

# Mosquitoes breeding in loo cisterns

MPK wants schools to clean up their compound by March 26

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KLANG schools are on alert for dengue cases after 230 students were down with the fever in the first two months of the year.

The students, aged between 10 and 19, are believed to have contracted dengue from one main Aedes mosquito breeding ground – the toilets at school.

Klang Municipal Council (MPK) Health Department director Azmi Muji said Aedes mosquito larvae was found in toilet cisterns and places with stagnant water.

“Cisterns with broken or missing lids with little water were found with Aedes larvae at certain schools. We are worried the cases involving children and teenagers.

“Our environmental health officers specialised in vector-borne diseases have inspected primary, secondary and upper secondary schools to ask students to identify and remove potential breeding sites and to educate them on Aedes mosquitoes,” he said.

Azmi added that in January there were 94 cases and the figure increased to 136 cases last month.

“Clearing up the vector breeding sites is the mainstay for dengue fever control. Our health officers gave out abate sachets to schools for effective elimination of vector breeding sites,” he said.

Azmi confirmed that there have been 1,047 dengue fever cases recorded from Jan 1 to Feb 28.

“Our health officers are visiting two schools a week and in a month at least 10 schools are checked,” he said.

He added that MPK was worried with the coming school holidays from March 17 to 25 as water will remain stagnant in the cisterns.

“Students and teachers will be on leave and toilets will not be flushed. Water in toilet bowls, cisterns and pails will become breeding spots for mosquitoes.

“We will send out a circular to all headmasters to clean up their school compounds before school reopens on March 26,” he said.

Azmi also informed schools that do not have abate to substitute it with rough salt.

Klang MCA Public Complaints and Services bureau deputy chief Datuk Tan Bok Koon urged MPK to increase insecticide fumigation and send officers to inspect locations where mosquitoes might breed during the school holidays.

Last month MPK visited SM Klang Utama, SM Methodist ACS, SM Methodist Girls, SM Bandar Sultan Sulaiman and SM Telok Gadong, and briefed about 300 students on the dengue scourge.

“We want them to use repellents as a safeguard against dengue,” he said.

MPK corporate communications director Norfiza Mahfiz said the people’s initiative, known as the



Azmi says in the first two months of this year 230 cases of dengue fever were recorded in schools in Klang.



(Above and below) Students at various schools in Klang are being taught to identify potential breeding sites of Aedes mosquitoes, such as flower pots, and to eliminate them.

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Azmi Muji

Community Free of Aedes, 10-Minutes (KOBA-10) where people were encouraged to spend 10 minutes a week to clean up their surroundings was much needed.

“KOBA-10 is a community-based approach to identify ways to reduce dengue cases in residential areas. It is crucial to have community support to stop the chain of dengue transmission,” she said, adding that fighting dengue could not be done by MPK alone.

“The World Health Organisation has endorsed the source reduction approach, which encompasses preventive methods, public education and community involvement,” she said.

She said concerted efforts could reduce the number of breeding grounds.

Classic symptoms of dengue fever are high fever, headache, body ache (both muscle and bone), weakness, vomiting, sore throat, altered taste sensation and a centrifugal maculopapular rash.



**TRAFFIC ANNOUNCEMENT**

Lane closures along Jalan Kepong (Sungai Buloh-bound and Jinjang-bound) from March 14 to June 12 from 11pm to 5am, intermittently. There will be a left lane closure starting from Sungai Keroh towards Metro Perdana Barat (Jinjang-bound) from Aeon Jusco Mall until Caltex Pekan Lama Kepong (Sungai Buloh-bound) and after the slip road of Jalan Kepong entering Jalan Metro Perdana.

● The right lane in front of Aeon Big Kepong (Jinjang-bound and Sungai Buloh-bound) will be closed for a 200m stretch.

● The left lane after the slip road of Jalan Kepong entering Jalan Metro Perdana will be closed for a 100m stretch (Maluri-bound).

● There will be a permanent slip road closure at Jalan Metro Perdana Barat 8 entering Jalan Besar Kepong (Jinjang-bound) from March 14 to June 12.

**CNY EYE CARNIVAL**

Vista Eye Specialist is having a three-day 70s themed Chinese New Year Eye Carnival from March 16 to 18 in its centre at 15, Jalan Mahogani 5/KS 7, Bandar Botanik, Klang, Selangor from 9am to 5pm. Visitors aged five years and above can get eyes tested on-the-spot for major eye diseases (cataract, glaucoma and AMD). Other checks include blood pressure, blood sugar level, dental, hearing, scalp, skin and foot analysis, bone density and uric acid test. There will also be calligraphy, sand art, a complimentary family portrait and a 70s themed goodie bag. To book an appointment with an ophthalmologist, call 1800-88-3937 or visit us [www.vista.my](http://www.vista.my).

**TALENT AUDITION**

Calling young aspiring singers and dancers for the audition sessions of Berjaya Teenstar Challenge 2018 at three different places in Klang Valley. The auditions are held at SK Putrajaya Present 9 (1), Putrajaya (April 19), Borders at The Curve, Selangor (April 21 and 22) and Level 11 West, Berjaya University College, Berjaya Times Square, Kuala Lumpur (April 28 and 29), from 9am to 5pm. Registration closes at 2pm. Participation form can be downloaded at [www.berjayayouth.com](http://www.berjayayouth.com). For details, call [www.berjayayouth.com](http://www.berjayayouth.com) or [www.facebook.com/berjayayouth](http://www.facebook.com/berjayayouth).

**MOBILE COUNTER**

Shah Alam On Wheels will operate at Tesco Setia Alam parking lot, Seksyen U13, Shah Alam on March 17 from 11am to 5pm. Shah Alam residents can pay and check their assessment fees, parking compounds as well as purchase parking coupons and lodge complaints. For details, visit [www.mbsa.gov.my](http://www.mbsa.gov.my)

**TRAVEL FAIR**

A Tour Rite In-House travel carnival is being held until March 18 from 9am to 6pm at Commerce One, Lorong 2/137C, off Jalan Kelang Lama in Kuala Lumpur. Organised in conjunction with the MATTA Fair this weekend, there will be attractive deals and prizes to be won. For details, call 03-7772 2677 or visit [www.tourite.com.my](http://www.tourite.com.my)

**TOASTMASTERS MEETING**

Petaling Jaya Tamil Toastmasters Club is conducting a showcase meeting at University Malaya Academic Club, 1, Jalan 12/5, Section 12, Petaling Jaya on March 14 at 7pm. Admission is free but pre-notification is required. For details, call 010-2623966 (Siva).

**RAMADAN BAZAAR**

Petaling Jaya City Council has introduced an online application for Ramadan bazaar permits this year. Applications can be done via [elesen.mbpj.gov.my](http://elesen.mbpj.gov.my) until March 21. There are 1,550 lots at 20 bazaar locations this year.