

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Penularan COVID-19

66 pulih, 20 kes baharu

Satu kluster lagi dikesan di pangsapuri Cheras

Oleh Zanariah Abd Mutalib dan Noor Atiqah Sulaiman
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Putrajaya: Sebanyak 66 kes pulih COVID-19 dilaporkan semalam, menjadikan jumlah terkumpul 6,470 kes sedemikian atau 82.1 peratus daripada jumlah keseluruhan kes jangkitan virus berkenaan.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata bilangan kes pesakit

ditibarkan pulang juga lebih dua kali ganda daripada jumlah kes baharu.

Katanya, ada 20 kes baharu dilaporkan sehingga jam 12 tengah semalam, menjadikan jumlah kes positif COVID-19 di negara ini sebanyak 7,877 kes.

"Oleh itu, jumlah kes aktif dengan kebolehjangkitan COVID-19 adalah 1,292 kes. Mereka kini sudah diasingkan dan diberi rawatan lanjut. Daripada 20 kes baharu yang dilaporkan, 15 adalah kes import yang mendapat jangkitan di luar negara.

"Daripada lima kes penularan dalam negara, tiga kes membabitkan bukan warganegara dan dua kes dalam kalangan warganegara," katanya pada sidang media hariannya, di sini, semalam.

Dr Noor Hisham turut memaklumkan, tiada pertambahan kes kematian berkaitan COVID-19 semalam dan jumlahnya kekal sebanyak 115 kes atau 1.46 peratus daripada jumlah keseluruhan kes.

Sementara itu, katanya, satu kluster baharu COVID-19 dikesan di pangsapuri Cheras yang menjangkiti enam individu, kemungkinan besar berkait dengan aktiviti kunjung-mengunjung sebelum dan ketika sambutan Aidilfitri.

Beliau memaklumkan, kes pertama kluster itu dikenal pasti daripada ujian saringan pelajar pusat tahfiz yang dijalankan hasil kerjasama Jabatan Kemajuan Islam Malaysia (JAKIM) dengan Kementerian Kesihatan.

Bagaimanapun, beliau ber-

kata, hasil siasatan dijalankan mendapati tiada pelajar, guru atau kakitangan pusat tahfiz berkenaan yang mempunyai sejarah menghadiri perhimpunan di Seri Petaling sebelum ini.

"Hingga kini (semalam), ada enam kes dalam kluster itu, iaitu tiga membabitkan penghuni pangsapuri berkenaan, manakala tiga lagi di luar kawasan pangsapuri. Mereka dikesan melalui tindakan pengesanan kes secara aktif.

"Kes positif kluster berkenaan adalah ahli keluarga dan rakan kepada kes pertama yang dikesan. Punca jangkitan kluster itu masih dalam siasatan, namun kemungkinan besar penularan adalah berkait dengan aktiviti kunjung-mengunjung sebelum dan ketika Aidilfitri," katanya.



Daripada 20 kes baharu yang dilaporkan, 15 adalah kes import yang mendapat jangkitan di luar negara.

Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan



MKN pantau pematuhan SOP pekerja asing

Putrajaya: Sebuah jawatankuasa di bawah Majlis Keselamatan Negara (MKN) akan meneliti aspek pematuhan pekerja asing di negara ini terhadap prosedur operasi standard (SOP) Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Bersyarat (PKPB).

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata perkara itu dibincangkan pada mesyuarat MKN semalam susulan penularan jangkitan COVID-19 dalam kalangan pekerja asing.

Berdasarkan modelan bagi unjuran kes COVID-19 oleh Institut Kesihatan Malaysia (IKM), katanya, rakyat negara ini dida-

pati mematuhi SOP ditetapkan, namun keblimbangan adalah apabila membabitkan pekerja asing.

"Kita lihat rakyat Malaysia patuh pada SOP, maka kalau rakyat Malaysia dan pekerja asing dapat patuh SOP, nescaya kita dapat tamatkan atau putus rantaian jangkitan COVID-19 di negara ini," katanya pada sidang media hariannya, di sini semalam.

Kelmarin, Dr Noor Hisham mendedahkan graf kes harian sebenar merangkumi semua kes COVID-19 di Malaysia menunjukkan peningkatan ketara kes positif dalam kalangan bukan warganegara sejak 29 April.

Ia disebabkan kes import dari luar negara serta penularan wabak dalam kalangan bukan warganegara di beberapa Depoh Tahanan Imigresen (DTI) dan juga pekerja asing pelbagai sektor dalam komuniti.

Setakat semalam, 410 pendatang asing tanpa izin (PATI) di DTI Bukit Jalil, Semenyih dan Sepang didapati positif COVID-19 dan KKM sedang menyasat pusat jangkitan berkenaan.

Sementara itu, beliau berpendapat, penguatkuasaan Akta Pencegahan dan Pengawalan Penyakit Berjangkit 1988 (Akta

342) perlu dilanjutkan bagi membolehkan pemantauan dan pengawasan berterusan dilaksanakan jika lebih banyak sektor ekonomi dibuka kelak.

