

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Penularan COVID-19

# Kes baharu kembali 3 digit

**172 jangkitan tertinggi sejak 11 April babitkan warga asing**

**Putrajaya:** Jumlah kes baharu kembali melonjak kepada tiga digit semalam apabila 172 kes baharu dilaporkan dengan sebahagian besarnya membabitkan individu bukan warganegara.

Kali terakhir jumlah kes baharu menunjukkan angka tiga digit ialah pada 3 Mei lalu iaitu sebanyak 122 kes, manakala paras tertinggi pernah dicatatkan pada 11 April apabila sebanyak 184 kes baharu dilaporkan.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata daripada jumlah kes baharu itu lima kes adalah kes import yang mendapat jangkitan di luar negara dan 167 kes penularan tempatan.

laran tempatan.

Daripada 167 kes penularan tempatan, 159 membabitkan warga asing, manakala lapan sahaja warga tempatan.

Dengan pertambahan kes baharu itu ia menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes kini 7,417 kes.

"Oleh itu, jumlah kes aktif dengan kebolehjangkitan COVID-19 adalah 1,323 dan mereka sudah diasingkan dan diberi rawatan.

"Hingga kini, lapan kes positif COVID-19 sedang dirawat di unit rawatan rapi (ICU) dan empat daripadanya masih memerlukan bantuan pernafasan," katanya pada sidang media harian COVID-19, di sini, semalam.

Dalam pada itu, Dr Noor Hisham turut memaklumkan hingga jam 12 tengah hari semalam, sebanyak 34 kes sudah pulih dan dibenarkan pulang.

Ini menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes yang pulih sepuhnya dari COVID-19 dan dibenarkan pulang ialah sebanyak 5,979 kes atau 80.6 peratus daripada jumlah kes seluruhnya.



**Daripada jumlah kes baharu itu sebanyak lima kes adalah kes import yang mendapat jangkitan di luar negara dan 167 kes penularan tempatan.**

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

Selain itu, daripada maklumat terkini dimaklumkan tiada kes kematian berkaitan COVID-19 semalam dan menjadikan jumlah kesekal sebanyak 115 kes iaitu 1.55 peratus daripada jumlah kes seluruhnya.

Sementara itu, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, penularan COVID-19 membabitkan pendatang asing tanpa izin (PATI) di tiga Depoh Tahanan Imigresen (DTI), terutamanya dengan 227 kes positif direkodkan, setakat ini. Tiga depoh berkenaan ialah DTI Bukit Jalil, DTI Semenyih dan DTI Sepang.

Daripada jumlah itu, beliau berkata, 53 kes membabitkan warga Bangladesh, India (41), Indonesia (38), Myanmar (37), Pakistan (28) dan China (17).

"Selain itu, empat kes membabitkan warga Kembuja, Nepal (tiga), Sri Lanka (dua) dan masing-masing satu kes warga Filipina, Libya, Mesir serta Syria.

"Pelbagai aktiviti pencegahan

dan kawalan sudah dijalankan, antara lain langkah nyah cemar; pendidikan kesihatan seperti menjaga kebersihan diri serta kerap mencuci tangan menggunakan air dan sabun, serta penerapan mengenai penjarakan sosial," katanya.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, KKM sedang menyiasat punca jangkitan seorang kakitangan pentadbiran di depoh tahanan imigresen di Semenyih yang dikesan positif COVID-19. Jangkitan itu boleh hadir daripada pendatang asing tanpa izin yang ditahan di situ atau komuniti.

"Selepas kenal pasti kakitangan ini positif, kita terus sarung kehuang mereka. Setakat ini, kita tak pasti sama ada jangkitan daripada OKT (orang kena tahan) atau komuniti," katanya.

Terdahulu, Noor Hisham memaklumkan, 66 kes positif yang direkod di DTI Semenyih, dengan seorang daripadanya adalah kakitangan yang bertugas di sana.

