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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF CUTIE KIDZ PLAYHOUSE

MEWR News Release: 099/2000

Date Published: 12 Sep 2000

The Ministry of the Environment was notified this afternoon of a possible outbreak of hand, foot and mouth disease at the Cutie Kidz Playhouse. Investigations confirmed that a 2-year old baby boy, Lam Rui Qi from the centre with suspected hand, foot and mouth disease had been admitted to Kandang Kerbau Women's and Children's hospital on Sunday afternoon. He subsequently died that same evening.

Subsequent investigations at the child care centre showed that there were 4 other cases of suspected hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD).

As a precautionary measure, we have closed the Cutie Kids Playhouse until further notice. Meanwhile, we are contacting this evening, as well as tomorrow, parents with children attending the Cutie Kids Playhouse and advising them to consult the doctor if their children have symptoms suggestive of HFMD, viz; fever lasting 2-3 days, sore throat and runny nose, mouth ulcers, rash (usually blister-like) over hands, feet and diaper areas, vomiting and diarrhoea, tiredness and weakness. ENV and MCDS officers will also be at hand tomorrow morning at the Cutie Kids Playhouse to advise parents of precautionary measures and advise them to take their children home.

HFMD is usually not a serious disease, although it can have rare complications leading to death. HFMD has an incubation period of 3 to 5 days. The disease can be spread through direct contact with nasal discharge, saliva, faeces, and fluid from the blisters. It can also spread through indirect contact with play equipment, bedlinen and other articles used by an infected individual.

Members of the public who need clarification can contact the Quarantine & Epidemiology Department at 7319 758 or 7319 751.

Issued by ENV

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