

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 7

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

BH JUMAAT, 5 JUN 2020

Nasional

Penularan COVID-19

Jangkitan tempatan capai satu angka

Pencapaian hasil tindakan kesihatan awam agresif di lapangan

Oleh Rafidah Mat Ruzki, Rohaniza Idris dan Noor Atiqah Sulaiman
bhnews@bh.com.my

Putrajaya: Penularan wabak COVID-19 dalam kalangan rakyat Malaysia kini mencapai angka satu digit dan tiada peningkatan mendadak dilaporkan, setakat semalam.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata jumlah kes di wad biasa COVID-19 dan Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU) turut berkurangan.

Beliau berkata, perkembangan itu adalah hasil tindakan kesihatan awam yang dijalankan se-

cara agresif dan tertumpu di lapangan oleh Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah (PKD) dengan kerjasama pelbagai pihak.

"Kini, pendekatan sama digunakan untuk terus mengawal penularan dalam kalangan kes membabitkan warganegara dan bukan warganegara.

"Sebelum ini lagi, PKD memainkan peranan penting dalam melaksanakan tindakan seperti mencegah dan membendung jangkitan yang dilaksanakan secara berperingkat serta berterusan.

"Antara tindakan penting yang sudah dilaksanakan sejak permulaan gelombang COVID-19 di negara ini ialah kegiatan siasatan dan pengesanan secara aktif.

"Ia merangkumi siasatan kes COVID-19 di lapangan, termasuk kontak rapat pesakit, pengesanan kes secara aktif yang dilakukan dari rumah ke rumah dan aktiviti saringan secara bersasar," katanya pada sidang media harian

Sebelum ini lagi, PKD memainkan peranan penting dalam melaksanakan tindakan seperti mencegah dan membendung jangkitan yang dilaksanakan secara berperingkat serta berterusan.

Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan



COVID-19, di sini, semalam.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, pihaknya turut melakukan aktiviti pensampelan secara pandu lalu dan nyah kuman di rumah pesakit serta lokasi yang sudah dikenal pasti sebagai kawasan berisiko tinggi.

"Peranan penyelarasan bagi semua aktiviti ini dimainkan oleh Bilik Gerakan COVID-19 di setiap daerah dan negeri.

"Ini antara faktor utama yang menunjukkan kejayaan kerana ia dilakukan serentak di seluruh negara," katanya.

Sementara itu, Dr Noor Hisham memaklumkan, ada 277 kes baharu yang majoritinya membabitkan warga asing di Depoh Tahanan Imigresen (DTI) Bukit Jalil, semalam.

Katanya, DTI Bukit Jalil mencatatkan 270 kes baharu, iaitu sampel ulangan bagi orang kena tahanan (OKT) yang dikuarantin di depoh itu.

Beliau berkata, selain di DTI

Bukit Jalil, angka jangkitan baharu itu juga membabitkan dua kes import dan satu lagi warga asing yang menjalani ujian saringan di tapak pembinaan di Pudu.

"Bagi penularan tempatan pula, hanya empat kes dilaporkan, hari ini (semalam).

"Pertambahan kes baharu itu menjadikan jumlah kumulatif ialah 8,247 dengan 1,573 kes aktif dan kebolehjangkitan COVID-19.

"Daripada jumlah itu, enam kes positif COVID-19 sedang dirawat di ICU dengan dua individu masih memerlukan bantuan pernafasan," katanya.

Dalam pada itu, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, setakat jam 12 tengah hari semalam, 28 pesakit dilaporkan pulih yang menjadikan angka kumulatif mencecah 6,559 atau 79.5 peratus daripada jumlah keseluruhan kes.

Beliau memaklumkan, tiada pertambahan korban akibat COVID-19 dengan jumlah kekal 115 kematian atau 1.39 peratus daripada jumlah keseluruhan kes.

KKM terus pantau perkembangan wabak

Putrajaya: Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) akan terus memantau perkembangan wabak COVID-19 di dalam dan luar negara, termasuk maklumat diperolehi daripada Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO).

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata orang ramai juga akan sentiasa dimaklumkan sebarang perkembangan terkini berhubung perkara itu.

