

TRAFFIC MATTERS

● Partial road closure at Persiaran Bandaraya at Dataran Kemerdekaan from Aug 1 to 5, from 6am to 5pm, in conjunction with the 3W (Wellness, Welfare and Women) Carnival and Shah Alam Car Free Day. For enquiries, call 03-5522 2734.

● A temporary closure at U-turn on KM40.4 of the Shah Alam Highway near the Sunway toll plaza from Aug 10 to Nov 9. The closure is to facilitate the construction of a new elevated U-turn in the area. For details visit www.ksesas.com.my

REWARD FOR PAYING TAX

Shah Alam City Council is rewarding those who pay their assessment tax early through the 'SnapNPay' mobile application. Customers can stand a chance to win smartphones during the campaign period from July 1 to Aug 31. For details call 03-5510 5133 ext 1203/1295/1522.

UTAR OPEN DAY

Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman will have career talks, career guidance workshops, academic counselling and guided campus tours for school leavers and parents at its campuses in Sungai Long, Selangor and Kampar, Perak. The open day will be held from Aug 24 to 25, and from Sept 14 to 15. Admission is free. For details, call 05-468 8888 or 03-9086 0288 or WhatsApp 016-2233557.

SCHOOL REUNION

The Old Girls' Association of Treacher Methodist Girls School is organising a dinner to mark the school's 130th anniversary at Hotel Taiping Perdana on Sept 14. For details and tickets, call 012-517 8353 or 016-558 6296.

HEALTH TALK

The National Diabetes Institute will have a talk titled 'How To Manage Diabetes on Sick Day?' on Aug 24, from 2pm to 3.30pm, at D' Centers in Bandar Botanic, Klang. Admission is free. For details call 03-33194100/



Khalvin Alfred, Hamdan Mat Dahari and Fadzli Azimudin from the Petaling Jaya City Council Health and Environmental Services Department showing a close-up of a mosquito trap. — Photos: Filepic

By STARMETRO TEAM
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THE increase in dengue cases nationwide in the first half of the year is at an alarming number.

At the end of July, there were 75,913 cases with 111 fatalities against 40,320 cases with 66 deaths during the same period last year.

More than half of all dengue cases was recorded in Selangor with 42,700 cases including 36 deaths.

Petaling Jaya has seen a significant spike with an almost 300% increase in cases.

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PJ records 300% dengue increase

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Selangor authorities worried as more than half of nationwide cases have occurred in the state

SELF-DEFENCE CLASSES

Women aged 18 and above can learn self-defence for free organised by SheFights. Classes will be conducted at Ruang by Think City in Jalan Hang Kasturi, Kuala Lumpur on Aug 10 from 3.30pm to 5.30pm. For details, call 013-747 9527 (Benny).

HUMANITARIAN EVENT

Mercy Malaysia is organising a conference to discuss current humanitarian action trends and implications. The conference will take place at Sunway University, Petaling Jaya, from Aug 5 to 7, from 7am and 4pm. For details, visit www.mmihc2019.com or email mmihc2019@mercy.org.my.

EASY MBPJ PAYMENT

Petaling Jaya City Council (MBPJ) will set up its EZ-Pay mobile counter for payment of taxes and compounds throughout this month. Counters will be opened in several locations from 10am to 3pm. For details, call 03-7956 3544.

LEARNING FESTIVAL

Sentul Festival by Dignity for Children Foundation celebrates art, culture, health, wellness and learning. The festival will be held at Sentul Boulevard from 11am to 7pm over two weekends, Aug 10 to 11 and Aug 17 to 18. For details, visit www.sentulfestival.com

HEALTH TALK

D'Happy Club is organising a talk titled 'The Diabetes Cure' on Aug 23 at 10am. It will be held at 124, SS2/6, Petaling Jaya. Admission is free. For details call Christopher at 012-323 0560

Up to 29, there were 4,349 cases compared to only 1,572 last year. No deaths were recorded this year.

Bukit Gasing assemblyman Rajiv Rishyakaran said he has five mosquito magnets which he loans to neighbourhoods in his constituency when there is a dengue outbreak.

"This magnet functions like a vacuum cleaner. It emits carbon dioxide which attracts mosquitoes. We could easily trap thousands of mosquitoes at one go and this method has proven effective.

"I loan it to neighbourhoods with new outbreaks and it helps reduce cases and from being a dengue hotspot area."

Ampang Jaya Municipal Council president Datuk Abdul Hamid Hussain said 3,055 cases were reported as of July 25 with four deaths.

The weather, he said, was one of the factors contributing to the rise in dengue cases.

"We also found out that there is a new breed of mosquitoes that are more resistant to the chemicals used in fogging."

Kajang Municipal Council (MPKj) recorded 6,021 cases with eight deaths at Week 29.

"The Hulu Langat district ranks third highest in Selangor, with 8,220 accumulated cases involving 12 deaths as of Week 29," said MPKj president Datuk Rosli Othman.

