

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Kementerian tambah makmal untuk ujian pengesahan, pengesahan

Putrajaya: Kementerian Kesihatan menambah 12 makmal hospital dan empat makmal kesihatan awam bagi menjalankan ujian pengesahan dan pengesahan coronavirus (2019-nCoV).

Menterinya, Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad, berkata kakinan yang terbabit dengan penambahan makmal hospital dan makmal kesihatan berkenaan sudah dilatih Institut Penyelidikan Perubatan (IMR) dengan menguak pakuai protokol digariskan Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO).

"Sebelum ini, hanya Institut Penyelidikan Perubatan (IMR) dan Makmal Kesihatan Awam Kebangsaan (MKAK) di Sungai Buloh.

"Kapasiti ini akan diperluaskan lagi bagi rangkaian makmal swasta yang sudah menyatakan kesediaan untuk terbabit dalam sesi latihan berkaitan, yang akan diadakan oleh MKAK Sungai Buloh," katanya dalam sidang media di sini, semalam.

Sebelum ini, WHO mengisyaratkan coronavirus yang meragut ratusan nyawa di China sebagai darurat kesihatan global.

Virus yang tercetus di ibu negri Hubei, Wuhan pada Disember lalu itu dikesan bermula di sebuah pasar menjual hidupan liar.

Sehingga semalam, jumlah kesan akibat coronavirus di China meningkat kepada 490 orang manakala 3,156 kes jangkitan terbaru, menjadikan kes seluruhnya 23,500 kes.

Penularan coronavirus

Bapa, anak disah positif di pusat pemantauan

Kedua-dua mangsa dirawat di wad isolasi Hospital Tuanku Ja'afar

Oleh Noor Atiqah Sulaiman
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Putrajaya: Dua daripada 107 individu yang tiba di tanah air pagi kelmarin dari Wuhan, China melalui Misi Bantuan Kemanusiaan dan Bencana (HADR), disahkan positif coronavirus 2019-nCoV.

Ini menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes positif coronavirus di negara ini kepada 12 kes.

Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad, berkata kes terburu membabitkan warga Malaysia itu adalah seorang lelaki berusia 45 tahun dan anak lelakinya yang berusia sembilan tahun.

"Kedua-dua mereka (bapa dan anak) tidak menunjukkan sebarang gejala coronavirus ketika dibawa pulang dan disahkan positif di Pusat Pemantauan di Akademik Kepimpinan Pendidikan Tinggi (AKPET) di Bandar Enstek, Nilai," katanya pada sidang media harian perkembangan 2019-nCoV di Kementerian Kesihatan di sini, semalam.

Dr Dzulkefly berkata, kedua-duanya kini dirawat di wad isolasi Hospital Tuanku



Dr Dzulkefly (dua dari kanan) pada sidang media situasi terkini jangkitan coronavirus di Putrajaya, semalam. Yang turut hadir, Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan, Dr Lee Boon Chai, Ketua Setiausaha Kementerian Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Chen Chaw Min dan Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah (kanan).

(Foto BERNAMA)

Ja'afar, Seremban.

Beliau berkata, selain anak lelakinya, lelaki itu pulang ke tanah air bersama isteri dan seorang lagi anak perempuan mereka namun kedua-duanya negatif daripada virus berkenaan.

Jelas Dr Dzulkefly, kedua-dua rakyat Malaysia yang didapati positif coronavirus dikesan melalui ujian sampel calitan tekak.

Katanya, daripada 12 kes positif di Malaysia pada masa ini, sembilan kes membabitkan warga China dan tiga warga-

negara Malaysia.

Mengenai dua individu yang tidak melepas tapisan kesihatan di Unit Kecemasan Udara (ADU) Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa Kuala Lumpur (KLIA) selepas tiba dari misi Wuhan dan dihantar ke Hospital Kuala Lumpur (HKL), beliau mengesahkan kedua-duanya negatif 2019-nCoV.

Penerbangan khas dari Wuhan itu membawa 107 individu terdiri daripada 88 rakyat Malaysia dan 19 ahli keluarga bukan warga-negara serta 12 kru penerbangan,

lapan petugas misi dan enam pegawai dari Kedutaan Malaysia di Beijing.

Mengenai risiko penumpang lain dan kru penerbangan dijangkiti coronavirus memandangkan dua orang kini didapati positif, Dr Dzulkefly berkata, kesemuanya mereka perlu melalui prosedur periksaan coronavirus.

"Kami tidak boleh terlepas satu atau dua individu. Kita akan mengendalikan perkara ini dengan teliti, mereka dipantau selama 14 hari," katanya.

Budak pulih hanya dirawat berdasarkan gejala dialami



Kanak-kanak warga China didukung bapanya yang dirawat di wad isolasi Hospital Sultanah Malihah, Langkawi kerana disahkan positif jangkitan coronavirus, kini sihat dan dibenarkan pulang.

Putrajaya: Kanak-kanak warga China yang disahkan pulih sepenuhnya selepas mendapat rawatan di Hospital Sultanah Malihah, Langkawi, kerana dijangkiti coronavirus akhir bulan lalu, tidak menerima kaedah rawatan spesifik.

Sebaliknya, menurut Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad, pihaknya hanya memberi rawatan berdasarkan gejala yang dialami pesakit yang dikesan positif 2019-nCoV pada 29 Januari lalu.

"Tidak ada secara khusus ubat-ubatan atau antiviral yang diberikan. Mengikut pakar, penyakit seperti ini mempunyai jangka hayat dan akan berakhir hanya dengan imuniti badan kita untuk mengatasi penyakit berkenaan," katanya dalam sidang me-

dia harian 2019-nCoV di kementeriannya di sini, semalam.

Kelmarin, Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah dalam kenyataannya berkata kes kanak-kanak perempuan warga China itu adalah kes pertama membabitkan individu disahkan positif 2019-nCoV yang pulih daripada jangkitan itu di Malaysia.

Beliau berkata, sampel klinikal terhadap kanak-kanak berusia empat tahun itu didapati negatif daripada 2019-nCoV.

Sampel klinikal itu diambil sebanyak dua kali berturut-turut sejak kanak-kanak itu dikesan positif 2019-nCoV pada 29 Januari lalu, sebelum disahkan negatif.

