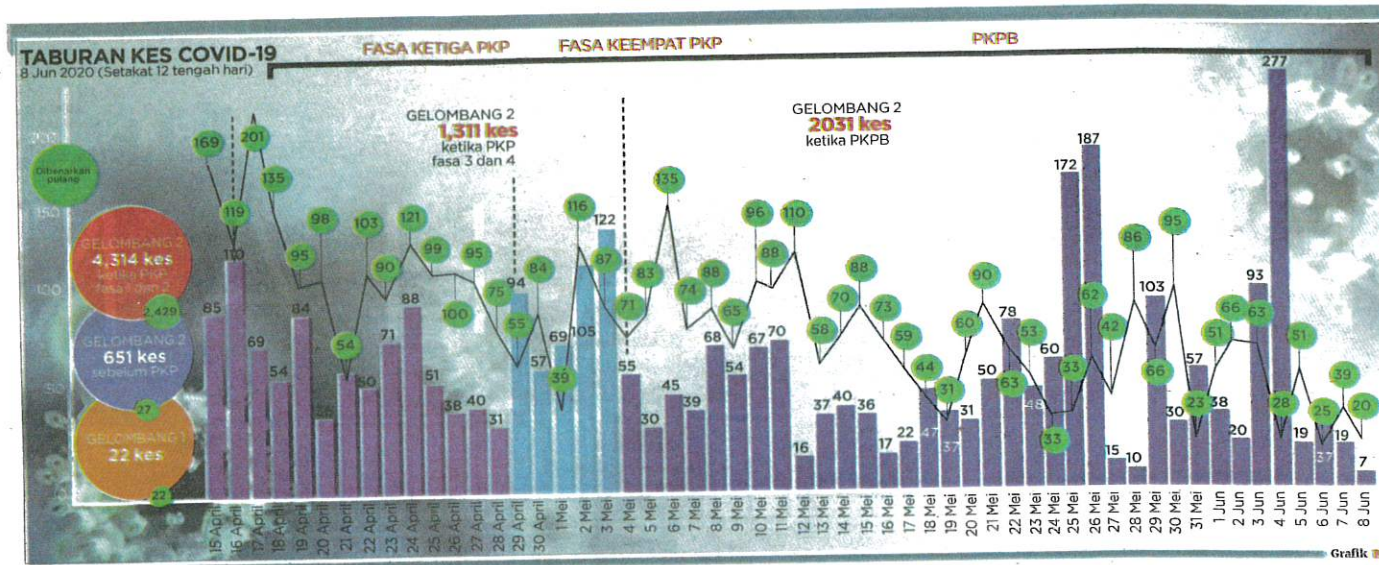


AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NASIONAL



Bayi antara tujuh mangsa jangkitan baharu

Putrajaya: Tujuh kes baharu COVID-19 dilaporkan semalam, angka terendah harian dicatat sejak 18 Mac lalu.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham, berkata statistik itu antara lain membabitkan bayi berusia lapan bulan di Hospital Wanita dan Kanak-Kanak Sabah (HWKKS) di Likas, Sabah dan seorang pegawai Imigresen bantuan daripada kluster Depoh Tahanan Imigresen (DTI)

Bukit Jalil di ibu negara.

Katanya, jangkitan terhadap bayi terbabit berkenaan dikesan selepas melalui saringan untuk prapemindahan HWKKS.

"Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) membuat siasatan lanjut berhubung punca jangkitan COVID-19 terhadap bayi berkenaan.

"Siasatan termasuk melakukan saringan kepada ahli ke-

uarga dan bagaimana ia berlaku," katanya dalam sidang media harian COVID-19 di sini, semalam.

Mengenai kes baharu kluster DTI Bukit Jalil, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, kakitangan jabatan berkenaan tidak mengalami gejala dan dipercayai terdedah kepada pesakit dan sudah diasingkan untuk rawatan.



Katanya, pertambahan tujuh kes baharu menjadikan jumlah kes positif COVID-19 di Malaysia kepada 8,329 kes.

"Jumlah kes aktif dengan kebolehjangkitan COVID-19 adalah 1,518 kes.

"Daripada tujuh kes baharu itu, dua adalah kes import yang mendapat jangkitan di luar negara, manakala lima penularan dalam negara adalah warganegara Malaysia," katanya.

Katanya, enam kes positif COVID-19 sedang dirawat di unit rawatan rapi (ICU) dan seorang memerlukan bantuan pernafasan," katanya.

Setakat jam 12 tengah hari semalam, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, 20 kes pulih sepenuhnya dan dibenarkan pulang.

Katanya, tiada kematian baharu dicatat dan jumlahnya kekal 117 kes atau 1.4 peratus daripada keseluruhan kes.

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 7

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

BH SELASA, 9 JUN 2020

7

Nasional

Kes denggi dijangka meningkat

Berdasarkan trend 5 tahun lalu banyak jangkitan bermula bulan ini hingga September

Oleh Suzalina Halid dan Noor Atiqah Sulaiman
bhnews@bh.com.my

lama ditutup, tiada pergerakan orang ramai dan secara tidak langsung berisiko menjadi tempat pembiakan nyamuk.

