

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 21

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Jangkitan virus polio selepas 27 tahun

Putrajaya: Kementerian Kesihatan mengesahkan seorang bayi lelaki berumur tiga bulan dari Tuaran, Sabah, dijangkiti virus polio yang menjadi kes pertama selepas 27 tahun Malaysia bebas daripada penyakit itu.

Ketua Pengarahnya, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata mangsa didapati mengalami demam diikuti lemah anggota badan serta dimasukkan ke Unit Rawatan Rapi selepas disahkan dijangkiti *vaccine-derived poliovirus type 1* (VDPV1), Jumaat lalu.

Beliau berkata, bayi itu kini dirawat di wad isolasi dan berada dalam keadaan stabil, namun masih memerlukan bantuan pernafasan.

"Hasil ujian pengesahan dijalankan Makmal Polio Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO) di Australia, mendapati virus terabit ada perkaitan genetik dengan vi-

rus polio dikesan pada kes *Acute Flaccid Paralysis* (AFP) di Filipina. VDPV1 ini diklasifikasikan sebagai *circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 1* (cVDPV1).

"Penyakit ini berasal daripada virus polio yang dilemahkan dalam vaksin diberi secara oral (OPV) sebelum virus dilemahkan ini dikumuhkan oleh badan melalui najis.

"Dalam persekitaran tidak sanitari, ia boleh menjangkiti orang lain yang tiada imuniti terhadap polio dan terus tersebar dalam komuniti yang liputan imunisasi polio kurang daripada 95 peratus," katanya dalam satu kenyataan, semalam.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, semakin lama virus itu tersebar dalam komuniti terabit, ia mengalami mutasi genetik sehingga menjadi virus yang kembali aktif.

"Virus ini dipanggil *vaccine-de-*

rived poliovirus (VDPV) dan boleh menyebabkan poliomyelitis. Namun, mereka yang divaksinasi dengan vaksin poliomyelitis, akan mendapat perlindungan daripada jangkitan penyakit itu," katanya.

Beliau berkata, setakat Khamis lalu, hasil siasatan di kawasan tempat tinggal mangsa, mendapati 23 daripada 199 orang (11.6 peratus) berusia antara dua bulan hingga 15 tahun, tidak menerima vaksin polio.

Katanya, ia satu keadaan yang sangat merunsingkan kerana penularan jangkitan cVDPV hanya boleh ditamatkan dengan imunisasi polio.

"Hasil penerangan mengenai kepentingan imunisasi bagi mencegah jangkitan polio, ibu bapa semua kanak-kanak terabit bersetuju untuk diberikan vaksin polio.

"Aktiviti pencarian kes AFP, proksi kepada poliomyelitis di ka-

wasan tempat tinggal kanak-kanak itu juga dijalankan.

"Hingga Khamis lalu, 646 orang diperiksa dan tiada orang bergejala AFP dikesan. Siasatan masih diteruskan di kawasan terabit, termasuk pengambilan sampel najis daripada kontak rapat kanak-kanak itu serta sampel persekitaran bagi pengesanan virus polio," katanya.

Beliau berkata, aktiviti pemberian imunisasi polio akan diteruskan di kawasan tempat tinggal kes dan diperluaskan ke kawasan lain yang berisiko.

"Ia bagi memastikan virus polio yang dikesan ini tidak terus menular di Malaysia dan menyebabkan poliomyelitis dalam kalangan mereka yang tiada imuniti terhadap jangkitan polio.

"Ia bagi memastikan liputan imunisasi polio yang tinggi, iaitu melebihi 95 peratus," katanya.



Semakin lama virus itu tersebar dalam komuniti terabit, ia mengalami mutasi genetik sehingga menjadi virus yang kembali aktif.

Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah,
Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 14

RUANGAN : LOKAL

Polio kembali selepas 27 tahun

Bayi lelaki berusia tiga bulan dari Tuaran, Sabah dijangkiti virus



DR Noor Hisham

Oleh Siti A'isyah
Sukaيمي
sitiaisyah@hmetro.com.my

Putrajaya

Selepas 27 tahun Malaysia bebas daripada polio, satu kes disahkan dijangkiti virus memabitkan seorang bayi lelaki warga negara ini berusia tiga bulan dari Tuaran, Sabah.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, bayi terabit mengalami demam diikuti lemah anggota badan dan dimasukkan ke Unit Rawatan Rapi di hospital serta disahkan dijangkiti *vaccine-derived poliovirus type 1 (VDPV1)* pada 6 Disember lalu.

