

**AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN**  
**MUKA SURAT : 3**  
**RUANGAN : NASIONAL**

## Kuching jadi Zon Merah, Hospital Sentosa ditutup

**Kuala Lumpur:** Bandaraya Kuching, Sarawak kini menjadi Zon Merah COVID-19, selepas merekodkan 41 kes jangkitan, termasuk empat kes baharu.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata empat kes baharu jangkitan dikesan membatikkan Kluster Sentosa.

Beliau berkata, susulan kejadian itu, Hospital Sentosa di Kuching kini ditutup kepada orang awam.

"Semua kakitangannya kini dikuarantin di hospital. Pengesahan kontak rapat mereka juga sedang dijalankan."

"Ketika ini, 677 individu sudah disaring dan diuji dengan 657 masih menunggu keputusan. Kuching, Sarawak telah menjadi Zon Merah," katanya dalam satu kenyataan.

Sementara itu, Timbalan Ketua Menteri, Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas, berkata Hospital Sentosa yang terletak di Kota Sentosa, ditutup kerana semua petugas dikuarantin selepas sebahagian besar dijangkiti COVID-19.

Beliau berkata, langkah itu berikutnya 16 kakitangan hospital berkenaan diuji positif COVID-19 sehingga kelmarin.

"Berikutnya arahan kuarantin itu, semua kakitangan hospital tidak dibenarkan pulang ke rumah dalam tempoh 14 hari," katanya.

Sementara itu, Kuching mencatat angka tertinggi kes positif COVID-19 sejak dikesan semula pada 6 Julai lalu.

Bagaimanapun, dalam tempoh 20 hari sehingga semalam, 78 kes positif dilaporkan di Sarawak dengan 58 daripadanya dikesan di Kuching, manakala Samarahan (12), Bintulu (lima) dan Sibu, Lundu serta Bau masing-masing satu kes, dengan mangsa berusia antara 22 hingga 72 tahun.

Peningkatan mendadak kes di Kuching disumbang sembilan kluster dengan Kluster Sentosa mencatat 20 kes.

Jurucakap Sekretariat Jawatankuasa Pengurusan Bencana Negeri (JPBN) berkata, selain Kluster Sentosa, lapan lagi yang masih aktif ialah Kluster Syarikat Kejuruteraan (empat), Kluster Mampong (lima), Kluster Pusat Perubatan (tiga), Kluster Jupiter (tiga), Kluster Pasar Sungai (tujuh), Kluster Jeti Kuching (dua), Kluster PUL Melbourne (dua) dan Kluster Syarikat Pembinaan Kuching (dua).

## 2 lagi kluster baharu di Johor, Sarawak

**Putrajaya:** Dua lagi kluster baharu dikesan di Johor dan Sarawak yang sudah menjangkiti tiga individu membatikkan dua warga asing dan seorang warganegara Malaysia.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata kluster di Johor yang dikenal pasti sebagai Kluster Bukit Tiram itu membatikkan dua warga asing yang bekerja di sebuah pusat keagamaan di Taman Bukit Tiram.

Katanya, kedua-duanya iaitu kes ke-8,668 dan ke-8,869 mula mengalami gejala sejak 15 Julai lalu namun tidak mendapatkan rawatan segera di mana-mana fasiliti kesihatan.

"Mereka kemudian menjalani saringan COVID-19 dan dikesan positif semalam (kelmarin) serta 10 individu iaitu kontak rapat kepada kedua-dua kes sudah dikenal pasti."

"Bagaimanapun, semua kontak rapat berkenaan masih menunggu keputusan saringan. Siasatan dan aktiviti pengesahan kontak rapat secara aktif sedang diteruskan, manakala punca jangkitan kluster masih dalam siasatan," katanya dalam kenyataan di sini, semalam.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, kes di Sarawak dikesan di Kuching yang dinamakan Kluster Syarikat Pembinaan Kuching membabitkan seorang individu iaitu kes

ke-8,715 yang disahkan positif pada 11 Julai lalu.

"Melalui siasatan, seramai 55 kontak rapat dikenal pasti membatikkan lima rakan serumah dan 50 rakan sekerja," katanya.

"Semua kontak ini sudah disaring dan didapati negatif COVID-19," katanya.

Dr Noor Hisham, berkata Kluster Syarikat Pembinaan Kuching itu dikenal pasti apabila kes ke-8,881 dikesan positif daripada saringan ulangan kontak rapat bagi kes ke-8,715.

"Aktiviti pengesahan kes secara aktif masih diteruskan, manakala punca jangkitan kluster masih dalam siasatan," katanya.

Sementara itu, jumlah kes COVID-19 terus meningkat dengan 23 jangkitan baharu dilaporkan membatikkan 17 kes penularan tempatan dan enam kes import mendapat jangkitan dari luar negara.

Bagi kes penularan dalam negara, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, ia sudah menjangkiti 10 warganegara Malaysia dan tujuh individu warga asing.

