

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Penularan COVID-19

Separuh kriteria WHO dipenuhi

Pertubuhan dunia tetapkan enam prasyarat tamatkan PKP

Putrajaya: Malaysia berjaya memenuhi sebahagian daripada enam kriteria ditetapkan Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO) untuk menentukan sama ada Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP) boleh ditamatkan.

Enam kriteria ditetapkan WHO sebagai prasyarat untuk menamatkan PKP, iaitu kawalan sempadan untuk mengelakkan kes import, kawalan pergerakan dalam negara, peningkatan fasiliti kesihatan, penjagaan golongan berisiko seperti warga emas, mengadaptasi kebiasaan baharu dan pemeriksaan pencegahan dalam komuniti.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, mengumumkan Malaysia kini memasuki fasa pemulihan selepas berjaya meratakan lengkung penularan COVID-19 menerusi tiga fasa PKP.

Katanya, antara kriteria dicapai Malaysia ketika ini adalah penularan wabak dalam negara yang terkawal, usaha penguatkuasaan lebih ketat di pintu masuk negara dan kemampuan sistem kesihatan untuk mengesan, menguji serta merawat COVID-19.

"Kalau kes penularan dapat dikawal dengan tiada kes baharu dan tiada penularan dalam komuniti, itulah yang sebaik-baiknya," katanya pada sidang media harian COVID-19 di Putrajaya, semalam.

Selain PKP, Malaysia juga dapat mengawal penularan COVID-19 menerusi pelaksanaan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Diperketatkan (PKPD) dengan melaksanakan pendekatan bertumpu dan mengambil sampel semua orang di kawasan terbabit.

Setakat ini, PKPD dilaksanakan di enam kawasan iaitu di Simpang Renggam, Johor; Sungai Lui, Selangor; Menara City One; Selangor Mansion dan Malayan Mansion; sekitar Jalan Masjid India, Kuala Lumpur serta Pusat Bandar Utara, sekitar Pasar Borong Kuala Lumpur.

Mengulas lanjut kriteria itu, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, Malaysia berjaya melaksanakan kawalan sempadan yang ketat bagi mengengkang penularan COVID-19 yang berpunca daripada orang luar.

Ketika ini hanya ada 131 kes positif COVID-19 dibawa warga negara yang pulang dari luar negara.

"Jika kita membuka sempadan, orang lain boleh masuk dan ini boleh menyebabkan kebangkitan kes COVID-19 menular meningkat. Maka kita kena ketatkan kawalan sempadan," katanya.

Pada 17 Mac lalu, kerajaan membuat keputusan melarang pelancong asing memasuki negara dan rakyat keluar negara bagi membendung wabak COVID-19. Kerajaan turut menguatkuasakan peraturan semua rakyat di luar negara yang pulang perlu menjalani kuarantin wajib selama 14 hari di pusat kuarantin ditetapkan untuk kawal kes import.



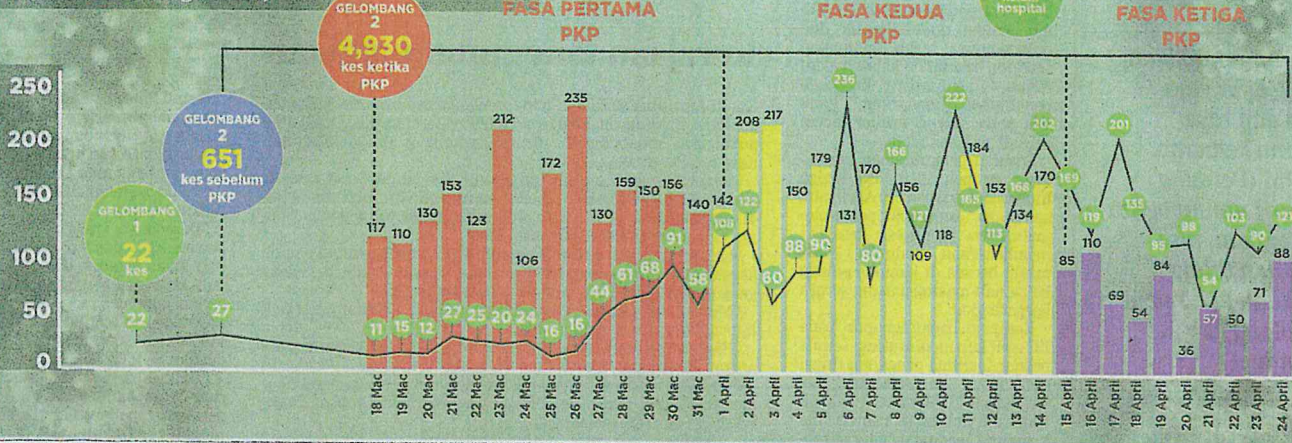
Menteri Kanan (Keselamatan), Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob sebelum ini dilaporkan berkata, sempadan negara kini dikawal ketat pasukan keselamatan terdiri daripada Polis Diraja Malaysia (PDRM), Angkatan Tentera Malaysia (ATM), Jabatan Imigresen dan Agensi Kawalan Sempadan Malaysia (AKSEM), termasuk semua 'lorong tikus'.