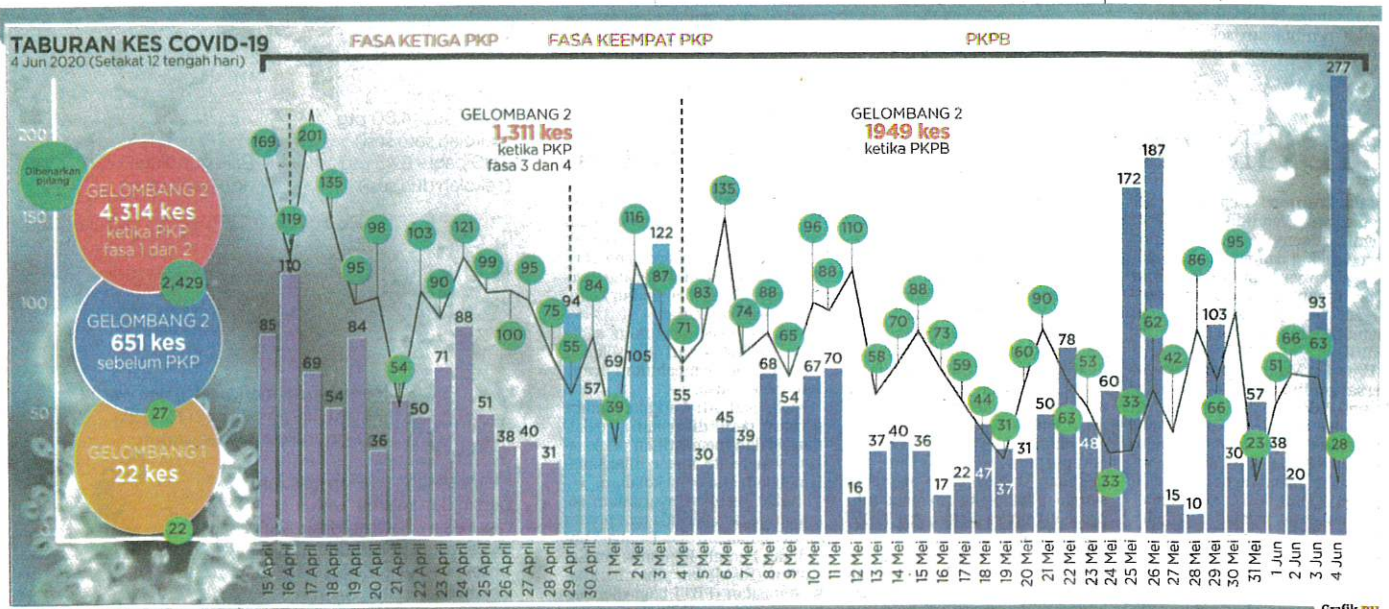
"Selain itu, KKM akan memastikan langkah pencegahan dan kawalan sewajarnya dilaksanakan secara berterusan," katanya pada sidang media harian COVID-19, di sini, semalam.

Sementara itu, Dr Noor Hisham menjelaskan, KKM tidak pernah berhenti melaksanakan pemantauan, pencegahan dan rawatan denggi walaupun negara kini berdepan pandemik COVID-19.

Katanya, kempen membentaras denggi berjalan seperti biasa, manakala pesakit terus mendapat rawatan di hospital dan pusat kesihatan di seluruh negara.

Justeru, beliau menegaskan, tidak timbul isu Kementerian atau mana-mana hospital mahupun pusat kesihatan mengabaikan pencegahan, pemantauan dan rawatan denggi.

"Berdasarkan statistik, kes demam denggi untuk lima bulan tahun ini adalah lebih rendah, iaitu 46,938 atau menurun sebanyak 11.7 peratus berbanding 53,187 dalam tempoh sama tahun lalu," katanya.



Grafik BH

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 11

RUANGAN : KOMENTAR

BH JUMAAT, 5 JUN 2020

Komentar

11

Peniaga dalam talian patut daftar KKM

**Prof Madya
Dr Malina
Osman**



*Pakar Perubahan Kesihatan
Awam, Jabatan Mikrobiologi dan
Parasitologi Perubatan, Fakulti
Perubatan dan Sains Kesihatan,
Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM)*

Media masa kelmarin melaporkan seorang mangsa kes keracunan puding buih di Terengganu meninggal dunia. Insiden keracunan makanan itu mula dilaporkan pada musim Aidilfitri. Ia peristiwa menyedihkan kita semua.