"Hasil ujian pengesahan dijalankan Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO) Makmal Serantau Polio di

Australia, virus itu mempunyai perkaitan genetik dengan virus polio yang dikenan pada kes *Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP)* di Filipina.

"Seterusnya, *vaccine-derived poliovirus type 1* ini diklasifikasikan sebagai *circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 1 (cVDPV 1)*," katanya dalam satu kenyataan, semalam. Beliau

berkata, bayi itu dirawat di wad isolasi dan stabil, tetapi memerlukan bantuan pernafasan.

"Memandangkan pesakit memerlukan rawatan rapi, orang ramai dan media dipohon untuk tidak mengganggu waris atau pe-

tugas kesihatan di hospital dalam menjalankan tugas memberi rawatan ke-

pada pesakit.

"*Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus (cVDPV)* berasal daripada virus polio yang dilemahkan di dalam vaksin polio yang diberi secara oral (*Oral Polio Vaccine-OPV*). Virus yang dilemahkan ini dikumuhkan oleh badan melalui najis.

"Dalam persekitaran yang tidak sanitari, ia boleh menjangkiti orang lain yang tiada imuniti terhadap polio dan tersebar dalam komuniti yang liputan imunisasi polio kurang daripada 95 peratus," katanya.

Mangsa dirawat di wad isolasi dan stabil, tetapi perlu bantuan pernafasan

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 12

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Bayi berusia tiga bulan dijangkiti virus polio

KUALA LUMPUR - Setelah 27 tahun Malaysia bebas daripada virus polio, Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) semalam memaklumkan seorang bayi lelaki berumur tiga bulan dari Tuaran, Sabah disahkan dijangkiti penyakit tersebut.

Ketua Pengarahnya, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, bayi itu mengalami demam, lemah anggota badan dan dimasukkan ke unit rawatan rapi di hospital sebelum disahkan dijangkiti vaccine-derived poliovirus type 1 (VDPV1) pada Jumaat lalu.

Menurutnya, bayi berkenaan masih dirawat di wad isolasi dan berada dalam keadaan stabil tetapi memerlukan bantuan pernafasan.

"Hasil ujian oleh World Health Organization (WHO)



DR NOOR HISHAM

Polio Regional Laboratory di Australia, virus itu ada perkaitan genetik dengan virus polio pada kes Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) di Filipina," katanya dalam satu kenyataan di sini semalam.

Katanya, virus itu dikumuhkan badan melalui najis dalam persekitaran yang tidak bersih dan boleh menjangkiti orang lain yang tiada

imuniti terhadap polio serta tersebar dengan liputan imunisasi kurang 95 peratus.

"Semakin lama tersebar, ia mengalami mutasi hingga menjadi aktif dikenali sebagai vaccine-derived poliovirus (VDPV) dan menyebabkan poliomyelitis.

"Mereka yang divaksinasi poliomyelitis akan mendapat perlindungan daripada jangkitan," katanya.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, hasil siasatan di kawasan tempat tinggal mangsa di Sabah itu mendapati seramai 23 daripada 199 orang berumur antara dua bulan hingga 15 tahun tidak menerima vaksin polio.

Katanya, KKM melalui semua Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah dan fasiliti kesihatan perlu memantau AFP di semua fasiliti. - *Bernama*

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : NATION/NEWS

RE-EMERGING DISEASE

POLIO MAKES A COMEBACK

After 27 years, polio virus detected in 3-month-old baby in Tuaran last Friday

VEENA BABULAL
KUALA LUMPUR
news@nst.com.my

AFTER an almost 30-year absence, the dreaded polio disease has made a comeback in Malaysia.

The Health Ministry said the country's first polio case in 27 years was detected in a 3-month-old boy from Tuaran, Sabah, last Friday.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the infant was admitted to a hospital's intensive care unit after experiencing high fever.

"The patient was later confirmed as being infected with vaccine-derived poliovirus type 1 (VDPV1) on Friday."

He said lab tests by the World Health Organisation's Polio Re-

gional Laboratory in Australia showed that the virus had a genetic affiliation with a polio virus that was traced in an Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) case in the Philippines.

In September, the Philippines declared an outbreak of polio, caused by VDPV1.

Dr Noor Hisham said the baby was being treated at the isolation ward and was stable.

"Seeing that the patient is in need of intensive treatment, we ask the media and public to refrain from disturbing the patient's family members, or medical personnel who are providing treatment to the patient."

Dr Noor Hisham did not name the medical facility where the patient was warded.