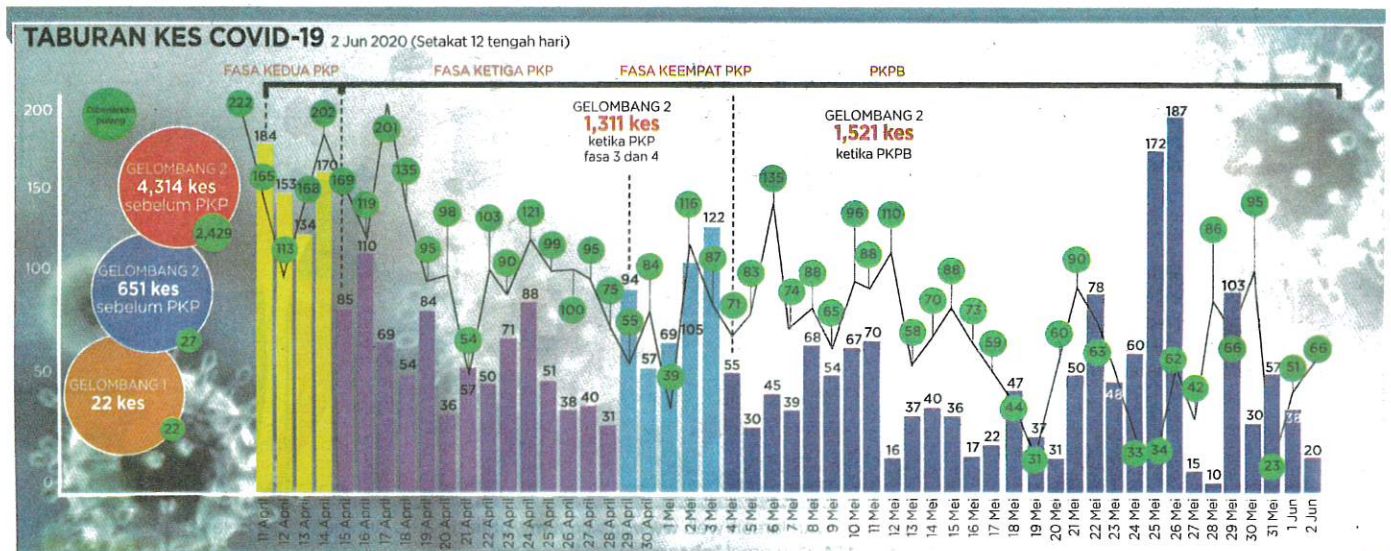
Katanya, jika rakyat terus patuh SOP yang ditetapkan, ketika itu baru kerajaan bersedia dengan strategi keluar untuk menamatkan PKPB.

"Jika kita kekal mendaat satu atau dua digit yang rendah (kes baharu) dan tiada peningkatan kes mendadak pasca Aidilfitri, maka kita rasa perlu membuka lagi sektor ekonomi yang lain, namun ia memerlukan kawalan. Jika kita keluar

daripada strategi keluar, maka akan tiada kawalan langsung.

"Sekarang kawalan ini bergantung kepada Akta 342, antaranya membabitkan kawalan sempadan dan penjaran sosial yang mana kuasa pelaksanaannya diturunkan kepada Angkatan Tentera Malaysia, Polis Diraja Malaysia dan Jabatan Sukarelawan Malaysia.

"Jika semua sektor dibuka dan pemantauan kita berjalan dengan baik, kita masih kekalkan dua atau satu digit, maka kita bersedia untuk strategi keluar. Inilah yang kita katakan *soft landing*, iaitu supaya rakyat patuh SOP," katanya.



AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : LOKAL

Kan dah positif!

Kluster baharu di pangsapuri berpunca aktiviti ziarah Aidilfitri

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Putrajaya

Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) mengesahkan ada satu kluster baharu di pangsapuri di Cheras, Kuala Lumpur, dipercayai berpunca daripada aktiviti kunjung-mengunjung ketika Aidilfitri.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, kes pertama kluster itu dikenal pasti daripada saringan pe-



LOKASI kluster terbaharu kes positif Covid-19 yang dikesan di pangsapuri di Cheras.

lajar pusat tahfiz dijalankan dengan kerjasama Jabatan Kemajuan Islam Malaysia (Jakim) dan KKM.

"Bagaimanapun, melalui penyiataan dijalankan, tiada pelajar, guru atau kakitangan pusat tahfiz itu yang mempunyai sejarah menghadiri perhimpunan tabligh di Sri Petaling.

"Sehingga kini, terdapat

enam kes dalam kluster ini iaitu tiga kes membabitkan penghuni pangsapuri dan tiga kes lain di luar kawasan pangsapuri.

"Mereka dikesan melalui tindakan pengesanan kes secara aktif *Active Case Detection*," katanya pada sidang media harian di sini, semalam.

Beliau berkata, kes positif kluster itu membabitkan ahli keluarga dan rakan kepada kes pertama yang dikesan.

Menurutnya, punca jangkitan kluster itu masih dalam siasatan, namun besar kemungkinan penularan Covid-19 berkaitan dengan aktiviti kunjung-mengunjung sebelum dan se-

masa Aidilfitri.

"Susulan itu, siasatan dan saringan kontak rapat bagi enam kes dijalankan. Setakat ini 120 orang dikenal pasti dan disaring.

"Daripada jumlah itu, enam kes positif, 76 kes negatif dan 38 masih menunggu keputusan.

"Selain tindakan *Active Case Detection* yang mula dilaksanakan di pangsapuri berkenaan, beberapa langkah kawalan pencegahan turut dijalankan antaranya pengasingan kontak dan aktiviti persampelan, aktiviti nyah kuman dan nyah cemar, hebahan pendidikan kesihatan berkaitan pencegahan jangkitan Covid-19," katanya.

Sehingga kini, terdapat enam kes dalam kluster ini
Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah



Kuala Lumpur: Lelaki Rohingya yang melarikan diri dari Pusat Kuarantin Covid-19 di Institut Latihan Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (ILKKM), Tanjung Rambutan di Ipoh, kelmarin sudah ditemui kembali.