Menyentuh kes penularan dalam negara membatikkan warga asing, beliau berkata, satu kes dikesan di Kuala Lumpur ketika saringan selepas bersalin di Depot Tahanan Imigresen (DTI) Bikit Jali.

"Beliau tidak bergejala dan sedang dirawat di Hospital Ser-



**• Semua kontak rapat berkenaan masih menunggu keputusan saringan. Siasatan dan aktiviti pengesahan kontak rapat secara aktif sedang diteruskan, manakala punca jangkitan kluster masih dalam siasatan.**

**Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah,**  
Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan

dang. Di Selangor, dua kes dikesan iaitu satu kes masing-masing di Kluster Rumah Kongsi Sepang dan kes saringan di tempat kerja.

"Empat kes dikesan di Johor iaitu satu kes dikesan di Kluster Warga Emas Kluang, dua kes Kluster Bukit Tiram dan satu kes ketika saringan sebelum masuk kerja," katanya.

Mengenai enam kes import yang mendapat jangkitan dari luar negara, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, ia membatikkan empat warganegara Malaysia dan dua warga asing yang dibenarkan masuk ke negara ini atas urusan kerja.

"Enam kes import berkenaan adalah dari Singapura (tiga) dan masing-masing satu kes dari Indonesia, Filipina dan Russia.

"Pertambahan jangkitan baharu menjadikan jumlah kumulatif 8,884 kes."

"Jumlah kes aktif dengan kebolehjangkitan COVID-19 di negara ini ialah 167 kes dan daripada jumlah itu, tiga individu masih dirawat di unit rawatan rapi (ICU) dengan dua daripadanya memerlukan bantuan pernafasan," katanya.

Beliau memaklumkan sehingga jam 12 tengah hari semalam, 17 kes sembuh dilaporkan menjadikan jumlah kumulatif sembuh daripada COVID-19 sebanyak 8,594 kes atau 96.7 peratus.

Dr Noor Hisham turut memaklumkan tiada pertambahan kes kematian dan jumlahnya kekal 123 kes atau 1.38 peratus daripada keseluruhan kes.

**AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN**  
**MUKA SURAT : 4**  
**RUANGAN : NASIONAL**

## Kementerian benar guna pelitup muka kain di tempat awam sesak

**Bagan Serai:** Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) membenarkan penggunaan pelitup muka jenis fabrik, susulan penguatkuasaan pemakaian pelitup muka di tempat awam yang sesak dan pengangkutan awam bermula 1 Ogos ini.

Timbalan Menterinya, Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali, berkata pihaknya akan mengumumkan spesifikasi dan jenis pelitup muka yang boleh dipakai, selain garis panduan pemakaian serta cara pelupusan pelitup muka pa-kai buang.

"Apa yang lebih penting untuk ditekankan ialah cara pemakaian pelitup muka seperti mewujudkan keseluruhan hidung, mulut, serta dagu, selain etika pelupusan bagi jenis pakai buang, termasuk tidak senewangnya dibuang begitu sahaja," katanya selepas merasmikan Program Sukanewangan Komuniti Sihat Pembina Negara (KOSPEN) Perak, di sini semalam.

Khamsi lalu, Menteri Kanan (Keselamatan), Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaacob menegaskan orang ramai boleh mendengar RM1,000 se-kiranya didapati gagal mematuhi peraturan pemakaian pelitup muka bermula 1 Ogos ini.

Semalam, pakar epidemiologi Fakulti Perubatan Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Prof Madya Dr Mohd Rahaizat Hassan, berkata pelitup muka jenis fabrik sekadar menapis bau dan partikel kasar daripada dihidu susulan tiada penapis khas, se-ki gus tidak mengurangkan risiko penyebaran virus COVID-19.

Sementara itu Dr Noor Azmi berkata, dakwaan mengatakan penyukut suhu cahaya inframerah berbahaya untuk otak kanak-kanak adalah tidak benar.

Katanya, produk berkenaan se-patutnya memenuhi spesifikasi peranti penyukut suhu yang di-sahkan oleh Pihak Berkusa Peranti Perubatan (MDA).

"Biar pun dalam dasarnya cata-nan suhu badan manusia yang di-ambil menerusi telinga atau du-bur lebih tepat berbanding guna penembak suhu di dah, setakat ini tiada lagi kajian mengenai bahaya termometer suhu jika suhu diambil di dah," katanya.

Terdahulu dalam ucapananya, Dr Noor Azmi berkata, KKM akan menumpukan pencegahan dan kawalan penyakit tidak ber-jangkit (NCD) seperti darah tinggi, kencing manis, dan sakit jan-tung yang masih menjadi penyebab utama kematian pramatang.

"Terdapat kaitan rapat antara NCD dan kematian akibat CO-VID-19 apabila 92 peratus dari-pada kes kematian akibat CO-VID-19 di negara ini terdiri da-ri pada penghida NCD," katanya.

