

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Ruang khas merokok perlu patuhi peraturan

Kementerian Kesihatan sokong cadangan KPKT

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Kuala Lumpur: Kementerian Kesihatan menyokong cadangan Kementerian Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan (KPKT) memperkenalkan ruang khas merokok dalam lingkungan kawasan komersial dan medan selera asalkan ia memenuhi syarat ditetapkan iaitu lokasinya tiga meter dari premis makanan.

Menterinya, Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad, berkata pihaknya tidak ada bantahan berhubung perkara itu meskipun sebelum ini tidak menyediakan kemudahan sedemikian untuk perokok.

“Tidak ada masalah langsung (untuk bina kawasan merokok khas) asalkan ia mematuhi peraturan jarak tiga meter itu,” katanya pada sidang media selepas program derma darah anjuran Srikandi Tun Fatimah STJ’73 di Surau Al-Ikhlasih di sini, semalam.

Beliau berkata demikian bagi mengulas pandangan banyak pihak supaya Kementerian Kesihatan meneliti semula pelaksanaan tempat merokok khas kerana bercanggah dengan hasrat kerajaan mengurangkan ta-



“Tidak ada masalah langsung (untuk bina kawasan merokok khas) asalkan ia mematuhi peraturan jarak tiga meter itu.”

Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad,
Menteri Kesihatan

biat merokok.

Kelmarin, lebih 50 gabungan badan profesional dan pertubuhan bukan kerajaan (NGO) menggesa KPKT menarik balik langkah melaksanakan ruang khas merokok di tempat awam.

Presiden Persatuan Pakar Perubatan Kesihatan Awam Malaysia, Datuk Dr Zainal Ariffin Omar yang mengetuai gesaan itu berkata, pihaknya tidak bersetuju dengan idea berkenaan dengan peruntukan RM1 juta yang disediakan bagi merealisasikan

langkah berkenaan.

Dr Zainal berkata, peruntukan itu sepatutnya disalurkan untuk program rehabilitasi dan rawatan penyakit berkaitan merokok.

Sementara itu, Dr Dzulkefly berkata, pihaknya tidak pernah menganggap perokok tergolong sebagai musuh.

“Ada orang di luar sana mahu merokok seperti biasa, tetapi kita cuma mahu mereka mematuhi peraturan ditetapkan,” katanya.

Pada 7 Januari lalu, KPKT membenarkan pemilik restoran atau kedai makan, sama ada milik persendirian atau pihak berkuasa tempatan (PBT), menyediakan kawasan khas merokok di luar premis, pada jarak sekurang-kurangnya tiga meter dari meja makan terdekat.

Menterinya, Zuraida Kamaruddin, berkata usaha Kementerian itu bagi menyokong inisiatif Kementerian Kesihatan berhubung arahan larangan merokok di semua tempat makan awam sejak 1 Januari lalu.

Beliau berkata, usaha itu juga dilaksanakan bagi memahami keperluan golongan perokok dalam memberi ruang mereka melakukan aktiviti itu dalam tempoh ‘peralihan’ peraturan berkenaan.

Susulan larangan itu juga, Zuraida berkata, KPKT juga akan memperuntukkan RM1 juta bagi pembinaan kawasan merokok di tempat awam termasuk kawasan komersial dan medan selera milik 155 PBT di seluruh negara.

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 39

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Influenza bukan virus baharu: Dr Dzulkefly

Jangkitan tiada kaitan langsung wabak radang paru-paru di Wuhan, China

Kuala Lumpur: Analisis dibuat Institut Penyelidikan Perubatan (MR) dan Makmal Kesihatan Awam Kebangsaan (MKAK) terhadap jangkitan virus influenza yang menunjukkan peningkatan pada masa ini, mendapati ia bukan virus baharu.

Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad, berkata jangkitan influenza yang berlaku di Malaysia ketika ini juga tiada kaitan langsung dengan wabak radang paru-paru (pneumonia) yang berlaku di Wuhan, China. "Analisa semasa itu membabitkan kajian trend influenza membuktikan kadar konsultasi kes pesakit serupa influenza (ILI) dan kadar kemasukan pesakit ke wadangan jangkitan pernafasan akut teruk (SARI)," katanya seperti dilapor BERNAMA selepas rasminya program Kempen Derma Darah anjuran Persatuan Alumni Sekolah Tun Fatimah (SK-STJ 73) di sini, semalam.



