

Selangor Health Department starts daily monitoring of haze related illnesses

NST ONLINE - September 10, 2019 @ 6:18pm



SHAH ALAM: With the worsening haze situation in the country, especially in Selangor, the State Health Department has started daily monitoring of haze related illnesses.

However, based on last week's records, there has been no notable increase in patients with such illnesses.

State Health Department director Datuk Dr Khalid Ibrahim said they were keeping tabs on such illnesses which include upper respiratory tract infection, asthma and conjunctivitis at five sentinel clinics under the Health Ministry on a monthly basis.

The five sentinel clinics are at Kota Damansara, Section 7 in Shah Alam, Pandamaran in Klang, Teluk Datok in Kuala Langat and the Kuala Selangor clinics.

He said in a statement that if the haze worsened with unhealthy readings of the Air Pollution Index going beyond 200, district and state operations rooms would be activated.

API readings are currently obtained through the Department of Environment, which has five air quality reading stations in the state. They are in Petaling Jaya, Shah Alam, Port Klang, Banting and Kuala Selangor.

The department has also placed a Mobile Continuous Air Quality Monitoring station in the hotspot area of Johan Setia, Klang.

Johan Setia, a fertile agriculture land teeming with various vegetable plantations, is known for its frequent bush fires and some blame the farmers for using the slash and burn techniques in their cultivation.

Five areas in Selangor registered unhealthy API readings above 100 over the last two days. Petaling Jaya registered API reading of between 102 and 134, Shah Alam (102 to 130), Port Klang (102 to 119), Banting (101 to 123) and Johan Setia, Klang (143 to 160).

Dr Khalid also advised the public to minimise the effects of the haze by taking precautionary measures.