

FMD under control, says dept

DVS: Don't worry about public health being affected as it is 'purely an animal disease'

PETALING JAYA: The foot-and-mouth disease affecting pigs in some areas in Perak and Pahang is now under control.

Veterinary Services Department (DVS) director-general Datuk Dr Kamarudin Mat Isa said the department had taken the necessary measures to contain the disease (FMD).

Abattoirs in Ipoh and Taiping, Perak, as well as Kuantan, Pahang,

have been closed since Wednesday and will be closed for at least a week.

Dr Kamarudin said there was no worry about FMD affecting public health as it is "purely an animal disease and not related to human disease".

In Ipoh, the Perak Veterinary Services Department had banned the transporting of pigs from farms

to abattoirs over three days following the rumours of an outbreak of FMD.

A department spokesman said the ban, which began on Aug 16, had now been lifted after checks and risk analysis were conducted at all farms.

"We found all animals to be free from the disease.

"The abattoirs were not closed

but we had earlier banned the transferring of the animals from the farms," the spokesman said in a statement on Friday.

The spokesman said the disease was a risk as it could cause a state-wide infection at any time.

The department had called for the temporary ban to conduct checks, he added.

"We always urge all farms to

practise good and clean farming methods.

"Farm owners and the related association are also responsible for informing the department if there is any clinical infection of the disease on their animals as stated under the Animal Act 1953.

"Failing to do so would land the offender a RM25,000 fine," he said.