*Pemulihan COVID-19*

# Syor laksana PKP bersasar

Tumpu lokasi catat tambahan kes, rekod kluster baru

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**Kuala Lumpur:** Kerajaan disar ah menguatkuasakan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP) secara bersasar di lokasi yang men-catakan peningkatan kes COVID-19, selain merekodkan kluster baru.

Bekas Timbalan Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Rahaizat Yon, berkata PKP juga diperlukan untuk tempoh lebih lama di lokasi terbabit bagi me-mudahkan penguatkuasaan ter-hadap pihak yang melanggar pro-sedur operasi standard (SOP).

Katanya, tiada keperluan un-tuk melaksanakan PKP di seluruh negara seperti awal pelaksanaan Mac lalu.

"PKP masih perlu dilaksana-kan kerana tanpanya, tiada kuasa-

untuk ambil tindakan. "Kalau ingin kuatkuasakan PKP, buat yang bersasar atau di-pertingkatkan. Contohnya, jika terdapat kluster di sebuah taman perumahan di Selangor, kita buat PKP di situ," katanya ketika di-hubungi BH, semalam.

Beliau berkata demikian me-nuglas kenyataan Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah bahawa Ma-laysia akan menyaksikan pening-katan mendak kes positif CO-VID-19 jika kadar kebolehjangkitan meningkat kepada lebih 1.6.

Sebelum PKP dilaksanakan pertengahan Mac lalu, kadar kebolehjangkitan COVID-19 di Ma-laysia adalah 3.55, iaitu seorang pesakit mampu menjangkiti 3.55 individu lain.

Dr Rahaizat berkata, PKP se-car a bersasar atau dipertingkat-kan itu boleh dielak jika rakyat memainkan peranan dengan kembali patuh SOP.

Beliau yang berada dalam pa-suman Kementerian Kesihatan memerangi COVID-19 sebelum bersara wajib pada 10 Jun lalu berkata, sebelum ini masyarakat memahami kepentingan amalan



Dr Rahaizat Yon

pencegahan seperti memakai pe-litup muka dan penjaraikan so-sial, namun kini tidak lagi me-matuhinya.

"Jika rakyat tidak kembali pa-tuh, tidak mustahil kita akan da-pat kluster lebih besar. Kita boleh lihat contoh negara luar yang 'hancur' sebab mereka leka."

"Saya berkunjung ke sebuah kedai makan, ia umpama pesta kerana tiada lagi penjarakan so-sial dan orang yang masuk ke situ juga tidak mengenakan pelitup muka," katanya.

Beliau berkata, selain orang awam yang turut berperanan se-bagai barisan hadapan, agensi swasta dan peniaga harus agresif

dengan memastikan hanya me-reka yang mematuhi SOP boleh menjalankan urusan.

Sementara itu, pakar epidemiologi dari Universiti Putra Ma-laysia (UPM), Dr Ahmad Zaid Fattah Azman, berkata banyak perkara perlu dititikberatkan khususnya membabitkan aspek ekonomi jika ingin menguatkuasakan semula PKP.

Beliau berkata, pihaknya per-caya tindakan diambil kerajaan termasuk mewajibkan pengguna-an pelitup muka bermula 1 Ogos ini, selain menempatkan semula individu yang pulang dari luar negara ke pusat kuarantin manu-pu membendung kenaikan kes secara mendadak.

"Saya rasakan kerajaan kini pada fasa melihat dan memantau perkembangan. Kita perlu beri masa sekurang-kurangnya dua minggu selepas peraturan itu di-kuatkuasakan."

"Jika kadar kebolehjangkitan meningkat kepada dua atau tiga, mungkin itu alasan kukuh untuk laksana semula PKP kerana ba-nyak perkara perlu dipertimbang-bangkan sebelum menguatkuasakan semula," katanya.

## Kebolehjangkitan lebih parah 1 berbahaya

**Johor Bahru:** Kadar kebolehjangkitan COVID-19 melebihi parah 1 adalah berbahaya kerana mampu merebak dengan meluas dalam kalangan masyarakat.

Menyatakan, Datuk Dr Adham Baba, berkata kadar kebolehjangkitan wabak CO-VID-19 ketika ini meningkat ke-pada 1.36 berikut peningkatan ke-pada 1.36 berikut peningkatan kes penularan.

Beliau berkata, negara perlu mencapai kadar kebolehjangkitan sifar bagi membolehkan kes jangkitan tidak menular.

"Kita dapatkan kadar keboleh-jangkitan kembali meningkat kerana ada individu yang menjadi perumah kepada virus CO-VID-19.

"Apabila vi-rus itu mem-biak, ia akan menjadikan kadar kebo-lehjangkitan

meningkat.

"Jadi kita sasarkan kadar kebolehjangkitan sifar dengan pelaksanaan prosedur operasi standar (SOP) lebih ketat selepas ini," katanya.