Sehubungan itu, katanya, kanak-kanak itu yang kini sihat sudah dibenarkan pulang.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 12

RUANGAN : LOKAL

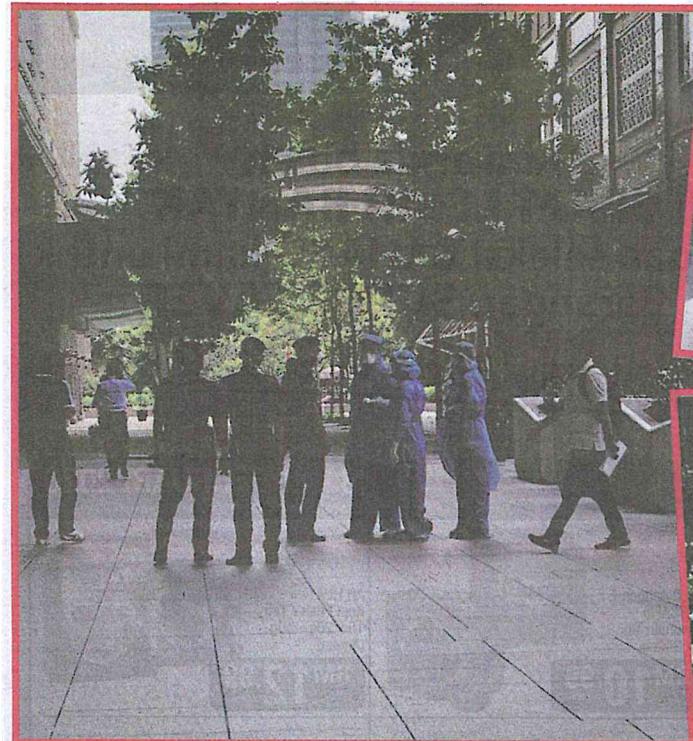


FOTO menunjukkan kemunculan pihak berkuasa di KLCC yang dikongsikan di laman sosial.

Putrajaya: Gambar tular anggota polis dan individu berpakaian Pasukan Khas Bahan Kimia Berbahaya (Hazmat) di KLCC, Kuala Lumpur semalam, disahkan ada kaitan dengan seorang remaja perempuan warga Kanada berusia 17 tahun disyaki dijangkiti koronavirus baru.

Menyatakan kejadian itu, Menteri Kesihatan Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad berkata, pihaknya mendapat

maklumat berhubung kejadian itu semalam dan sedang menunggu laporan Hospital Kuala Lumpur (HKL).

"Kami akan terus berhubung dengan HKL bagi mendapatkan maklumat lanjut."

"Saya baru dapat maklumat mengenainya... pasukan Hazmat datang dengan

pakaian yang lengkap dan berjaga-jaga.

"Pesakit dibawa ke HKL. Kami akan dimaklumkan perkembangan mengenainya. Apapun kami akan terus berkomuni-

kasi dengan pihak di sana," katanya pada sidang media semalam.

Hadir sama, Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan Lee Boon Chye, Ketua Setiausaha Kementerian Ke-

menterian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) Datuk Seri Dr Chen Chaw Min, Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, Timbalan Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan (Perubatan) Datuk Dr Rohaizat Yon dan Pengarah Kawalan Penyakit KKM Dr Norhayati Rusli. Dzulkefly mengulas foto

tular pasukan Hazmat dan anggota polis dilihat berada di Tower 3, Menara Petroناس, bangunan KLCC.

Kemunculan pihak berkuasa itu mencetuskan panik apabila ia dikongsikan di laman sosial sebelum orang ramai mendakwa wabak koronavirus sudah merebak ke ibu kota.

Kemunculan pasukan Hazmat di KLCC cetus panik

Pasukan Hazmat tiba di KLCC dengan pakaian lengkap dan berjaga-jaga

Dua lagi didapati positif

Mangsa terbaru babit seorang bapa dan anak lelaki dibawa pulang dari Wuhan



dua lagi rakyat Malaysia diisahkan positif virus itu semalam.

Difahamkan mangsa terbari itu membatikan seorang bapa berusia 45 tahun dan anak lelakinya berusia sembilan tahun.

Menyatakan kejadian itu, Menteri Kesihatan Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad berkata, dua kes terbari itu membatikan rakyat Malaysia yang dibawa pulang dari Wuhan, China, kelmarin.

Beliau berkata, selain anak lelakinya, lelaki itu pulang bersama isteri dan seorang lagi anak perempuan mereka.

Menurutnya, penghidap positif itu adalah sebahagian

Kedua-dua mereka (bapa dan anak) tidak menunjukkan sebarang gejala koronavirus ketika dibawa pulang dan disahkan positif di AKEPT di Bandar Enstek, Negeri Sembilan!"

Dr Dzulkefly



dari 107 individu yang tiba di tanah air pagi kelmarin, menerusi Misi Bantuan Kemanusiaan dan Bencana (HADR) digerakkan ke-

rajaan Malaysia.

"Kedua-dua mereka (bapa dan anak) tidak menunjukkan sebarang gejala koronavirus baharu yang dilaporkan sehingga semalam sebanyak 12 kes."

lang dan disahkan positif di Pusat Pemantauan di Akademik Kepimpinan Pendidikan Tinggi (AKEPT) di Bandar Enstek, Negeri Sembilan,

"Kedua-dua mereka sedang menerima rawatan di wad isolasi Hospital Tuanku Ja'afar, Seremban dan berada dalam keadaan stabil," katanya dalam sidang media di Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) di sini, semalam.

Beliau berkata, pertambahan dua kes baru itu menjadikan jumlah kes positif koronavirus baharu yang dilaporkan sehingga semalam sebanyak 12 kes.

Daripada jumlah itu, katabanya, sembilan kes membatikan warganegara China dan tiga adalah rakyat Malaysia.

Kelmarin, seorang lelaki berusia 41 tahun dari Selangor menjadi rakyat Malaysia pertama disahkan positif wabak koronavirus baharu dan dia dilaporkan dalam keadaan stabil.

Bagaimanapun, seorang kanak-kanak perempuan berusia empat tahun warganegara China dirawat di wad isolasi Hospital Sultanah Malia, Langkawi sudah dibenarkan keluar selepas didapati sembuh dari virus itu (*gambar di muka 14*).

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : ANCAMAN KORONAVIRUS DI CHINA

Dua lagi rakyat Malaysia positif koronavirus

Lelaki bersama anaknya adalah antara 133 individu yang dibawa pulang dari Wuhan

Oleh TUAN BUQHAIRAH TUAN MUHAMAD ADNAN dan NURUL HUDA HUSIN

PUTRAJAYA

Dua beranak yang dibawa pulang dalam penerbangan khas Bantuan Kemensiaan dan Bencana (HADR) ke Wuhan bagi membawa pulang rakyat Malaysia kelmarin didapati positif koronavirus.

Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad berkata, lelaki yang berumur 45 tahun dan anaknya berusia sembilan tahun itu tidak menunjukkan sebarang gejala dan simptom wabak tersebut.

"Bagaimanapun, ujian makmal mengesahkan dua beranak itu positif koronavirus.

"Kedua-dua mereka kini ditempatkan di wad isolasi Hospital Tuanku Jaafar, Seremban untuk dirawat dan berada dalam keadaan stabil," katanya pada sidang media perkembangan koronavirus di sini semalam.