"Orang ramai diseru supaya mempertingkat tahap kebersihan di kawasan masing-masing, terutama di mana takungan air dan tempat yang berpotensi untuk pembiakan nyamuk.



"Usaha membanteras nyamuk aedes dan demam denggi adalah tanggungjawab kita semua, seperti juga masyarakat berganding bahu bagi memutuskan penularan jangkitan COVID-19," katanya pada sidang media harian COVID-19, di sini semalam.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, sepanjang tempoh Januari hingga awal bulan ini, 84 kes ke-

matian demam denggi dilaporkan, berbanding 83 kes tahun lalu.

"Berdasarkan siasatan awal terhadap 84 kes kematian demam denggi pada tahun ini, didapati 11 peratus lewat mendapatkan rawatan, iaitu tiga hari selepas bermulanya gejala," katanya.

Beliau berkata, dari Januari hingga awal bulan ini, terdapat 48,584 kes demam denggi dilaporkan, berbanding 54,524 kes bagi tempoh yang sama pada tahun

lalu, iaitu penurunan sebanyak 11 peratus.

Katanya, trend penurunan kes demam denggi turut dicatat di kebanyakan negara Asia Tenggara yang lain.

"Namun, sejak enam minggu yang lalu, didapati kes berkenaan mula menunjukkan trend peningkatan secara berterusan, iaitu dengan purata peningkatan sebanyak lapan peratus setiap minggu," katanya.

Putrajaya: Kementerian Kesihatan menjangka jumlah demam denggi akan meningkat, bermula bulan ini hingga September.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata jangkakan itu berdasarkan trend kes demam denggi sejak lima tahun lalu.

Katanya, memandangkan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Pemulihan (PKPP) akan dilaksanakan esok, lebih banyak sektor ekonomi, kegiatan sosial, pendidikan, keagamaan dan perniagaan dibuka.

Beliau berkata, mungkin kebanyakan tempat berkenaan sudah

Langkah buka semula sekolah diperinci

Putrajaya: Kementerian Kesihatan akan memperinci langkah pembukaan semula sekolah dalam mesyuarat bersama Kementerian Pendidikan hari ini, termasuk tarikh kehadiran pelajar.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata perbincangan itu juga akan meneliti persiapan yang boleh dilakukan oleh ibu bapa sebelum anak mereka

mula ke sekolah.

Beliau berkata, antara perkara yang akan diutamakan ialah mengenai tempoh dua minggu yang diberikan kepada ibu bapa bertindak sebelum pembukaan semula sekolah membabitkan pelajar Tingkatan Lima dan Enam terlebih dulu.

"Esok (hari ini) akan ada mesyuarat bersama Kementerian Pendidikan untuk membincangkan mengenai tarikh yang

sesuai untuk pelaksanaan.

"Kalau kita tetapkan esok (hari ini), jangka masa ialah dua minggu (diberikan) bagi ibu bapa membuat persiapan untuk kembali ke sekolah.

"Ia mungkin akan dimulakan dengan Tingkatan Lima dan Enam sebelum dibuka kepada semua pelajar.

"Ini perancangan kita," katanya pada sidang media harian, di sini.

Berdasarkan siasatan awal terhadap 84 kes kematian demam denggi pada tahun ini, didapati 11 peratus lewat mendapatkan rawatan, iaitu tiga hari selepas bermula gejala.

Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : 100 HARI PENTADBIRAN MUHYIDDIN YASSIN

'Langkah tidak popular tetapi berani'

PUTRAJAYA - Mengambil alih teraju kepimpinan negara bukan pada masa ancaman pandemik koronavirus (Covid-19), Perdana Menteri, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin jelas telah menggalas tugas berat sejak 1 Mac lalu.

Muhyiddin membuat keputusan melaksanakan langkah yang tidak pernah dilakukan setelah mendapat nasihat daripada Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) yang bersesuaian dengan ketetapan Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO).

Tindakan memperkenalkan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP) yang dikuatkuasakan pada 18 Mac sebagai usaha membendung penularan wabak Covid-19 disifatkan beberapa pihak sebagai langkah tidak popular, namun berani.

Memperkenalkan kawalan pergerakan mengikut acuan Malaysia, Muhyiddin mengumumkan penguatkuasaan PKP dalam empat fasa sehingga 3 Mei lalu disambung dengan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Bersyarat (PKPB) mulai 4 Mei hingga 9 Jun dan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Pemulihan (PKPP) 10 Jun sehingga 31 Ogos.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah yang merupakan antara petugas barisan hadapan tertinggi memerangi Covid-19 menyifatkan penguatkuasaan PKP dibuat ketika negara tiada keupayaan iaitu ketiadaan vaksin Covid-19 atau ubat untuk merawat pesakit.

"Saya kagum kerana beliau (Muhyiddin) dengan berani melaksanakan PKP kerana ketika itu, tak banyak negara laksanakannya selain China.

"Pelaksanaan PKP juga menyaksikan kita menggunakan Akta 342 (Akta Pencegahan dan Kawalan Penyakit Berjangkit 1988). Tidak pernah dalam sejarah negara menggunakan akta itu.

