

NUMBER OF HFMD CASES UP

There has been an increasing number of hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD) cases here, which hit or exceeded the warning level of 500 cases in the preceding three weeks before dipping slightly to 496 in the week ended March 20.

Overall, 4,269 HFMD cases were recorded in the first three months of this year – a 15-per-cent increase from the same period last year.

The Ministry for Community Development, Youth and Sports said for now, no childcare centre has been closed due to HFMD.

The disease usually infects children and infants.

Symptoms include fever, ulcers in the throat and rashes on the hands and feet. HFMD is spread by direct contact through the nasal discharge, saliva, faeces and fluid from the rash of an infected person.

IMELDA SAAD AND LIANG KAIXIN