Dr Dzulkefly berkata, dua kes yang menunjukkan simptom koronavirus dalam misi sama telah dirujuk



Dr Dzulkefly (tengah) pada sidang media mengenai situasi terkini wabak koronavirus di Kementerian Kesihatan, Putrajaya semalam.

ke Hospital Kuala Lumpur kelmarin dan disahkan negatif.

Kesemua 131 penumpang, pegawai kerajaan dan krew penerbangan yang menggunakan pesawat AirAsia AK 8264 sedang dikuarantin di Pusat Pemantauan di Akademi Kepimpinan Pendidikan Tinggi (AKEPT) Nilai, Negeri Sembilan.

Setakat ini, Malaysia mencatat 12 kes positif koronavirus dan daripada jumlah itu, satu kes membatikkan kanak-kanak warga China yang dirawat di Hospital Sultanah Mahlia Langkawi telah dibenarkan pulang.

Sementara itu, Dr Dzulkefly berkata, KKM telah berjaya mengesahkan 74 kontak rapat bagi kes pertama me-

libatkan rakyat Malaysia kelmarin.

"Daripada jumlah itu, 35 kontak telah diambil sampel bagi ujian sa-ringan dilakukan.

"Pengesanannya masih dilakukan dan kesemuanya yang telah dikesan ditetaskan di bawah pengawasan di rumah," katanya.

Kelmarin, seorang lelaki yang berasal dari Selangor disahkan rakyat Malaysia pertama dijangkiti virus berkenaan.

Dia yang berusia 41 tahun mempunyai sejarah perjalanan ke Singapura dari 16 hingga 23 Januari 2020, bagi menghadiri mesyuarat yang turut dihadiri oleh beberapa delegasi antarabangsa termasuk negara China.



Kanak-kanak warga China yang berusia empat tahun bersama ahli keluarganya selepas dibenarkan pulang dari hospital.

Tiada rawatan khusus untuk kanak-kanak

PUTRAJAYA - Tiada sebarang rawatan khusus dilaksanakan pasukan perubatan terhadap kanak-kanak warga China yang sebelum ini dirawat akibat positif koronavirus di Hospital Sultanah Mahlia Langkawi dan disahkan bebas wabak berkenaan.

Menyatakan demikian, Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad berkata, pihaknya memberi rawatan mengikut keperluan pesakit.

"Tidak ada secara khusus ubat-ubatan yang diberikan," katanya.

Menurutnya, pakar perubatan menyifatkan wabak seperti koronavirus mempunyai jangka hayat.

"Ia akan berakhir dengan imuniti badan kita untuk mengatasi penyakit berkenaan,"

katanya.

Ditanya sama ada kanak-kanak tersebut dan keluarganya telah pulang ke China, Dr Dzulkefly berkata, Kedutaan Besar China sedang mengatur proses perjalanan mereka.

"Saya sendiri sudah bercakap dengan rakan sejawatan di China untuk terus mengambil langkah terbaik demi kedua-dua negara dan juga negara-negara lain," kata-

nya.

Pada Rabu lalu, kanak-kanak itu dimasukkan ke wad isolasi Hospital Sultanah

Mahlia Langkawi selepas disahkan positif wabak terbabit.

Bagaimanapun, selepas sampel klinikal

diambil semula sebanyak dua kali berturut-turut, dia didapati negatif.

HKL siasat remaja Kanada pengsan di KLCC

PUTRAJAYA - Hospital Kuala Lumpur (HKL) sedang melakukan siasatan terhadap seorang remaja warga Kanada bagi mengenal pasti punca sebenar termasuk dijangkiti koronavirus selepas dia dilaporkan pengsan di lot parkir Pusat Konvensyen Kuala Lumpur (KLCC) semalam.

Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad berkata, ambulans HKL dikeharkan ke Pusat Perubatan Menara Berkembar itu selepas mendapat panggilan berhubung kes tersebut.

"Remaja berusia 17 tahun berkenaan ditempatkan di wad isolasi HKL untuk pemantauan," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian ketika diminta mengulas mengenai kejadian itu yang tular di media sosial dan aplikasi WhatsApp.

Dr Dzulkefly berkata, semua langkah telah diambil bagi memastikan sebarang kemungkinan.

"Perkara yang dalam fikiran kami adalah koronavirus, tetapi ia boleh jadi disebabkan penyakit lain yang mungkin berkaitan dengan jantung."

"Remaja itu tiba di negara ini dari Indonesia, semalam (kelmarin). Dia sebelum ini menetap selama 15 tahun di Shanghai, China," katanya.

Terdahulu, sekeping gambar pasukan Pasukan Unit Bahan Berbahaya (HAZMAT) Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat Malaysia (JBPM) berada di lokasi itu turut tular di media sosial semalam.



Gambar sepasukan HAZMAT berada di KLCC, Kuala Lumpur semalam tular di laman sosial.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : ANCAMAN KORONAVIRUS DI CHINA

Peluang henti sebar wabak

WHO gesa solidariti dunia bagi membendung penularan koronavirus

GENEVA

Dunia mempunyai peluang untuk menghentikan penyebaran koronavirus baru yang kini mencecah 490 kematian dan 24,324 kes di seluruh China.

Ketua Pengarah Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO), Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus juga menggesa solidariti yang lebih besar dan mendakwa beberapa kerajaan negara yang kaya terlambat dalam berkongsi data tentang koronavirus.

"Sebanyak 99 peratus kes dilaporkan di China manakala di seluruh dunia sebanyak 176 kes dicatatkan."

"Tetapi itu tidak bermakna ia tidak akan menjadi lebih teruk. Kita pastinya mempunyai peluang untuk bertindak. Jangan lepaskan peluang itu," katanya.

Menurut Ghebreyesus, WHO telah menerima laporan kes lengkap untuk hanya 38



Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus menggesa dunia bersatu bagi menghentikan penyebaran wabak Wuhan.

peratus kes di luar China.

"Sesetengah negara berpendapat tinggi terlambat dalam berkongsi data penting ini dengan WHO. Pada pendapat saya, ia tidak mungkin kerana mereka kekurangan kapasiti."

"Tanpa data yang lebih baik, sangat sukar bagi WHO untuk menilai bagaimana wabak itu berkembang atau kesannya dan memastikan kami menyediakan cadangan yang paling sesuai," ujarnya.

Sementara itu, Ketua Strategi Kecemasan WHO, Scott Pendergast turut menekankan perlunya sokongan besar kepada negara dengan sistem kesihatan

yang lemah untuk mencegah penyebaran virus.

Pada masa sama, Ghebreyesus mengulangi gesaannya supaya negara lain tidak mengenaikan sekatan perjalanan dan perdagangan disebabkan koronavirus.

"Sekatan seperti itu boleh meningkatkan stigma dan ketakutan selain kurang bermanfaat untuk kesihatan awam," katanya.

