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# Scanning for MERS-CoV

> Health Ministry takes precautions although no new cases detected locally

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**PUTRAJAYA:** The Health Ministry will screen all visitors, especially from countries with cases of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV), using static thermal scanners at the KL International Airport, said its minister Datuk Seri Dr S. Subramaniam.

Speaking at a two-day National Healthcare Leaders' Summit themed "Patients for Patient Safety", Subramaniam said after Malaysia recorded its first case of MERS-CoV on April 13, where the 54-year-old man from Batu Pahat, Johor died at the Sultanah Nora Ismail Hospital, there have been no new cases.

To date, the World Health Organisation has recorded 238 cases and 92 deaths related to MERS-CoV globally.

"The (scanners are) in place at the airport to detect anyone coming in with fever," said Subramaniam, adding that it is important for people to adhere to directives given by the health authorities.

On the subject of infections, he said some 1.5 million patients worldwide have been victims of hospital-acquired infections.

He added that the probability of being infected is one in 300 and in developing countries, it is one out of 10 patients.

Subramaniam asked healthcare providers to give thought to this and ensure patient safety is given priority.

To ensure the safety of patients, he said, the ministry had set up a patient safety council to address and resolve incidents of medical errors and help improve the overall patient safety and healthcare in Malaysia.