Selain di darat, sempadan perairan negara juga turut dikawal ketat oleh Tentera Laut Diraja Malaysia (TLDM) dan Agensi Penguatkuasaan Maritim Malaysia (Maritim Malaysia) bagi menghalang pencerobohan termasuk oleh bot nelayan asing.

Menyentuh mengenai fasiliti kesihatan negara, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, Malaysia mempunyai sistem kesihatan awam yang cekap terutama dalam pengesanan kes awal COVID-19 dan membuat ujian, termasuk keupayaan hospital merawat wabak berkenaan.

TABURAN KES COVID-19 24 APRIL 2020

(Setakat 12 tengah hari)



Grafik111

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 10

RUANGAN : LOKAL



WARGA Malaysia yang pulang dari luar negara tiba di sebuah hotel untuk menjalani tempoh kuarantin selama 14 hari di sekitar Kuala Lumpur, semalam.

Oleh Shamran Sarahan
shamss@hmetro.com.my

Putrajaya

Jumlah kumulatif kes pulih sepenuhnya daripada jangkitan koronavirus baharu (Covid-19) dalam negara terus meningkat kepada 3,663 kes dengan kadar kesembuhan 64.4 peratus, semalam.

Peningkatan itu susulan pertambahan 121 lagi kes pulih dan dibenarkan discaj daripada fasiliti Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) selain melebihi bilangan kes baharu yang dilaporkan.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, sehingga jam 12 tengah hari, semalam, 88 kes baharu jangkitan Covid-19 dilaporkan dan merekodkan 5,691 kes

Malaysia tawar jadi negara penguji vaksin

Putrajaya: Malaysia menawarkan diri untuk menjadi negara penguji kepada ujian klinikal vaksin yang kini dibangunkan China.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, pasukan perubatan republik itu yang kini berada di Malaysia memaklumkan vaksin itu kini pada peringkat kedua ujian klinikal.

Menurutnya, berdasarkan anggaran, ujian klinikal fasa dua vaksin itu dapat disiapkan November hingga Disember depan.

"Jika keputusan ujian kedua positif, mereka akan memulakan ujian klinikal fasa ketiga selepas itu.

"Malaysia menawarkan diri menjadi negara penguji untuk ujian klinikal fasa tiga dan kajian boleh dilakukan di sini

(Malaysia)," katanya.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, selain itu, pelbagai perkongsian idea dijana antara Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) dengan pakar perubatan dan China dari segi kesihatan awam, makmal dan rawatan dalam menangani isu Covid-19.

Beliau berkata, ini kerana republik itu berpengalaman dua bulan lebih awal berdepan wabak maut itu membolehkan mereka berkongsi pengalaman dalam menguruskan penularan wabak.

"Covid-19 adalah virus baharu dan pengalaman mereka membantu kita mengurus tindakan dan pelan strategik yang boleh digunakan untuk menyekat penularan," katanya.

keseluruhan dalam negara.