"Apabila yang paling membimbangkan adalah skala kapasiti yang rendah di mana kita tahu terdapat beberapa negara yang berisiko tinggi tetapi berpotensi untuk tidak dapat mengesan kes tersebut," katanya. - AFP

Ubat antimalaria didakwa dapat halang jangkitan

BEIJING - Penyelidik di China mendapati ubat antimalaria jenis chloroquine dapat menghalang jangkitan koronavirus secara in vitro.

Dalam jurnal Cell Research, penyelidik dari Institut Virologi Wuhan melaporkan, mereka telah menilai kecekapan tujuh ubat antivirus.

Chloroquine, ubat antimalaria dan autoimun yang digunakan secara meluas diketahui boleh menghalang jangkitan dengan mengubah keasidan dan serta nilai asas dalam sel.

Menerusi kajian terbaharu itu, chloroquine menunjukkan kesan antivirus pada kedua-dua



Pegawai perubatan mengumpul sampel koronavirus untuk dulu.

peringkat kemasukan dan pasca kemasukan jangkitan koronavirus dalam sel Vero E6.

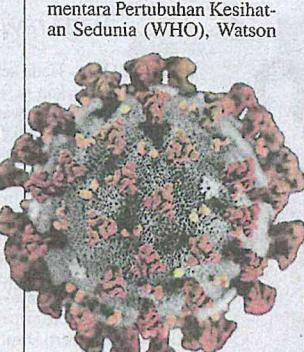
Vero E6 berasal daripada buah pinggang monyet Afrika adalah salah satu sel mamalia yang biasa digunakan dalam mikrobiologi, molekul dan pe-

nyelidikan sel biologi. Chloroquine ialah ubat yang murah dan selamat selain telah digunakan selama lebih 70 tahun.

Ia juga berpotensi secara klinikal untuk mencegah koronavirus.

Timbalan Pengarah Pusat Pembangunan Bioteknologi Kebangsaan, Sun Yanrong mengesahkan kesan chloroquine dalam menghalang jangkitan koronavirus pada sidang akhbar kelmarin.

Chloroquine dan beberapa ubat antivirus lain telah dipilih sebagai pilihan ubat untuk eksperimen ke atas haiwan dan ujian klinikal lanjut. - Xinhua



Buat masa ini koronavirus itu dirujuk sebagai 2019-nCoV.

Vietnam bangunkan hospital lapangan

HANOI - Vietnam sedang membangunkan hospital lapangan dengan ribuan katil untuk menangani peningkatan kemasukan kes berkaitan koronavirus dan bersedia untuk menerima pesakit dari China.

lapangan dengan kapasiti katil sebanyak 500 buah.

"Hospital itu akan menerima, memantau dan merawat semua pesakit koronavirus yang disyaki," katanya.

Setakat ini, Vietnam mempunyai 10 kes disahkan termasuk tiga daripada mereka yang tidak pernah membuat sebarang perjalanan ke China baru-baru ini. - AFP

Bayi disahkan positif koronavirus 30 jam selepas lahir

BEIJING - Seorang bayi di Wuhan yang dilaporkan positif koronavirus hanya 30 jam selepas dilahirkan mengundang kebimbangan bahawa jangkitan boleh berlaku ketika bayi di dalam rahim.

Menurut laporan penyiar CCTV, dua bayi dijangkiti wabak Wuhan dan mangsa paling muda hanya berusia 30 jam.

"Ibu bayi ialah pesakit yang disahkan dijangkiti koronavirus. Buat masa ini, tanda vital bayi stabil," katanya. - Agensi

Nama rasmi koronavirus beberapa hari lagi

LONDON - Jawatankuasa Antarabangsa mengenai Taksonomi Virus (ICTV) diberi tanggungjawab untuk memutuskan nama rasmi bagi koronavirus.

berkata, 2019-nCoV adalah nama yang sukar digunakan dan ia mengakibatkan media serta orang awam menggunakan istilah berbeza.

"Adalah bahaya jika tidak mempunyai nama rasmi kerana orang akan mula menggunakan istilah seperti Virus China dan ia boleh mencetuskan tindak balas terhadap populasi tertentu," katanya seperti dilaporkan BBC.

ICTV membincangkan isu itu kira-kira dua minggu lalu dan telah menyerahkan nama kepada jurnal saintifik untuk penerbitan serta pengumuman rasmi beberapa hari lagi.

Garis panduan WHO tentang menamakan penyakit berjangkit ialah ia tidak perlu melibatkan lokasi geografi seperti bandar, negara, wilayah atau benua.

Badan kesihatan itu turut menyebut, Sindrom Pernafasan Timur Tengah (MERS), selesesa Sepanyol dan encefalitis Jepun adalah antara contoh nama yang harus dielakkan.

Garis panduan juga mencadangkan nama penyakit boleh merangkumi istilah deskriptif generik khusus seperti kumpulan umur, tempoh masa, musim dan alam sekitar. - Agensi

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 32
RUANGAN : NEGERI/JOHOR

Tiada kes di Desa Tebrau

JKNJ nafi kenyataan tular dakwa wabak koronavirus tersebar di kawasan itu

Oleh SHAFIQ TINO

JOHOR BAHRU

Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Johor (JKNJ) menafikan kenyataan tular di Facebook yang mendakwa wabak koronavirus sudah tersebar di kawasan Desa Tebrau di sini.

JKNJ dalam satu kenyataan dimuat naik di Facebooknya menegaskan, berita tersebut tidak benar malah tiada sebarang laporan jangkitan berhubung penyakit berkaitan yang telah

diambil pihaknya. Menurutnya, JKNJ juga telah membuat laporan polis berkaitan ke-nyataan tular berkaitan.

"Orang awam diminta tidak menyebarkan berita yang tidak sah ini kerana ia akan mengakibatkan situasi panik dalam kalangan masyarakat."

"Harus diingatkan penyebaran berita palsu sebegini boleh dikenakan tindakan di bawah Seksyen 233 Akta Komunikasi dan Multimedia (AKM) 1998 yang memperuntukkan hukuman denda maksimum RM50,000 atau penjara tidak melebihi tempoh satu tahun atau kedua-duanya."

"Kesalahan itu juga boleh didenda selanjutnya RM1,000 bagi setiap hari kesalahan itu diteruskan selepas setiap pen-sabitan," katanya.

ANCAMAN KORONAVIRUS DI CHINA

Kelmarin tular kenyataan kononnya koronavirus sudah memasuki kawasan Desa Tebrau yang mana turut memaparkan pekerja hospital lengkap berpakaian sut perlindungan virus.

Hantaran itu juga turut meminta orang ramai berhati-hati jangan keluar rumah, ke pasar malam atau pasar raya.

Sebelum itu, negeri itu juga turut dikejutkan dengan satu hantaran daripada seorang individu yang mendakwa kawasan perumahan mewah Forest City di Iskandar Puteri turut ditutup ekoran penularan wabak dari negara China berkaitan.

