

## **H1N1 outbreak: Surveillance system to be strengthened**

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The Health Ministry will strengthen its public surveillance system and awareness campaign in efforts to contain the re-surfacing of the Influenza A (H1N1) outbreak.

Minister Liow Tiong Lai said today that the ministry's technical committee would hold a meeting with relevant agencies and bodies on the preventive measures.

The meeting, to be held by Wednesday, would be chaired by Health Director-General Dr Ismail Merican.

"The most important thing now is the mitigation stage. We will continue with treatment.

"Spreading awareness among the public on the importance of maintaining personal hygiene is very important," he told reporters after opening the Healthcare Tourism Congress 2010 in Kuala Lumpur today.

He added that Malaysia is still placed under the high alert category of level 6, which is the pandemic stage, in line with the alert level raised by World Health Organisation (WHO) following the outbreak last year.

On another development, Liow said the vaccination stock was still sufficient at about 400,000 doses and the number of high-risk groups who had come forward to get the Tamiflu jabs was also increasing.

To date, 651 people had been warded with influenza-like illness (ILI) with 85 testing positive for A(H1N1).

- Bernama

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