## Kluster baharu tapak pembinaan, 44 dijangkiti

**Putrajaya:** Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) mengesas satu lagi kluster baharu membabitkan tapak pembinaan di ibu negara yang kini menjangkiti 44 individu bukan warganegara.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata jumlah jangkitan yang

tinggi itu mungkin disebabkan faktor cara hidup golongan berkenaan atau keadaan tempat tinggal.

Beliau berkata, biarpun prosedur operasi standard (SOP) pengcegahan sudah dilaksana di tapak pembinaan, tiada kawalan membatik tempat tinggal.

"Daripada kajian kita, besar kemungkinan pelajar asing berkenaan duduk di tempat yang tertutup dan sempit. Itu menjadi faktor utama bagaimana jangkitan dapat menular."

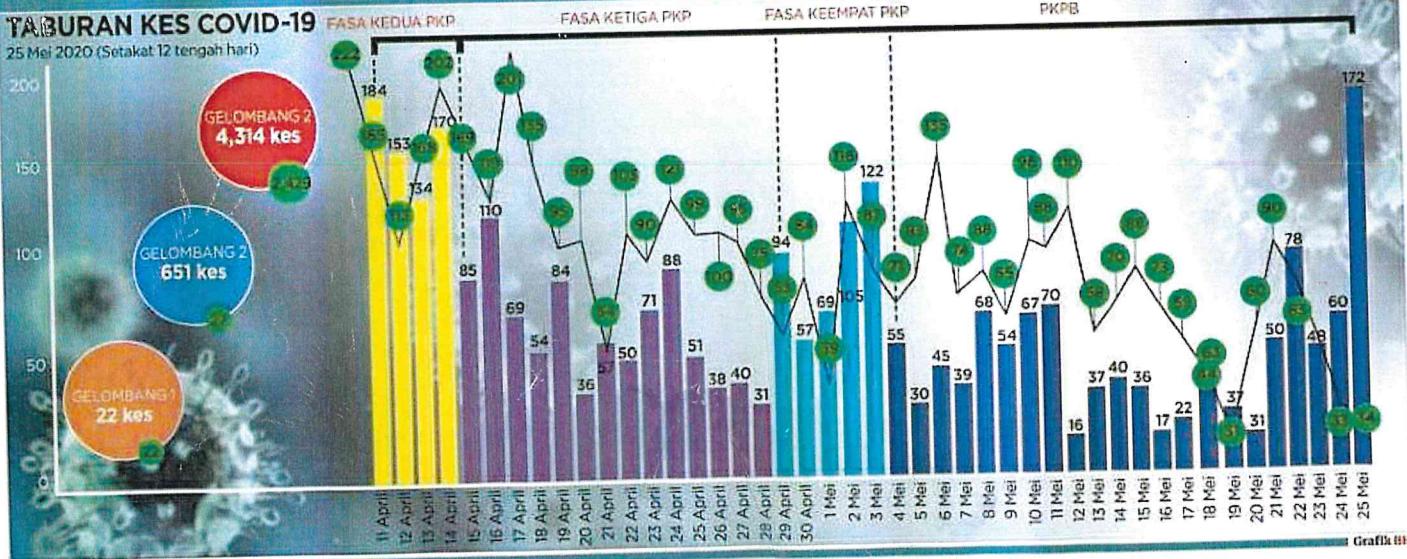
"SOP di tapak pembinaan memang ada, tapi yang penting pemilihan mereka, rumah dan ca-

ra mereka duduk," katanya pada sidang media harian mengenai perkembangan COVID-19 di sini, semalam.

Dengan memberi contoh pemilihan warga asing di Masjid India, Kuala Lumpur. Dr Noor Hisham berkata, satu pangaspuri dihuni 30 orang.

"Ruang sempit menjadi faktor mendorong virus berjangkit. Kita kena lihat faktor yang lain di kalangan pekerja asing. Kita percaya ruang sempit satu faktor penting yang perlu diperhalusi."