"Namun, kerajaan akan melak-sanakan PKP lebih bersasar di kawasan mengikut zon warna, iaitu merah (me-lebih 40 kes jangkitan), kuning (satu sehingga 40 kes) dan hijau (tiada kes)."

"Seperti di Kluang yang mempunyai kluster war-ga emas dengan 14 warga emas dijangkiti, kawasan rumah jagarnya terbabit di-letakkan dengan langkah pem-bendungan serta kawalan jangkitan seperti nyah cemar, selain orang luar tidak boleh memasuki kawasan itu," katanya.

Dr Adham berkata, kemente-rian juga mempunyai prinsip supaya sempadan negara perlu kekal ditutup atau sekurang-kurangnya kawalan sempadan da-ri pada warga negara asing di-laksana seiring dengan vaksin CO-VID-19 dimulai.

"Perintah Kawalan Perge-reakan (PKP) tidak akan kembali dilaksanakan se-luruh negara, berikutnya pembukaan sektor

ekonomi sudah dilakukan ketika ini.

"Namun, kerajaan akan melak-sanakan PKP lebih bersasar di kawasan mengikut zon warna, iaitu merah (me-lebih 40 kes jangkitan),

kuning (satu sehingga 40 kes) dan hijau (tiada kes)."

"Seperti di Kluang yang mempunyai kluster war-ga emas dengan 14 warga emas dijangkiti, kawasan rumah jagarnya terbabit di-letakkan dengan langkah pem-bendungan serta kawalan jangkitan seperti nyah cemar, selain orang luar tidak boleh memasuki kawasan itu," katanya.

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"Pembukaan sempadan negara membatikan Malaysia-Singapura pulu masih dalam rundingan yang diketuai Menteri Luar, Da-

tuk Seri Hishammuddin Husse-in," katanya.

Beliau berkata, rakyat Ma-laysia tidak boleh dihalang kembali ke negara ini.

"Kebanyakan rakyat Ma-laysia di luar negara ingin kembali, berilukan keyakinan mereka meli-hat apa yang dilakukan kerajaan dalam meng-awal penularan wabak, di samping mereka ber-pendapat lebih selamat untuk pulang berbanding berada di negara tertentu," katanya.

Sementara itu pada sesi Bicara Dewan Muda Johor: Di Sebalik Pandemik COVID-19 di Institut Integriti Kepimpinan dan Latihan Semangat Dato Onn (IKLAS), di sini, semalam, Dr Adham ber-kata kapasiti dan keupayaan makmal ujian sampel saringan dan pengesan COVID-19 di ne-gara ini meningkat daripada 35,000 kepada 37,000 kes sehari.

Ujian sampel COVID-19 itu membatikan 56 makmal di se-luruh negara berbanding hanya 53 makmal sebelumnya.



Jadi kita sasarkan kadar kebolehjangkitan sifar dengan pelaksanaan prosedur operasi standar (SOP) lebih ketat selepas ini.

Dr Adham Baba,  
Menteri Kesihatan



BHTV

AKHBAR : KOSMO

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : NEGARA

## 23 kes positif, dua kluster lagi dikesan

**PUTRAJAYA** — Kes penularan dalam negara terus mencatatkan peningkatan apabila merekodkan sebanyak 17 kes daripada keseluruhan 23 kes baharu jangkitan Covid-19 semalam.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr. Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, dua kluster baharu dikesan melibatkan sebuah pusat keagamaan di Taman Bukit Tiram, Johor dan sebuah syarikat pembinaan di Kuching, Sarawak, menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan kluster masih aktif sebanyak 24 kluster.

"Kluster Bukit Tiram dikenal pasti apabila terdapat dua kes positif dikesan melibatkan dua kakitangan bukan warganegara di pusat berkenaan.

"Kluster syarikat pembinaan Kuching pula dikenal pasti

apabila satu kes positif dikesan daripada saringan ulangan kontak-kontak rapat kes indeks iaitu kes ke-8,715 yang dikesan pada 11 Julai lalu.

"Aktiviti pengesanan kes secara aktif diteruskan dan punca jangkitan kluster masih dalam siasatan," katanya dalam satu kenyataan semalam.

Noor Hisham berkata, sejak ini, kes paling tinggi dicatatkan di kluster Sentosa iaitu sebanyak 20 kes.

Setakat semalam empat kes baharu direkodkan di kluster Sentosa iaitu sebuah hospital di Kuching.

"Hospital ini telah ditutup dan semua kakitangan dikuarantin dalam hospital. Pengesanan kontak rapat juga sedang giat dijalankan," ujarnya.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19

# Dua lagi kluster baharu

Membabitkan Kluster  
Bukit Tiram dan Kluster  
Syarikat Pembinaan  
Kuching

PUTRAJAYA

**K**ementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) mengenal pasti dua lagi kluster baharu jangkitan Koronavirus (Covid-19) di negara ini.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, ia terdiri daripada Kluster Bukit Tiram dan Kluster Syarikat Pembinaan Kuching.