Dr Dzulkefly bersama Pengarah Pusat Darah Negara, Dr Noryati Abu Amin (dua dari kanan) pada Program Kempen Derma Darah anjuran Persatuan Alumni Sekolah Tun Fatimah (SK-STJ 73), semalam. (Foto BERNAMA)

Dr Dzulkefly berkata, vaksin influenza ditawarkan hospital kerajaan hanya kepada golongan berisiko tinggi seperti pesakit dengan penyakit kronik dan golongan daya ketahanan rendah.

Beliau berkata, hanya pesakit memenuhi kriteria jangkitan sederhana atau teruk saja selepas melalui ujian saringan influenza di hospital akan ditahan di wadangan rawatan lanjut.

Mengulas dakwaan kehabisan stok ubat dan vaksin, Dr Dzulkefly berkata, kementerian sudah meminta pihak pembekal mendapatkan stok vaksin influenza dengan segera bagi memenuhi permintaan di negara ini.

Katanya, kebanyakan fasiliti kesihatan swasta yang sebelum ini melaporkan kekurangan stok ubat antivirus bagi merawat influenza mula menerima bekalan masing-masing.

"Bagi fasiliti Kementerian Kesihatan pula, Pharmaniaga memberi jaminan stok ubat antivirus

akan terus dibekalkan tanpa sebarang gangguan bagi memastikan bekalan mencukupi pada setiap masa," katanya.

Sementara itu, di Kelantan, Jabatan Kesihatan negeri tetap mengambil langkah berjaga-jaga termasuk menempatkan petugas di tiga pintu masuk antarabangsa sempadan Kelantan-Thailand bagi melakukan pemeriksaan saringan walaupun tidak ada kes wabak penyakit Influenza A di negeri ini.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 11

RUANGAN : LOKAL

KKM nasihat jangan panik

Kuala Lumpur: Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) meminta supaya orang ramai tidak panik berikutan jangkitan influenza di negara ini.

Menterinya, Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad berkata, KKM sudah mempertingkatkan pemantauan aktiviti influenza mahupun kejadian wabak jangkitan saluran pernafasan dari masa ke masa.

Katanya, KKM juga ingin menegaskan bahawa kejadian jangkitan influenza yang berlaku di Malaysia tidak mempunyai sebarang kaitan dengan kejadian radang paru-paru (pneumonia) yang berlaku di Wuhan, China, Sindrom Pernafasan Akut Teruk (SARS) atau lain-lain.

“Secara realistiknya, kita belum lagi berada di peringkat untuk membuat sebarang pengumu-

man ‘kecemasan’.

“Namun, kami sentiasa mempertingkatkan pengawasan terutama di lokasi yang lebih terdedah dengan influenza.

“Saya berharap isu influenza ini tidak mencetuskan kebimbangan yang terlampau kepada orang ramai kerana ia masih terkawal,” katanya kepada media selepas melancarkan program derma darah di STF⁷³ di Surau Al-Ikhlasih Keramat Jaya di sini, semalam.

Ketika ditanya mengenai isu kehabisan stok bekalan vaksin influenza baru-baru ini, Dr Dzulkefly berkata, permintaan vaksin influenza yang meningkat pada akhir 2019 dan awal tahun ini menyebabkan stok yang diperuntukkan oleh pembekal untuk Malaysia habis digunakan.

“Bagi mengatasi masalah ini, KKM meminta pi-

hak pembekal mendapatkan stok vaksin influenza ini dengan segera bagi memenuhi permintaan di negara kita.

“Kebanyakan fasiliti kesihatan swasta yang sebelum ini melaporkan kekurangan stok ubat anti-viral bagi merawat influenza mula menerima bekalan masing-masing,” katanya.

Sementara itu, beliau turut mengulas mengenai cadangan Kesatuan Perkhidmatan Perguruan Kebangsaan Semenanjung Malaysia (NUTP) yang meminta kerajaan mempertimbang untuk memasukkan Influenza A ke dalam senarai jenis penyakit berjangkit diberikan kemudahan cuti kuarantin.