Bagairmanapun, perkara itu disahkan tidak benar oleh polis yang mana usaha mengesan penyebar maklumat palsu itu sedang giat dijalankan.



Video rakaman yang mendakwa wabak berkaitan sudah merebak ke kawasan Desa Tebrau tular di media sosial sejak kelmarin.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 2

RUANGAN : NEWS / STORY OF THE DAY

NEWS / Story of the day

CORONAVIRUS

THE NUMBER OF POSITIVE CASES RISES TO 12

4-year-old girl from China in Langkawi hospital is first to be cured from infection

HANA NAZ HARUN
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TWO Malaysians who returned from Wuhan, China, on an evacuation flight on Tuesday, tested positive for the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV).

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad said the two, a father and his son, were among 105 individuals who were sent to a monitoring centre in Nilai, Negeri Sembilan, after going through health screening at the Air Disaster Unit at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA).

"Both individuals, aged 45 and 9, are receiving treatment at the isolation ward in Tuanku Ja'afar Hospital in Seremban.

"They are in stable condition," he said yesterday.

This brings the cumulative number of positive cases to 12. From the total, nine are Chinese nationals and three Malaysians.

Dr Dzulkefly said two individuals who did not pass their initial health screening upon arrival at KLIA had tested negative for the virus.

"The remaining 131 people on board the flight, including 26 government officers and flight crew, tested negative for 2019-nCoV, and are under a 14-day observation period."

AirAsia Flight AK8256 carrying 107 Malaysians and their non-citizen family members touched down at KLIA early on Tuesday morning.

They were evacuated from Hubei province's capital city, Wuhan, the epicentre of the outbreak, which had killed nearly

500 and infected more than 20,000 people.

On the first confirmed Malaysian who contracted the disease, Dr Dzulkefly said the ministry had identified 74 people who had close contact with the 41-year-old man.

It was reported the man was in Singapore from Jan 16 to 23 for a conference, which was also attended by a delegation from China.

He had returned to Malaysia on Jan 23, developed a fever and cough, and sought treatment at a private hospital in Selangor before being referred to Sungai Buloh Hospital on Feb 2.

He tested positive for 2019-nCoV on Feb 3.

"We have traced 35 people who had close contact with him and taken samples from them."

"Subsequently, these who had close contact (with him) will be put under home surveillance," said Dr Dzulkefly.

Reuters, meanwhile, reported that a 38-year-old South Korean man who came into contact with the Malaysian had been infected with the virus, according to tests done by the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (KCDC). The

South Korean had a meal with the Malaysian, as well as several other South Koreans during the conference, South Korea's *Joongang Ilbo* newspaper reported.

Singapore's Health Ministry had, on Tuesday, said the meeting involving the Malaysian took place at the hotel where the conference was held, adding that the city-state was working to identify individuals who had close contact with the cases.



The report also said Singapore — one of the worst-hit countries outside China in the 2003 outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) — has 24 cases of coronavirus, including local transmitted cases.



This, therefore, debunks the myth that once you contract the disease, you'll go into a fatal state or get a bad prognosis.

DATUK SERI DR DZULKEFLY AHMAD
Health minister

Dr Dzulkefly said those under home surveillance would be monitored by Health Ministry personnel and immediately admitted if they developed symptoms or if sample results tested positive.

On the 4-year-old girl from China who was admitted at a hospital in Langkawi, he said she was cured when they treated her symptoms. The girl is the first of 12 patients in Malaysia to have been completely cured from the infection.

Dr Dzulkefly said the girl, who was tested twice in a

span of more than 24 hours, tested negative.

"No special drug or antiviral medicine was used. Medical experts have said the 2019-nCoV is self-limiting, whereby our antibodies will end the virus' life cycle."

"So there is no special antiviral drug, but we have treated the patients here well. Even in China, more than 800 have recovered."

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : NEWS / STORY OF THE DAY



Health officials with the girl's family at Sultanah Maimah Hospital in Langkawi. PIC COURTESY OF HEALTH MINISTRY

"This, therefore, debunks the myth that once you contract the disease, you'll go into a fatal state or get a bad prognosis," he said, adding that the girl's flight arrangements to return home to China were being taken care of by the Chinese embassy.

Dr Dzulkefly said most of the other patients were in stable condition and the ministry had been receiving regular updates from clinicians at Sungai Buloh Hospital.

"There are elderly patients who aren't doing as well as the others, but their condition is not so much related to the disease per se."

"We've done tests and are monitoring their development."

On viral photos showing Hazardous Materials Management Team (Hazmat) members and the police at the Petronas Twin Towers yesterday, Dr Dzulkefly clarified that the team was sent there as a precautionary measure.

This was after a Canadian teenager, 17, collapsed at Tower 3 about 11am yesterday.

"The immediate thing on our mind is the 2019-nCoV, but it can be very well be due to other conditions."

"Our immediate response was to ensure this was taken care of, which was why Hazmat personnel came in personal protective equipment outfits. We're not taking any chances."

He also said the teenager was brought to Kuala Lumpur Hospital yesterday and the ministry was awaiting a report from them.

Other global health crises in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR: In just 10 days after Malaysia recorded its first case of 2019-nCoV coronavirus infection on Jan 25, 12 people have tested positive up to yesterday.

The first three cases involved Chinese nationals who arrived in Johor from Singapore on Jan 23, while the most recent cases comprised two Malaysians evacuated from Wuhan, China, on Tuesday.

Three Malaysians have tested positive for the virus, with the remaining cases involved Chinese nationals.

Dubbed the Wuhan virus, in reference to the Chinese city of Wuhan in Hubei province where the virus was first detected, the virus has gripped the world in fear, with a growing threat to a country's economy and its people's wellbeing.

On Jan 30, the World Health Organisation declared a global health emergency as the virus poses a threat to countries with weak healthcare systems.

This is not the first time that Malaysia had been shaken by a global health crisis.

The first human Japanese encephalitis (JE) case (a vector-borne zoonotic disease caused by the Japanese encephalitis virus)

was reported in Malaysia during World War 2 in a British prison in 1942.

JE had four major outbreaks, namely in Langkawi in 1974, Penang (1988), Perak and Negeri Sembilan (1998-1999) and Sarawak (1992)..

According to WHO, Malaysia has between nine and 91 reported cases of JE each year.

Between December 1998 and February 1999, the chikungunya virus (mosquito-borne togavirus belonging to the genus Alphavirus) was reported in Klang. The outbreak is said to be linked to areas with poor sanitation and refuse disposal.

In November last year, 82 cases of chikungunya were reported within a month in Batang Padang, involving areas in Tapah and Bidor.

It was also in 1999 that the deadly nipah virus, transmitted by bats, was recorded in Malaysia. The outbreak (September 1998 to May 1999) resulted in 265 cases of acute encephalitis with 105 deaths.