Menurut Dr Noor Hisham, Kluster Bukit Tiram dikenal pasti apabila terdapat dua kes positif yang dilaporkan di sebuah pusat keagamaan di Taman Bukit Tiram, Johor membabitkan individu bukan warganegara

yang menetap di Malaysia dan kakitangan pusat tersebut.

"Kedua-dua kes positif itu mula mengalami gejala pada 15 Julai lalu, namun tidak mendapat rawatan segera sebelum melakukannya saringan Covid-19 dan diketahui positif pada 24 Julai.

"Sehingga 25 Julai lalu, terdapat dua kes positif dan 10 kontak rapat telah dikenal pasti dalam kluster ini. Kesemua mereka telah disaring dan masih menunggu keputusan."

"Siasatan dan aktiviti pengesan kontak rapat secara aktif (active case detection) sedang diteruskan. Puncak jangkitan kluster masih disiasat," katanya dalam satu kenyataan semalam.

Sementara itu, katanya, bagi Kluster Syarikat Pembinaan Ku-



DR NOOR HISHAM

ching di Sarawak, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, kes pertama merupakan kes positif Covid-19 yang dikesan pada 11 Julai (iaitu kes ke-8715).

Katanya, melalui siasatan yang telah dijalankan, sebanyak 55 kontak rapat telah dikenal pasti terdiri daripada lima rakan serumah dan 50 rakan sekjera.

"Kesemua kontak ini telah disaring dan didapati negatif Covid-19. Kluster ini dikenal pasti apabila satu kes positif (iaitu kes ke-8881) dikesan daripada saringan ulangan kontak rapat kes ke-8715.

"Aktiviti pengesan kes secara aktif (active case detection) masih diteruskan. Puncak jangkitan kluster masih dalam siasatan," katanya.

23 kes jangkitan Covid-19

**PUTRAJAYA** - Angka kes jangkitan baharu pandemik koronavirus (Covid-19) dalam negara terus meningkat dengan merekodkan 23 jangkitan semalam menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes keseluruhan penularan wabak itu sebanyak 8,884 kes.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, daripada jumlah itu, sebanyak 17 kes membabitkan penularan tempatan, manakala tiga lagi kes import yang mendapat jangkitan di luar negara.

Bagi kes penularan tempatan, katanya, sebanyak 10 kes adalah dalam kalangan warga Malaysia, manakala tujuh kes membabitkan bukan warga negara.

Menurutnya, enam kes import pula membabitkan tiga individu yang pulang dari Singapura serta masing-masing seorang dari Indonesia, Filipina dan Rusia.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata,

bagi kes jangkitan dalam kalangan bukan warga negara pula membabitkan satu kes saringan selepas bersalin.

Menurutnya, pesakit merupakan seorang tahanan di Depot Tahanan Imigresen Buitul Jali, Kuala Lumpur.

