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> Typhoid situation being addressed, public assured

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PETALING JAYA: The Health Ministry has urged the public not to panic over the recent outbreak of typhoid as the situation is being addressed.

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr S. Subramaniam said the health authorities are containing the spread of the disease and the public should not worry unduly as the disease can be prevented and treated.

He pointed out that with typhoid being endemic in Malaysia, the government hospitals and clinics are equipped with sufficient facilities to diagnose and treat the disease with appropriate antibiotics.

“The most important factor to prevent typhoid is good personal hygiene and eating at clean outlets,” he said, adding that everyone must wash their hands regularly especially before meals and after going to the toilet.

Subramaniam said those with symptoms of the disease should go to the nearest clinic or hospital.

Meanwhile, on the topic of harm reduction, the deputy director-general of health, Datuk Dr Lokman

Hakim Sulaiman, said the Health Ministry is committed to sustaining its harm reduction programme as it seeks to end the spread of AIDS by 2030 in the country.

He said based on the evidence presented at the four-day International Harm Reduction Conference this week the ministry is convinced that harm reduction works.

“In less than 10 years, it has helped to reduce new HIV infections among people who inject drugs in Malaysia by 50%, significantly improving their quality of health and life, and along the way saving the government millions of ringgit in healthcare costs,” Lokman said.

He said the ministry will finance harm reduction services, with a coverage of 80% for opioid substitution therapy and 15% for the needle exchange programme.