

PRESS RELEASE

HAND-FOOT-MOUTH DISEASE

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TUESDAY 21th March 2006

I would like to touch on the following issues during this press conference

1. Statistics on Hand Foot and Mouth Disease (HFMD) as of 21/03/2006 at 10.00am:

Total cumulative reported cases : 5812

Divisions with the highest number of cumulative cases are as follows:

| | | |
|------------|---|------|
| 1. Sibul | - | 1954 |
| 2. Miri | - | 829 |
| 3. Bintulu | - | 786 |
| 4. Kuching | - | 724 |
| 5. Mukah | - | 481 |
| 6. Sarikei | - | 447 |

Total new reported cases : 188

Divisions with the highest number of new cases are as follows:

| | | |
|------------|---|----|
| 1. Mukah | - | 34 |
| 2. Kuching | - | 31 |
| 3. Sibul | - | 24 |
| 4. Sarikei | - | 23 |
| 5. Miri | - | 21 |
| 6. Bintulu | - | 15 |

Total number of cumulative admissions : 908

Divisions with the highest number of cumulative admission are as follows:

| | | |
|------------|---|-----|
| 1. Sibul | - | 380 |
| 2. Bintulu | - | 121 |
| 3. Miri | - | 77 |
| 4. Mukah | - | 67 |
| 5. Kapit | - | 62 |
| 6. Sarikei | - | 49 |

No. of new admission : 51

| | | |
|---------------------|---|---|
| 1. Kapit Hospital | - | 8 |
| 2. Serian Hospital | - | 7 |
| 3. Kuching Hospital | - | 5 |
| 4. Mukah Hospital | - | 4 |
| 5. Daro Hospital | - | 4 |

No. of HFMD patients still in the ward : 83

The hospital with the highest number of patients in the ward are :

| | | |
|---------------------|---|----|
| 1. Sibul Hospital | - | 18 |
| 2. Kapit Hospital | - | 13 |
| 3. Bintulu Hospital | - | 13 |
| 4. Kuching Hospital | - | 12 |
| 5. Sarikei Hospital | - | 12 |

Ill Case: 1

There is 1 case referred from Kapit to Sibul Hospital by MEDEVAC at 11.30 am yesterday. The child is stable and improving, however she is still under observation in ICU.

2. Active Surveillance and Screening at Primary Schools

The primary schools in Sarawak re-opened classes for primary four and six yesterday, 20th March 2006

Health teams had gone to the primary schools yesterday to screen the pupil from HFMD. Eight primary schools were found to have students with HFMD and these schools were closed for 2 weeks.

Thus I would like parents of primary schools children to check their school-going children for signs and symptoms of HFMD. If they think that their children might have HFMD, they should not send their children to school, but to bring them to see a doctor instead.

The next step I would like to request to be done is for teachers to check all the pupils first thing before starting classes in the morning. Any children suspected to have HFMD should be isolated from the class and their parents called immediately to bring the children to see doctors.

By doing this we can prevent HFMD from entering the schools. And if we can prevent HFMD from entering the schools then we need not close the schools.