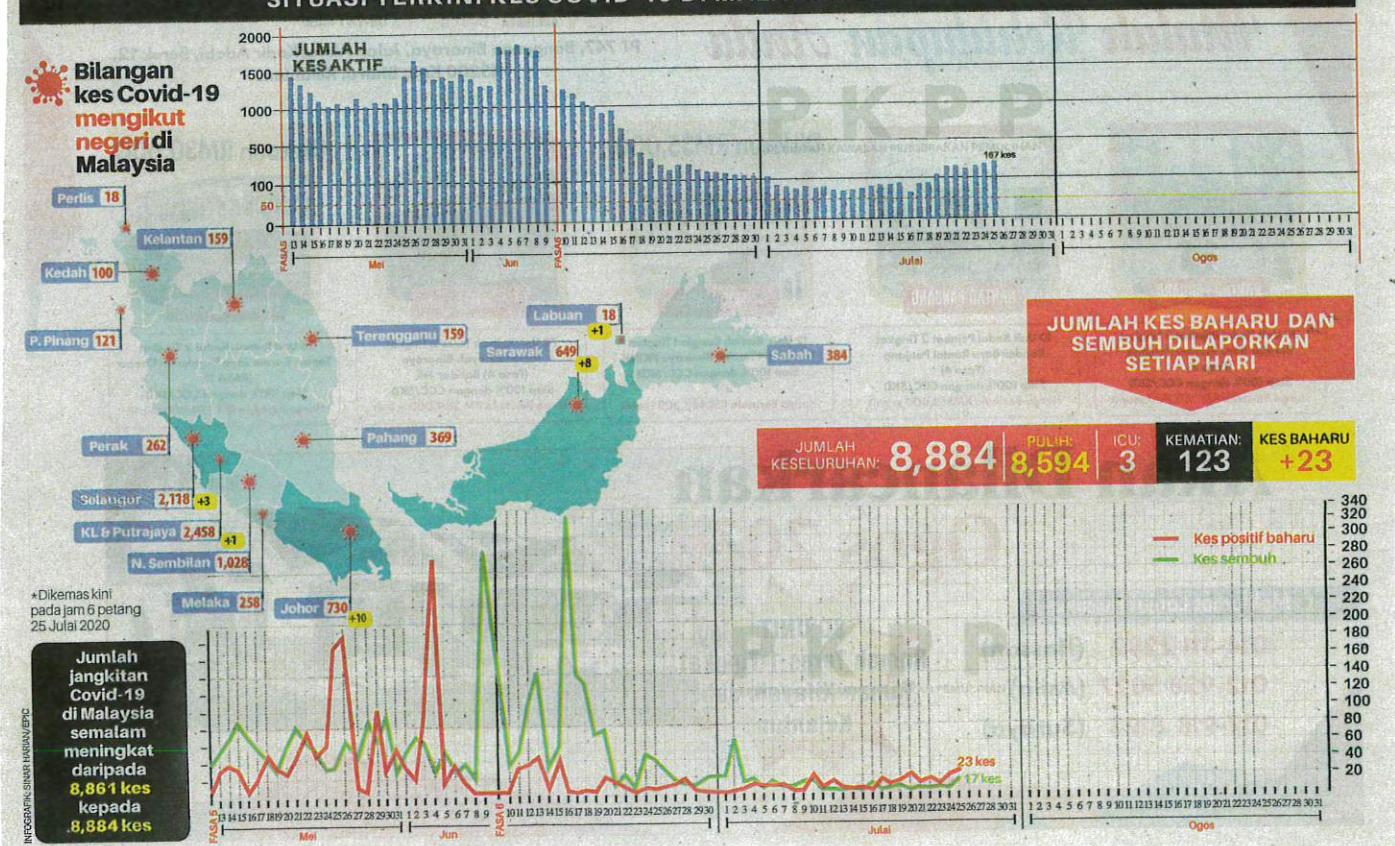
Bagaimanapun beliau berkata, pesakit berkenaan tidak bergejala dan sedang dirawat di Hospital Serdang.

Sementara itu, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, terdapat 17 kes yang telah pulih dan dibenarkan discaj.

Katanya, ia menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes yang pulih sepenuhnya daripada Covid-19 dan telah discaj daripada wad sebanyak 8,594 kes.

"Tiada pertambahan kes kematian berkaitan Covid-19 dilaporkan pada hari ini. Justeru, jumlah kumulatif kes kematian Covid-19 di Malaysia adalah kekal sebanyak 123 kes," katanya.

## SITUASI TERKINI KES COVID-19 DI MALAYSIA SETAKAT SEMALAM



AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : NATION/NEWS



People wearing face masks at a market in Alor Star yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

## 23 CASES

## Two virus clusters detected in Sarawak and Johor

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Health Ministry has discovered two new Covid-19 clusters, including one involving a construction company in Kuching, Sarawak.

Its director-general, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, said the first case related to the Kuching construction company cluster was discovered on July 11 involving Case 8,715 patient.

A Covid-19 screening conducted on 55 close contacts comprising 50 colleagues and five housemates of the patient initially showed that they had tested negative for the virus.

"This cluster was identified after another patient (Case 8,881) tested positive for the virus during a repeat screening conducted on close contacts of Case 8,715 patient.

"Active case detection is ongoing and the cause of the infection for the cluster is being investigated," said Dr Noor Hisham yesterday.

He said the other cluster, which was referred to as the Bukit Tiram cluster, involved a religious centre in Bukit Tiram, Johor.

The ministry has identified two cases and 10 close contacts related to the cluster.

The two patients of the cluster, he said, were foreigners living in



Sentosa Hospital in Kuching is closed to the public following the detection of a Covid-19 cluster at the hospital. PIC BY NADIM BOKHARI

Malaysia and workers at the centre.  
"Both of them, who are Case 8,868 and Case 8,869, started experiencing symptoms (related to Covid-19) on July 15, but they did not seek immediate treatment. They tested positive for the virus after undergoing Covid-19 screening involving the 10 close contacts of both patients."

Covid-19) on July 15, but they did not seek immediate treatment.

"They tested positive for the virus after undergoing Covid-19 screening involving the 10 close contacts of both patients."

adding that the ministry was waiting for results of the Covid-19 screening involving the 10 close contacts of both patients.

He said the number of daily

infections continued with a double-digit trend. The ministry logged 23 new cases yesterday, bringing the cumulative cases to 8,884.

Seventeen of the new cases, he said, were local transmissions involving 10 Malaysians and seven non-citizens.

He said eight of the new cases were detected in Sarawak; four were linked to the Sentosa cluster and one each from the Kuching engineering and Kuching construction company clusters, as well as screening at the entry point at the Kuching International airport and at a workplace.