Menteri Kanan (Keselamatan) Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob berkata, warga negara asing terbahat yang

Lelaki Rohingya lari sudah ditangkap

ditahan pihak berkuasa kini ditempatkan kembali ke pusat itu untuk menghabiskan tempoh 14 hari kuarantin.

"Yang lari itu sudah pun ditangkap dan dimasukkan balik ke hospital," katanya mengenai Rohingya yang melarikan diri dari pusat

terbahat.

Isnin lalu, kehilangan Rohingya Mohd Zokaria, 27, disedari petugas Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) ketika membuat pemantauan kesihatan mereka yang dikuarantin di pusat ILKKM di Blok E-2-83.

Warga asing itu negatif Covid-19 namun perlu menjalani 14 hari kuarantin di pusat terbahat dilaporkan tiada dalam bilik sebelum usaha mengesannya dilakukan namun gagal sebelum satu laporan polis dibuat.

RINGKAS

Bakal-pengantin tak perlu hadir kursus praperkahwinan

Ipoh: Bakal pengantin di Perak tidak perlu menghadiri Kursus Pra Perkahwinan sepanjang Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP) dilaksanakan dan hanya perlu menghadiri Tatacara Temuduga Khas (TTK) sebelum dinikahkan di Pejabat Agama Daerah masing-masing mulai hari ini.

Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Agama Islam dan Penerangan Negeri Perak, Mohd Akmal Kamarudin berkata, Jabatan Agama Islam Perak (JAIPK) memberi kelonggaran itu berikutan kursus terbabit tidak dapat diadakan sepanjang PKP.

"Ini adalah kelonggaran yang kita berikan kepada mereka yang bakal mendirikan rumah tangga dalam tempoh terdekat (dalam tempoh PKP) dan belum menghadiri Kursus Pra Perkahwinan Islam.

"TTK akan berkuatkuasa esok (hari ini) dan terbatal dengan sendirinya apabila tamat tempoh PKP," katanya pada sidang media di pejabatnya di Bangunan Perak Darul Ridzuan di sini, semalam.



PETUGAS kesihatan memberikan vaksin Influenza percuma kepada penghantar makanan di Pusat Pakar Universiti Malaya (UMSC), semalam.

Catat 20 kes baharu

Putrajaya: Sebanyak 20 kes baharu jangkitan Covid-19 yang merekodkan 7,877 kes positif keseluruhan dilaporkan kepada Pusat Keselamatan dan Tindakan Cepat Krisis Kebangsaan (CPRC), setakat jam 12 tengah hari, semalam.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, 20 kes baharu itu membabitkan 15 kes import yang mendapat jangkitan di luar negara dan dikuarantin sebaik tiba di negara ini.

Beliau berkata, daripada lima kes penularan tempatan pula, tiga kes bukan warganegara manakala dua kes lagi membabitkan warganegara Malaysia termasuk seorang daripada Kluster Pedas.

"Terdapat pertambahan 66 kes pulih dan dibenarkan discaj daripada hos-

pital menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes pulih meningkat kepada 6,470 kes dengan kadar kesembuhan 82.14 peratus.

"Kes aktif dengan kebolehjangkitan Covid-19 sebanyak 1,262 kes dan mereka sudah diasingkan serta diberi rawatan di hospital.

"Sehingga kini, enam kes positif Covid-19 dirawat di Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU), dua daripadanya memerlukan bantuan pernafasan," katanya pada sidang media harian berkaitan Covid-19 di sini, semalam.

Dalam pada itu, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, tiada kematian berkaitan jangkitan Covid-19 dilaporkan hari ini menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes kematian adalah 115 kes iaitu 1.46 peratus daripada jumlah keseluruhan kes.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : LOKAL



AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19

RABU 3 JUN 2020 • SINAR HARIAN

#RantainyaKasih



DR. NURUL HUDA HUSAIN dan TUAN PUQHAIRAH TUAN MUHAMMAD ADNAN

MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19

Kluster Pangsapuri Cheras pula

Disyaki berkaitan dengan sambutan Hari Raya Aidilfitri

PUTRAJAYA

Penularan jangkitan wabak koronavirus (Covid-19) di Pangsapuri Cheras, Kuala Lumpur kemungkinan besar berkaitan dengan aktiviti kunjung-mengunjung sebelum dan semasa Hari Raya Aidilfitri.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah bagaimana-napun berkata, siasatan lanjut masih dilakukan.

Menurutnya, daripada enam kes positif yang dikesan di kluster baharu itu, tiga kes melibatkan penghuni pangsapuri tersebut manakala tiga lagi di luar kawasan pangsapuri.

"Seperti yang Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) maklumkan sebelum ini, terdapat satu kluster baharu di sebuah pangsapuri di Cheras.

"Kes pertama kluster itu telah dikenal pasti daripada saringan pelajar pusat tahfiz yang telah dijalankan dengan kerjasama Jabatan Kemajuan Islam Malaysia (Jakim) dan KKM.

"Bagaimanapun, siasatan mendapati tiada pelajar, guru atau kakitangan dari pusat tahfiz tersebut yang mempunyai sejarah menghadiri perhimpunan di Seri Petaling, Kuala Lumpur," katanya pada sidang akhbar situasi semasa jangkitan Covid-19 di kementerian ini di sini semalam.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, susulan itu siasatan dan saringan kontak rapat bagi keenam-enam kes tersebut telah dijalankan.

Katanya, setakat ini, seramai 120 orang telah disaring dan enam didapati positif, 76 negatif dan 38 masih menunggu jawapan.



DR NOOR HISHAM

"Kes-kes positif kluster itu merupakan ahli keluarga dan rakan kepada kes pertama yang dikesan," katanya.