Dalam konteks latar belakang kemudahan asas, iaitu bekalan air bersih, kebersihan sekitar dan kualiti makanan di negara ini dibandingkan taburan penyakit bawaan makanan, kejadian kematian akibat penyakit terbahit bagi negara seperti Malaysia sebenarnya satu tragedi. Ia impak serius perlu diberi perhatian dan memerlukan langkah penyelesaian segera yang relevan.

Ketika Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP), perniagaan dalam talian ialah platform utama keba-

nyakan transaksi barangan keperluan. Ini juga membabitkan penjualan bahan makanan kering dan siap dimasak. Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) sudah mengeluarkan Garis Panduan Penyediaan Makanan yang Dijual Dalam Talian untuk diikuti pengendali terbabit. Garis panduan lengkap bertarikh 20 April adalah antara terbaharu yang disediakan untuk memenuhi keperluan ketika PKP.

Namun, garis panduan itu mungkin tidak begitu disedari sebahagian terbabit. Ini mungkin disebabkan ia hanya wujud sebagai garis panduan memberi syor tanpa sebarang penguatkuasaan peraturan. Sehingga kini tiada perubahan dalam Akta Makanan sedia ada untuk menguatkuasakannya terhadap mereka yang terbabit dalam perniagaan makanan dalam talian.

Dalam peraturan sedia ada berdasarkan Akta Makanan 1983, semua pengendali makanan perlu menghadiri kursus penyediaan makanan dan wajib menerima suntikan mencegah demam kepalu, selain premis makanan serta cara pengendalian mereka diperiksa serta dipantau dari semasa ke semasa.

Bagi memastikan lesen diper-

oleh tidak digantung atau ditarik balik serta mengelakkan premis makanan mereka disita, pengendali makanan perlu mematuhi semua peraturan berdasarkan Akta Makanan itu.

Bagaimanapun, apabila seseorang terbabit dalam perniagaan dalam talian, terdapat keperluan tertentu untuk dipatuhi sebelum liputan penguatkuasaan Akta Makanan itu dapat dilakukan.

Berbanding premis makanan sedia ada dengan pemeriksaan dan pemantauan boleh dilakukan bila-bila masa, perniagaan dalam talian biasanya mempunyai beberapa tempat penyediaan makanan serta kadang-kadang menyediakan makanan, di tempat berbeza daripada alamat dinyatakan.

Terdapat juga mereka yang menjual makanan tetapi tidak berdaftar secara sah menurut keperluan undang-undang. Ini menyukarkan proses penguatkuasaan dilakukan.

Disebabkan perniagaan dalam talian tidak begitu nyata dan menyukarkan kerja pemantauan bahagian kesihatan, perniagaan terbabit dicadangkan untuk diwajibkan berdaftar dengan sistem di

KKM sebelum dibenarkan berniaga. KKM perlu bekerjasama dengan Suruhanjaya Komunikasi dan Multimedia Malaysia (SKMM) untuk tujuan pemantauan perniagaan makanan dalam talian berkenaan.

Satu sistem verifikasi untuk semua aktiviti pengendalian makanan boleh diwujudkan seperti pengendalian makanan dirakamkan melalui kamera litar tertutup secara langsung untuk dipantau bila-bila oleh Kementerian.

Secara alternatif, pengusaha wajib menyiarkan secara langsung penyediaan makanan di media sosial masing-masing. Satu sistem penarafan mengikut bintang perlu diwujudkan dengan hanya pengendali mencapai kualiti tertentu melalui penilaian Kementerian dan orang awam dibenarkan menghebahkan pemasaran secara digital.

Dicadangkan juga untuk aplikasi khusus untuk memasukkan semua data mereka yang berdaftar dan tahap pengendali makanan mematuhi garis panduan terbaharu untuk diguna pakai sebagai rujukan orang awam. Meskipun cadangan ini dilihat agak sukar untuk dilaksanakan tetapi keuta-

maan untuk mengelakkan keracunan makanan serius yang boleh mengorbankan nyawa perlu dijadikan asas motivasi untuk kita bersungguh-sungguh melakukan perubahan.

Gaya hidup sudah jauh berubah berbanding 20 hingga 30 tahun lalu. Melalui kewujudan alat perantis mudah alih, komunikasi semakin meluas melalui sistem digital dan juga platform media sosial. Justeru, peraturan dan undang-undang juga perlu berubah secara beriringan.