"Kini, PKP berjaya meratakan lekuk Covid-19 dan banyak negara jiran mengikuti langkah sama. Ini menunjukkan Malaysia sudah ke depan dalam menggunakan kaedah yang tidak pernah diguna pakai negara lain," katanya di Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia di sini.

Tambah beliau, matlamat kerajaan dan semua orang ketika ini adalah satu iaitu menyelamatkan negara daripada Covid-19. - *Bernama*

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 11

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Gelombang kedua peningkatan kes demam denggi

SUMBER: FACEBOOK KEMENTERIAN KESIHATAN MALAYSIA

PUTRAJAYA - Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) menjangkakan akan berlaku peningkatan kes demam denggi gelombang kedua bermula awal Jun hingga September ini susulan trend peningkatan secara berterusan yang direkodkan sejak enam minggu lalu.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, berdasarkan rekod enam minggu lalu, didapati purata peningkatan sebanyak lapan peratus setiap minggu dicatatkan.

"KKM ingin memaklumkan bahawa daripada bulan Januari 2020 sehingga 6 Jun 2020, terdapat sebanyak 48,584 kes demam denggi dilaporkan berbanding 54,524 kes bagi tempoh sama pada tahun 2019 (iaitu penurunan sebanyak 11

peratus).

"Trend penurunan kes demam denggi ini turut dilihat di kebanyakan negara ASEAN yang lain.

"Namun begitu, sejak enam minggu lalu didapati kes demam denggi mulai menunjukkan trend peningkatan secara berterusan iaitu dengan purata peningkatan sebanyak lapan peratus setiap minggu," katanya pada sidang akhbar di sini semalam.

Menurutnya, sepanjang tempoh yang sama bagi tahun ini juga, 84 kematian kes denggi telah dilaporkan berbanding 83 pada tahun 2019.

Katanya, berdasarkan siasatan awal terhadap 84 kes kema-



DR NOOR HISHAM

tian demam denggi dalam tahun ini, didapati 11 peratus telah lewat mendapatkan rawatan iaitu tiga hari selepas bermulanya gejala.

"Memandangkan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Pemulihan (PKPP) akan mula dilaksanakan pada 10 Jun 2020, lebih banyak sektor ekonomi, aktiviti sosial, pendidikan, keagamaan dan perniagaan bakal dibuka.

"Kemungkinan kebanyakan tempat ini yang lama tertutup dan tiada pergerakan orang ramai lalu berisiko menjadikannya tempat pembiakan nyamuk," katanya.

Sehubungan itu, Dr Noor Hisham meminta orang ramai

Cegah penularan kes demam denggi

1. Luar dan dalam premis perlu dibersihkan setiap minggu oleh pemilik premis.
2. Sembur aerosol ke ruang bilik yang telah lama tidak digunakan.
3. Lakukan aktiviti larvasiding (iaitu penggunaan secara berkala bahan untuk membunuh jentik-jentik).
4. Lindungi diri dengan memakai repelen.
5. Jika ada gejala, segera dapatkan rawatan di fasiliti kesihatan berhampiran.
6. Semua fasiliti kesihatan perlu berwaspada jika terdapat kes disyaki demam denggi. Kes perlu segera dirawat dan dirujuk jika memerlukan rawatan selanjutnya.



orang supaya mempertingkatkan tahap kebersihan di kawasan masing-masing terutamanya di mana takungan air dan tempat-tempat yang berpotensi untuk pembiakan nyamuk.

Katanya, usaha membante-

ras nyamuk aedes dan demam denggi adalah tanggungjawab kita semua, sepertimana juga masyarakat telah berganding bahu bagi memutuskan penularan jangkitan wabak koronavirus (Covid-19).

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 12

RUANGAN : MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19

12

SELASA 9 JUN 2020 • SINAR HARIAN



MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19

Kes baharu terendah

Malaysia merekodkan kes positif baharu sebanyak tujuh kes semalam

Oleh NURUL HUDA HUSAIN

PUTRAJAYA

Malaysia semalam merekodkan kes positif baharu satu digit serta terendah iaitu tujuh kes sejak Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP) dilaksanakan 18 Mac lalu.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, daripada tujuh kes baharu itu, dua merupakan kes import manakala lima penularan tempatan.

"Ini merupakan jumlah kes terendah yang pernah dicatatkan setakat ini. Ini menjadikan jumlah kes positif Covid-19 di Malaysia adalah sebanyak 8,329 kes.

"Ingin dimaklumkan daripada tujuh kes baharu yang dilaporkan, dua kes adalah kes import yang mendapat jangkitan di luar negara mana-

kala lima kes penularan di dalam negara pula adalah di kalangan warganegara Malaysia," katanya pada sidang akhbar di sini semalam.

Dr Noor Hisham turut memaklumkan tiada pertambahan kes kematian berkaitan Covid-19 semalam menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes kematian Covid-19 di Malaysia adalah kekal sebanyak 117 kes.

Sementara itu, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) bercadang untuk menyediakan perkhidmatan dua syif di hospital dan klinik terpilih supaya dapat mengatasi masalah kesesakan di ruang menunggu fasiliti tersebut.