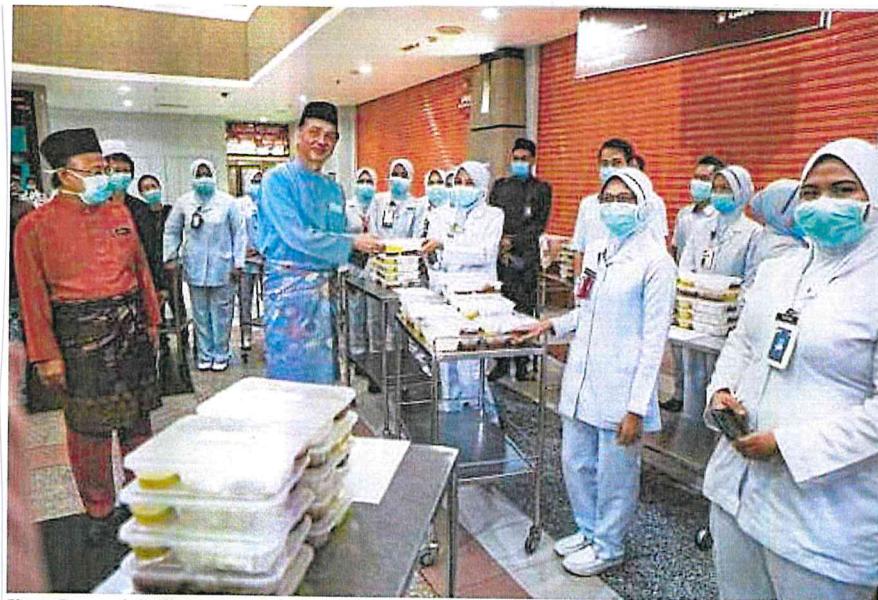
"Kita tiada vaksin, yang ada penjaraan sosial dan itulah vaksin yang ada," katanya.



AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 7

RUANGAN : NASIONAL



Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah menyampaikan sumbangan kepada sebahagian kakitangan Hospital Putrajaya yang bertugas pada Aidiifitri, semalam.

(Foto Luqman Hakim Zubir /)

**AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN****MUKA SURAT : 8****RUANGAN : NASIONAL**

## Malaysia antara 47 negara catat kesembuhan lebih 80 peratus

**Kuala Lumpur:** Malaysia berada dalam senarai 47 negara yang mempunyai kadar kesembuhan COVID-19 lebih 80 peratus.

Pada masa ini, kadar kesembuhan keseluruhan kes dunia hampir kepada 40 peratus.

Berdasarkan statistik terbaru, kadar kesembuhan yang dicatatkan sehingga 12 tengah hari semalam adalah sebanyak 5,979 kes atau 80.61 peratus daripada keseluruhan kes dengan 34 kes dibenarkan pulang semalam.

Menerusi infografik yang dikongsi oleh Pusat Kesaksigaan dan Tindakan Cepat Krisis Kebangsaan (CPRC), Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM), Malaysia mencatatkan 7,417 kes.

Selain itu, daripada maklumat terkini, tiada kes kematian berkaitan COVID-19 setakat ini dan menjadikan jumlah kekal 115 kes laju 1.55 peratus daripada jumlah keseluruhan kes.

Turut dicatatkan 172 kes baharu, manakala 1,323 kes aktif dengan lapan kes dirujuk di Unit Rawatan Rapi termasuk empat diberikan bantuan alat pernafasan.

**AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN**  
**MUKA SURAT : 9**  
**RUANGAN : NASIONAL**

*Penularan COVID-19*

# SOP di TASKA bukan diskriminasi

Prosedur kurangkan risiko jangkitan anak petugas barisan hadapan

**Putrajaya:** Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) tidak pernah mendiskriminasi anak petugas barisan hadapan yang ditempatkan di taman asuhan kanak-kanak (TASKA).

Sebaliknya, Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, menjelaskan prosedur operasi standard (SOP) penjagaan di TASKA yang bakal dicadangkan bertujuan mengurangkan risiko jangkitan COVID-19.

Katanya, penyediaan ruang khusus itu adalah berikutan petugas barisan hadapan antara dua kelompok paling berisiko untuk dijangkiti COVID-19, selain kontak rapat individu positif.

"Bukan kita sekat. Kita khas-kahn untuk anak petugas barisan

hadapan daripada KKM. Kalau TASKA di hospital, tidak ada masalah. Namun jika bergaul dengan kanak-kanak lain, kita perlu khaskan."