“Buat masa ini tiada keperluan lagi untuk memasukkan Influenza A ke dalam senarai penyakit berjangkit bagi membolehkan cuti kuarantin diberikan.

“Bagaimanapun, KKM sedia berbincang dengan mana-mana pihak mengenai perkara ini,” katanya.

Stok vaksin diperuntukkan pembekal untuk Malaysia habis digunakan

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 10

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

KKM tidak halang usaha KPKT

KKM tiada masalah sekiranya kawasan khas merokok disediakan kepada perokok

Oleh ZUBIR SULAIMAN

KUALA LUMPUR

Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) tidak menghalang usaha Kementerian Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan (KPKT) yang akan memberi peruntukan khas sebanyak RM1 juta kepada 155 pihak berkuasa tempatan (PBT) di seluruh negara untuk pembinaan kawasan khas merokok terutamanya di premis-premis makanan.

Menterinya, Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad berkata, usaha itu sebaliknya dilihat sedikit sebanyak membantu pihak KKM dalam memberi kesedaran kepada perokok untuk mematuhi tempat-tempat yang telah diwartakan sebagai zon larangan merokok termasuk di premis makanan.

"Kerajaan dalam apa juga isu yang ditangani ketika ini sentiasa mengambil pendekatan dengan melibatkan pembabitkan semua pihak khususnya agensi yang berkaitan.

"Jadi, bila kita buat larangan me-



Dr Dzulkefly (tengah) beramah mesra dengan penderma darah, Muhammad Alzul pada program Kempen Dema Darah SK-STF 73 di Surau Al-Ikhlasiah, Keramat Jaya, Kuala Lumpur semalam.

rokok di tempat awam dan premis makanan, maka pihak PBT di bawah KPKT turut menolong kita dalam menjalankan penguatkuasaan," katanya selepas merasmikan Kempen Dema Darah SK-STF 73 di Surau Al-Ikhlasiah, Keramat Jaya, Kampung Datuk Keramat di sini semalam.

Beliau berkata, KKM tiada masalah sekiranya kawasan merokok disediakan kepada perokok kerana pihaknya tiada keupayaan untuk menyediakan kemudahan tersebut.

"Sekurang-kurangnya ia dapat membantu kami mempertingkatkan

usaha untuk mencapai udara yang bersih dan bebas rokok khususnya di tempat-tempat makan awam.

"Kita sebenarnya tidak mahu menyusahkan perokok tetapi mahu mereka juga memahami mengapa larangan itu dikuatkuasakan," katanya.

Mengulas lanjut, Dr Dzulkefly berkata, pihaknya masih dalam perbincangan bagi mengemukakan garis panduan kawasan khas merokok kepada KPKT dan pembentangnya akan dilakukan selewat-lewatnya Mac depan kepada Majlis Negara Kerajaan Tempatan (MNKT).

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NEWS/NATION

QUARANTINE LEAVE

'NO NEED TO PUT INFLUENZA A ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES LIST'

Current situation does not necessitate such a measure, says Dr Dzulkefly

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Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad

There is no need to include Influenza A in the list of infectious diseases, which allows for quarantine leave to be provided.

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad said the current situation had not mandated such a measure.

"Nonetheless, the ministry had considered the suggestion and would discuss it while monitoring the situation in the country.

At present, there is no need for it," he said after attending the Blood Donation Drive by Srikandi Tun Fatimah STJ'73 at Surau Al-Ikhlasih Keramat Jaya here yesterday.

On Friday, National Union of the Teaching Profession secretary-general Harry Tan Hui-at Hock urged the government to add Influenza A to the list of six infectious diseases.

Tan said this was due to the spread of the Influenza A virus in the country.

Therefore quarantine leave should be given to infected teachers and students.

Based on a circular issued in 2016 on the provision of quarantine leave, Tan said the six infectious diseases on the list were hand, foot and mouth disease; dengue fever and dengue haemorrhagic fever; measles, chickenpox, diphtheria and malaria.

Dr Dzulkefly dismissed claims

that there were not enough beds at government hospitals, forcing Influenza A patients to be turned away.

"We have said that this situation (lack of beds) could occur, but not all with influenza symptoms have to be warded."

The ministry, he said, would continue to monitor the development, especially at entry points of the country.

