

## ■ TOUGH MEASURES TO GUARD AGAINST HFMD PAY OFF FOR ONE KINDERGARTEN

The number of Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease (HFMD) cases reached 509 last week. This is an increase of 38 from the week before.

And while this number is below warning levels, the Health Ministry says the public must remain vigilant.

One kindergarten that is taking tough measures to keep HFMD at bay

is PCF Punggol East Education Centre. In 2008, the kindergarten at Rivervale Walk had seven cases of Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease. It was ordered to close for 10 days.

Since then, the school has upped its standards of hygiene. Students undergo temperature checks daily and rinse their hands before class. Toys are

washed twice a week and professional cleaning services increased from two to eight times a year.

Cleaners and teachers also clean the class after each session. Cleaning expenses went up by 20 per cent — but the school says it was money well spent, as it reported only one HFMD case this year. VIMITA MOHANDAS