"Ini bukan pengasingan, tetapi khaskan di satu tempat. Kita memberi pengawasan khusus kepada anak petugas kesihatan. Mungkin cara ini dilihat seperti kita asingkan, namun sebenarnya ia memberikan perhatian khusus kepada mereka," katanya pada sidang media harian mengenai perkembangan COVID-19 di negara ini, di sini, semalam.

Noor Hisham berkata, setakat ini SOP untuk TASKA menyediakan ruang khusus bagi anak petugas barisan hadapan masih diteliti dan belum dibentangkan kepada Majlis Keselamatan Negara (MKN) bagi kelulusan perlaksanaannya.

Katanya, petugas kesihatan khususnya sentiasa diingatkan mengamalkan pembersihan diri dan mengelak menyentuh anak sebaik tiba di rumah.

"Apabila kita kembali ke rumah jangan sentuh anak dan yang utama kena bersihkan diri sebab ada



Noor Azmi Ghazali

kemungkinan kita bawa jangkitan terbabit," katanya.

Di hospital juga katanya, petugas yang mengendali pesakit tidak pernah memilih individu yang dirawat, sebaliknya amanah itu dilaksana tanpa mengira usia, rakyat tempatan atau sebaliknya.

Sementara Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali, berkata, langkah itu bukan diskriminasi anak petugas barisan hadapan, sebaliknya SOP bagi memastikan wabak COVID-19 tidak menjangkiti golongan berisiko seperti kanak-kanak.

"Golongan barisan hadapan antara paling berisiko tinggi. Justeru, kita sering menasihati mereka supaya sebelum pulang ke rumah dan berjumpa keluarga serta anak, haruslah mandi dan membersihkan diri dahulu."

"Oleh itu, saranan kerajaan supaya anak mereka dikekalkan di rumah atau diasangkan dari pada kanak-kanak lain di TASKA adalah tindakan betul bagi memastikan wabak ini tidak merebak, malah tidak timbul isu kita melayan petugas barisan hadapan secara tidak adil."

"Bagaimanapun, KKM akan bermesyuarat mengenai perkara ini dan memberi penerangan terperinci kepada semua pihak terbabit," katanya pada sidang media selepas menyampaikan 450 pelajar juadah Hari Raya kepada Hospital Parit Buntar dan Taiping, semalam.

Bagi memastikan isu terbabit tidak berpanjangan, beliau turut menyayarkan agar TASKA khas diwujudkan untuk menjaga anak petugas barisan hadapan sahaja.

"Saya berpendapat kita boleh

mewujudkan TASKA khas bagi menempatkan anak ini. Jika dapat diwujudkan, ia bagus untuk memastikan kebijakan anak petugas barisan hadapan terbaik. Namun, ini hanya cadangan peribadi saya. Sebarang keputusan adalah terpulang kepada pihak kerajaan dan kepimpinan tertinggi KKM," katanya.

Menyatakan bahawa pelaksanaan SOP di TASKA sepanjang tempoh Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Bersyarat (PKPB), Menteri Pembangunan Wanita, Keluarga dan Masyarakat, Datuk Seri Rina Mohd Harun, sebelum ini memaklumkan ada berbincang dengan KKM mengenai pelaksanaan SOP di TASKA sepanjang tempoh Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Bersyarat (PKPB).

Media sebelum ini melaporkan terdapat permintaan daripada golongan pakar pediatrik supaya SOP TASKA yang dikemas kini itu dibatalkan kerana ia dilihat sebagai 'diskriminasi' apabila anak petugas barisan hadapan kekal berada di rumah atau sekiranya diantar ke TASKA, perlu 'diasangkan' daripada kanak-kanak lain.



BHTV

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 18

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

# Lelaki langgar arahan kuarantin serah diri di balai polis

**Kuching:** Lelaki yang mencetuskan kemarahan warganet kerana mempamerkan gambaranya melanggar arahan kuarantin di rumah menerusi Facebook, ditahan di Sibu, semalam.