It was reported that Sentosa Hospital, a health facility in the centre of the Sentosa cluster, had been closed to the public.

The closure of the health facility was confirmed by Sarawak Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Douglas Uggah Embas, who is State Disaster Management Committee chairman, on Friday.

"We have stopped people from going there. And as a safety measure, doctors who treated patients there are not allowed to go home."

"They have to stay (quarantined) at the hospital."

## 56 LABS

## Labs can test 37,000 samples a day now, says minister

**JOHOR BARU:** The capacity of the country's laboratories to screen samples and detect Covid-19 has increased to 37,000 cases a day.

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba said this involved 56 laboratories nationwide compared with 53 laboratories previously.

He said tests and screenings to detect infected and asymptomatic people were the most important elements to stop the spread of Covid-19.

"Based on the data that we have, we have tested one million people."

"They were screened and samples of their swab tests were sent to laboratories in the country," he said at the Johor Dewan Muda Session — Untold Story: Behind the Covid-19 Pandemic, which was broadcast live on the Johor Dewan Muda's Facebook

page yesterday.

Dr Adham said Malaysia was among the countries capable of conducting tests at a higher rate compared with other countries affected by Covid-19.

"In Malaysia, we can carry out 28 tests per 1,000 population, in South Korea, it is 26 per 1,000 population, in Japan, four per 1,000 population, in Vietnam, two per 1,000 population, and in Singapore more than 79 tests per 1,000 population."

"Testing and screening for Covid-19 are important to detect and curb the transmission in the early stages. This will convince people that we can control the disease."

He said Malaysia lowered the number of cases due to screening that was carried out quickly and the additional laboratories. **Bernama**

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NATION/NEWS

## COVID-19 CLUSTER

# Kuching hospital shut, staff quarantined inside

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Sentosa Hospital, a health facility on the outskirts of Kuching that has become the centre of a Covid-19 cluster, has been closed to the public.

Doctors, nurses and other staff of the hospital had been told to undergo quarantine at the hospital and were not allowed to return home.

The matter was confirmed yesterday by Sarawak Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Douglas Uggah Embas, who is also state Disaster Management Committee chairman.

Uggah said the order was enforced after eight more staff from the hospital tested positive for the virus, bringing the number of cases related to the cluster to 16.

“We have stopped people from going there.

“As a safety measure, doctors who treated patients there are

not allowed to go home.

“They have to stay (quarantined) at the hospital,” said Uggah during the press conference that was broadcast live via the Unit Komunikasi Awam Sarawak (Sarawak Public Communication Unit) Facebook page.

Asked if the quarantine order applied to nurses and other staff of the hospital, Uggah replied: “Yes, quarantined.”

Earlier, Uggah said 643 people linked to the cluster had been screened for Covid-19 via the real-time reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) technique.

“Of the total, 16 cases, or 2.49 per cent, tested positive. They have been admitted to Sarawak General Hospital.

“All of their close contacts have been ordered to undergo quarantine for 14 days.”

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : NATION

## Sunday Star Says

# Covid-19 cases on the rise in the wake of public apathy

EVEN the usually calm and collected Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah appeared agitated as he lamented the public apathy that has led to the emergence of new Covid-19 clusters.

As the Health director-general pointed out during one of his regular press conferences last week, since Malaysia entered the recovery movement control order (MCO) period on June 10 – when we were given the flexibility to return to some semblance of normal life – people have grown complacent in avoiding infection, leading to a spike in the country's tally of cases.

Malaysia recorded low numbers of new cases and even maintained the low number for several consecutive days in the first three weeks of the recovery MCO phase.

On July 1, Dr Noor Hisham said we recorded only one new Covid-19

case, with no local transmission of the virus.

But since then, the number of cases has been showing a double-digit trend and Sarawak is bracing for worse.

The government is now looking at measures to address the rise in cases.

The Covid-19 technical committee is meeting today "to work on the finer details of the SOP (standard operating procedure)" before tabling them at a ministerial meeting tomorrow, Senior Minister (Security) Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaacob said yesterday.

While many countries have been stuck in the economy versus health debate, Malaysia has managed to restart the economy with the sweat and tears of our frontliners.

The country simply cannot afford to have a second wave of Covid-19

infections forcing another strict lockdown like the first phase of the MCO.

Last Monday, Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said Malaysia stands to lose RM2bil a day if the economy has to shut down again; already in April, the unemployment rate spiked to 5% – the highest since 1990 – and it's expected to only go higher in the coming months.

Yet, we are facing the possibility of another lockdown thanks to irresponsible people, like travellers returning from abroad who were allowed to self-quarantine in the comfort of their own homes only to abuse the privilege and eat out while mingling with the public.

And there are so many people appearing without masks in crowded places while some businesses are disregarding the SOP of taking

temperatures, recording customers' details and providing hand sanitiser to those entering their premises.

