

21/06/09 M/S 12

# Ministry studies possibility of school health screenings

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**PUTRAJAYA:** Health screenings will be imposed on schools if the influenza A (H1N1) threat there increases. Health Minister Datuk Deri Liow Tiong Lai said his officers and that of the Education Ministry were studying ways of administrating the process.

“I have directed the director-general of my ministry to identify preventive measures, including the likelihood of screening all teachers and students for early detection of the virus.

“The process, once implemented, will be thorough. However, there is no spread of the virus among schools now,” he said after launching the 10,000 Steps Campaign to Reduce Non-Communicable Diseases here yesterday.

Present were his deputy, Datuk Rosnah Rashid Shirlin, the ministry’s secretary-general, Datuk Seri Mohd Nasir Mohd Ashraf, and director-general Tan Sri Dr Mohd Ismail Merican.

Liow was earlier asked if the ministry would put in place the screening process in schools following the con-



**INFLUENZA A (H1N1)**

firmed case of an 11-year-old girl student from SRJK (Cina) in Jalan Davidson, Pudu, Kuala Lumpur.

He said there was no need to close the school unless the girl’s schoolmates were infected with the virus.

Meanwhile, the Education Ministry said it would leave it to the Health Ministry when it came to the H1N1 influenza involving school students, as it was the lead agency on the matter.

Deputy Education Minister Datuk Dr Wee Ka Siong said: “We will adhere to the instructions laid by the ministry as they are the authority when it comes to public health.”

He said schools would follow any instructions issued by the health authorities involving the influenza.

## WHAT ARE THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF THIS VIRUS IN PEOPLE?

The symptoms of H1N1 flu virus in people are similar to the symptoms of seasonal flu and include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. A significant number of people who have been infected with this virus also have reported diarrhoea and vomiting. Also, like seasonal flu, severe illnesses and death have occurred as a result of illness associated with this virus.

### In children, emergency warning signs that need urgent medical attention include:

- Fast breathing or trouble breathing
- Blueish or gray skin color
- Not drinking enough fluids
- Severe or persistent vomiting
- Not waking up or not interacting
- Being so irritable that the child does not want to be held
- Flu-like symptoms improve but then return with fever and worse cough

### In adults, emergency warning signs that need urgent medical attention include:

- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Pain or pressure in the chest or abdomen
- Sudden dizziness
- Confusion
- Severe or persistent vomiting
- Flu-like symptoms improve but then return with fever and worse cough