Timbalan Pesuruhjaya Polis Sarawak, Datuk Dev Kumar, berkata lelaki berusia 27 tahun itu ditahan selepas menyerah diri di Balai Polis Sibujaya.

Polis sudah merujuk lelaki terbabit kepada Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) untuk tindakan lanjut.

"Lelaki itu yang bekerja di Kuala Lumpur balik ke Sibu pada 17 Mei lalu dan diarah menjalani kuarantin di hotel.

"Bagaimanapun, selepas ujian swab negatif lelaki itu diarah meneruskan kuarantin di rumah hingga 30 Mei ini," katanya.

Semalam, lelaki berkenaan mencetuskan kemarahan warganet selepas membuat hantaran di Facebook menunjukkan dirinya bersarapan di sebuah kedai kopitiam Sibujaya.

Berdasarkan perbualan bersama rakannya dalam ruang komen di Facebook, lelaki itu mengaku membuka *wristband* atau gelang tangan khas itu untuk mengelak ditangkap.

Dia turut memberitahu rakan-rakan yang dia mengendurkan gelang tangan yang diperbuat da-

ripada plastik yang dipasang KKM bagi individu yang menjalani kuarantin di rumah.

Dev berkata, selepas tular di Facebook, polis bergegas ke kedai kopitiam berkenaan untuk mencari lelaki berkenaan.

"Menyedari dirinya dicari, lelaki itu kemudian menyerah diri di Balai Polis Sibujaya," katanya.

Sementara itu, Kolej Antarabangsa Teknologi Lanjutan Sarawak (i-CATS) menafikan isu membabitkan seorang pelajar institusi pendidikan tinggi swasta (IPTS) yang didapati positif COVID-19, baru-baru ini, adalah penuntutnya.

Menurut i-CATS dalam kenyataan semalam, isu yang tersebar dalam media sosial itu adalah palsu.

"Pelajar terbabit seperti dinyatakan dalam kenyataan berkenaan bukan penuntut i-CATS," katanya.

i-CATS turut menjelaskan bahawa nama IPTS yang dinyatakan dalam kenyataan berkenaan adalah tidak betul.

"Nama penuh i-CATS adalah Kolej Antarabangsa Teknologi Lanjutan Sarawak (International College of Advanced Technology Sarawak).

"Sehubungan itu, i-CATS bukan nama singkatan kepada IPTS berkenaan," katanya.

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN  
MUKA SURAT : 27  
RUANGAN : WANITA & KELUARGA

# Tekad derma darah selagi termampu

Anak hidap anemia dorong pasangan tabur bakti

Oleh Ahmad Ismail  
[bhnews@bh.com.my](mailto:bhnews@bh.com.my)

**Segamat:** "Dulu kami tidak tahu pentingnya menderma darah, namun kini amalan itu umpsama hobi baharu saya dan isteri.

"Alhamdulillah, selepas melihat anak saya yang menghidap anemia kerap menerima darah untuk menyelamatkan nyawanya, membuatkan kami sedar betapa penting bekalan darah," kata penjawat awam, Sudirman Sulaiman, 39.

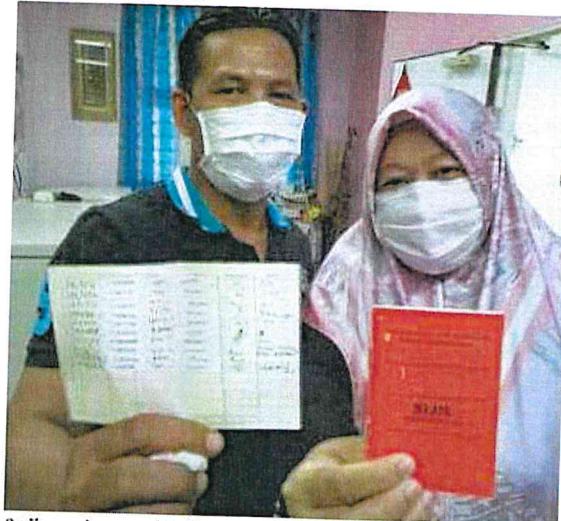
Sudirman dan isterinya, Norumbayani Mohd Nor, 35, kerap menderma darah yang dianggap sebagai tanggungjawab sosial kepada masyarakat.