The onus is not just on the authorities to ensure SOP is followed, the responsibility also lies with us to ensure we observe the rules and regulations put in place to fight Covid-19.

The battle is far from over, and it won't be until a vaccine is found.

We won one battle in what is shaping up to be a long drawn-out war when we stuck to SOP during previous MCO periods and flattened the infection curve – and we can do it again.

Failing to do so will have a huge effect on all Malaysians, not just economically but socially and emotionally too, with repercussions echoing into the future.

Malaysians cannot afford to be

## Editor's pick

Oh, my noisy, creaky joints  
StarHealth page 8

stubborn and complacent in this fight.

So before it's too late, let's get back to observing all the recommended health protocols to beat this second wave – if not for ourselves and our families, then at least do it for our frontliners.

They have done their part. We should now repay them and do our part.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NATION

Covid-19: Current situation globally (As at 7pm July 25, 2020)										New cases	Total cases	Total deaths	Total recovered
Asean+	Indonesia	China	Philippines	Singapore	Japan	S. Korea	Thailand	Vietnam	Myanmar	Cambodia	Brunei	Laos	
Confirmed cases	97,286	83,784	78,412	49,888	27,956	14,092	3,282	416	346	202	141	20	
Deaths	4,714	4,634	1,897	27	992	298	58	0	6	0	3	0	
Recovered	55,354	78,889	25,752	45,172	21,328	12,866	3,109	365	286	142	138	19	
Global Top 10	US	Brazil	India	Russia	South Africa	Mexico	Peru	Chile	Spain	UK			
Confirmed cases	4,248,492	2,348,200	1,339,176	806,720	421,996	378,285	375,961	341,304	319,501	297,914			
Deaths	148,492	85,385	31,425	13,192	6,343	42,645	17,843	8,914	28,432	45,677			
Recovered	2,028,361	1,592,281	850,303	597,140	245,771	242,692	259,423	313,696	N/A	N/A			

## Two new virus clusters detected

Latest cases include workers at religious centre and construction firm

By ALLISON LAI  
allison@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: Two new Covid-19 clusters have been reported in the country, with three positive cases detected so far.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the clusters were Bukit Tiram in Johor and Kuching Construction Company in Sarawak, with two positive cases and a single positive case respectively.

The Bukit Tiram cluster recorded two positive cases at a religious centre in Taman Bukit Tiram involving foreigners who work there.

"As of Saturday, a total of 10 close contacts have been identified and tested, and their results are pending," he said in a statement yesterday.

As for the Kuching Construction Company



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and 50 colleagues.

"The cluster was identified when one of the close contacts tested positive on a second test," he said, adding that active case detection was ongoing and the source of the infection was being investigated.

Dr Noor Hisham also said Malaysia had recorded 23 new Covid-19 cases and 17 recoveries, bringing the total number of infections to 8,884 yesterday.

"There are 167 active cases in the country now. Of the 23 new infections, six were imported cases involving four Malaysians and two foreigners who were allowed into the country for work," he added.

The imported cases were from Singapore (three cases) and one each from Indonesia, the Philippines and Russia.

From the 17 local cases, Dr Noor Hisham said 10 involved Malaysians while the other

seven were foreigners.

"The 10 cases involving Malaysians are from Sarawak (eight) and Johor (two). The seven foreigners are from Johor (four cases), Selangor (two cases) and one from Kuala Lumpur."

"The Kuala Lumpur patient is a detainee at the Bukit Jalil immigration depot. She was asymptomatic and tested positive after giving birth at Serdang Hospital," he added.

At present, Dr Noor Hisham said three patients were still being treated in the intensive care unit and two of them required a ventilator.

He noted that there were no fatalities, with the death toll remaining at 123.

He urged Malaysians to continue practising strict hand hygiene, maintaining social distancing and adhering strictly to the SOP as part of the new norm.

## 'Penang can't afford another wave of Covid-19'

By IMRAN HILMY  
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BUTTERWORTH: Members of the public are reminded to strictly follow standard operating procedure (SOP) if they do not want to be hit by another wave of Covid-19.

The state, said Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow, could not afford to go through another outbreak as it would severely affect the economy.

"There is fear that if a second wave hits us, we won't survive. We might not know whether we can stand on our own two feet again as the impact will be great."

"The public must take the SOP seriously such as maintaining social distancing, wearing face masks, avoiding mass gatherings and always using hand sanitisers," he said after launching the newly upgraded Robina Eco Park in Teluk Ayer Tawar yesterday.

Chow said after more than four months under the movement control order (MCO), the country was able to bounce back although Covid-19 cases were still being reported.

The state government, he added, was now focusing on awareness and educating the public on the importance of adapting to the new norm.

On state tourism, Chow said Penang had seen an increase in local tourists from other states over the past few weeks, with hotels in Batu Ferringhi and Tanjung Bungah recording an improved occupancy rate.

He hoped that the industry would perform even better when the international border reopened to foreign tourists.