

## Plague Forces Shutdown of Cambodian Schools

Contributed by Tom McGregor  
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Cambodia has shut down schools weeks ahead of the summer vacation to halt the spread of a virus that has killed dozens of children since April. According to the BBC News, "officials say that they closed kindergarten and primary schools in reaction to parental concern about the spread of the EV71 virus. EV71 is one of the triggers of hand, foot and mouth disease."

Yet, the World Health Organization contends that closing schools "could create unnecessary panic." As reported by the BBC, "the mystery illness had caused panic among parents. The World Health Organization (WHO) and Cambodia's Ministry of Health eventually identified the virus as EV71." Mak Vann, Education Ministry secretary of state, said, "this is to prevent the spread of the disease. To read the entire article from the BBC News, link here: [Tmcgregordallas@yahoo.com](mailto:Tmcgregordallas@yahoo.com)