Beliau turut menasihatkan rakyat Malaysia agar tidak sama sekali kunjung-mengunjung sempena Hari Raya Aidilfitri walaupun secara lazimnya disambut selama sebulan.

"Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) ingin mengingatkan masyarakat walaupun sambutan Hari Raya Aidilfitri secara lazimnya disambut selama sebulan tetapi kita masih tertakluk kepada Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Bersyarat (PKPB).

"Kita dapat sama-sama putuskan rantaian jangkitan Covid-19 sekiranya norma dan kelaziman baharu ini dijadikan satu amalan," katanya.

Kita ada satu digit, kata Dr Noor Hisham

PUTRAJAYA - Lima penularan tempatan hanya membabitkan dua warganegara menunjukkan jangkitan Covid-19 menurun kepada satu digit.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, daripada 20 kes baharu positif Covid-19 semalam, hanya lima penularan tempatan.

"Bererti hari ini kita sudah ada satu digit," katanya.

Menurutnya, sekiranya satu dan dua angka tersebut dikekalkan serta tiada peningkatan kes melibatkan pasca Aidilfitri, terdapat keperluan untuk membuka semula sektor-sektor yang lain.

Beliau berkata, keadaan semasa di bawah Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Bersyarat (PKPB) bergantung kepada Akta Pencegahan dan Pengawalan Penyakit Berjangkit 1988 (Akta 342).

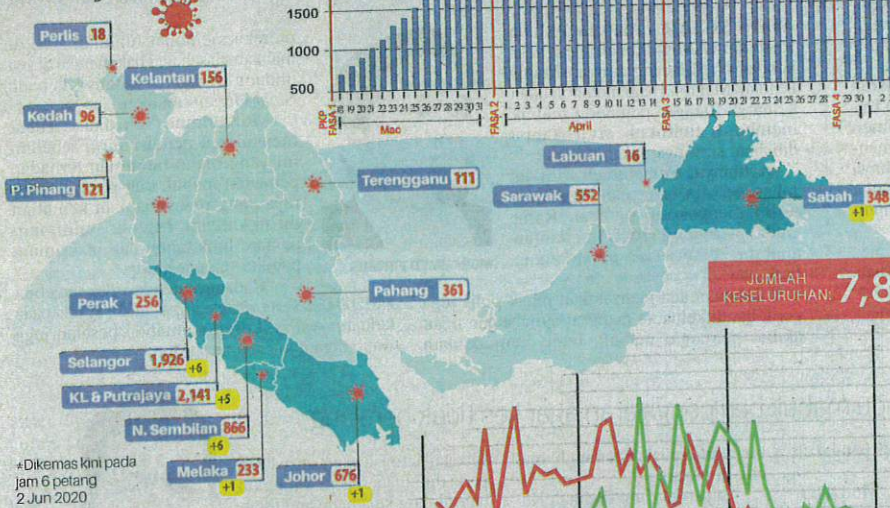
"Contohnya kawalan sempadan bergantung kepada akta berkenaan dan kerajaan menguatkuasakan akta itu kepada Angkatan Tentera Malaysia dan polis.

"Apabila semua sektor dibuka dan pemantau berjalan dengan baik, jangkitan berada pada satu atau dua digit, maka kita sudah bersedia dengan strategi keluar.

"Inilah yang dikatakan *soft landing* supaya rakyat patuh kepada prosedur operasi standard (SOP)," katanya.

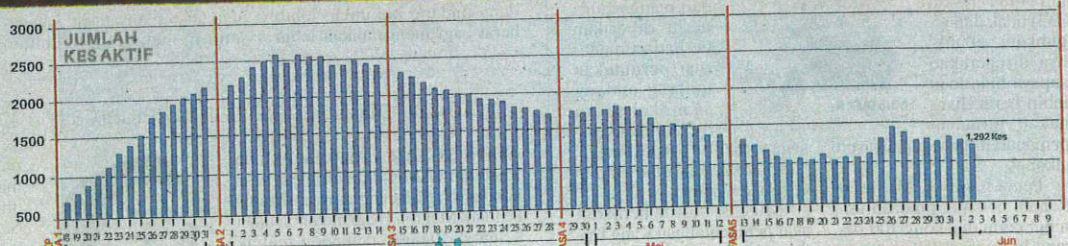
SITUASI TERKINI KES COVID-19 DI MALAYSIA SETAKAT SEMALAM

Bilangan kes Covid-19 mengikut negeri di Malaysia



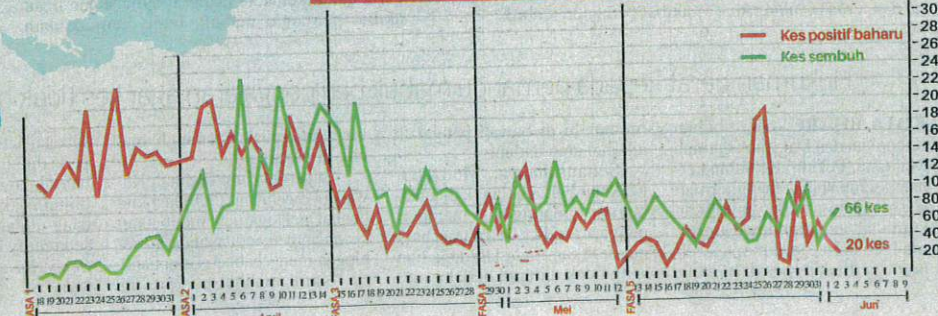
+Dikemas kini pada jam 6 petang 2 Jun 2020

