was brought to a government health clinic in Batu 14, Selangor, for examination after the toddler was displaying symptoms, including fever, since May 13.

"Three days after coming down with a fever, a rash appeared, which later turned into blisters on May 19 and began to rupture on May 21.

"The child is being monitored at Kuala Lumpur Hospital.

Two samples were taken and brought to the National Public Health Laboratory for testing over several types of viruses, including HFMD and smallpox.

"The test results confirmed that the boy was HFMD positive for the Coxsackie A6 virus (result), and (the patient tested) negative for monkeypox as well as other viruses," he said.

The Health Ministry said it had not received any report of monkeypox cases linked to adults or children in the country up to 5pm on Tuesday.

The ministry, in a post on its social media platforms on Wednesday, said it had not been notified of people infected with the monkeypox virus in the country.

The posting was accompanied by a photo of a child with lesions on her hands.

"We have not received notifications on such a case. If the photograph is real, we advise the next-of-kin to bring the child to the nearest government health-care facility immediately to facilitate checks and treatment."

The ministry also advised the public not to spread unverified news.

Page 1 pic: International travellers arriving at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Sepang yesterday.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES
MUKA SURAT : 3
RUANGAN : NATION/NEWS

OUTBREAK

ADULTS CAN GET HFMD TOO, SAYS EXPERT

'Some consider symptoms as common illnesses and don't isolate'

EKHWAN HAQUE FAZLUL HAQUE
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ADULTS are also at risk of contracting hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD) despite the fact that most of the cases involved children.

Universiti Kebangsaan

Malaysia's Faculty of Medicine community health expert Professor Dr Sharifa Ezat Wan Puteh said the HFMD outbreak has been considered as a pandemic and has been around the community at all times.

"If the transmissions are not controlled, children will not be the only ones easily infected, but adults as well," she said yesterday.

"There are adults who consider HFMD symptoms, such as fever, flu, cough and rash, as common



Professor Dr Sharifa Ezat Wan Puteh

illnesses that do not require specific treatment.

"This has led some of them to go out in public without realising they are carriers.

"They may also consider rashes on the hands, feet and mouth as a common skin infection, when it could be a HFMD infection."

Dr Sharifa said the sharp rise in HFMD infections over the past few weeks could persist if preventive measures were not taken.



The hand, foot and mouth disease outbreak has been considered as a pandemic and has been in the community at all times. FILE PIC

She said closing schools or isolating patients must be done to prevent the spread of the disease in the community.

"HFMD can also pose a threat to the heart, lungs, brain and the meninges of the brain, which can be fatal.

"The public should stay vigilant and take seriously the rising cases of the virus as there is no specific cure."

On Tuesday, Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the number of

HFMD cases in the country increased 20-fold, with 47,209 cases reported up to May 21, compared with only 2,237 cases during the same period last year.

Currently, Selangor had the highest number of HFMD cases.

The majority of the HFMD outbreak locations were nurseries, kindergartens and preschools with 711 cases, or 61 per cent of the total cases; followed by private homes with 407 cases, or 35 per cent; and, childcare centres with 42 cases, or three per cent.

COVID-19 UPDATES

1,137,100 kids fully immunised under PICKids

KUALA LUMPUR: The country has completed the immunisation of 1,137,100 children aged 5 to 11, or 32 per cent of the age group, under the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme for Children (PICKids) up to Wednesday.

The Health Ministry's Covid-Now portal reported that 1,687,515 children aged 5 to 11, or 47.5 per cent of the group, have received at least one dose of the Covid-19 vaccine.

For children aged 12 to 17, a total of 2,911,110 individuals, or 93.6 per cent, have completed their Covid-19 vaccination course, while 3,007,571, or 96.7 per cent, have received at least one dose of the vaccine.

As for the adult population, 16,087,068, or 68.4 per cent, have received their booster dose.

A total of 22,973,652 adults, or 97.6 per cent, have received two doses, and 23,249,948 people, or 98.8 per cent, have received at least one dose of the vaccine.



A boy receiving a dose of the Covid-19 vaccine at the Seberang Jaya Expo Site Vaccination Centre in Seberang Jaya, Penang, on Sunday. PIC BY DANIAL SAAD

Up to Wednesday, a total of 9,958 doses of the Covid-19 vaccine were dispensed daily.