Tidak begitu sesuai untuk menguatkuasakan akta berusia puluhan yang situasi sudah jauh berbeza berbanding dengan apa dialami kini.

Pendekatan drastik perlu segera dilakukan untuk mengelak berulang kes keracunan dan komplikasi serius seperti kematian. Semua agensi perlu berganding bahu tanpa mendahulukan agenda selain kepentingan masyarakat.

Tidak dinafikan perubahan sesuatu agak sukar; namun melalui kesungguhan kita seperti ditunjukkan dalam mendepani COVID-19 perlu diteruskan untuk penyakit lain seperti kes keracunan makanan.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 14

RUANGAN : SUARA SINAR

14

Suara Sinar
Harian

Adakah PM akan tamatkan PKPB?

SELEPAS 80 hari berada dalam keadaan dan disiplin normal baharu, nampaknya rakyat Malaysia sudah boleh menyesuaikan diri dengan rutin dan kelaziman itu dalam kehidupan seharian masing-masing.

Sejak penularan virus pandemik Covid-19, Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP) berkuat kuasa mulai 18 hingga 31 Mac lalu di seluruh negara meliputi larangan menyeluruh pergerakan dan perhimpunan ramai di seluruh negara termasuk aktiviti keagamaan, sukan, sosial dan budaya.

Ia kemudian dilanjutkan sehingga 14 April, disusuli lanjutan sehingga 28 April dan kemudian sehingga 12 Mei.

Apabila kes jangkitan Covid-19 makin meningkat, Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Bersyarat (PKPB) pula dilaksanakan dari 4 hingga 12 Mei yang membenarkan beberapa sektor ekonomi beroperasi semula, tertakluk kepada prosedur operasi standard (SOP) ditetapkan Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM).

PKPB kemudian dilanjutkan empat minggu lagi sehingga 9 Jun ini. Seperti biasa, setiap kali tarikh lanjutan sekatan pergerakan itu bakal berakhir, Perdana Menteri, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin akan membuat sidang media.

Sidang media Perdana Menteri akan selalu dinanti-nantikan oleh seluruh rakyat Malaysia kerana masing-masing ingin mengetahui sama ada sekatan pergerakan akan diteruskan atau ditamatkan.

Menurut Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, ketika ini pelaksanaan PKPB berjaya menurunkan nilai kebolehjangkitan atau R0 (R-naught) sehingga 0.3 berbanding 0.6 ketika pelaksanaan PKP.

Kes (Covid-19 di Malaysia) kebolehjangkitan ialah 3.55 bermakna seseorang itu boleh menjangkiti 3.55 orang dan apabila laksanakan PKP, kita dapat kurangkan R0 (semasa PKPB) R0 menjadi 0.3 bererti seseorang yang dijangkiti hanya boleh menjangkiti 0.3 orang.

Fakta yang dibentangkan jelas menunjukkan model yang diperkenalkan kerajaan kini berada di peringkat pemulihan terakhir.

Persoalannya sekarang, apa kemungkinan keputusan Perdana Menteri hari ini? Adakah PKPB diteruskan atau ditamatkan?

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 18

RUANGAN : MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19

18



MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19

JUMAAT 5 JUN 2020 • SINAR HARIAN

#RantainyaKasih

277 kes baharu dilaporkan

Kes positif kluster DTI Bukit Jalil melonjak, 270 kes direkodkan

Oleh NURUL HUDA HUSAIN dan TUAN BUQHAIKHAH TUAN MUHAMAD ADNAN

PUTRAJAYA



Daripada jumlah itu, hanya empat kes penularan tempatan dalam kalangan rakyat Malaysia yang direkodkan.

- Dr Noor Hisham

Kes positif wabak koronavirus (Covid-19) semalam naik mendadak dengan 277 kes baharu yang dilaporkan.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, daripada jumlah itu hanya empat kes penularan tempatan dalam kalangan rakyat Malaysia direkodkan.

"Kes penularan dalam kalangan bukan warganegara adalah 271 kes manakala terdapat dua kes import warganegara Malaysia yang mendapat jangkitan di luar negara.

"270 kes dalam kalangan bukan warganegara adalah dari Depot Tahanan Imigresen (DTI) Bukit Jalil, di mana ini merupakan sampel ulangan bagi Orang Kena Tahan (OKT) yang dikuarantin di depot tahanan ini.