Jumlah jangkitan Covid-19 di Malaysia semalam meningkat daripada 7,857 kes kepada 7,877 kes



JUMLAH KES BAHARU DAN SEMBUH DILAPORKAN SETIAP HARI

JUMLAH KESELURUHAN: 7,877 PULIH: 6,470 ICU: 8 KEMATIAN: 115 KES BAHARU: +20



— Kes positif baharu
— Kes sembuh

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NEWS / NATION

NewStraitsTimes . WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2020

4

NEWS / Nation

SOFT LANDING

'EXIT STRATEGY WHEN DAILY NEW CASES DROP'

Number of cases must continue to reduce to two- and single-digit figures, says Health D-G

TEH ATHIRA YUSOF
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MALAYSIA will be ready to roll out its Covid-19 exit strategy phase when the number of daily new cases is lower than double digits.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said this would be a prerequisite for more sectors to resume their operations, albeit with very strict standard operating procedure (SOP) in place.

He said maintaining a lower number of cases was possible if the country continued to monitor and implement measures to curb Covid-19 infections under the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Act 1988 (Act 342).

He said these measures were also for those monitoring the country's borders. He stressed the need for existing SOP to be followed even when more sectors were allowed to operate.

"We need to continue with monitoring and implementation (of the SOP) while these other sectors are allowed to resume operations. If we are able to uphold our monitoring and continue to reduce the number of cases to a two- and single-digit figure, then we will be ready to roll out the exit strategy."

"This is what we consider as a soft landing, and Malaysians have been showing model behaviour by adhering to the Covid-19 SOP."

"Like today (Tuesday), we recorded only 20 positive cases and 15 of them were imported cases. There are only five local transmission cases. If we maintain this with no further increases in the post-Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebration period, and if we continue with single- or double-digit figures for cases, then other sectors will be allowed to reopen with monitoring," he said at his daily press conference at the



Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah

Health Ministry here yesterday.

On May 8, Dr Noor Hisham said the Conditional Movement Control Order (CMCO) was a soft landing approach imposed by the government before the country could enter its exit strategy for Covid-19.

The CMCO, enforced on May 4, allowed certain economic sectors such as construction to operate. The CMCO is expected to end on June 9.

Up to noon yesterday, Malaysia recorded 20 new Covid-19 cases, bringing the nationwide tally to 7,877. Yesterday was also the 11th consecutive day without any Covid-19 deaths.

The death toll remained at 115, which translated to a fatality rate of 1.46 per cent.

Dr Noor Hisham said out of the five local transmissions, three involved foreigners and two were Malaysians.

The Malaysian cases involved a cook, who was detected having symptoms at the Labuan ferry terminal after he returned from Beaufort, Sabah, while the second person was linked to the Pedas cluster in Negri Sembilan.

In terms of recoveries, 66 patients were discharged up to noon yesterday.

Dr Noor Hisham said this meant the number of those discharged exceeded new cases. So far, 6,470 patients recovered from Covid-19.

The rate of Covid-19 recovery in Malaysia stands at 82.14 per cent. A total of 1,262 active cases have been isolated and given treatment. Six patients are in the Intensive Care Unit, with two requiring ventilator support.

On a related issue, Dr Noor Hisham said a new Cheras flats cluster, which was reported on Monday, was probably linked to Hari Raya Aidilfitri visits.

He said a student from a tahfiz centre was the first case from this cluster, and investigations revealed that students, teachers and staff members of the centre had a history of attending the Seri Petaling mosque tabligh gathering.

There were six cases detected in this cluster, comprising three residents of the Cheras flats and three others who reside elsewhere.

"The positive cases in this cluster are the family members and friends of the first case. While the cause of the infections is being investigated, it is likely related to Hari Raya Aidilfitri visits," said Dr Noor Hisham.

He said 120 people were identified from the cluster with the help of the Malaysian Islamic Development Department (Jakim) via the active case detection strategy.

Besides the six positive cases, 76 people tested negative, while 38 are awaiting results.

"We would like to remind everyone that even though Syawal and Hari Raya Aidilfitri are celebrated for a month with open houses and gatherings, we are still under the CMCO, where such activities are banned.

"We urge the people to stop doing this to break the chain of Covid-19 transmission and embrace new norms," said Dr Noor Hisham.

Meanwhile, he said he had raised concerns over foreign workers' adherence to the Covid-19 SOP during a National Security Council meeting.

"At the meeting, it was decided that an existing committee will monitor foreign workers' adherence to SOP under the Health Ministry's guidelines.

"If Malaysians and foreign workers continue to follow the SOP, it will break the Covid-19 chain of infection."

On widespread trade activities during the CMCO and how they could violate the SOP and derail efforts to contain Covid-19, Dr Noor Hisham said it was important for businesses to review certain aspects of their activities to prevent the spread of the virus.

He said while trade activities were encouraged to invigorate the economy, the SOP to curb Covid-19 must be followed.

"They possibly need to relook their businesses in line with the pandemic."



Foreigners waiting to be screened for Covid-19 at Langat Utama Flats in Kuala Langat on Monday. BERNAMA PIC

PATI, PADI

Experts: Expect rise in clusters, cases among migrant workers

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia can expect to see a rise in Covid-19 clusters and cases, mainly among documented (Pati) and undocumented migrant workers (Padi) as the Health Ministry intensifies screening and testing for these groups.

Medical experts said the targeted approach undertaken by the authorities could place Malaysia in a similar or even worse situation than Singapore, where more than a third of Singaporean Covid-19 cases in May were linked to migrant dormitory clusters. This, they said, was because unlike in Singapore, where immigrants were confined to their dormitories, Malaysia had more than five million Pati, Padi and refugees scattered nationwide, which makes testing difficult and could lead to community transmissions.