Katanya, pelaksanaan itu akan bermula di hospital atau klinik kategori dua dan tiga yang besar dan sesak.

Menurutnya, cadangan berkenaan dibuat berikutan kes berkaitan wabak Covid-19 yang menunjukkan penuru-



Dr Noor Hisham menunjukkan hanya tujuh kes baharu Covid-19 dan merupakan angka yang terendah pernah dicatatkan setakat ini pada sidang akhbar di Putrajaya semalam.

nan ketara ketika ini.

"Kita telah pun mencadangkan untuk mengadakan (perkhidmatan kesihatan) dua syif di klinik iaitu syif pagi dan petang.

"Setiap langkah (diambil) untuk kita mengamalkan penjarakkan sosial," katanya.

Mengulas lanjut, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, orang ramai juga digalakkan untuk menggunakan perkhidmatan klinik maya atau mendapatkan kiriman pos bagi mendapatkan bekalan ubat tanpa perlu datang ke klinik.

Punca jangkitan bayi lapan bulan masih disiasat

PUTRAJAYA - Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) masih mengenal pasti punca jangkitan wabak coronavirus (Covid-19) yang melibatkan seorang bayi lapan bulan di Sabah.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, bayi berkenaan antara tujuh kes yang disahkan positif wabak itu semalam.

Katanya, bayi tersebut dikesan positif selepas menjalani ujian saringan sebelum menjalani pembedahan.

"Kes saringan (dilakukan ke atas bayi tersebut) sebelum pembedahan di hospital wanita dan kanak-kanak Sabah iaitu di Likas.

"Kes ini melibatkan seorang kanak-kanak perempuan berumur lapan bulan yang telah bergejala dan menjalankan pembedahan, ini kes (positif) yang kita rekodkan (semalam). Punca dan bagaimana bayi itu mendapat jangkitan masih disiasat," katanya di sini semalam.

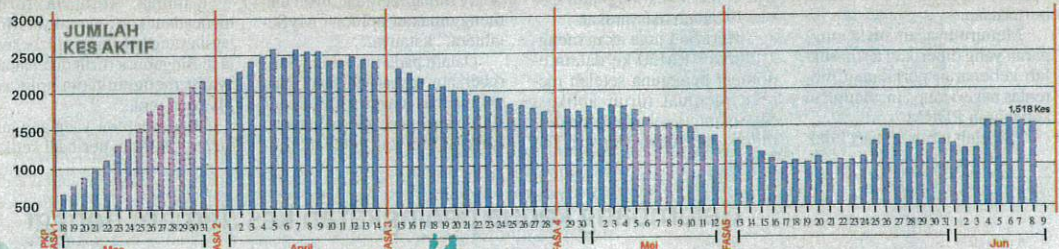
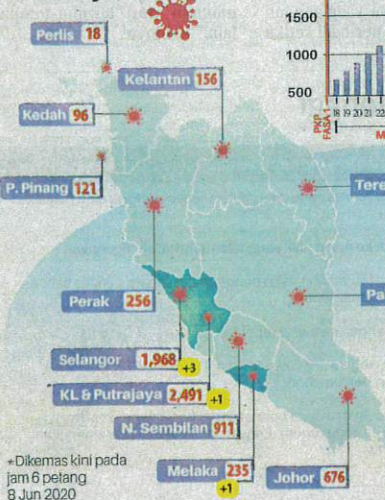
Menurutnya, ujian saringan juga telah dilakukan ke atas kontak rapat bayi tersebut termasuk ibu bapanya.

Sementara itu, dalam perkembangan sama, Dr Noor Hisham turut memaklumkan seorang pegawai imigresen bantuan di Depot Tahanan Imigresen (DTI) Bukit Jalil dikesan positif wabak tersebut.

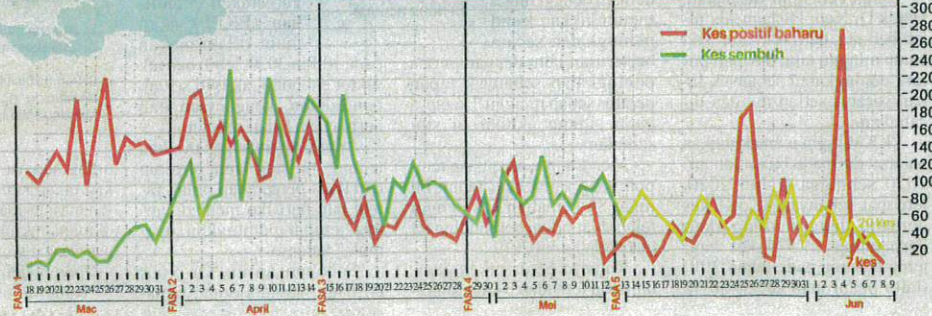
Katanya, kakitangan tersebut tidak menunjukkan sebarang gejala dan berkemungkinan terdedah dengan tahanan atau pesakit positif wabak itu.

