

Dengue still a bigger concern than monkeypox, says MMA

By Farah Solhi - May 24, 2022 @ 3:55pm



The MMA has reminded members of the public that they should not be alarmed over the resurgence of monkeypox cases outside the country, as dengue cases are still a bigger concern here. - BERNAMA Pic

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) has reminded members of the public that they should not be alarmed over the resurgence of monkeypox cases outside the country, as dengue cases are still a bigger concern here.

MMA president Dr Koh Kar Chai said although the spread of monkeypox outside its endemic region of the African continent is a matter of concern, the public nevertheless need to be reminded that dengue poses a greater menace in our midst.

He said there have been discussions about getting the chickenpox vaccination prior to travelling to avoid contracting the virus.

"I am not aware of any evidence that shows the chickenpox vaccine will confer protection against monkeypox.

"But there is evidence proving that the smallpox vaccine confers a degree of protection.

"This vaccine is hard to come by as smallpox has been declared as being eradicated," he said in a statement, today.

Dr Koh said those who have been vaccinated against smallpox had received it a long time ago, and it's likely that the immunity conferred by the vaccine would have waned.

"However, there is a monkeypox vaccine which had been registered but it is not easily available as yet," he said.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah had on May 21 said that the Health Ministry is closely monitoring the monkeypox outbreak.

He said the ministry will also carry out surveillance on suspected cases of viral zoonosis at all the country's international entry points.