Malaysian Public Health Medicine Specialist Association president Datuk Dr Zainal Ariffin Omar said while it was difficult to predict the Covid-19 situation in the next few weeks due to a lack of information, existing data showed a trend largely involving foreign workers.

"We shouldn't worry too much about local transmissions with the Conditional Movement Control Order in place.

But we are going to see more clusters and cases, especially among Pati and Padi, with more targeted screening done, more factories and businesses open, greater movement of people, and more arrests and detention. Their (foreign workers') living quarters, which are closed and crowded (including at detention centres), contribute to this problem."

Dr Zainal said the government should have strategies and act fast to address the issue of Pati.

"The Health Ministry must continue to educate, search, test and isolate the migrant population with an active and strong partnership with the private sector and the community."

Professor Datuk Dr Lokman Hakim Sulaiman, a public health

expert at the International Medical University, said the authorities need to address the issue of Pati holistically, and not merely for the sake of testing for Covid-19.

"To what point should we be testing? A negative test does not mean that they cannot be infected again in the future."

The former deputy Health director-general said as long as there was no vaccine, Covid-19 would remain a risk.

The focus, he said, should be on sustaining the behavioural changes under the "new normal" and respond rapidly when a case was reported by testing and isolating.

"We should learn to live with Covid-19. If everybody practises personal hygiene and wears a face mask when they are in public places, that should effectively prevent infections."

Dr G. Jayakumar, a professor of Community and Occupational Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine in Melaka Manipal Medical College, said the daily number of the coronavirus cases was expected to fluctuate between low and high peaks in the coming weeks.

"The number of cases among migrant workers is a concern. Fortunately, the ministry intervened early with the testing mechanism among this vulnerable population."

Dr Jayakumar said the housing conditions of migrant workers were often deplorable and did not comply with housing laws.

"Enforcement is poor. Their working habit, as well as safety and health conditions, especially in the construction sites, breach minimum standards as mandated by the Occupational Safety and Health Act 1994."

He said there was an urgency to enforce the Workers' Minimum Standards of Housing and Amenities (Amendment) Act 1990, which was scheduled for enforcement on June 1 but had been postponed to Sept 1, to assist in flattening the curve of Covid-19 infection.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 8

RUANGAN : NATION

Health DG: Govt may still use Act to monitor situation

By LOH FOON FONG
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KUALA LUMPUR: The government may still need to impose the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Act even if all economic sectors have been opened up, said Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

He said the government might use the law for measures such as border control, and assistance from the police and army.

"Perhaps we need to continue with the Act so that we can continue to monitor the situation. But if we open up more sectors, when all sectors are opened and we still maintain single or low two digits, then we are ready for the exit strategy," he said during his daily Covid-19 briefing yesterday.

Dr Noor Hisham described this as a soft landing approach.

For now, he said, most Malaysians had abide by the standard operating procedure (SOP), but the concern was with the foreign workers.

The ministry had discussed with the National Security Council for an existing committee to look into the adherence of the SOP issued for foreign workers, he added.

"If both Malaysians and foreign workers can adhere to SOP, we can break the chain of infection in the country," he said.

On whether the ministry would control the promotion of goods in shops that led to overcrowding, Dr Noor Hisham said the issue was not the promotion but overcrowding.

"Companies need to be innovative. They could, for instance, work by appointments or sell things online," he said.

He said more economic activities were encouraged but companies must adhere to the SOP and prevent overcrowding.

20 new virus cases recorded

No deaths for 11th day in a row

By FATIMAH ZAINAL
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PETALING JAYA: Malaysia recorded 20 new Covid-19 cases, with no deaths reported for the 11th consecutive day.

The total number of infections now stands at 7,877 cases.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said that out of the 20 new cases, 15 were imported cases from infections that happened in China, India, Mexico, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

The rest of five locally transmitted cases involved three foreigners in Selangor and Kuala Lumpur, as well as two Malaysians in Sabah and Negri Sembilan, he added.

"There were no Covid-19-related deaths reported today, keeping the death toll at 115, or 1.46% from the total number of cases," he said during his daily briefing yesterday.


Dr Noor Hisham also said that 66 patients had recovered yesterday, with a total of 6,470 patients discharged since the outbreak began.

Malaysia's Covid-19 recovery rate is now at 82.1% out of the total number of positive cases. There are 1,292 active cases being treated at the country's health facilities, with six patients in intensive care units (ICUs) and two of them on ventilator support.

From the 31 active clusters in the country, two reported new cases, with the cleaning company cluster in Selangor and Negri Sembilan reporting two cases and the Pemas cluster in Negri Sembilan and Melaka one case.

Dr Noor Hisham also said that the new Cheras flat cluster, which was discovered on Monday, could have occurred due to visits before and during Hari Raya Aidilfitri.

On Monday, he confirmed that there were a total of six infections in this cluster, of which



Battling Covid-19

three were residents at the flat while another three were close contacts who were non-residents.

The positive cases from this cluster were from among family members and friends of the first case detected in the cluster, said Dr Noor Hisham.

"The reason for infection for this cluster is still under investigation but there is a big possibility that it had to do with visitation activities before and during Hari Raya Aidilfitri," he added.

The first case from this cluster was identified from a screening of tahfiz centre students carried out by the Malaysian Islamic Development Department (Jakim) and the Health Ministry.

"However, from the investigations conducted, no student, teacher or staff from the tahfiz centre had a history of attending the tabligh gathering at Masjid Seri Petaling," he said.

Dr Noor Hisham said the process to identify and screen the close contacts of all six cases at the Cheras flat had been done.

