

HFMD cases continue to rise, says Health DG

By Teh Athira Yusof - May 31, 2022 @ 1:21pm



The number of hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD) cases continues to rise this year up to 27-fold compared to 2021. - NSTP/HAZREEN MOHAMAD

KUALA LUMPUR: The number of hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD) cases continues to rise this year up to 27-fold compared to 2021.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said 65,535 cases were recorded in the country up to the 21st Epidemiology Week (EW) on May 28 compared to the 2,333 cases reported in the same period last year.

"The new cases, however, recorded a 1.2 fold increase when compared to 2019 in the same period before the Covid-19 pandemic began where a total 29,846 cases were reported.

"The HFMD cases reported in the 21EW saw an increase of 19.6 per cent or 18,602 cases when compared to 15,548 on 20EW," he said in a statement today.

To date, Dr Noor Hisham said Selangor contributed the highest number of HFMD cases at 18,525 or 28.27 per cent, followed by Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya at 8,088 cases, Perak at 5,810 cases, Kelantan with 4,905 cases and 4,077 cases in Sabah.

"A total 59,831 HFMD cases or 91 per cent were reported among children under the age of six, while the remaining seven per cent or 4,593 cases were children between seven to 12-years-old.

Dr Noor Hisham said a total 1,505 HFMD outbreaks were reported in the country, with Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya the highest at 502 followed by Selangor with 172 and Perak at 168.

"The majority of the outbreak incidents happened in nurseries; kindergartens and pre-schools at 61 per cent.

"Outbreaks were also reported at personal residences with 526 incidents or 35 per cent and day care centres with 51 cases or three per cent.

"Incidents are counted as outbreaks when two or more cases are reported in one locality and cases have epidemiology relations and infection occurred during the incubation period of HFMD.

Dr Noor Hisham said enterovirus surveillance found three main viruses, Coxsackie A16 (CA16), Coxsackie A6 (CA6) and Enterovirus 71 (EV71) causing the spread of HFMD among the community this year.

"To date, three HFMD cases have been admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU).

"The first and second cases in the ICU were experiencing complications identified as inflammation in the brain (encephalitis) and confirmed infected with EV71.

"The two cases are currently under close monitoring in the ICU.

"The third case was admitted to the ICU due to monitoring following abdominal surgery. The patient had been transferred to the regular surgical ward on May 27 for further monitoring," he said.

Until May 29, Dr Noor Hisham said 1,174 nurseries, kindergartens, and pre-schools shut operations.

"Of the total, 228 premises have shut their operations voluntarily and 946 premises were ordered to close under the Infectious Diseases Prevention and Control Act 1988.

"A total 715 premises have restarted operations after inspections by district health offices found that disinfection measures and other control and prevention measures have been implemented by the premises," he said.