"Saya sudah lebih 10 kali menderma darah dan isteri kali keempat. Darah ini boleh disimpan sebagai stok jika ada yang memerlukan," katanya di Pusat Tabung Darah Hospital Segamat, baru-baru ini.

Sudirman berkata, selepas anak perempuannya, Nurul Balqis Sudirman, 17, disahkan menghidap anemia, iaitu kurang sel darah merah (hemoglobin), dua tahun lalu, hobi untuk menderma darah semakin memuncak.

"Tanpa penderma darah tentu anak saya tak mampu untuk sihat sempurna dan akan mengganggu urusan hariannya sebagai pelajar, selain boleh mengancam nyawa," katanya.

Beliau bersyukur apabila



Sudirman bersama isteri menunjukkan rekodnya lebih 10 kali menderma darah di Hospital Segamat.

anaknya sering mendapat bekalan darah daripada orang yang tidak dikenali.

"Dengan bantuan itu juga membantu anak perempuan saya sihat dan dapat kami berkorosi keceriaan," katanya.

Justeru, beliau kini gembira kerana berupaya menderma darah setiap dua atau tiga bulan sekali.

Beliau berkata, tindakan itu juga mendorong ramai rakanannya untuk melakukan perkara sama.

Sudirman berkata, beliau yang mempunyai darah jenis O dikategorikan sebagai 'universal' bangga menyumbang bakti.

"Saya dan isteri akan terus menderma darah selagi mampu. Saya lihat ramai mangsa kemal-

langan atau bencana yang cedera memerlukan darah untuk menyelamatkan nyawa mereka," katanya.

Sudirman berkata, menderma darah bukan prosedur yang sulit, hanya mengambil masa kira-kira 10 minit untuk setiap sesi.

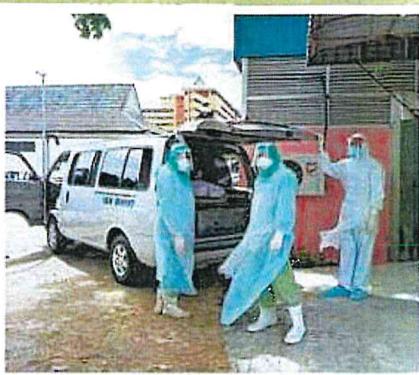
Dengan bekalan darah yang sentiasa tidak mencukupi, terutama ketika penularan wabak COVID-19 seharusnya meningkatkan kesedaran semua orang untuk membantu negara menambah bekalan untuk kegunaan individu memerlukan.

Sementara itu, Pengarah Hospital Daerah Segamat, Dr Azhar Mohd Sali, berkata walaupun hanya dengan setik darah, ia dapat membantu menyelamatkan nyawa tiap insan.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO  
MUKA SURAT : A5  
RUANGAN : LOKAL

# Pengakhiran paling pilu

*Pengalaman urus jenazah mangsa Covid-19 robek perasaan pasukan SPJM*



JENAZAH mangsa Covid-19 yang selesai ditayammun sedia dihantar ke tanah perkuburan.



MUHAMMAD Rafieudin (kiri) bersama kakitangan SPJM.



KAKITANGAN SPJM memakai sut lengkap PPE sebelum menguruskan jenazah Covid-19.

Oleh Suraya Roslan  
suraya@hmetro.com.my

Kuala Lumpur

Berat mata memandang berat lagi bahu memikul.

Ibu pepatah paling sesuai yang digambarkan pasukan pengurusan jenazah mangsa Covid-19 apabila melihat tangisan keluarga yang tidak dapat mencium dan menyentuh wajah terakhir orang kesayangan.

Lebih pilu, waris mangsa Covid-19 hanya dapat menatap wajah pesakit di sebalik cermin di bilik pengurusan jenazah hospital serta tidak dapat menghantar mangsa ke pusara.

