

Overseas briefs

Source: World Health Organization (WHO)

Fatal myocarditis in Sarawak, Malaysia

Two more deaths from acute viral myocarditis occurred on 24 June bringing the total number of deaths to 29, all in children aged from 5 months to 6 years. Over 600 children have been admitted to the observation wards in hospitals in Sarawak State, and 66 were still under observation on 26 June. The number of cases being admitted to hospital has declined since 20 June. Teams from WHO and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are working with the Ministry of Health and national laboratories to establish the cause of the outbreak. Specimens from fatal cases of myocarditis, and from cases of hand, foot and mouth disease have been collected for virus isolation, polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and other investigations. Preliminary results from the virological studies should be available in the near future.

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