Beliau berkata, daripada keseluruhan kes itu, jumlah kes aktif dengan kebole-

jangkitan Covid-19 adalah 1,932 kes dan mereka sudah diasingkan serta diberi rawatan.

"Sehingga kini, 41 kes positif Covid-19 sedang dirawat di

Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU).

"Daripada jumlah itu, 18 kes memerlukan bantuan pernafasan," katanya pada sidang media harian berkaitan Covid-19 di sini, semalam.

Dalam pada itu, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, satu kematian berkaitan jangkitan Covid-19 dilaporkan kepada Pusat Ke-siapsiagaan dan Tindakan Cepat Krisis

Kebangsaan (CPRC), setakat 12 tengah hari semalam.

Katanya, pertambahan itu menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes kematian akibat jangkitan wabak berkenaan dalam negara ketika ini sebanyak 96 kes.

"Kematian ke-96 itu adalah kes ke-2,978 membabitkan lelaki warga Malaysia berusia 61 tahun yang mempunyai latar belakang penyakit kencing manis, darah tinggi dan penyakit buah pinggang.

"Beliau mempunyai sejarah kontak rapat dengan kes positif Covid-19 iaitu kes ke-1,345 yang mempunyai sejarah pulang dari Indonesia.

"Beliau dirawat di Hospital Sungai Buloh, Selangor pada 31 Mac dan disahkan meninggal dunia pada 24 April (semalam), jam 2.29 pagi," katanya.



DR NOOR HISHAM

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NEW/NATION

'SUFFICIENT'

'OUR TESTING CAPABILITIES IMPROVING'

Malaysia's positivity rate and testing capacity have gone up, says Health D-G

PUTRAJAYA

MALAYSIA'S capabilities to run Covid-19 tests have improved beyond the benchmark set by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said WHO had set the positivity rate at 10 per cent, which stipulated one positive case out of every 10 tests.

"We've done tests on 132,361 cases and found 5,742, or 4.34 per cent of them, to be positive.

"This is better than the guideline WHO set for Covid-19 tests," he said at his daily press briefing at the Health Ministry yesterday.

The country's positivity rate was at 7.3 per cent previously.

A high positive rate means there are many undetected cases in the community, while a low figure signifies sufficient testing.

Dr Noor Hisham said the ministry could conduct up to 16,385 tests a day using the reverse transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) technique.

He said on Friday, 14,997 RT-PCR tests were conducted.

He said Malaysia would receive 200,000 antigen rapid test kits from South Korea next week.



Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah

"When the new kit comes in, we are looking at conducting more than 20,000 tests daily."

He had said the Health Ministry procured the kits from South Korean firm SD Biosensor. The kits have a sensitivity rate of 84.4 per cent and the specificity for the test is 100 per cent.

He said there was a slight delay in getting the kits, which were scheduled to arrive on Friday.

The ministry recorded 51 new Covid-19 cases in the country yesterday, bringing the total number of cases to 5,742.

The number of active cases dropped to less than 2,000 after the ministry logged 99 recoveries, bringing the number of active cases down to 1,882.

Dr Noor Hisham said 3,762 patients had recovered.

He said the National Crisis Preparedness and Response Centre had recorded two more deaths, bringing the death toll to 98 (1.71 per cent of cases).

"The 97th death (Case 2,354) was a Malaysian man, 62, who had cardiovascular disease.

"He was treated at Sungai Buloh Hospital and died on April 25 at 3.53am.

"The 98th death (Case 2,806) was a Malaysian woman, 62, who suffered from hypertension. She was a close contact of Case 1,346, who was her child."

She said the woman was admitted to Kuala Lumpur Hospital on March 22 and was pronounced dead on April 24 at 5.43pm.

The Bali Persons Under Investigation cluster in Kuantan had recorded 43 cases, he said.



A supermarket employee checking the temperature of a customer in Kuantan yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

He said of the number, 10 were medical workers.

He said 30 people from the cluster were being treated at Tengku Ampuan Afzan Hospital in Pahang, nine had recovered, one was warded at the Intensive Care Unit and three had died.