He said VDPV1 was classified as a circulating vaccine-derived po-

liovirus type 1 (cVDPV1).

cVDPV1, he said, originated from the polio virus that had been weakened by the polio vaccine, administered orally.

He said this weakened virus was digested into the body via faecal matter.

"In an unsanitary environment, it can infect others who have no polio immunity and can spread within communities where the immunisation rate is under 95 per cent.

"The more it spreads within the community, the more it genetically mutates until it becomes an active virus again."

This virus, he said, was known as vaccine-derived poliovirus (VDPV) and could lead to poliomyelitis, the official medical term for polio.

Polio or poliomyelitis is a crippling and potentially deadly infectious disease. The virus spreads from person to person and can invade an infected person's brain and spinal cord, caus-

ing paralysis.

"However, those who have been vaccinated for poliomyelitis are protected from infection," Dr Noor Hisham said.

He said as at Dec 5, checks at the patient's residential area in Sabah showed that 23 out of 199 people, aged between 2 months and 15, or 11.6 per cent, had not been vaccinated for polio.

"This is a cause for concern as the spread of cVDPV infections can be contained only with polio immunisation. After a briefing session on the importance of the vaccination, all parents of the children concerned agreed to the vaccination."

Dr Noor Hisham said the ministry had conducted checks in the same residential area for cases of AFP.

As at Dec 5, 646 people were checked, with no traces of AFP detected. Investigations are being carried out in the area, including taking faecal samples from those who came into con-



Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah

tact with the patient. Samples, he said, were also taken from the area's surroundings.

Dr Noor Hisham said the ministry would continue its vaccination exercise in the area and other at-risk areas to ensure that the immunisation rate was above 95 per cent.

Malaysia's last recorded polio case was in 1992 before it was declared polio-free in 2000. This was widely attributed to the government's National Immunisation Programme, which began in 1972 and is still running today.

The programme was bolstered by switching the vaccine delivery method from oral to injections in 2008, which was done to prevent the risk of cVDPV development.

Ministry keeping a close watch on Sabah, says Lee

KUALA LUMPUR: The Health Ministry has been on high alert since a polio outbreak resurfaced in the Philippines 2½ months ago.

Deputy Health Minister Dr Lee Boon Chye said the ministry has been keeping a close watch, especially on Sabah, which shared porous borders with the Philippines, where eight polio cases had been detected since September.

On Friday, Malaysia recorded its first polio case in 27 years.

The infection was detected in a 3-month-old boy in Tuaran, Sabah.

Dr Lee said the ministry was heightening its vaccination drive to cover the victim's residential area and other at-risk areas in the state.

Asked whether areas that posed a risk would be put under lockdown until the risks were managed, Lee declined to elaborate.

"With polio, we are dealing with two situations.

"The immunisation rate of the locals are above the desired level, while the levels of those moving about from the Philippines and other countries into Sabah are a different issue."

Meanwhile, Sharmila Sekaran, who is chairman of non-governmental organisation Voice of the Children, said it was disturbing to



Dr Lee Boon Chye



Sharmila Sekaran

note that the disease was similar to the outbreak in the Philippines.

"The authorities must take steps to contain the disease by issuing a quarantine of sorts so that the virus does not spread with the movement of people from village to village.



The Health Ministry is stepping up its vaccination drive to cover the patient's residential area and other at-risk areas in Sabah. FREEPIK PIC

"This could even end up in the peninsula."

She urged the authorities to intensify their awareness and inoculation drives.

Sharmila said the role of doctors, general practitioners and paediatricians involved in checking the Malaysian victim should also be determined.

This, she said, was to ensure that other children were not vulnerable due to any factor, as well as to mitigate risks in the future.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 2

RUANGAN : NATION

Boy confirmed to be first polio case in M'sia in 27 years

PETALING JAYA: A three-month-old Malaysian boy is suffering from polio, the first case in the country since it was declared polio-free almost two decades ago.

The baby in Tuaran, Sabah, is now being treated at an isolation ward of a hospital after experiencing fever and weakness of the limbs.

He is in stable condition but in need of respiratory support.

The last polio case in Malaysia occurred in 1992. In 2000, the country was declared polio-free.

In a statement yesterday, the Health Ministry confirmed the polio case, the first in Malaysia in 27 years.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the child was confirmed infected with the vaccine-derived poliovirus type

1 (VDPV1) on Dec 6.

It is classified as a circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus (cVDPV) type 1.

"The cVDPV originates from a poliovirus that has been weakened in the polio vaccine which is administered orally.

