

**AKHBAR : MALAY MAIL**  
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## Mumps outbreak not caused by haj pilgrims, says dept

**PETALING JAYA** — An outbreak of the mumps virus at three schools in Putrajaya since July was not from exposure to those back from Saudi Arabia, according to the Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya Health Department.

Department director Dr Zainudin Abdul Wahab said the cases were instead traced to students who were not immunised to the virus.

"These cases have no correlation with the pilgrims returning from the either Mecca or Madinah.

"Mumps can be averted if the measles-

mumps-rubella vaccination were administered and since April last year the vaccine had been given twice. At age nine months and 12 months," he said in a statement.

Zainudin said the cluster of mumps cases was first detected on July 25 involving children from a Putrajaya school.

Since then recurring cases at the same school and two additional schools pushed the number of cases to 17 as of Friday.

"The patients are stable and received

outpatient treatment. They are expected to make full recovery between two and three weeks," he said.

"This is not a serious illness and complications are rare but those showing symptoms are encouraged to seek treatment as soon as possible."

Attempts to contact Zainudin on why students at the first school were not screened and isolated after initial cases went unanswered.

It was not possible to determine how many students at the affected schools were not given their measles shots.

Zainudin also said the department engaged the headmasters and student affairs teachers at the affected schools to raise awareness on the disease and health education had been intensified.

Typical symptoms of infection are headache; swollen, painful salivary glands on one or both sides of the face; muscle aches, weakness and fatigue and loss of appetite.

The disease spreads via contact with virus bearing saliva on any surface of as droplets released when an infected individual either coughs or sneezes.

## Subra: Organ donor registry coming soon





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A medical team performing a heart transplant surgery. Organ donations in Malaysia are governed by the Human Tissues Act 1974 (Act 130).  
— Picture by Reuters

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**P**UTRAJAYA — A centralised data system will be set up to store information on organ donors, which can be accessed by health centres nationwide.

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr S. Subramaniam said this would provide the necessary information on donors after they die and can be verified with family members.

"When an organ donor dies and we find their pledge in the system, then we can

inform the family members and it is up to them whether we can proceed with the organ donation if there is a need.

"Usually, families tend to honour the pledges but once in a while we come across situations where families voice objections," he told the press during a function at his residence yesterday.

Dr Subramaniam said doubts from family members on the authenticity of the pledge as well as being uninformed of the pledge made were primary reasons the process of organ transplantation after death was rejected.

He said such issues in organ donor pledges need to be looked into before the ministry looked into amending existing laws

to ensure pledgers had their wishes granted after death.

"Those areas where there are weaknesses, we would need to look into and ensure it is strong.

"We are also looking to see if this is widespread before we look into current laws. Family members should not be in the way of organ donation pledges," he said.

On Wednesday, Deputy Minister of Health, Datuk Seri Dr Hilmi Yahaya said those who pledged to organ donation were advised to inform family members as hospitals are required to get the consent from the family before proceeding.

Hilmi said until Aug 31, 394,809 people registered as organ donors but the actual

number of organ donors after death is 620 since the programme was launched in 1975.

There are more than 21,000 patients on the organ donor waiting list, with majority being kidney failure patients followed by liver, heart and lung.

Organ donation in Malaysia is governed by the Human Tissues Act 1974 (Act 130), which regulates matters related to consent and authorisation of human organs removed from deceased donors.

The Organ and Tissue Transplantation Bill drafted in 2015, was to replace Act 130, set to ban organ trading and regulate living organ donations.

The Bill was reported to be tabled in Parliament before the end of the year.