SITUASI TERKINI KES COVID-19 DI MALAYSIA SETAKAT SEMALAM

Bilangan kes Covid-19 mengikut negeri di Malaysia



JUMLAH KESELURUHAN: 8,329 | PULIH: 6,694 | ICU: 6 | KEMATIAN: 117 | KES BAHARU: +7



AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : NEWS / NATION

• TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2020 • NewStraitsTimes

Nation / NEWS

5

SEVEN INFECTIONS

LOWEST DAILY CASES RECORDED

Single-digit figure is the lowest since March; 5 being local and 2 imported cases

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MALAYSIA recorded its lowest number of daily Covid-19 infections in almost three months yesterday with seven cases.

The single-digit figure, the lowest since March 18, comes mere days before the country shifts into the Recovery Movement Control Order (RMCO), which will see more relaxed measures for selected economic sectors and leisure activities.

The last time the country recorded seven cases or less was on March 8, prior to the Movement Control Order (MCO). Six cases were recorded on March 8 while nine cases were registered on March 12.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah yesterday said this brought the tally of infections to 8,329, with 1,518 active cases.

"From the seven, five cases are



Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah speaking at the daily press conference in Putrajaya yesterday. PIC BY MOHD FADLI HAMZAH

local transmissions with two being imported cases."

He said the local transmission cases involved two close contacts of a Covid-19 patient (Case 8,294) in Sepang, one from the Bukit Jalil Immigration Depot, one at the Women and Children Hospital in Likas, Sabah from pre-surgical screening, and another from a community screening in Kota Kinabalu.

He said 20 cases were discharged yesterday, raising the cumulative number of recovered cases to 6,694 or 80.4 per cent.

Six patients, he added, were currently in the Intensive Care Unit with one on ventilator support.

No fatalities were recorded yesterday, with the death toll remaining at 117 (1.4 per cent of the cumulative cases).

Dr Noor Hisham elaborated on the Covid-19 case in Likas. He said the patient was an 8-month-old toddler, who tested positive during a pre-surgical screening.

He said investigations were ongoing to determine the source of the infection, and that the child's family members and close contacts would be screened.

Meanwhile, he said the date for the reopening of the country's

school session would be discussed today in a meeting between the Health Ministry and Education Ministry.

The discussion, he said, would revolve around Form Five and Form Six classes for now.

"In the meeting, we may discuss a suitable date (for the schools' reopening). Should a date be fixed, two weeks notice will be given to parents to prepare their children for school."

On another development, Dr Noor Hisham raised concerns about dengue cases in the country.

He said the ministry had projected an increase in dengue cases starting this month until September, based on a five-year trend of dengue cases in the country.

"We recorded an average of eight cases weekly for six consecutive weeks."

He said from January to June 6 this year, Malaysia recorded 48,548 dengue cases, compared with 54,524 during the same period last year.

"A total of 84 deaths from dengue were recorded during the time frame this year compared with 83 last year."

Dr Noor Hisham said based on preliminary studies of the 84 deaths, 11 per cent received treatment at a late stage, three days after showing symptoms.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 2 & 10

RUANGAN : NATION

PM's bold decision now seeing results, says Health DG

PUTRAJAYA: Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin's unpopular but bold decision to take the bull by the horns in handling the Covid-19 pandemic has saved the day for Malaysia.

Assuming the post of Prime Minister at a most difficult time, he did not hesitate to impose the movement control order (MCO) to keep people indoors to reduce transmission of the deadly virus.

It was clear from the start that Muhyiddin had his work cut out the moment he was sworn in as Malaysia's eighth Prime Minister on March 1, as Covid-19 cases in the country then were already showing signs of an upward swing.

With the country's fate in his

hands, quick solutions were needed in the midst of a delicate and challenging period that put the seasoned politician's wisdom to the test as he was forced to take unprecedented measures, guided by the advice of the Health Ministry (MOH) as recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Muhyiddin's introduction of the MCO on March 18 to contain the pandemic was touted by many as an unpopular but courageous move.

In the end, he announced the enforcement of the MCO in four phases until May 3, followed by the conditional MCO from May 4 to June 9 and the recovery MCO from June 10 to August 31.

The recovery MCO is part of the government's exit strategy as the country is now entering the recovery phase following a declining trend of infections, while the country's public health capacity in fighting Covid-19 has reached a better and more convincing level.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah described the MCO as a move enforced at a time when the nation was somewhat ill-equipped, with no vaccine in sight or effective drugs to treat patients.

"MOH discussed the Covid-19 situation with Tan Sri (Muhyiddin), and I was very impressed as he bravely decided to go ahead with the MCO at a time when many

nations, barring China, were not ready to commit to restriction measures.

"The MCO also meant that we had to enforce Act 342 (Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Act 1988), a piece of legislation never used before in Malaysian history.

"We supported the move. It was the best solution and there is no right or wrong (when it comes to such matters) as no other countries had done it — as the saying goes, we were in uncharted territory and this took courage," he said in an interview with Bernama.

Recalling March 16, when Muhyiddin announced the decision to introduce MCO, Dr Noor Hisham

said many were sceptical of the Prime Minister's decision.

"It was an unpopular move but then again, this was not a question of popularity. This was about the country's safety and if this was the way to save the nation, we would go ahead with it.

