

Dengue on the rise in Penang

Free Malaysia Today

20 March 2014

Oleh Athi Shankar

GEORGE TOWN: The aedes menace is ever growing in Penang, according to health authorities here.

State executive councillor Dr Afif Bahardin revealed that Penang recorded a whopping 200.6% leap in dengue cases, including fatal cases, so far this year compared with the last corresponding period.

A total 490 cases including three deaths, have been reported in this island-state since January until March 15 this year.

Comparatively, the same period last year recorded only 63 cases with no fatalities.

“It’s an increase of 327 cases or 200.6%,” said Dr Afif, who is in charge of agriculture, agro-industry, rural development and health portfolios, here today.

He said the state health department had reminded the public to take preventive measures against the spread of dengue as stated below:

1. To check home environment to identify and eliminate all potential aedes breeding grounds. Anti-aedes sprays can be obtained at government clinics.
2. To organise regular collective community cleanliness campaign (gotong-royong) to destroy aedes breeding grounds.
3. To fully cooperate with health authorities to carry out fogging in housing areas and spraying of insecticide in the house environment.
4. To use repellants or long sleeve shirts and long pants when doing outdoor activities, regularly spray aerosol in homes and install window screens to reduce risk from aedes bites.
5. To seek immediate treatment at clinics or hospitals if have fever and dengue symptoms like body and vein pains, vomiting and loss of appetite.

Source: <http://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2014/03/20/dengue-on-the-rise-in-penang/>