From 1986 to 2016, Malaysia recorded 111,916 HIV (human immunodeficiency virus/ acquired immunodeficiency syndrome) transmission cases.

>> Turn to Page 6

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NEWS / STORY OF THE DAY

Dengue remains No. 1 infectious disease in the country

>> From Page 3

The first reported cases of HIV infection were in 1986 with three cases, and the number rose to 6,978 in 2002. The number of new cases dropped to 3,397 in 2016.

The H1N1 flu outbreak in 2009 was part of a larger flu pandemic involving a new type of Influenza A virus.

During the first wave of infection, 14,912 cases were reported in the country from May 15, 2009 to June 4, 2010. In 2010, 88 deaths from the virus were recorded.

Dengue remains the No. 1 infectious disease in the country. Dengue fever cases reached an

all-time high, hitting 119,198 cases (about 359 new cases daily) with 162 deaths last year compared with 6,543 cases in 1995 with 28 deaths.

Although WHO had declared Malaysia polio-free in 2000, it made a comeback when a new case was reported in Sabah in December last year.

This was the first reported case in 27 years in the country, with the last documented case in 1992 and the last outbreak in 1977, with 121 cases of wild polio.

In 1994, WHO announced that leprosy had been eliminated in Malaysia.

The Health Ministry's data, however, showed that 214 cases were recorded in 2017 compared

with 206 cases in 2016, with 13 new cases involving children in Kelantan, Pahang, Sabah and Terengganu.

Tuberculosis (TB) claims about 1,500 to 2,000 lives a year in the country, with an average of six deaths happening every day. WHO states that TB prevalence rate in Malaysia stood at 92 per 100,000 population.

The ministry states that about 20,000 to 25,000 new TB cases are recorded in Malaysia each year.

In 2017, 26,168 new cases were recorded, an increase of eight per cent compared with 24,220 cases in 2015.

In November 2009, a cholera outbreak was reported in Kuala

Terengganu that spread to several districts in the state in just a week. About 400 people were hospitalised.

Malaysia is also no stranger to leptospirosis, a bacterial disease that infects those who have direct contact with the urine of infected animals. The number of cases peaked at 7,806 in 2014 with 92 deaths, an increase from 263 cases in 2004 with 20 deaths.

In June last year, a measles outbreak among the Orang Asli Batek tribe at Kampung Kuala Koh Orang Asli community in Gua Musang, Kelantan, was reported. It claimed 16 lives and was attributed to low immunisation coverage within the community.

The 2002/03 SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) outbreak, caused by the SARS coronavirus, claimed 774 lives out of the 8,096 people infected globally after it was first detected in Beijing.

Ten years later, the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), a viral respiratory disease caused by a novel coronavirus (Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus, or MERS-CoV) was first identified in Saudi Arabia in 2012.

It infected more than 2,100 people in 27 countries, killing at least 740 people. Malaysia reported its first cases of MERS-CoV infection on Jan 2, 2018.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 10

RUANGAN : NATION

Fear of the unknown

Proliferation of a contagious disease still falls behind the speed at which its prejudice spreads.



Comment
**WONG CHUN
WAI**

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IT looks like it has become a new norm in Malaysia since the outbreak of the contagious coronavirus in China and around the world, with increasing numbers of confirmed cases including fatalities.

I attended church service last week, like I do on most Sundays, where I always extend my hand to greet church members but recently, I was surprised when someone refused to return the gesture.

He didn't explain why but offered me the Salam Malaysia greeting, of his hand on the chest. For a moment, I thought Visit Malaysia 2020 was in full swing in my church.

But I soon got the message. My pastor later went up to the pulpit and reminded his congregation not to be offended if touching hands had to be temporarily stopped with the spectre of the virus looming large.

That's not all. Banks have been sending me notices of their annual Chinese New Year open houses being postponed. And there I thought banks were still doing better than other businesses.

A relative from Singapore cancelled her trip to Kuala Lumpur because of the virus. I was about to grumble about the debilitating Singapore attitude of "kiasi" (the Hokkien word for fear of death or being overly concerned) until I realised she had good reason, being over 80 years old.

But I am finding it harder to fathom wearing face masks in Malaysia. Kuala Lumpur isn't exactly a crowded city compared to Hong Kong, Seoul, Tokyo and many major cities in China.

There is hardly any physical contact, and even in the MRT it's not packed like sardines in a sweaty, claustrophobic situation with strangers pressed against each other.

I would be very worried if placed in such proximity but I haven't experienced such situations in our MRT, not even during peak hours.

So, the idea of wearing face masks isn't in place yet. Besides, I have no reason to be protesting anything or concealing my identity for fear of being recognised by the law. I am in KL, and not HK.

Also, Malaysia is so humid and hot that everything gets burnt under the sun. We have warm weather all year round, unlike China which is cold now.

So, it was only apt for Deputy Health Minister Dr Lee Boon Chye to remind Malaysians that people without symptoms of the virus need not be afraid of going maskless in public places.

"If they do not have symptoms, they do not have to wear the masks for protection. It is not necessarily effective against infection."

To avoid infection, what is most important is to wash the hands often, using soap and detergent.

"If a mask is not worn properly, there is also a risk of getting flu-like symptoms," he said recently.

But if you have a fever, cold or cough, it's your responsibility to wear one to contain your illness, even if it's just the common cold. No one is taking chances at this point.

Certainly, I would want to put on my face mask when I am travelling on a plane because I don't know the passengers or where they have been. Besides, most of us, the proletarians, travel economy class, or the cattle class, where there could be some form of body contact, even if minimal.

That said though, I think the world has become unreasonably paranoid. Many of us are over-reacting to the virus. If you are a mainland Chinese, it's a bad time to travel

because you would be eyed with suspicion and prejudice, with many forgetting that China is a country with 1.2 billion people.

If you are an ethnic Chinese, possibly a Malaysian or Singaporean, you could also face the same discrimination.

A Malaysian tour operator texted me from Lebanon over the Chinese New Year holiday saying he felt he was being viewed contemptuously because of his appearance, given the news of the virus.

We have read of Chinese being kicked out of hotels and restaurants for being China nationals.

Malaysians are still driving cars and food deliverers are still beating traffic lights every second.

No surprise then that road fatalities in Malaysia number over 6,000 and more than 25,000 injuries have

Wuhan coronavirus compared to other major viruses

Virus	Year identified	Cases	Deaths	Fatality rate (%)	Number of countries
Marburg	1967	466	373	80	11
Ebola*	1976	33,577	13,562	40.40	9
Hendra	1994	7	4	57	1
H5N1 Bird Flu	1997	861	455	52.80	18
Nipah	1998	513	398	77.60	2
SARS	2002	8,096	774	9.60	29
H1N1**	2009	1,632,258	284,500	17.40	214
MERS***	2012	2,494	858	34.40	28
H7N9 Bird Flu	2013	1,568	616	39.30	3
Wuhan*	2020	8,149	170	2	20

*As at Jan 30, 2020

**Between 2009 and 2010

***As at Nov 2019

Source: CDC, UN, World Health Organisation, New England Journal of Medicine, Malaysian Journal of Pathology, CGNT, Johns Hopkins University, The Lancet

been recorded the past five years straight.