"Fast forward, we have now seen how the MCO has managed to flatten the Covid-19 curve, while many neighbouring countries followed suit. This shows that Malaysia is at the forefront in using a method that has never been used in other nations, especially within Asia," Dr Noor Hisham said.

> TURN TO PAGE 10

'PM focused on helping country recover'

> FROM PAGE 2

Muhyiddin's steadfast belief in the public service's capability to combat Covid-19 is also highly admirable.

Dr Noor Hisham said the government's sole objective then was to save the country from ruin by using a "total government approach" powered by solid cooperation among all ministries and agencies.

"It was not only about Tan Sri's brave decisions. More importantly, it was about his belief and trust in public servants to implement the MCO," he said, recalling his first meeting with Muhyiddin on the Prime Minister's second day of official duty.

For the first time in Malaysian history, the MCO was implemented in the form of a comprehensive ban on public movements and gatherings throughout the country including religious, sports, social and cultural activities.

All Malaysians were also banned from travelling overseas, while those returning from overseas were required to undergo health screening and quarantine for 14 days.

The MCO also saw an entry ban

“We are now in the recovery stage where we are able to contain the outbreak and also reboot our economic sectors.”

Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah

for all visitors to Malaysia and the implementation of tighter border controls.

Malaysia's collaboration to accelerate work on the development of a Covid-19 vaccine was spearheaded by the Prime Minister himself after he joined several world leaders on April 24 at the launch of the Access to Covid-19 Tools accelerator hosted by WHO via teleconferencing, where he offered Malaysia's full support for the international effort.

"Malaysia is fully committed to being part of this time-bound effort

and to take on the manufacturing of some of these tools and vaccines as they become available.

"I urge leaders across the globe, donors, the private sector and the scientific community to support this important effort to win this war against Covid-19," Muhyiddin said in his remarks at the event.

Recognising the huge contributions of the frontliners, especially healthcare workers, he also took time off from his schedule to hold a teleconference with frontliners who had been working hard to fight Covid-19 and ensure the success of the MCO.

To weather the effects of Covid-19, Muhyiddin announced the RM250bil Prihatin economic stimulus package on March 27 with the objective of protecting the people, supporting businesses and strengthening the economy.

The package included a RM1bil injection for MOH to purchase equipment, hire medical experts and provide special allowances of between RM400 and RM600 for healthcare and medical workers, and another RM200 for uniformed personnel.

Describing the stimulus package

as the right decision, Dr Noor Hisham believed the measures would undoubtedly help the nation recover from the pandemic's damaging effects by finding the right balance between protecting lives and livelihoods.

"This initiative was swift and timely, and the government implemented the conditional MCO to stimulate the economy and help the country recover from the pandemic's effects.

"This is a win-win situation. These (Prihatin and conditional MCO) were wise decisions.

"We are now in the recovery stage where we are able to contain the outbreak and also reboot our economic sectors," Dr Noor Hisham said.

The Muhyiddin-led government launched the Covid-19 Fund on March 11 as part of efforts to help people affected by the pandemic.

Last Friday, the Prime Minister announced the short-term National Economic Recovery Plan (Penjana), which features 40 initiatives worth RM35bil to empower the people, propel businesses and stimulate the economy. — Bernama

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NATION

MySejahtera mobile app crashed by 700,000 registrations

PUTRAJAYA: The government's MySejahtera app, created to help manage the Covid-19 outbreaks and hotspot tracing in the country, had a major crash following a surge in attempts by the public to register.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the app received some 700,000 registrations in a minute.

He said this was after the announcement of RM50 in eWallet credit, with an additional RM50 in the form of discounts and cashback, which is part of the Short-Term Economic Recovery Plan initiative announced by the Prime Minister last Friday.

Malaysians need to download the app to receive the benefits.

"It is true. The app registration became congested as we received 700,000 registrations at once in a minute.

"We call upon all not to rush to register at the same time," he said.

The Health Ministry is now considering extending the registration period to a week.

On another development, Dr Noor Hisham said the ministry was looking into reducing congestion at healthcare facilities by expanding "virtual clinics" and promoting home visits under the new norm, to limit social contact.

These include expanding the concept of virtual clinics among patients and sending medicine to them.

"We are looking at ways on how we can deliver our services to the patient's home or community (facilities) – like at longhouses – so patients don't have to come to hospitals," he said.

Another possibility, he said, was for hospitals and health clinics to arrange staggered appointments so that service hours would be spaced out to avoid congestion at the waiting room.

Meanwhile, Dr Noor Hisham warned Malaysians that dengue cases were on the rise.

"For the past six weeks, the number of dengue cases has seen an upward trend, with an average increase of 8% every week," he said.

He cautioned that a second wave of dengue cases may happen this month, based on trends over the last five years.

"As more social, education, religious and business sectors are expected to be reopened, there is a high possibility that such places, which have long been closed and vacated, would be at risk of becoming mosquito breeding grounds," he said.

He said that there had been 84 dengue deaths so far this year, adding that 11% of them had delayed seeking treatment.