"Mereka telah terdedah kepada kes positif sebelum ini manakala satu kes bukan warganegara adalah saringan (tapak pembinaan di Pudu," katanya

pada sidang akhbar situasi semasa jangkitan Covid-19 di kementeriannya di sini semalam.

Menurutnya, jumlah kes positif Covid-19 di Malaysia kini adalah sebanyak 8,247 kes dan kes aktif dengan kebolehan jangkitan wabak itu adalah sebanyak 1,573 kes.

Dr Noor Hisham turut memaklumkan terdapat 28 kes yang telah pulih dan dibenar-

kan discaj semalam.

"Ini menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes yang telah pulih sepenuhnya daripada Covid-19 dan telah discaj dari wad adalah sebanyak 6,559 kes," katanya.

Katanya, tiada kematian berkaitan Covid-19 direkodkan untuk 13 hari berturut-turut menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kekal 115 orang.

Sementara itu, lebih 80 peratus kes positif yang dikesan hasil saringan wabak Covid-19 di 429 pasar di seluruh negara mendapati individu dijangkiti wabak itu tidak bergejala.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, daripada 274 yang disahkan positif, 236 kes tidak bergejala.

"Secara keseluruhan sebanyak 33,419 sampel telah diambil melibatkan 429 pasar di seluruh negara.

"Daripada jumlah itu, 274 kes didapati positif dengan 38 kes atau 13.9 peratus adalah bergejala dan 236 kes atau 86.1 peratus tidak bergejala," katanya.

8,000 kit ujian antigen telah digunakan

PUTRAJAYA - Sebanyak 8,000 daripada 200,000 kit antigen yang diimport dari Korea Selatan baru-baru ini telah digunakan dalam saringan koronavirus (Covid-19).

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) mempunyai kapasiti ujian itu sekitar 190,000.

"Kita menggalakkan petugas kesihatan menggunakan kit ujian antigen ketika membuat saringan," katanya pada sidang akhbar perkembangan terkini Covid-19 di kementeriannya di sini semalam.

Menurutnya, perolehan baharu akan dibuat sekiranya kit antigen diperlukan lagi.

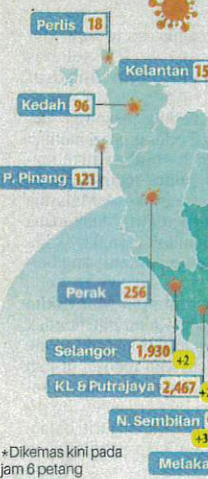
"Setakat ini kita masih ada banyak stok. Di KKM sendiri pun masih ada 50,000 kit," katanya.

Sebelum ini, KKM telah mengagihkan kit ujian antigen kepada Sabah, Sarawak, Johor dan sebahagian digunakan di Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa Kuala Lumpur (KLIA).

Kit ujian tersebut telah diuji dan mempunyai ketepatan hampir 100 peratus dalam mengesan jangkitan Covid-19.