Malaysia has the third highest fatality rate from road traffic accidents in Asia and ASEAN, behind Thailand and Vietnam.

By comparison, the fatality rates in developed countries are all in single digits.

Transport accidents (5.4%) were the fourth most common cause of death in Malaysia in 2016, behind ischaemic heart disease (13.2%), pneumonia (12.5%) and cerebrovascular disease (6.9%). It was the third most common cause of death among men, behind ischaemic heart disease.

Basically, more Malaysians could die on our roads than from this virus, but thankfully, the worst has yet to happen.

In fact, when the H1N1 influenza

epidemic broke out in 2009, hundreds of thousands perished worldwide, according to the *Lancet Infectious Diseases Online* report.

It said the global estimates were more than 15 times higher than the number of laboratory-confirmed deaths reported to the World Health Organisation.

In the case of Ebola, there were a reported 11,310 deaths in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone but the fear was not felt because Africa is a distance away and these countries are not regarded international financial centres.

As the world grapples with the fear of the coronavirus, where even a sneeze from the common cold can trigger undue panic, can we retain some common sense? Can't we?

Father and son returnees test positive for virus

PUTRAJAYA: A father and his son, who just returned home from Wuhan, have tested positive for the novel coronavirus, bringing the number of confirmed cases to 12.

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad said of the total, three of the patients were Malaysians while the rest were Chinese nationals.

He said the two latest patients, aged 45 and nine, were among the 107 passengers brought back home via a special flight on Tuesday.

"Both of them did not show any symptoms when they were screened

at the Air Disaster Unit shortly after the plane landed.

"They were then taken to the home surveillance centre to be quarantined for 14 days.

"But their test results showed they were positive for the coronavirus," he told a press conference yesterday.

Currently, the two are placed at the isolation ward in Hospital Tuanku Ja'afar in Seremban and are in a stable condition.

Two other family members – the man's wife and another child – tested negative.

All four were on the same flight home from Wuhan.

Dzulkefly said two other passengers on the flight, who were symptomatic and sent to the isolation ward at Hospital Kuala Lumpur, also tested negative.

He said health authorities were also tracing those who had been in close contact with a Selangor patient, aged 41, who was the first Malaysian to be tested positive.

He was infected while attending a business meeting in Singapore.

The minister said so far, they had identified 74 people, with samples

taken from 35 of them.

"Of the 35, 26 of them were negative while the results for nine others are still pending.

"All 35 of them have been put under home surveillance and our staff will constantly monitor their condition.

"If they develop any symptoms, they will be taken to hospital and isolated," he said.

The 41-year-old had no previous travel history to China but he developed symptoms and sought treatment at a private clinic. On Feb 3, he was tested positive and placed at the

Sungai Buloh hospital.

On the four-year-old Chinese girl who recovered from the coronavirus, Dzulkefly said she was treated without the help of special drugs.

"The treatment was done symptomatically. Unlike cancer, these diseases are described as self-limiting. Its life expectancy will depend on the strength of one's immune system," he said.

Watch the video
thestartv.com

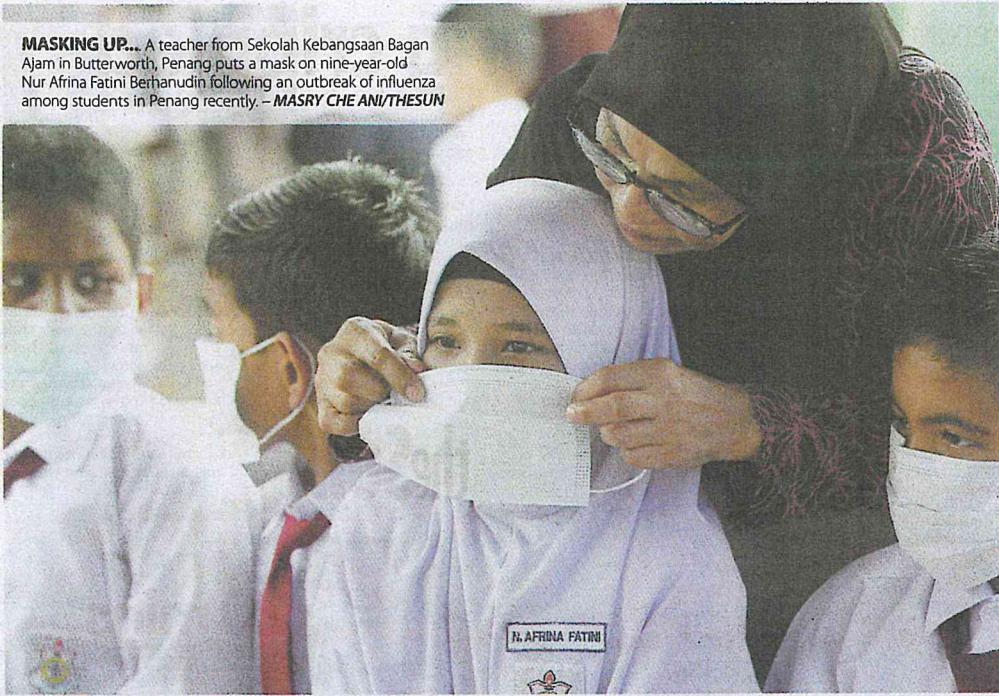


AKHBAR : THE SUN

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS

MASKING UP... A teacher from Sekolah Kebangsaan Bagan Ajam in Butterworth, Penang puts a mask on nine-year-old Nur Afrina Fatini Berhanudin following an outbreak of influenza among students in Penang recently. — MASRY CHE ANI/THESUN



Two returnees test positive for virus

45-year-old man, nine-year-old son receiving treatment in isolation ward at a hospital

BY AMAR SHAH MOHSEN
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PUTRAJAYA: Two Malaysians, who were part of the group that returned from Wuhan, China on Tuesday morning, have tested positive for the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV).

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad said this was confirmed following tests conducted on all 133 individuals involved in the repatriation mission comprising 88 Malaysians and 19 non-citizen spouses and children, as well as 26 officers and flight crew members.

He said the two Malaysians, a 45-year-old man and his nine-year-old son, are currently receiving treatment at an isolation ward in a hospital in Negri Sembilan.

The remaining Malaysians are being held under observation at a home surveillance centre in Negri Sembilan.

"They were asymptomatic when we first flew them home from Wuhan. However, we conducted throat swabs on all those

returnees, and found that two of them had the virus," he said at a press conference here yesterday.

This brings the total number of confirmed cases to 12, with three of them Malaysians.