"A total of 2,301 Covid-19 screenings have been conducted on health workers and patients from the medical centre.

"Outbreak control measures are being carried out with the cooperation of the Health Ministry, including decontamination work and the transfer of patients to nearby ministry hospitals."

On the screening of foreign workers, he said testing would be done only in targeted locations and only among high-risk groups.

Of the 14,187 tests conducted on

foreign workers, 676 had tested positive for Covid-19, including those who had attended the tabligh event in Sri Petaling.

He said the ministry was conducting acute case detection (trace and track) of foreign workers in areas under the Enhanced Movement Control Order, including Menara City One, Malayan Mansion, Selangor Mansion and the Masjid India locality.

Malaysia retains zero indigenous malaria transmission status for 2019

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia has retained its zero indigenous malaria status for last year, said Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

He said the status had been achieved since 2018.

"Our success since 2018 must be retained for three consecutive years to qualify Malaysia for the World Health Organisation's certification of malaria elimination for indigenous transmission in 2021," he said yesterday.

Despite the achievement, the country still recorded zoonotic

malaria cases from monkeys and imported malaria cases.

Dr Noor Hisham said last year, 3,491 malaria cases from various sources were recorded, of which 3,223 (81.8 per cent) were zoonotic, 620 (15.7 per cent) were imported and 98 (2.5 per cent) were caused by other infections.

"In the same year, six deaths were reported, involving zoonotic malaria cases from the *plasmodium knowlesi* species.

"The Health Ministry has taken steps to ensure malaria control and prevention activities are not

affected so that the zero malaria (indigenous) status can be retained."

During the Movement Control Order, he said malaria prevention methods were changed by updating on-field critical action.

He said this was to ensure that health workers were protected from Covid-19 infection.

"In this regard, the Health Ministry prioritises all cases and outbreaks for immediate action."

He said to control the vector, which were malaria-carrying mosquitoes, treated mosquito

nets were distributed from house to house to avoid large gatherings in communities and to maintain social distancing.

"The ministry also ensures that the supply of equipment for malaria diagnosis and malaria medication is not affected," he said, adding that malaria screening for risk groups was ongoing.

He advised people living in rural areas to take precautionary measures against malaria, such as wearing clothes that protect the whole body from mosquito bites, using mosquito repellent

and avoid going outside at night.

He said farms must ensure that their workers were protected from mosquito bites by providing treated mosquito nets and carrying out other malaria prevention steps, such as residual spraying.

"Seek immediate treatment at your nearest clinic or hospital if you have malaria symptoms, such as fever, cold chills, sweating and feeling weak.

"Act now," he said, and urged people to remember that: "Zero malaria starts with me."

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : NATION

DG: We've gotten a grip on the outbreak

But ministry urges M'sians to not let guard down

By JOSEPH KAOS Jr
joekaosjr@thestar.com.my

PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia may seem to have gotten a grip on the Covid-19 outbreak but the Health Ministry has warned complacency could bring about a new wave of infections.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said it was important for Malaysians to remain steadfast and ensure the success of the remaining phases of the enhanced movement control order (MCO).

"If we look at our data, we had 217 new cases on April 3. That was the highest daily rise we had ever since. We expected cases to peak on April 14, so much so that the prediction was there would be 6,300 cases in the country.

"But we did not see that peak, which means in the first two phases, we have successfully flattened the peak. The peak is behind us.

"What we are going through now is a recovery phase. We hope we can continue this momentum and keep our cases under control," said Dr Noor Hisham at the ministry's daily Covid-19 press conference here.

However, he added that it is not impossible for an exponential surge in cases to happen if Malaysians let their guard down.

"It is important for us to continue doing what we managed to achieve



Latest update: Dr Noor Hisham briefing the media at a press conference in Putrajaya.

in Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the MCO," he said.

Dr Noor Hisham also said the move by the government to extend the MCO by another two weeks is very welcomed.

"This move will provide the government with further opportunity to prevent and control the spread of Covid-19 infection more aggressively, prior to a re-evaluation of the effectiveness and current Covid-19 situation in the country.

