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'Panic is good, it serves the purpose'

By Anith Adilah
anith@mmail.com.my

attitude," he said.

Dr Chong said in dealing with Zika, the vector control methods used by the ministry is similar to that used to combat dengue, which include fogging exercises and eliminating breeding ground of Aedes aegypti.

"For adult mosquitoes, we perform external and internal fogging activities which covers the 400m radius of a residential home, its compound and its interior.

"For larvae, we conduct source reduction

where we perform inspections and the process of eliminating breeding grounds," he said.

He said considering there was only one confirmed case of Zika in the country, the ministry has enough resources to fight the disease.

"The tools of the trade are similar to that used to prevent dengue and they have been in place for some time. So that covers up a huge chunk of what the ministry plans to do to combat Zika," he said.



PUTRAJAYA — The first confirmed Zika case in Malaysia, which made local and international headlines yesterday, is likely to spur 'a good kind' of panic among the public.

Health Ministry's disease control division director Dr Chong Chee Keong said the panic among the public on the virus will prompt them to not have a nonchalant attitude in tackling the problem.

"It is good for them to have a sense of panic at this point. This will prompt them to take proactive measures to combat the virus, unlike the apathy shown towards dengue.

"The public is knowledgeable about dengue. They know what to do to eliminate breeding grounds but somehow it never translates into action. Maybe it is apathy.

When you talk about patients, yes it is 100 per cent our responsibility but you

Zika

The structure of the Zika virus and the symptoms caused are similar to dengue



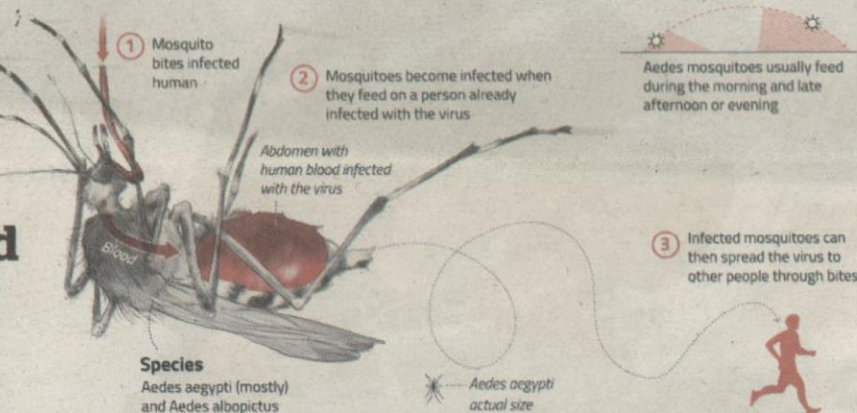
Zika virus

Transmission

The Zika virus is transmitted by Aedes mosquitoes — the same mosquitoes that transmit dengue, chikungunya and yellow fever

Zika's explosive spread

The World Health Organization (WHO) has sounded the alarm over the Zika virus, saying that it is "spreading explosively" in the Americas and that as many as 4 million people could be infected by the end of the year. Already there are signs that the deadly virus is making its way to Europe and Asia due to increased frequency of air travel. TODAY looks at how the virus is carried by mosquitoes, its symptoms and the birth defects it could cause.