A total of 120 people were screened, with six testing positive, 76 negative and another 38 awaiting the results.

On the former inmate at Sungai Buloh Prison who recently tested positive for Covid-19, he said the process of active case detection was still ongoing, with about 800 inmates and employees set to undergo screening.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

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RUANGAN : NATION

Covid-19: Current situation globally (As of 7pm June 2 2020)												
Asean+							Malaysia	New cases	Total cases	Total deaths	Total recovered	
	China	Singapore	Indonesia	Philippines	Japan	S. Korea	Thailand	Vietnam	Myanmar	Brunei	Cambodia	Laos
Confirmed cases	83,022	35,836	27,549	18,997	16,884	11,541	3,083	328	228	141	125	19
Deaths	4,634	24	1,663	966	892	272	58	0	6	2	0	0
Recovered	78,315	22,466	7,935	4,063	14,502	10,446	2,966	298	138	138	123	16
Global Top 10												
	US	Brazil	Russia	Spain	UK	Italy	India	France	Germany	Peru		
Confirmed cases	1,859,693	529,405	423,741	286,718	276,332	233,197	199,757	189,220	183,765	170,039		
Deaths	106,927	30,046	5,037	27,127	39,045	33,475	5,612	28,833	8,618	4,634		
Recovered	615,426	211,080	186,985	N/A	N/A	158,355	95,875	68,440	166,400	68,507		

Education the way to go

Groups urge for awareness campaigns to curb drink-driving

By ALLISON LAI
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KUALA LUMPUR: As a temporary freeze on new liquor licences came into effect here, businesses say stiffer penalties on drink-driving and creating more awareness is the best way forward.

Backing the government's determination to curb the scourge of drink-driving, restaurant and coffeeshop operators however likened the immediate freeze imposed by Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) as "addressing the symptoms and not the root causes".

Malaysia Singapore Coffeeshop Proprietors' General Association president Datuk Ho Su Mong described the move as "not in the right direction".

"Do we revoke the operating licences of motorcycle traders just because there are many mat rem-

“Fines, even for a first-time offender, should serve as a serious deterrent.

Datuk Ho Su Mong

pit?" he asked.

"Such a move does not resolve the root causes of the issue. Law enforcement against drink-driving must be strengthened," he said yesterday.

Ho called for stiffer drink-driving penalties, describing existing punishments as "too lax" leading to indifference on the part of offenders.

"This concerns the lives of inno-

cent road users. Fines, even for a first-time offender, should serve as a serious deterrent.

"There must be very stringent and deterrent sentences meted out to offenders and only then will it work," he said, suggesting a first-time offender should be fined not more than RM100,000, jailed two years, or both upon conviction.

Ho also wanted anti-drink-driving awareness campaigns to be stepped up for the benefit of mainly young drivers, focusing on the law and penalties.

Selangor and Federal Territory Chinese Restaurant Operators Association vice-chairman Sia Boon Kong said it should not be assumed that people who drink alcohol will drive and cause accidents.

"The choice should always be there for consumers to decide what they want to consume," he said.

There are two sides to every situ-

ation, Sia said, and the onus was on the enforcement and for the consumer who wanted to drive to be "mature and responsible".

"No one else should be blamed," Sia said, adding that banning liquor licences may have an adverse effect on entertainment outlets.

In a circular yesterday, DBKL announced a freeze on the granting of new liquor licence applications with immediate effect.

The body said it was responding to the call by Federal Territories Minister Tan Sri Annuar Musa, who wanted the government to stop issuing licences for liquor sales until new guidelines were in place and laws revised.

DBKL warned that enforcement would be carried out on premises selling liquor without a licence.

The decision was made after several recent drink-driving incidents which caused accidents.

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'Cheras cluster likely spawned during Raya'

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Burglary gang busted with arrest of 8

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theSun

TELLING IT AS IT IS

ON WEDNESDAY

JUNE 3, 2020

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SPOT CHECK...

Officers from the Shah Alam Municipal Council conducting an inspection yesterday at a restaurant in Section 19 to ensure conformity to social distancing and procedures related to the conditional movement control order. — ASYRAF RASID/THE SUN

Light in sight

BY AMAR SHAH MOHSEN AND RAJVINDER SINGH
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➤ Govt to reopen more sectors if new Covid cases remain low in coming weeks

PUTRAJAYA: The country may soon be emerging from months of gloom. If all goes well in the next few weeks, Malaysians can expect to see an exit strategy being rolled out.

"This is just the soft landing," Health Director-General Datuk Seri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said yesterday.

There is optimism too in the business community, and health experts stress that even when restrictions are lifted, everyone should still adhere to the standard operating procedures (SOP) such as social distancing.

Noor Hisham told his daily media briefing in Putrajaya yesterday that

the exit strategy could be rolled out if the country continues to see only single or double digits in the number of new cases over the next few weeks.

The good news is that the country has been seeing only single digits of new infections among Malaysians in the past few days.

For instance, there were six cases on Monday and only two yesterday.

Such low numbers bode well for Malaysia, according to Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) president Dr N. Ganabaskaran. This, he said, indicates that the conditional movement control order (CMCO) can be lifted soon.

However, he said the people must continue to adhere to the SOP put in place by the government.

"Restrictions must be eased to help the economy recover, but the people cannot be complacent. They

must adhere to the SOP to prevent a new outbreak of Covid-19," he told theSun.

Ganabaskaran said parents should stop taking their children to shopping centres to prevent them from getting infected.

He said some parents may feel that it would be better for them to take their children along so that they can keep an eye on them.

