

# Health workers' leave frozen

**WITH** the number of A(H1N1) cases climbing to 91 yesterday, and with the public getting worried over the rising number of local transmissions, the Health Ministry has decided to freeze leave for

100,000 of its staff nationwide until further notice to ensure there is adequate manpower to contain the flu outbreak.

While advising the people not to panic, Health Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai said the no-leave order applies to all officers in government hospitals, public health departments and laboratories.

## Other developments:

» Liow urged employers to allow their workers to take unrecorded leave if they opt for seven days of self-quarantine upon their return from the affected countries. This is in the interest of the nation and security, he said.

The matter will be proposed and discussed in the cabinet next week to make it mandatory for employers to do so.

» Liow proposed that the Education Ministry asks schools with air-conditioned rooms and class-

rooms to switch off the air-conditioning temporarily and open windows and doors for good air-ventilation. This will reduce the spread of the virus which can only survive for two to eight hours in an open environment.

## » Universities respond:

Universiti Malaya is monitoring its 27,000 students, including 3,000 international students, and especially those from high-risk countries such as the United States, Canada, the Philippines, Australia, Mexico, New Zealand, Singapore and Thailand.

It will make it compulsory for all students of the first semester of the 2009/2010 academic session to complete a health declaration form.

Staff and students are advised not to travel abroad unless it is necessary to do so.

Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) will require all new students for the 2009/2010 session to undergo screening for A(H1N1) before registration at their respective residential colleges. The screening will be conducted over the weekend.