

## Public Health Response to Mumps Case Detection During a Major National Sports Event

Masliza Mustafa, Husna Maizura Ahmad Mahir, Hairunnisa Hashami, Hasliza Mohammad, Ngo Siok Yung, Hasmaizal Hassim, Asiah Ayob

Communicable Diseases Control Section, Public Health Division, Perak State Health Department, Malaysia, Manjung District Health Office, Perak, Malaysia, Surveillance Section, Disease Control Division, Ministry of Health, Malaysia

### ABSTRACT

**INTRODUCTION:** In September 2018, a suspected mumps case involving a 16 years old athlete participating in a national-level sports event was notified to the nearest district health office. There was contact history with a suspected mumps case during training in mid-August 2018 and parotid swelling started while in home state. **METHODS:** Active case detection was carried out among 36 close contacts attending the sports for fever and/or parotid swelling. Three buccal swab samples were sent for PCR test. Risk assessment was conducted, and control activities initiated. **RESULTS:** Eleven close contacts (aged 16-52 years) had respiratory infections without parotid swelling and given symptomatic treatment. One sample was positive for mumps (the index case). All contacts were isolated, monitored daily and given face masks, hand sanitisers and health education. Psychological first aid was given to the team, and none needed further intervention. Risk assessment found that the contacts might develop symptoms during the tournament duration with an outbreak potential despite preventive measures. **DISCUSSION:** Due to the potential spread of mumps infection, the team was not allowed to participate in the games. The contingent was offered to send a replacement team, but they declined and withdrew from the tournament. A further risk assessment was conducted upon request by the state sport director for the team's return to their state. The team was permitted to travel with precautionary measures and monitoring facilitated by the relevant point of entry health office and receiving state health department. Mumps outbreak in mass gatherings management guideline is recommended.

**KEYWORDS:** mumps, sports event, public health response, outbreak management

## Public Transport Usage to Access Healthcare Facilities by Older Persons in Malaysia

Rimah Melati binti Ab Ghani, Rajini Sooryanarayana, Yau Weng Keong, Elizabeth Chong Gar Mit, Norazizah Ibrahim Wong

Institute for Public Health, National Institutes of Health, Ministry of Health Malaysia, Setia Alam, Selangor, Malaysia, Hospital Kuala Lumpur, Ministry of Health Malaysia

### ABSTRACT

**INTRODUCTION:** Public transport is used by many people in Malaysia. This study aimed to determine the percentage of older persons in Malaysia who used public transport to access healthcare facilities. This study provides data on usage of public transportation to access healthcare facilities, and dependency of older persons on others at the healthcare facilities themselves. **METHODS:** Data from 2018 NHMS, a national community-based survey among older persons aged  $\geq 50$  years in Malaysia was used. A structured questionnaire was administered to assess transport usage to healthcare facilities among older persons. The questionnaires were completed by 7,117 older persons aged 50 years and above. Descriptive and complex sample analyses were employed as appropriate. **RESULTS:** Overall 92.5% older persons travelled using own transport to access healthcare facilities, with 4.5% depending on public transport. Rural older persons preferred commuting via public transport (15.7%, 95%CI: 7.36, 31.91) compared to urban older persons (4.8%, 95%CI: 3.13, 7.32). Female older persons required more assistance/ were dependent on others in all areas of the healthcare facilities: clinic area 17.9% (95%CI: 13.47, 2.70), toilet area 16.6% (95%:12.34, 22.10), and car park area 19.3% (95%CI: 14.73, 25.3). **DISCUSSION:** From this survey, the urban dwellers travelled to the healthcare facilities more frequently with their own transport. The female older persons required more assistance during their visits to the healthcare facilities. Therefore, provision of more public transportation options may assist older persons in accessing and utilising healthcare facilities, besides providing personnel to attend to older persons at the various areas on the healthcare premises themselves.

**KEYWORDS:** healthcare facilities, public transport, older persons, National Health and Morbidity Survey (NHMS), Malaysia