DG: Green bubble only if infection controlled

By ALLISON LAI
and CLARISSA CHUNG
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PUTRAJAYA: The green bubble concept will be considered in easing Malaysia's borders when the country is able to control the Covid-19 infection under the recovery movement control order (MCO), says Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

The Health director-general said for the concept to work, a post-pandemic standard operating procedure (SOP) must be considered.

"We are in the recovery stage, so let us open restrictions within the country first.

"If we can control the virus infection, then we will consider opening the country's borders to allow travel between countries with fewer cases," he said at the ministry's

daily Covid-19 briefing yesterday.

Dr Noor Hisham was responding to a question on whether the country's borders could open following a sharp drop in local transmissions.

For the green bubble concept to work, he said Malaysia would also need to look at the records and the number of green zones, including the SOP of a country.

"We have to see the joint SOP between the countries involved.

"If we can agree on the SOP such as on the Covid-19 screening and if the test can be taken at the origin country and the country has a good record and green zones, then maybe we will consider.

"There are many aspects to discuss before we can proceed," he said, adding that the concept was still under discussion.

Yesterday, the number of Covid-

19 infection fell to a single digit for the first time, with seven cases reported, bringing the country's tally to 8,329 cases.

Out of the seven new cases, two were imported while the others were local transmissions involving Malaysians.

Dr Noor Hisham said 20 more patients had been discharged over the past 24 hours.

There are 1,518 active cases being treated at the country's health facilities, with six patients warded in intensive care units, and a death toll that remains at 117.

Of the five local transmissions, two were from close contacts of a case in Sepang, an Immigration officer from the Bukit Jalil depot cluster, an eight-month-old baby girl from the Women and Children Hospital in Likas, Sabah, and one

from Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.

On the baby, Dr Noor Hisham said the case was detected before she was due for surgery.

He said it was up to the policy of each hospital whether a husband could accompany his wife to the labour room.

"They have their own policies, taking into account space and rooms available," he said, adding that the ministry would conduct active case detection.

"We will screen those who have been exposed to the patient. The investigation is ongoing. We just got the report and are looking into the cause," he said.

Watch the video
thestartv.com



AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 9

RUANGAN : NATION

Experts: Need for checks on quality of face masks

By LOH FOON FONG
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KUALA LUMPUR: With face masks now widely sold in the country, questions remain on whether they meet the necessary standards to provide protection from Covid-19.

Association of Malaysian Medical Industries secretary-general Datuk Haminnuddin Abd Hamid said if someone chose to wear a face mask, the standard three-ply medical-grade variety was recommended as it had a bacterial filtration efficiency rate of 95%.

"Non-medical grade face masks trap dust particles only and offer no real protection against viruses," he said, adding that face masks used in healthcare facilities such as hospitals must be registered with the Medical Device Authority (MDA) Malaysia, a body under the Health Ministry.

He added, however, that no one was checking the quality of masks sold publicly for use in non-medical settings.

This means poor quality masks that either do not have filters or come with ineffective filters – both of which allow viruses to pass through the mask – may end up



Safety poser: No proper quality checks for masks sold for use in non-medical settings.

being sold to the public.

"The challenge is that even if the public wants good quality three-ply face masks, there will still not be enough," Haminnuddin said, adding that two-ply masks did not have filters.

Malaysian Pharmaceutical Society president Amrahi Buang said face masks should be properly graded so that the public could make an informed choice.

"At the moment, three-ply masks offer the best protection for the public, but there are no proper quality checks in the market (outside healthcare settings)," said Amrahi.

He explained that the need for quality certification was not an issue prior to Covid-19 as these masks were used mainly in healthcare settings, where they were already subjected to accreditation by MDA.

But since the Covid-19 outbreak, many players had taken advantage of the situation by producing masks without much thought for quality, Amrahi said.

MDA CEO Ahmad Shariff Ham-bali said the high demand for three-ply masks during the pandemic had led to a serious global shortage, and the situation worsened when producing countries started restricting exports to protect the welfare of their own citizens.

This led to the increase in the price of face masks and the mushrooming of many sellers making unsubstantiated claims on the performance of their masks, he added.

Acknowledging calls for MDA to monitor all face masks in the market, Ahmad Shariff said there were no facilities to test masks here to verify quality claims.

"Similar to approval systems in many other jurisdictions, MDA relies on the documented evidence to support the manufacturer's declaration of safety and performance of their face masks, which may include evidence that it had been approved by the authorities in other jurisdictions such as the United States, Europe or China," he said.

He added that this accreditation

process was in accordance with the Medical Device Act.

"However, those that are not intended to be used for surgical or other medical procedures do not need MDA's approval," he said.

On June 6, the World Health Organisation issued revised guidelines on mask-wearing for the general public in areas with active community transmission and where physical distancing is either difficult or impossible.

However, Ahmad Shariff cautioned against over-reliance on masks in the battle against Covid-19.

"Whether or not masks are used, maximum compliance with infection control measures is critical.

"A face mask is not a replacement for physical distancing, hand hygiene and other public health measures," he said.

To minimise the risk of buying substandard masks, Emeritus Prof Dr Yuen Kah Hay, who was formerly with Universiti Sains Malaysia's School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, said people should only buy them from reputable outlets such as pharmacies.

"Like medicine, people should not buy them from just anywhere," he said.