Menceritakan pengalaman pilu itu, Presiden Skuad Pengurusan Jenazah Malaysia (SPJM) Muhammad Rafieudin berkata, mereka dilengkapi pakaian perlindungan diri (PPE) dan jenazah pula wajib dibungkus dengan beberapa lapisan plastik disediakan KKM.

luang menguruskan dua jenazah mangsa Covid-19 dan dapat merasai kesedihan ke-luarga.

"Memang sedih, sebak, dan pilu melihat keluarga tidak dapat mendekati jasad kesayangan buat kali terakhir.

"Bagaimanapun, demi kesajahteraan semua, kita perlu akui itu keputusan terbaik demi mengelak jangkitan seperti saranan Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM)," katanya.

**Melihat ibunya cukup memilukan hati.**  
Sudahlah lebih beberapa bulan tidak berjumpa anak, sehingga dia meninggal pun tak dapat menatap wajah arwah"

Muhammad Rafieudin



Bercerita mengenai pengurusan jenazah mangsa Covid-19, Muhammad Rafieudin berkata, mereka dilengkapi pakaian perlindungan diri (PPE) dan jenazah pula wajib dibungkus dengan beberapa lapisan plastik disediakan KKM.

"Selepas itu, kami hanya bertayammun di atas permukaan beg jenazah atau pen-balut plastik itu.

"Seterusnya, kami membalut jenazah dengan tiga lapisan kain kapan dan mengikat dengan lima tali.

"Memang tak selesa memakai PPE, panas dan mengganggu kerja, tapi kami tiada pilihan demi melindungi diri," katanya.

Katanya, selepas itu solat jenazah dilakukan sebelum disembur cecair pembasmi kuman.

"Kebiasaannya SPJM diwakili empat wakil sahaja dan dua lagi ahli keluarga untuk mengiringi dan mengubumikan mangsa.

"Kakitangan KKM hanya

menyelia dan memantau supaya kami mematuhi SOP ditetapkan KKM," katanya.

Menurutnya, dua jenazah mangsa Covid-19 diuruskan membabitkan seorang lelaki berusia 70-an di ibu kota manakala seorang lagi di Pahang berusia 30-an.

"Kedua-duanya kes ini memberi pengalaman berbeza namun kami menjadikannya sebagai ibadat," katanya.

Ditanya adakah tidak khawatir dijangkiti Covid-19, baginya itu semua diserahkan kepada Allah SWT untuk menentukan.

"Saya bertawakal dan yakinkan Allah SWT memandang kebaikan kita dalam urusan faru' kifayah," katanya.

Menurutnya, dalam dua kes diuruskan, paling diingati adalah kisah tular pemuda yang ditemui meringgal dunia di tepi jalan di Muadzam Shah, Pahang ketika dipercayai berjalan dari Segamat, Johor menuju ke kampung halamannya di Kuala Terengganu.

"Melihat ibunya cukup memilukan hati. Sudahlah lebih beberapa bulan tidak berjumpa anak, sehingga dia meninggal pun tak dapat menatap wajah arwah."

"Simpati dengan nasib keluarga, tidak dapat menikmati detik terakhir dengan orang tersayang mungkin pengalaman paling sukar untuk saya gambarkan," katanya.

PASUKAN SPJM menguruskan jenazah seorang pesakit tiba.



MUHAMMAD Rafieudin (kanan) bersama kit pengurusan jenazah yang dikeluarkan SPJM.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 8A

RUANGAN : LOKAL



## 159 kes positif Covid-19 bukan warga Malaysia

**Putrajaya:** Sebanyak 172 kes baharu jangkitan Covid-19 dan merekodkan 7,417 kes positif keseluruhan dilaporkan kepada Pusat Kesihensiagaan dan Tindak Cepat



**Orang ramai tidak perlu bimbang kerana semua kes di DTI itu sudah diasingkan"**

**Dr Noor Hisham**

Krisis Kebangsaan (CPRC), setakat jam 12 tengah hari, semalam.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, lima daripada 172 kes baharu itu membabitkan kes import yang mendapat jangkitan di luar negara dan dikuarantin sebaik tiba di negara ini.