"The weakened virus is later excreted from the body through the faeces.

"However, in an unsanitary environment, the virus can infect others who have not been immunised against polio and will spread in communities whose polio immunisation rates are less than 95%.

"The longer the virus spreads in the community, it will undergo genetic mutation until it once again becomes an active virus," he added.

Those who have been vaccinated, however, would be protected from infection, he said.

Dr Noor Hashim said investigations into the living area of the polio-infected child in Sabah found that 23 out of 199 people aged between two months and 15 did not receive the polio vaccine.

"This is a frustrating situation because the circulation of a cVDPV can only end with polio immunisation.

"After explaining the importance of polio immunisation, the parents of all such children have agreed to have them vaccinated," he said.

He said surveillance for acute flaccid paralysis (AFP), which is a clinical syndrome characterised by weakness of the muscles of respiration and swallowing, would be

conducted in the area.

"As of Dec 5, as many as 646 people have been checked and symptoms of AFP have not been detected.

"To ensure that the polio virus does not continue to spread in Malaysia and infect those who are not immunised, vaccinations will be continued in the living area of this case and will be expanded to other risk areas," he added.

Test results of the latest case, he said, showed that the virus had genetic links to the poliovirus that was detected in the recent outbreak in the Philippines.

(In September, the Philippines declared an outbreak of polio, caused by VDPV.)

Dr Noor Hisham urged the public to immediately seek treatment if they have AFP symptoms or to

inform the ministry if they know of other cases who do not have treatment.

"The success in eradicating the disease previously was due to prevention efforts through the polio vaccination which was introduced in the National Immunisation Programme in 1972.

"The programme was made even more effective when the vaccine was changed from being administered orally to being administered through injection," he said.

Polio, or poliomyelitis, is a potentially deadly infectious disease caused by the poliovirus.

It can cause paralysis by invading a person's brain and spinal cord.

The disease has no cure and can only be prevented through vaccination.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : NATION

Bosses worry over fee deregulation

MEF says move to allow doctors to fix their fees will cost employers more

By CLARISSA CHUNG
clarissachung@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: Employers are concerned about possibly having to fork out higher medical fees for their workers.

This comes following the Health Ministry's announcement to allow private clinics and hospitals to fix their own consultation fees.

Malaysian Employers Federation (MEF) executive director Datuk Shamsuddin Bardan said that having such fees open to market forces presented a challenge to companies covering medical costs of their workers.

He said the average cost of outpatient treatment borne by employers amounted to more than RM4,000 per worker yearly.

With about eight million employ-

... without a proper mechanism to regulate such fees, the sky is the limit.

Datuk Shamsuddin Bardan

ees in the private sector, he said the cost of outpatient treatment could be a hefty sum for companies.

"Some employers also take up insurance even for outpatient treatment. Following the deregulation, the insurance providers may also increase their premiums."

Shamsuddin said the deregulation move came as "shocking news".

The MEF, he said, had previously been involved in discussions on reviewing the fee structure and that it had expected the government to adjust the rates.

Thus, it was a surprise that the government had instead opted to allow doctors to set their own consultation fees.

"Having the fees open to market forces may, in theory, lower the charges but without a mechanism to regulate such fees, the sky is the limit."

Employers, he said, might also have to face more administrative work in trying to compare consultation fees between different healthcare facilities.

However, Association of Private Hospitals of Malaysia president Datuk Dr Kuljit Singh said that hospitals would charge affordable con-

sultation rates.

"All private hospitals will try to make sure the cost is as low as possible to be competitive. The bills patients see are inclusive of cross-subsidies to other hidden costs of private hospitals," he said.

Welcoming the government's decision, he said: "It's a good move which doctors have requested for years."

He also said that increases in healthcare costs were something that the country "cannot run away from".

"The best way forward is for the government to set up a national healthcare financing system which will ease the burden of the government and enable citizens to take charge of their health from the time they earn their first ringgit," he said.

On Dec 6, the ministry announced

the fee deregulation but no time frame was set about the starting date.

GPs in private clinics charge consultation fees of between RM10 and RM35 now. These have not been revised since 1992.

Association of Specialists in Private Medical Practice Malaysia president Datuk Dr Balwant Singh Gendeh assured Malaysians that the lifting of the fees schedule would not lead to a cost escalation.

"The present schedules are low and below the normal range in developed and developing countries," he said.

He said patients should check with the clinic about the fees.

"Obviously, the charges will vary from town to the city, and from specialist to specialist depending on the expertise and experience," he said.