Give clearer guidelines on mask usage, Health Ministry urged

By ASHLEY TANG
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PETALING JAYA: The Health Ministry should come up with clearer guidelines on the use of face masks by the public, says the Bumiputra Retailers Association Malaysia.

Its president Datuk Ameer Ali Mydin, who is also the managing director of the Mydin chain, said current guidelines did not specify anything about the material.

"The Health Ministry must be clear on what type of masks can be worn," said Ameer, adding that the government should also spell out clearly when an employee had to wear a mask.

In Mydin's case, its workers had to wear a mask whenever they

dealt with customers.

However, he said when supermarket workers arranged goods on shelves or worked at meat counters, it was not necessary to wear masks as they did not face customers.

"The workers normally do not cover their faces because they are doing work and it is easier for them to breathe," he said, adding that wearing a mask for eight hours straight was also not good for their health.

Ameer said the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's guidelines had indicated that fabric masks were acceptable in non-medical settings.

"The three-ply mask is not recyclable, so there is going to be high wastage. It also goes against environmental conservation.

“The three-ply mask is not recyclable, so there is going to be high wastage. It also goes against environmental conservation.”

Datuk Ameer Ali Mydin

"On the other hand, fabric masks are washable," he said, adding that Mydin workers were now given fabric masks to wear.

Prior to this, Ameer said he spent

RM15,000 a day to supply his 10,000 employees with single-use three-ply masks.

In his press briefing on June 1, Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said mask requirements depended on a worker's exposure.

"Under normal circumstances, a three-ply mask would be adequate and for individuals (general public), it is different.

"But for those working in crowded places and offering counter services, we certainly advise them to put on a three-ply mask," Dr Noor Hisham said.

Malaysia Retail Chain Association president Datuk Seri Garry Chua said its members were already using three-ply masks.

"As far as I know, our members

are complying with the guidelines and are using three-ply masks.

"In fact, our members are also selling three-ply masks," Chua added.

Sunway Malls and Theme Parks chief executive officer HC Chan and Pavilion Kuala Lumpur chief executive officer (retail) Datuk Joyce Yap said all their workers were using three-ply masks.

Chan said the Sunway group also had security personnel to perform screenings and to ensure that workers complied with the standard operating procedure.

"I believe the authorities want to see if social distancing is being practised, whether crowd control is being done well and whether temperature checks are being conducted," he said.

AKHBAR : THE SUN

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS

WAYS TO PREVENT FOOD POISONING

KOTA KINABALU: Sabah Health director Datuk Dr Christina Rundi has recommended the same measures taken to prevent the spread of Covid-19 to be adopted to prevent food poisoning. She said there were five key measures that can be taken by individuals to curb food poisoning, such as ensuring personal hygiene and frequent washing of hands. "Apart from that, people should separate raw food from cooked food. Food should be properly cooked, using clean water and fresh ingredients," she said in a statement yesterday.

– Bernama

AKHBAR : THE SUN

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS

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NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS

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Concerns over dengue rise as Covid-19 fears ease

➤ Wave of mosquito-borne infections expected from now until September, says Health DG

■ BY ALISHA NUR MOHD NOOR
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PETALING JAYA: As worries about Covid-19 ease, the authorities are now raising the alarm on the rising number of dengue cases in the country.

Health Director-General Datuk Seri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah announced that there were only seven new cases of Covid-19 as of noon yesterday, the lowest recorded since the country was put under movement control order (MCO) on March 18.

On the other hand, he added, a new wave of dengue infections is expected from now until September.

He told a media briefing yesterday that an eight-month-old baby girl was among the seven new coronavirus cases reported yesterday. She was screened at the Women and Children's Hospital in Likas, Sabah.

Before her, the youngest patient was a two-year-old from Kelantan.

With the seven additional cases, the tally of Covid-19 infections has reached 8,329. There were no fatalities yesterday, with the death toll at 117.

Noor Hisham said of the seven new cases, one each was imported from India and Egypt and the remaining five were infected through local transmission.

Six patients remain in intensive care and one of them still needed ventilator support. A total of 1,518 active case patients are still undergoing treatment.

Yesterday, 20 patients were discharged, bringing the total number of those who have recovered to 6,694.

He advised the people to increase surveillance in their areas to help curb the spread of Covid-19.

On dengue, Noor Hisham said the

government expects to see a second wave of infections from now until September, based on a five-year trend.

He said there is a possibility that mosquitoes have been breeding in areas that have been closed for some time because of the MCO.

"Where there are (pools) of water, mosquitoes could have bred there," he said.

To help curb the spread of dengue, he urged Malaysians to improve sanitation in their respective areas, especially in localities where there are pools of water, making them potential breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

"It is our responsibility to eradicate mosquitoes and dengue fever in the country, just as the community has worked together to fight the spread of Covid-19 virus," he said.

The Health Ministry reported 48,584 cases of dengue fever from January to June 6.

This is a slight drop compared with the same period last year when 54,524 cases were reported.

However, Noor Hisham said the occurrence of new cases has begun to show an increasing trend.

"We are seeing an 8% increase in the number of cases each week," he added.