The cumulative number of vaccines administered under the Covid-19 National Immunisation Programme in the country stood at 70,839,946 doses.

Malaysia also recorded a slight increase in Covid-19 daily cases

exceeding daily recoveries after three days.

Data from the CovidNow portal revealed that there were 2,430 new Covid-19 cases on Wednesday, compared with 2,192 recoveries on the same day.

On Tuesday, 2,124 people recovered from the virus, compared with 1,918 fresh cases.

Malaysia, on May 22 and 23, reported 3,389 and 2,905 recoveries, which outnumbered the 1,817 and 1,544 positive cases recorded on the same days, respectively.

Up to Wednesday, Selangor recorded the highest number of new cases at 1,272, followed by Kuala Lumpur at 366 cases and Penang at 119 cases.

The nation's cumulative number of Covid-19 cases stood at 4,460,097 since the pandemic struck in 2020, while total recoveries stood at 4,436,387.

Meanwhile, six deaths due to Covid-19, with no brought-in-dead cases were reported on Wednesday, bringing the death toll to 35,653.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 2

RUANGAN : NATION

MySejahtera updated to handle monkeypox infections

By **TARRENCE TAN**
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PETALING JAYA: From today onwards, travellers from countries with reported monkeypox cases will be given an alert on the MySejahtera app to monitor their health and symptoms for 21 days, says Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin.

"As of Friday, the MySejahtera app will be updated so that passengers coming from countries where monkeypox is endemic or isn't, will receive an alert," he said, adding that in the event of an outbreak, the

MySejahtera's Home Surveillance Order (HSO) SOP will be replicated.

While there hasn't been any monkeypox cases in Malaysia, he said these were precautionary measures to prevent an outbreak.

He said the Health Ministry will increase its diagnostic capabilities to screen monkeypox through the PCR test.

He also said public and private hospitals, as well as clinics, have been instructed by the Health Ministry to be ready in case monkeypox cases are detected.

Khairy also said that the Health Ministry is preparing vaccination

strategies for close contacts and health workers in the event of a monkeypox outbreak in Malaysia.

"We will vaccinate those with close contacts, and also health workers attending to patients with monkeypox."

"For now, there are no plans for mass vaccination," he told a virtual press conference on the sidelines of the World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland, yesterday.

Among the symptoms of monkeypox are acute rashes, fever, headache, swollen lymph nodes, muscle and body aches, back pain, and profound weakness.

Recently, monkeypox has been reported in France, Britain, Germany, the United Arab Emirates, and several countries within the African continent.

On hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD), Khairy said Selangor has the most cases, with 16,286 reported, followed by Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya (7,298), Perak (5,045), Kelantan (4,194) and Sabah (3,829).

Figures from January until May 25 this year showed most of the cases involved children below the age of six, where 52,846 cases were reported, while for children aged between seven and 12, there were

3,741 cases.

As at Wednesday, Khairy said only two children with HFMD required treatment at the intensive care unit (ICU) after contracting the enterovirus 71 (EV71) strain.

"The first child has gradually recovered, does not need respiratory aid and is being monitored at the ICU. The second child still needs respiratory aid but is in a stable condition."

Watch the video
TheStarTV.com



AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 10

RUANGAN : NATION

Dengue – the silent killer in our midst

By IYLIA MARSYA ISKANDAR
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PETALING JAYA: Dengue is a disease that should not be taken lightly as it can lead to severe complications and even worse, death.

Nur Alia, 32, thought she would lose her mother when she developed sepsis (blood infection which could cause organ damage) while hospitalised for 10 days due to haemorrhaging dengue.

Her mother's vital organs were also affected and that exacerbated other symptoms which led to brain fog and her losing some of her early memories.

Following the 2011 incident, her mother, then 57, was forced to quit her job as a part-time nurse and research assistant.

"When her memory loss was at its worst she was not able to recognise my sister," the writer said.

"I am truly grateful that she survived," she said, though her mother hasn't regained her early memories until today.

Nur Alia too was affected with haemorrhaging dengue at the same time but only had mild rashes.

Shedding light on the dangers of dengue is Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia professor of public health expert, Prof Dr Sharifa Ezat Wan Puteh who highlighted that 2.5% of severe dengue cases have led to fatality.