"The problem is that children are boisterous and like to run around and touch things. It will be difficult to look after them and they may unintentionally be exposed to the virus," he said.

SME Association of Malaysia president Datuk Michael Kang said the lifting of restrictions would pave the way for economic recovery.

"It will be good if we can have more sectors opened. (It would be beneficial) if the social activity sector is opened soon because it plays a big role in revitalising the economy," he said.



CELEBRITY CAUSES

Ambassador of strays with beautiful heart

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RUANGAN : NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS

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NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS

More sectors to reopen soon

"People are not spending now but once the social sector opens up, people will start to spend and this will benefit SMEs."

Noor Hisham said if the downward trend in the number of new cases continues, more sectors can be reopened.

"We will reopen more sectors, and eventually ensure that all (sectors) resume operations soon."

"And if all sectors have been reopened and the number of cases remain in the lower double or single digits, then we will be ready for an exit strategy," he added.

Noor Hisham was asked to comment on the country's preparedness to reopen all sectors and businesses, as the number of new Covid-19 cases continues to drop over the past weeks.

On Monday, he indicated that learning institutions might be allowed to reopen and that Malaysians may be allowed to socialise soon if the number of new cases remains low this week.

On worries that the lifting of more restrictions and the reopening of more sectors could lead to a spike in the number of new cases, Noor Hisham said the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Act would still be in place to enforce all government SOPs.

He said while compliance among Malaysians has been very good, there has been an increasing number of cases among foreigners.

To address this, he said, the government has set up a special committee that would look into foreign workers' compliance with the SOPs introduced by the Health Ministry.

"This is very important."

"If both Malaysians and foreigners can adhere to the SOPs, then we will be able to ultimately break the Covid-19 chain," he added.

From front page

Cheras cluster likely due to Raya house visits

► Three of the six positive cases are residents of apartment

BY AMAR SHAH MOHSEN
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PUTRAJAYA: The Cheras apartment cluster that was identified recently by the Health Ministry was most likely caused by Hari Raya Aidilfitri house visits.

Health Director-General Datuk Seri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said to date, the cluster has a total of six positive cases.

Three of them are residents of an apartment there while the others are from outside the area.

"The positive cases are either family members or friends of the first identified case there," he said in his daily press conference yesterday.

The source of this new cluster has yet to be identified although it is most likely to be related to house visits either before or

during Hari Raya, Noor Hisham said.

According to him, the first case, which involved a tahfiz student, was identified during screenings jointly conducted by the ministry and Malaysian Islamic Development Department (Jakim).

Additionally, he said, the ministry has conducted screenings on 120 close contacts of the six positive cases, of which 76 were negative and the remaining were awaiting results.

Urging Malaysians to avoid visiting their families and friends during the current festive month, he said they were still subjected to restrictions imposed by the government.

"Although Hari Raya is generally celebrated for a month with open houses and large gatherings, these are not allowed under the ongoing conditional movement

control order," he said.

On another note, the health director-general said there were only 20 new cases reported yesterday, of which only two were locally transmitted and involved Malaysian citizens.

Three others were non-Malaysians, while the remaining 15 were imported cases - those who were infected outside the country before entering Malaysia.

This brings the cumulative Covid-19 cases in the country to 7,877, with 1,292 individuals still receiving treatment.

No new deaths were reported for the 11th consecutive day, with the death toll remaining at 115.

"At the moment, six individuals are in intensive care units (ICU), two of whom require ventilator support," he said.

Noor Hisham added that 66 individuals have been cleared of Covid-19 yesterday and were allowed to go home, bringing the number of discharged patients to 6,470 or 82.1% of the overall cases.

AKHBAR : THE SUN
 MUKA SURAT : 3
 RUANGAN : NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS

theSun says ...

Proper use of authority above individual freedom

■ BY EDDIE HOO
 newsdesk@thesundaily.com

BY AND LARGE, Malaysians have been compliant with the standard operating procedures (SOP) issued by the Health Ministry to curb the spread of Covid-19.

The ministry has done well to move fast in tackling the problem at hand compared with the sluggish approach taken by some more developed countries.

We are now seeing the results, with cases of Covid-19 infections beginning to taper off. This positive development will enable the government to start reopening several more economic sectors, and that too will be based

on data and facts to ensure no resurgence of infections.

The government's efforts would have come to nought had Malaysians not been responsible enough to take care of their own health as well as that of others.

From wearing face masks to observing social distancing, maintaining hygiene, having their temperature taken, and registering their contact numbers for entry to commercial areas, such compliance speaks well of our civic-mindedness.

We are beginning to see some semblance of normalcy as stores that were shuttered during the movement control order (MCO) reopen.

With more sectors reopening, businesses

can start to heave a sigh of relief and get back to operations. The whole country is looking forward to resuming economic activity after an unavoidable pause.

Shoppers are making their way back to the malls, but footfalls are low and spending has been restrained.

If buying patterns overseas is anything to go by, we can expect purchases to pick up in the near term after public confidence has built up.

While locally transmitted cases involving Malaysians have been below estimations provided by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), imported cases and those involving foreigners have seen a rising trend.

If we understand that migrant workers are not to blame for this, then there should not be any reason to discriminate against them. Without a doubt, migrant workers need more appropriate living conditions.

Malaysia's progress in combating Covid-19 highlights the effectiveness of placing proper use of authority above individual freedom.

There was no question of government-mandated closures infringing on our individual rights as we knew what it would take to contain the spread of Covid-19.

However, the war against the virus is far from over. We must be mindful not to let our guard down. Above all, it is a collective responsibility that has taken us this far.

AKHBAR : THE SUN

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS