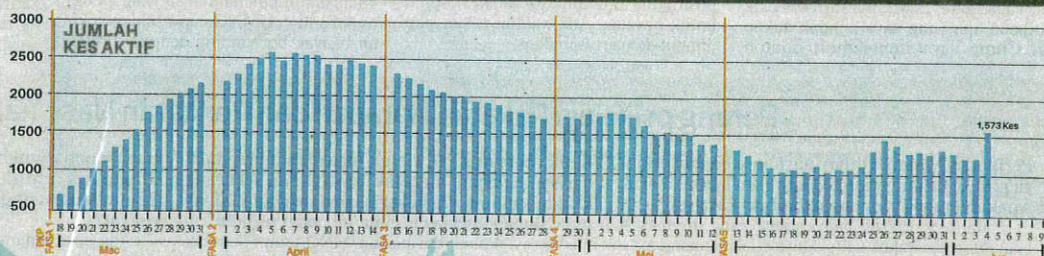
SITUASI TERKINI KES COVID-19 DI MALAYSIA SETAKAT SEMALAM

Bilangan kes Covid-19 mengikut negeri di Malaysia



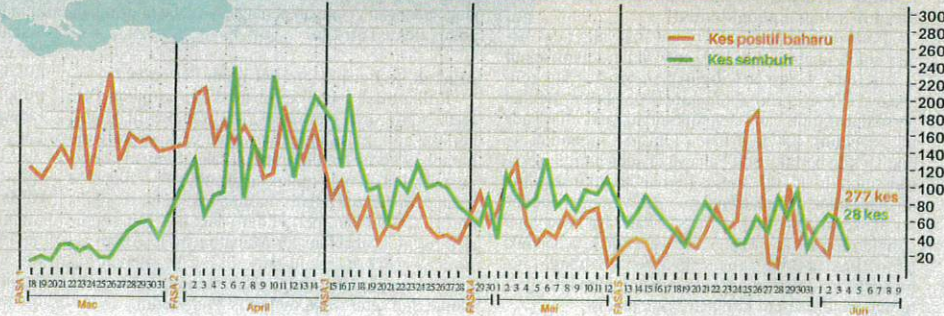
*Dikemas kini pada jam 6 petang 4 Jun 2020

Jumlah jangkitan Covid-19 di Malaysia semalam meningkat daripada 7,970 kes kepada 8,247 kes



JUMLAH KES BAHARU DAN SEMBUH DILAPORKAN SETIAP HARI

JUMLAH KESELURUHAN: 8,247 | PULIH: 6,559 | ICU: 6 | KEMATIAN: 115 | KES BAHARU: +277



AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 7

RUANGAN : NEWS / NATION

FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2020 • NewStraitsTimes

Nation / NEWS

7

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

PANEL TO LOOK INTO MIGRANT ISSUES

Health D-G says it will focus on accommodation, pre-detention screening, cleanliness

HANA NÁZ HARUN
AND TEH ATHIRA YUSOF
PUTRAJAYA
news@nst.com.my

ALL quarters must work together to resolve the issue of infectious disease transmission among foreign workers in the country, said Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah yesterday.

Dr Noor Hisham said a "multi-agency, whole government and whole society" approach was needed to ensure a holistic implementation of guidelines and precautionary measures to prevent infection among foreign workers.

"Today (yesterday) we see an amplification (of Covid-19 cases) of those in confined spaces. If a

case is positive, it will amplify (if detainees) are kept in confined and crowded spaces," he said here yesterday.

Dr Noor Hisham said a committee under the National Security Council (NSC) had been formed to look into the matter, focusing on foreign worker accommodation, cleanliness and pre-detention screening.

"The action plan under the NSC will involve several agencies, and the Health Ministry will be one of the members to look into how we can improve (the foreign workers') living conditions."

Yesterday, 271 out of 277 new Covid-19 cases in the country involved foreign workers, 270 of whom are from the Bukit Jalil Immigration Detention Depot.

The Bukit Jalil cluster remains the country's only active cluster, with a total of 608 positive cases, all involving foreign nationals.

On daily case updates, Dr Noor Hisham said out of the 277 new cases, only four were locally transmitted, while two were imported cases from Spain and Egypt.

"This brings the total number of Covid-19 cases to 8,247. The number of active cases stands at 1,573. The ministry records 28 re-

coveries, increasing the number of recovered and discharged patients to 6,559 (79.5 per cent)."

The 270 new cases from the Bukit Jalil cluster, he said, were repeat samples of those detained and quarantined at the detention depot, while one more case involved a foreigner in Pudu.

Dr Noor Hisham said there were no new Covid-19 fatalities, with the death toll remaining at 115 or 1.39 per cent of the total.

He announced that the sub-cluster in Kuching, Sarawak, had ended with 41 cases and two deaths.

On another matter, Dr Noor Hisham said Health Ministry concessionaires should be responsible for providing proper protective equipment for workers who may be at risk of contracting the virus at their workplace.

He said the ministry was aware of the case involving five union workers, who protested on behalf of hospital cleaners who were not given proper personal protective gear (PPE) at work.

He, however, said the matter must be resolved by the company which hired the workers.

He had advised the company to take action to solve the problem fast and not to disrupt hos-



Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah at the daily press conference on Covid-19 in Putrajaya yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

pital services.

"It does not involve the ministry but our concessionaire instead. They (the union workers) should've been engaging with the company rather than the ministry. At the end of the day, the ministry will look into the company's services.

"If there is disruption, then action will be taken based on the contractual agreement between the ministry and the concessionaire company."

On Tuesday, five union workers were arrested after holding a peaceful protest in front of Hospital Raja Permaisuri Bainun (HRPB) in Ipoh, Perak against their employer, Edgenta UEMS.

The five are office-bearers in the National Union of Workers in Hospital Support and Allied Services and held the demonstration to focus attention on the hospital cleaners' grievances, including the lack of PPE.

Dr Noor Hisham said so far, hospital services were not disrupted during the pandemic.

"What we have done is optimise and utilise some of our cluster hospitals. We have seven Covid-

19 hospitals and 33 hybrid hospitals for Covid-19 and non-Covid-19 cases.

"Other services continue. For example, we have decanted (a hospital's) orthopaedic and surgery departments to a district hospital lock, stock and barrel, meaning the specialists, surgeons and medical officers. And patients are being treated at the district hospital.

He said the maternal and child health clinics continued informing those with appointments to come forward for their check-ups.

"But some were reluctant to go to hospitals out of fear they would be infected with Covid-19."

"There is no disruption in terms of (healthcare) services (during the pandemic). But some patients cancelled their appointments as they were afraid to come to the hospital.

"For emergencies and semi-emergencies, such as cancer cases, we continue treating them at hospitals. This is why we conduct the preoperative Covid-19 screening to protect those in operating theatres," he added.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NATION

Muhyiddin back at the office

Post-quarantine, PM chairs first Cabinet meeting via video

By MAZWIN NIK ANIS
mazwin@thestar.com.my

PUTRAJAYA: After observing a 14-day quarantine at home, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin returns to the office as he chaired the weekly Cabinet meeting.

The meeting was conducted via video conference as ministers sat in two separate rooms at the Perdana Putra building here yesterday.

This was said to be a first for the Cabinet in an effort to promote social distancing and safe health practices. The meeting saw ministers in full attendance.

The Prime Minister, who began his self-quarantine on May 22 after an officer present at the post-Cabinet meeting held two days earlier tested positive for Covid-19, began the day with an audience with Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah.

The pre-Cabinet meeting was held via video conferencing as has been the practice since the movement control order was enforced in March.

During his quarantine, the Prime



First order of business: Muhyiddin having an audience with the King via video conference in his office. — Bernama

Minister continued his duties from home. He was tested negative after a swab test on Tuesday.

On Wednesday, Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the Prime Minister

and others who had attended the post-Cabinet meeting were allowed to return to work after they tested negative on their last day of quarantine.

Earlier, the Prime Minister's

Office said according to the Supervision and Observation Order for Covid-19 Contact (Section 15(1) Act 342), the Prime Minister has to be in self-quarantine at home for 14 days.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 11

RUANGAN : NATION

'Relook detention protocols'

DG: Centres and tracking of illegals need a review

By RASHVINJEET S. BEDI
rashvin@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: The protocol to locate illegal foreigners at Immigration detention centres may need a relook as 270 new cases of Covid-19 were reported at the Bukit Jalil depot.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the new cases were detected after repeat tests were carried out on the detainees.

He said it was possible that the virus was in its incubation period when the first test was conducted on detainees before they were placed at the centre.

"Once they were placed in the

centre, they could then infect others. The issue is also the cramped cells. If one case is positive, then definitely it would amplify the infection in a confined space.

"At the moment, the spread may be related to confined and congested areas," he said in his daily press briefing yesterday.

Altogether, a total of 608 cases have been detected at the Bukit Jalil Immigration centre, with 606 of them still classified as active cases. Another 66 cases, 60 cases, and two cases have been identified at the Semenyih, Sepang and Putrajaya detention centres respectively.

Besides the new cases at the Bukit Jalil depot, there were seven other cases recorded, bringing the total

number of infections in Malaysia to 8,247 cases. Of the seven cases, two were imported while the rest were local transmissions.

There was no Covid-19 death for the 13th consecutive day and the death toll remains at 115.

Dr Noor Hisham said 28 patients had recovered in the last 24 hours with a total of 6,559 patients discharged since the Covid-19 outbreak began, or at a 79.5% recovery rate.

There are currently 1,573 active cases being treated in the country's health facilities with six patients being treated at the intensive care unit and two on ventilator support.

He said a committee had been tasked to review the protocol on placing detainees in the centres.

Battling Covid-19

#DigitalReady

greenpacket kjiple

ready.greenpacket.com

"There is a need to look at the foreign workers' issue holistically, requiring a whole government and whole society approach," he said.

Watch the video
[thestartv.com](https://www.thestartv.com)



AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 15

RUANGAN : VIEWS

Views 15



Your opinion

EMAIL: editor@thestar.com.my or
MAIL: The Editor, Menara Star, 15, Jalan 16/11,
Section 16, 46350 Petaling Jaya.
Letters must carry the sender's full name,
address and telephone number.
A pseudonym may be included.

Wake-up call for healthcare

THE Academy of Medicine of Malaysia (a registered body embracing 11 Colleges and 15 Chapters representing medical specialists in Malaysia) is deeply saddened and concerned by the findings of the 2019 National Health and Morbidity Survey (NHMS), which showed that there is little to no recorded improvement in the prevalence and risk factors of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in this country.

The only notable progress is the reduction in the prevalence of hypercholesterolemia (high cholesterol), which has gone down from 47.7% in 2015 to 38.1% in 2019. If preventive and corrective measures are not urgently put in place, many Malaysians are on track to contract chronic illnesses such as diabetes, heart disease and chronic respiratory disease.

The World Health Organisation

(WHO) reported on June 1, 2020 that prevention and treatment services for NCDs all over the world, Malaysia included, have been severely disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

As our country continues to make progress in our fight against the pandemic, we must refocus our resources to address NCD prevention and treatment. The government must develop and implement a long-term plan for our health system to efficiently manage both Covid-19 and NCD care services until a vaccine for this new coronavirus is discovered.

This is important because people living with NCDs who are also infected with Covid-19 are more prone to severe symptoms and have a higher mortality risk. We cannot tackle one issue without addressing the other. Preventive care must be prioritised in the

reorganisation of our health system. The rakyat have proven throughout the Covid-19 crisis that given the proper guidance and tools, they will abide by the necessary preventive measures to protect their health and that of their loved ones.

Innovative solutions must be introduced to tackle the risk factors for NCDs as displayed in the 2019 NHMS findings. These measures should also offset the potential negative impacts of extended movement control, such as reduced physical activity and mental health, which can result in poor eating habits.

Finally, the government must invest more in primary care services, as early and regular screening is vital in treating NCDs. The Enhanced Primary Health Care (EnPHC) Initiative launched in 2017 was a move in the right direc-

tion in increasing access to healthcare for all Malaysians, and especially those from lower income groups.

The revival of this initiative, along with others under the National Strategic Plan for NCDs 2016-2025, must be incorporated into the government's long-term health plan for managing Covid-19.

The full extent of the pandemic's impact on our health system and people with NCDs remains to be seen. However, there is clear evidence of its disruption in other areas of healthcare as well as its disproportionately harmful effects on people with NCDs.

The 2019 NHMS report is a wake-up call for Malaysians to take urgent action for our health in the future.

ACADEMY OF MEDICINE OF
MALAYSIA

AKHBAR : THE SUN

MUKA SURAT : 2

RUANGAN : NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS

Spike in virus cases among foreigners

PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia continues to record single-digit Covid-19 cases involving local transmissions, with only four reported yesterday.

However, another 271 cases were reported among foreigners, while another two were imported cases involving Malaysians.

The latest figure brings the cumulative positive Covid-19 cases in the country to 8,247 of which 1,573 are still active and receiving treatment, according to Health Director-General Datuk Seri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

This is the fifth consecutive day with fewer than 10 cases among Malaysians. Apart from the four yesterday, there were two on Wednesday, five on Tuesday, six on Monday, and four on Sunday.

There are also no new deaths for the 13th consecutive day, with fatalities remaining at 115.

Noor Hisham said this progress was a result of actions taken by health authorities since the start of the pandemic, including active tracing and investigation.

"The enhanced movement control order imposed on several areas also allowed us to conduct tracing of new cases in locations deemed to be high risk," he said in his daily media conference yesterday.

Of the 271 cases involving non-Malaysians, Noor Hisham said 270 of them were from the Bukit Jalil immigration detention centre, which brings the cumulative positive cases there to 608.

He said the high number of cases there was most likely due to congested accommodation.

"If there is just one positive case, it will definitely amplify the infection in such a small confined space. So at the moment, we can only say that maybe this (increase in cases) is related to a congested, crowded area."

Noor Hisham said the government might consider placing illegal immigrants under the 14-day incubation period first before transferring them to a detention centre, to avoid infections. – By **Amar Shah Mohsen**