This marks a 236.4% increase compared to the same period last year with 3,477 cases.

Following its listing in the Malaysia Book of Records for its kindergarten syllabus on dengue



Banners at dengue outbreak areas are a common sight in many parts of the Klang Valley.

prevention, the Sepang Municipal Council (MPSepang) will introduce a similar programme for primary school pupils.

Launched in 2017, MPSepang Health and Environment Department director Kuzaini Hamidon said the Taska Free Aedes syllabus has reached 128 kindergartens.

Sepang District Health Office vector unit head Dr Hirman

Mohamed said as of Week 29, the district recorded 1,662 cases.

Those aged between 20 and 39 are the most to be infected with dengue from January to July 27 this year in Klang.

Klang Municipal Council (MPK) Health Department director Azmi Muji said until July 27, there were 8,636 cases, an increase of 2,518 cases.

"Of the number, 5,440 were

youths," he said.

Azmi said those aged between 19 and 24 leave for college or university early in the morning.

Others below 39 years are those leaving for work at 6am when they are likely to be more exposed to mosquitoes.

In Shah Alam, the numbers dropped slightly this year.

Until June a total 7,222 cases were recorded while it was 7,700



An MPS worker conducting larvaciding at a neighbourhood.



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MPS Health Department personnel fogging a neighbourhood.



In response to the dengue rise, residents in Subang Jaya had a gotong-royong to clean up their neighbourhood.



An MPKj search-and-destroy programme in progress.

cases last year. "Although there was a 12% drop in cases, there have been four deaths as of July," said Shah Alam City Council corporate communications head Shahrin Ahmad.

Selayang Municipal Council (MPS) Corporate Communications Department deputy director Ahmad Fauzi Ishak said two deaths were reported so far in Bandar Tasik Puteri in Rawang and Kampung Kerdas in Gombak.

In the Subang Jaya municipality, 5,831 dengue cases have been recorded until July 27.

In Kuala Lumpur, there has been an increase of 142%.

As of July 31 last year there were 3,608 cases but 8,748 cases recorded this year.

Also, four deaths were recorded this year and 11 last year.

Some 113 hotspots were identified too.

The more serious areas were Desa Pasifik near the KL-Ampang border and Pelangi Indah condominium, off Jalan Sultan Azlan Shah.

The dengue outbreak lasted for 79 days in Desa Pasifik with 91 cases while the outbreak at

Pelangi Indah condominium was prolonged over 77 days where 20 cases were reported.

Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) Health Department senior deputy director Umi Ahmad said unattended land which were turned into illegal rubbish dumping grounds were common mosquito breeding sites.

Up north and down south

Perak has recorded a 4.3% increase in dengue cases.

Based on the state Health Department website, 1,813 cases were recorded as of July 20 this year with three deaths, while last year there were 1,739 cases with also three deaths.

The report said Taman Semaraki in Taiping was categorised as an uncontrolled outbreak and various measures have been taken to contain it.

Dengue cases in Negri Sembilan in the first seven months of this year have increased by almost 80% with 1,404 cases and seven deaths.

State health director Datuk Dr Zainuddin Mohd Ali said 785 cases

with two deaths were reported during the corresponding period last year.

Despite the increase, in recent weeks, it has been on a decline.

Dr Zainuddin said 34 cases were reported in Week 30 of this year as against 43 in Week 29 and 59 in Week 28.

On a positive note, Melaka recorded zero dengue cases since last week.

State Health and Anti-Drug Committee chairman Low Chee Leong said 16,000 male mosquitoes were released last month to destroy the *Aedes Aegypti* species.

"We used to get one case daily during peak periods. We thank these 'Romeo' mosquitoes for doing their job although it is still too early to gauge the success of the sterile insect technique (SIT)."

Low said before SIT, Kota Laksamana was one of the areas with a high number of dengue cases.

"Sterile males were released at the Kota Laksamana Apartment area in Phase I. A total of 65,000 male mosquitoes would be freed in stages to mate with females to reduce the population."

Dengue cases and deaths until week 30, July 27 in Malaysia



States	Cases	
	2018	2019
Selangor	22,918 (18)	42,700 (36)
Kuala Lumpur/ Putrajaya	3,698 (6)	9,369 (6)
Johor	3,252 (9)	6,373 (17)
Penang	2,695 (3)	3,258 (8)
Sabah	1845 (15)	3,050 (15)
Kelantan	590 (1)	2,549 (3)
Perak	1782 (4)	1,903 (4)
Negri Sembilan	785 (2)	1,404 (7)
Melaka	326 (0)	1,264 (5)
Kedah	1180 (3)	1,158 (4)
Pahang	531 (2)	1,119 (4)
Sarawak	307 (1)	1,118 (1)
Terengganu	186 (2)	384 (1)
Perlis	157 (0)	238 (0)
Labuan	68 (0)	26 (0)
Total	40,320 (66)	75,913 (111)

Note: () number of deaths

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