Two other Malaysians, also part of the returning group who initially showed symptoms upon arrival at KLIA, have tested negative.

On Tuesday, Dzulkefly confirmed the first local case involving a 41-year-old man who had visited Singapore from Jan 16 to 23 for an international conference, which was also attended by delegates from China.

The man only sought treatment at a private health facility on Jan 29 when he started feeling unwell, before being admitted to the Sungai Buloh Hospital isolation ward on Feb 2.

Commenting on the case, Dzulkefly said the ministry has identified 74 of the man's close contacts to date, 35 of whom have been traced and samples taken for tests.

Of this figure (35), 26 tested negative while the remaining nine are awaiting lab results.

"We are still conducting contact tracing to identify the people the man had been in contact with," Dzulkefly said.

On a viral claim that a Canadian teenager, who collapsed while taking a walk with her family at KLCC, was infected with the virus, Dzulkefly said the ministry was conducting tests and has taken the necessary precautionary measures.

"She has been taken to Kuala Lumpur Hospital for further checks," he said, adding that officers captured on camera donning personal protective gear while attending to the girl were merely taking precautions.

A spokesman for the ministry said the 17-year-old girl and her family had resided in China for about 15 years, and had entered Malaysia on Tuesday after spending 10 days in Indonesia. Dzulkefly said the girl had not shown any symptoms of the coronavirus during initial checks.

Minister: No special drug to cure virus

PUTRAJAYA: The case of a four-year-old China girl who tested positive for the coronavirus and later declared free of the infection is evidence that no special drug is required to treat the illness.

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad said those who tested positive only need to be treated for the symptoms.

"The lifespan of the virus depends on the person's immunity," he said yesterday.

"The treatment for the infection is done symptomatically. It is not necessary to prescribe a specific drug or anti-viral treatment. Unlike cancer, this kind of diseases is described as self-limiting."

"In China, more people have recovered, about 800 of them. This disproves the myth that the virus is absolutely fatal," he added.

On Tuesday, Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the China girl, diagnosed with the Wuhan virus while on a visit to Langkawi, was the first case in the country to recover and able to return home. — *Amar Shah Mohsen*

Visa for China tourists extended

KOTA KINABALU: The Sabah Immigration Department has agreed to extend the visas of China tourists while they wait to be sent home.

Arrangements are already underway to repatriate them to cities in China apart from Wuhan, the epicentre of the 2019 novel coronavirus outbreak.

Sabah Tourism, Culture and Environment Minister Datuk Christina Liew said for those whose visas had expired, it will be extended by seven days. This is applicable for China tourists who arrived in Sabah before Jan 31, she told reporters after a special meeting yesterday.

Apart from the Immigration Department, also represented at the meeting were Malaysia Airports Bhd as well as Malaysia Airlines, AirAsia, Malindo Air, Xiamen Airlines, China Southern Airlines and China Eastern/Shanghai Airlines.

Liew said only those with valid return tickets would be given the visa extension. The requirement for a local guarantor for FIT (free independent travellers) will be waived but the visa fee of RM100 will apply.

The airlines have also agreed to waive

cancellation fees for those unable to fly as scheduled.

Liew, who is also Sabah deputy chief minister, said the tourists have the option of rebooking their flights to China via Kuala Lumpur.

However, they have been urged to check the respective airline's website for information on available flights.

Currently, AirAsia flies from Kota Kinabalu to Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Hangzhou and Kunming while Malaysia Airlines flies to Shanghai. China Southern Airlines stopped flying the Kota Kinabalu-Guangzhou route yesterday.

At a separate meeting with tour agencies and health authorities, the Sabah Tourism Board was directed to organise a briefing on the outbreak for hoteliers, airlines, tour and travel agents, tour operators and tour guides.

"It is vital for all frontliners in the state's tourism industry to be informed and updated on the situation, and control and preventive measures being undertaken by the health authorities to stave off the viral infection," Liew said. — Bernama

'Adopt measures to protect kids from infections'

KUALA LUMPUR: Parents should take preventive measures to protect their children against any viral infection, more so now in light of the 2019 novel coronavirus outbreak.

Infectious diseases expert Datuk Dr Christopher Lee said children face the same risk of infection as adults and as such, the preventive steps apply to them as well.

"Parents and schools must keep reminding children to frequently wash their hands and not to touch their eyes, nose and mouth without washing their hands first," he said.

Lee is a former deputy director-general of Health (Research) and was the previous national head of infectious diseases at the Health Ministry.

He said efforts like frequent washing of hands can become habitual over time and can help protect children against infections.

Paediatrician Datuk Dr Zulkifli Ismail said although there are no cases of death involving children so far, they must take necessary precautions as their immune system is weaker than adults.

He said children also need a balanced diet to strengthen their immune system.

The outbreak in China is expected to last a few months if the authorities are able to control it, Lee said.

"The full health impact will only be clear when we get more details, including the actual mortality rate, as many mild or asymptomatic cases were not tested in China due to the large numbers (cases all occurring at the same time)." — Bernama

MCA: GOVT ACTED 'CASUALLY' OVER OUTBREAK

KUALA LUMPUR: The MCA has slammed the government for allegedly not being proactive in combating the novel coronavirus outbreak. The party's international communication and diplomacy bureau chairman Dr Tee Chin Seng alleged that the government only reacted "casually" when the outbreak began in December. "The responses were slow and no effective measures were taken," he told reporters at MCA headquarters yesterday. Tee said the fact that many people were buying face masks showed they were anxious but Deputy Health Minister Lee Boon Chye advised that masks were not essential. Lee, on Sunday, said that surgical masks do not block the transmission of the virus so there was no need to wear them. He also said that there were no cases of human-to-human transmission in Malaysia. Tee claimed the government is not addressing the shortage of masks adequately.

JOURNO CHARGED FOR 'FEAR MONGERING'

KUALA LUMPUR: A journalist pleaded not guilty at a magistrate's court here to three charges of making statements on Facebook regarding the coronavirus, allegedly causing fear or alarm to the public. Wan Noor Hayati Wan Alias (pix), 41, entered her plea after the charges were read to her before magistrate Tawfiq Affandy Chin. According to the charges, the accused, through her Facebook account, "ibu Yati", knowingly made statements about the virus with the intention to cause fear or alarm to the public. Her Facebook statements were read at the Commercial Crime Investigation Department at Bukit Aman at 10pm on Jan 26. The accused has been charged under Section 505(b) of the Penal Code, which provides a maximum jail term of two years or a fine, or both. Deputy Public Prosecutor Nurul Ellyna Nor Azmal prosecuted while the accused was not represented. The court allowed bail of RM12,000 in one surety and set March 11 for remand.

Meanwhile, a total of 13 investigations were opened on spreading fake news on the coronavirus on social media. Deputy Inspector General of Police Datuk Mazlan Mansor said. — Bernama