Dr Dzulkefly said an increase in influenza cases was not related to the pneumonia outbreak in Wuhan, China.

Meanwhile, he welcomed the move by the Housing and

Local Government Ministry to set up special smoking areas within commercial areas and food courts.

He said the special smoking areas, however, must comply with the regulation of being 3m away from the eateries.

"We have no problem at all since we are unable to provide such facilities to smokers.

"(But) it must comply with the 3m regulation."

Dr Dzulkefly was commenting on calls by certain quarters for the government to review the idea as it defeats the govern-



A nurse taking the ear temperature of a toddler at the health clinic of Universiti Putra Malaysia in Serdang on Friday. PIC BY ASYRAF HAMZAH

ment's goal of reducing smoking.

On Friday, Malaysian Public Health Medicine Specialist Association president Dr Zainal Ariffin Omar called on the government to review its proposal to set up special smoking zones in public places at a cost of RM1 million.

The move, said Dr Zainal, was not in line with Malaysia's goal of becoming a smoke-free nation by 2045.

He had described such a move as unnecessary as smokers were restricted from lighting up at only 23 gazetted areas, such as eateries, air-conditioned shops, hospitals and government premises.

Dr Zainal said the allocation for setting up smoking areas should

instead be used for smokers' rehabilitation programmes or treatment of diseases caused by smoking.

Dr Dzulkefly said the ministry had never treated smokers as adversaries.

"There are people who still want to smoke and we just want them to observe the regulations."

On Jan 7, Housing and Local Government Minister Zuraida Kamaruddin said the local authorities could apply for an allocation from the ministry to set up special smoking areas in public places.

Zuraida said RM1 million had been allocated for the purpose and all 155 local authorities across the country can build designated smoking areas within

commercial areas and food courts under their jurisdiction.

She said the move was to satisfy smokers and show that the government was concerned about their plight.

As for owners of food premises who want to set up smoking areas at their own expense, Zuraida said they need to obtain permission from the local authorities.

The smoking ban was first implemented on Jan 1 last year at all restaurants, air-conditioned restaurants and open stalls.

Smokers, however, were allowed to smoke 3m outside the restaurant.

On Jan 1 this year, a full ban on smoking was enforced at eateries with a maximum compound of up to RM350.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NATION

'Influenza virus not new'

No link to pneumonia outbreak in China, says Dzulkefly

KUALA LUMPUR: While an analysis undertaken by the Institute for Medical Research (IMR) and the National Public Health Laboratory (MKAK) indicates an upward trend in the influenza outbreak, it has also found that the virus is a pre-existing one, and not new.

In announcing this, Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad said the virus was not linked in any way to the current pneumonia outbreak in Wuhan, China.

The analysis involved a study of the rate of consultations on influenza-like illnesses and the rate of ward admissions of patients with Severe Acute Respiratory Infection

(SARI), he told reporters after launching a blood donation campaign that was organised by the alumni of Sekolah Tun Fatimah yesterday.

The minister said that for the moment, the ministry still did not have a policy to provide the influenza vaccine to the public except in reference to high-risk patients at government hospitals and those with chronic diseases or impaired immune systems.

He brushed aside incidents of shortage of hospital beds at government and private health facilities as reported by a media portal, saying that not all influenza cases, be they suspected or confirmed cases,

needed to be admitted.

"Only patients who fulfil the moderate or severe illness criteria, following tests, would be admitted for further treatment," he said.

On the matter of influenza vaccines being out of stock, Dr Dzulkefly said they had requested suppliers to replenish the stocks urgently to meet the country's needs.

"In this connection, many private health facilities that had reported a shortage of anti-viral medication has begun to receive their respective supplies.

"For our facilities, Pharmaniaga has given an assurance that stocks of anti-viral medicines will contin-

ue to be supplied without any interruption to ensure there are sufficient supplies at all times.

"It should be remembered that the use of anti-viral medicines needs to be appropriately considered by doctors as there is a possibility that resistance to the medicines may occur (among patients) if they are used arbitrarily without any control," he said.

A total of 52% of respiratory tract infections were recorded at educational institutions such as schools, kindergartens and hostels but this had not led to the closure of the affected institutions because the outbreak was still under control, Dr Dzulkefly added. — Bernama