"The ministry will continue all measures, as well as intensify efforts to further reduce the num-

ber of cases through a targeted approach.

"Such measures can be implemented more effectively under the MCO as well as the enhanced MCO," he said.

Dr Noor Hisham also added the arrival of eight medical professionals from China has helped Malaysia to plan its Covid-19 management better.

"Covid-19 is a new coronavirus, so we do not have the experience in dealing with it," he said.

"China is at least two months ahead of us. We have certainly

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NATION

Malaysia sees drop in measles cases

WHO: It remains a threat especially if vaccination rates drop during Covid-19

By MENG YEW CHOONG
ycmeng@thestar.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR: There has been a decline in the number of measles cases in Malaysia from 1,958 in 2018 to 1,077 last year.

"However, measles deaths rose from six in 2018 to 15 last year," said Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah in a statement yesterday to mark World Immunisation Week (April 24 to April 30).

Dr Noor Hisham said pertussis (whooping cough) cases also increased from 892 in 2018 to 915 last year, while deaths declined from 22 to 20 for the same period.

As for diphtheria cases, it declined slightly, from 18 in 2018 to 16 last year, with six deaths for each respective year.

"The majority of these cases did not receive vaccination.

"There were also cases among infants, who were not old enough to be vaccinated," he said.

For WHO and Unicef, measles continues to remain an ever-present threat, especially if vaccination rates drop, with projections indicating that as many as 800,000 people



To your health: Both WHO and Unicef say that vaccination protects people of all ages against diseases.

may have been infected with measles last year.

"This year, there are increasing concerns about another resurgence, especially if vaccination rates fall due to delay or suspension of scheduled immunisation activities as a result of Covid-19," said WHO and Unicef, adding that the Covid-19 pandemic was a good illustration of how fast an outbreak could spread when communities do not have immunisation.

"While no vaccine exists yet for Covid-19, the world has effective and safe vaccines for other serious and highly contagious diseases like measles, polio or diphtheria.

"In taking appropriate measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19, we must make efforts to ensure that children are up-to-date with their vaccination schedule," they said in a joint statement yesterday.

"Globally, the Covid-19 pandemic is overstressing health systems. Health workers are being diverted to support the outbreak response, putting them at risk of illness and death.

"The longer the pandemic continues, the more essential health services, including vaccination services, are disrupted," they said.

World Immunisation Week aims to promote the use of vaccines to

protect people of all ages against diseases.

With this year's theme being #VaccinesWork for All, the campaign will focus on how vaccines – along with the people who develop and deliver them – are heroes in protecting public health.

They pointed out that Sabah is now in urgent need to resume its polio vaccination programme that has been interrupted by the movement control order.

In February, the Health Ministry received 2.5 million doses of polio vaccine that will be delivered to over one million children below 13 years old in the state as part of the polio immunisation campaign following an outbreak of the disease.

"It is crucial that efforts are made to resume and strengthen immunisation activities as soon as physical distancing measures are lifted.

"There are many impacts of Covid-19, including the possible resurgence of diseases that can be prevented with safe and effective vaccines," said Dr Lo Ying-Ru, WHO representative for Malaysia, Brunei and Singapore.

WHO maintains that it is essential to ensure access to immunisation

services during Covid-19, and that parents should continue to bring their children to be vaccinated against vaccine-preventable diseases.

"WHO urges countries to prioritise the continuation of routine immunisation of children in essential service delivery, as well as vaccinations for groups most at risk.

"If immunisation services must be suspended, urgent catch-up vaccinations should be rescheduled as soon as possible, prioritising those most at risk," they said.

Both organisations also said that the impact from Covid-19 has been a painful lesson for the failure to make vaccines universally available.

"The poorest and most marginalised children, who need immunisation the most, continue to be the least likely to get it.

"Most of the unvaccinated children live in remote rural locations or with undocumented, refugee, migrant or stateless families.

"Disease does not discriminate, and neither should interventions. Every child, no matter their status, has the right to be immunised," said Marianne Clark-Hattingh, Unicef representative to Malaysia.