

14 PAP Town Councils Step Up Dengue Fight

14 town councils in \$6.2m dengue battle

The PAP councils' programme comes in wake of last week's record 210 cases for this year

By MICHELLE NEO

IN A bid to prevent a repeat of the dengue epidemic in 2005 when 25 people died, 14 town councils have announced a new programme to combat the spread of the disease.

This year, a total of \$6.2 million will be spent on the effort, called the Dedicated Mosquito Control Programme.

The move, announced yesterday by Dr Teo Ho Pin – the coordinating chairman of the 14 People's Action Party (PAP) town councils – comes as the number of dengue cases escalates.

A record 210 cases for this year were reported islandwide last week, despite intensified efforts by the National Environment Agency (NEA) and other agencies.

This latest figure is just shy of the official "warning level" of 256 cases a week.

An outbreak is regarded as an epidemic when this figure rises to 378 cases a week.

The independent effort by the town councils is the latest move in the fight against dengue.

The bulk of the money – about \$5.2 million – has been allocated to hiring pest-control operators to carry out mosquito-busting efforts around common areas in Housing Board estates.

Ten per cent of the cost of hiring these operators, or \$520,000, will be provided by the NEA.

Some of the additional funding will be allocated by the NEA according to the efficiency of the town councils in implementing the programme.

More than half the \$5.2 million bill will be paid by the town councils themselves.

The remaining \$1 million – also drawn entirely from the town councils' funds – will be used for the councils' own efforts to battle dengue.

These efforts have been carried out since the beginning of the year.

Efforts include weekly, or even daily, checks of common areas, depending on the severity of the dengue situation in the area.

It is not known if the two opposition-held town councils – Hougang and Potong Pasir – are also participating in the programme.

Prior to the launch of the programme, the town councils participated in a one-year trial of this programme in collaboration with the NEA, which lasted from late 2005 to late last year.

Compounding the problem this year is the emergence of a different dominant type of dengue, Den-2.

Transmitted by the female Aedes mosquito, the dengue virus comes in four basic types.

The second form, Den-2, is believed to be the predominant strain here this season – compared to Den-1 over the past few years.

People previously infected with other types of dengue are not immune – and may even face a higher risk of complications – when infected with a different type.

So far, one dengue-related fatality has been reported here this year.

Speaking on behalf of the 14 town councils, Dr Teo said: "We are giving our 100 per cent to fight dengue. We have set aside what we feel is sufficient.

"But if more is needed, we will look into putting more into the effort."

He also added that the amount allocated will be adjusted on a yearly basis, depending on the severity of the outbreak.

mneo@sph.com.sg

与环境局合作

14市镇理事会加强灭蚊行动

行动党的14个市镇理事会和国家环境局合作，加强灭蚊行动。

今年初，国家环境局在行动党的14个市镇理事会区内增加了检查工作，环境局发现和去年同期比较，伊蚊滋生的案例减少了46%。

不过，根据卫生部在星期一公布的本地骨痛热症情况，显示新病例有持续上升的趋势，令人担忧。前个星期的病例还创下今年新高，趋势和前年的疫情爆发有类似之处。

为了避免骨痛热症疫情卷土重来，行动党属下的市镇理事会和国家环境局紧密合作，联合对抗伊蚊。

自去年起，市镇理事会就聘请了灭蚊专家到区内的共用范围，确认蚊子滋生或有可能滋生的地



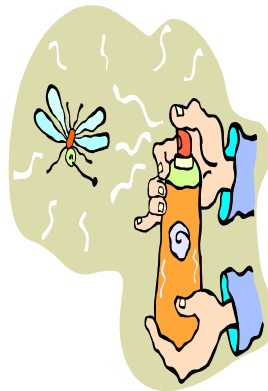
▲行动党属下的14个市镇理事会派灭蚊专家进行检查工作，加强灭蚊行动。

方，同时消灭它们。

武吉班让区议员张和宾博士今早代表14个市镇理事会发表文告指出，各市镇理事会时不时都会采取骨痛热症预防措施，频率介于每星期至每隔一

天，总费用高达每年100万元。

此外，市镇理事会也经常和国家环境局举行会议，探讨有关骨痛热症的课题。



14 PAP town councils stepping up fight against dengue

By Aaron W-Tan, Channel NewsAsia | Posted: 23 May 2007 2033 hrs

SINGAPORE: 14 PAP town councils are stepping up on their dengue prevention efforts.

The town councils will be increasing their fogging of dengue hotspots, oiling of drains, cleaning of corridor drains, clearing of choked gully traps and the application of granular insecticide to gully traps.

In addition to these control measures, regular meetings and talks are held with the National Environment Agency to share information on dengue issues.

The town councils are also looking into redesigning improvement projects to ensure that stagnant water does not accumulate. - CNA/yy



Photos

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