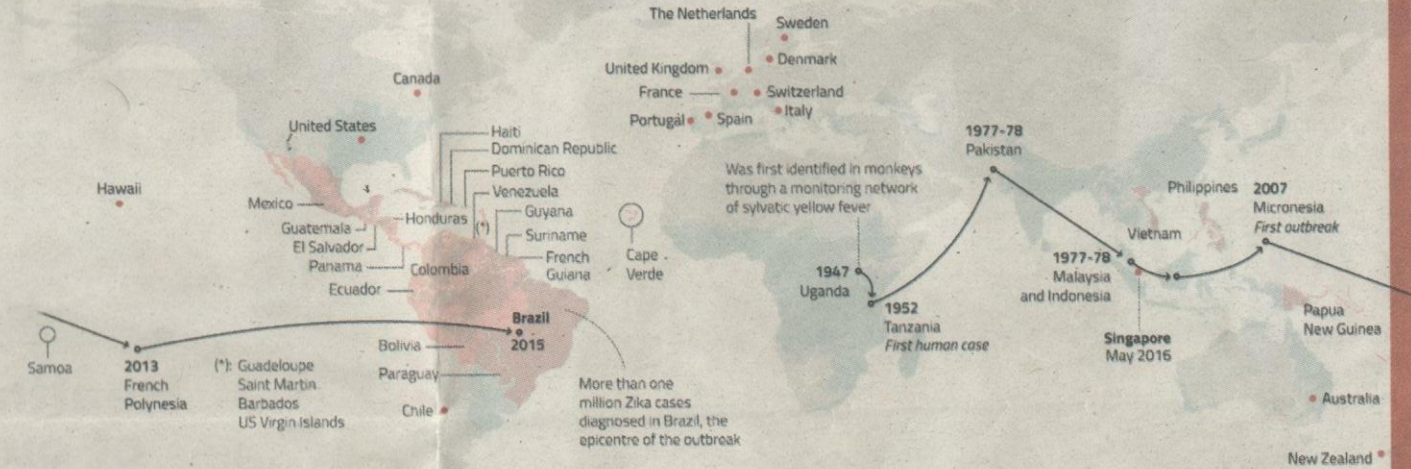
have a role to play as you are very much a part of the solution. Get rid of the couldn't-care-less attitude."

— Dr Chong Chee Keong

How the virus is disseminated

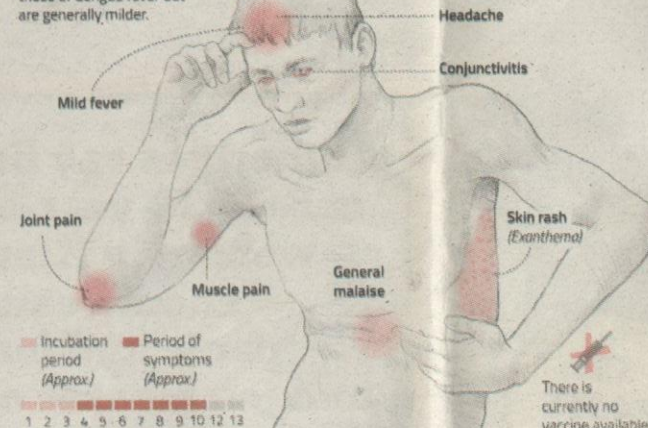
The Zika virus is primarily spread to people through mosquito bites. It is also believed to pass from mother to child. There has been reports of the possible spread of the virus through blood transfusion and through sexual contact.

→ Zika virus spread since 1947 Countries with active transmission of Zika virus Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus mosquito distribution areas Imported cases from Brazil



Symptoms

Zika symptoms are similar to those of dengue fever but are generally milder.

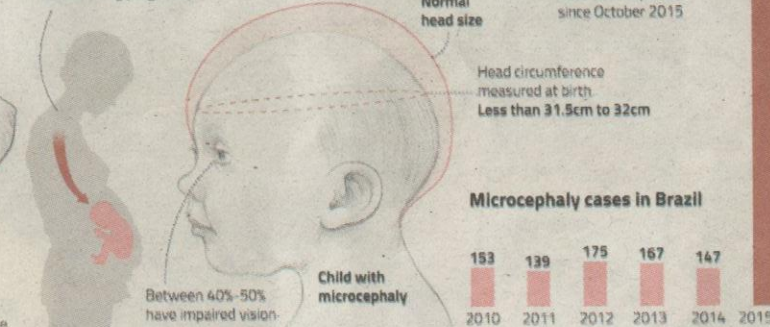


There is currently no vaccine available

The microcephaly and Zika virus link

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has confirmed that there is no doubt that Zika causes microcephaly (incomplete brain development resulting in an abnormally small head).

It is believed that the Zika virus can be passed from a mother to her foetus during pregnancy



Sources: WHO, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Brazil Ministry of Health, BBC

WHAT IS THE ZIKA VIRUS?

It is a mosquito transmitted infection related to dengue, yellow fever and West Nile virus.