She explained that dengue can lead to other complications as it may weaken a patient's immune system making them prone to other bacterial infections and brain fog, especially those with underlying diseases.

For haemorrhaging dengue, it is more life threatening because patients can suddenly haemorrhage from their mouth or other places due to their low platelet count, she said.

Platelets are blood cells that help the blood clot. Low platelet counts will cause heavy bleeding.

Prof Dr Sharifa added that dengue has a high chance of recurring if a former patient is bitten by an Aedes mosquito again.

"Some former patients may have built a certain immunity level but some may not and they might be affected with severe symptoms."

"Dengue is a very tricky virus because it can mask itself as other diseases such as a fever and the only way to diagnose dengue is to be tested for it."

"The symptoms (headache, fever, joint pain, rashes) will be present between two and seven days and for mild cases, patients will recover within the week," she said.

However, according to her, there are no specific medications for dengue nor vaccines in Malaysia and for now doctors can only

treat its symptoms.

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 (May 8 to 14) with nine deaths compared to only 709 cases the week before.

AKHBAR : THE SUN

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS

Covid-19 SOP can indirectly prevent spread of HFMD: Paediatrician

KUALA LUMPUR: A week after celebrating Hari Raya Aidilfitri in her village in Pekan, Pahang, Nur (not her real name) realised that her youngest child Nur Natrah Thihani Azurun, two, started having high fever as well as blisters in the mouth, on the hands and feet.

A week later, Natrah's sister, Nur Naura, five, was also down with fever and developed mouth ulcers.

Stressed and worried about her children's condition, Nur took them for a check-up at a nearby private clinic and was informed by the doctor that they had been infected with the hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD).

"I was informed by the doctor that these are symptoms of HFMD affecting children in the country. I believe my children contracted the virus during our Hari Raya break in the village, which had several HFMD cases then," Nur related her experience recently.

Sunway Medical Centre Velocity paediatrician Dr Melanie Majaham said children should not have close contact with other individuals during open houses as HFMD can be transmitted through touching, kissing and holding.

"Avoid kissing or holding children. This is one way to prevent the spread of any type of virus or bacteria which can be transmitted through the saliva," she said, adding that personal hygiene practices such as washing hands using soap and hand sanitiser are keys

to containing the spread of HFMD.

She stressed that parents' awareness on the importance of observing the Covid-19 standard operating procedure (SOP) can indirectly prevent the spread of HFMD.

According to the Health Ministry (MoH), a total of 47,209 HFMD cases have been reported nationwide this year up to May 21.

Health Director-General Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, in a statement on Tuesday, pointed out that this was a 20-fold increase in cases compared with the first 20 epidemiological (Epi) week last year.

Only 2,237 cases of HFMD were recorded up to Epi week 20 of last year.

The MoH statement said of the 47,209 cases reported nationwide, Selangor recorded the highest number of cases with 13,640, accounting for 28.9% of all cases this year.

This was followed by Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya with 6,206 cases (13.1%), Perak with 4,099 cases (8.7%), Kelantan with 3,726 cases (7.9%) and Sabah with 3,352 cases (7.1%). The remaining states recorded less than 2,500 cases.

In terms of age groups, children aged six and below were the most prone to contracting the disease, with 43,736 cases (93%).

There were 2,765 (6%) of cases among those aged between seven and 12, and 708 cases (1%) among those older than 12. - Bernama

32% of children fully vaccinated

KUALA LUMPUR: A total of 1,137,100 or 32% of children aged five to 11 in the country have completed their vaccination under the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme for Children (PICKids) as of Wednesday.

According to the CovidNOW portal, 1,687,515 children or 47.5% of the group have received at least one dose of the vaccine.

For teenagers aged 12 to 17 years, 2,911,110 individuals or 93.6% have completed their vaccination while 3,007,571 or 96.7% of them

have received at least one dose of the vaccine, Bernama reported yesterday.

As for the adult population, 16,087,068 or 68.4% of the group have received their booster dose while 22,973,652 or 97.6% have completed two doses and 23,249,946 or 98.8% have received at least one dose.

The Health Ministry's GitHub portal reported that six Covid-19 deaths were recorded on Wednesday: three in Johor and one each in Sabah, Sarawak and Putrajaya.