Beliau berkata, daripada 167 kes penularan tempatan, 159 kes adalah bukan warganegara Malaysia termasuk 112 di tiga Depoh Tabanan Imigresen (DTI) iaitu di Bukit Jalil, Semenyih dan Sepang,

Katanya, orang ramai tidak perlu bimbang kerana semua kes di DTI itu sudah diasingkan dan dikawal pihak berkuasa serta hanya ada lapan kes membabitkan rakyat tempatan.

"Daripada keseluruhannya kes itu, kes aktif dengan kebolehjangkitan Covid-19 sebanyak 1,323 kes dan mereka sudah diasingkan serta diberi rawatan.

"Terdapat pertambahan 34 kes pulih dan dibenarkan discaj daripada hospital menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes pulih sepenuhnya

meningkat kepada 5,979 dengan kadar kesembuhan 80.6 peratus.

"Hingga kini, lapan kes positif Covid-19 dirawat di Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU) dengan empat daripadanya memerlukan bantuan pernafasan," katanya di sini, semalam.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, tiada kematian berkaitan jangkitan Covid-19 dilaporkan semalam menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes kematian adalah 115 kes iaitu 1.55 peratus daripada jumlah keseluruhan kes.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : A13

RUANGAN : LOKAL



KETUA Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah menyambut I Syawal bersama petugas kesihatan di Hospital Putrajaya.

AKHBAR : NEWS STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : NEWS / STORY OF THE DAY

## 172 new cases – first 3-digit figure in 3 weeks

**PUTRAJAYA:** Malaysia recorded a spike in new Covid-19 infections, with 172 new cases yesterday.

It was the highest jump after three consecutive weeks of cases in double digits daily. The last time Malaysia recorded a three-digit figure was on May 3, with 122 cases.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the sudden spike in cases was due to the detection of new clusters at three Immigration detention centres in Bukit Jailil, Semenyih and Sepang.

Malaysia has 14 Immigration detention centres and four temporary detention centres in Sabah.

Dr Noor Hisham said the ministry had screened the three Immigration depots.

"We are screening everyone (including staff, officers and detainees) as per (standard operating procedures for areas placed under) the Enhanced Movement Control Order."

"A total of 1,536 people (1,422 detainees and 114 staff) have been screened and tested at the Bukit Jailil depot, with 126 people testing positive, 514 testing negative and 896 awaiting results.

"At the Semenyih depot, 1,757 samples (1,630 detainees and 127 staff) have been taken, with 66 testing positive, 753 testing negative and 938 awaiting results.

"A total of 1,449 individuals were screened at the Sepang detention centre, with 36 testing positive, 540 testing negative and 873 awaiting results."

He said the ministry foresaw an increase in cases over the next two days as test results came in.

He said those who test positive would immediately be isolated and treated at hospitals, while those who test negative would be isolated and quarantined in proper places.

He said while the investigation was ongoing to determine the source of infection of the clusters, being in confined and crowded places could have led to the transmission of the disease.

He said the high number of infections among migrant workers could be due to their living conditions.

He said while there were standard operating procedures in place to ensure proper housing was provided to workers at construction sites and factory workers, their living conditions outside must be looked into as well.

"In Masjid India, for example, there are close to 30 people living in a small space. Crowded and confined spaces are a factor, and we need to look into how they can maintain social distancing and practise good hygiene."

"We do not have a vaccine for Covid-19 yet, so social distancing is the vaccine we have at the moment."

"Cleaning and disinfection processes are being carried out at the premises."

Dr Noor Hisham said there was a total of 227 Covid-19 cases at the three Immigration depots, involving 13 nationalities.

They comprise undocumented workers from Bangladesh (53), India (41), Indonesia (38), Myanmar (37), Pakistan (28), China (17), Cambodia (four), Nepal (three), Sri Lanka (two), and one each from the Philippines, Libya, Egypt and Syria.

Dr Noor Hisham said the public need not worry as the cases were confined to the depots, which were not open to the public.

He also said a new cluster was detected at a construction site in Kuala Lumpur, with 44 new cases, of which 43 were migrant workers.

On recoveries, he said up to yesterday, 34 more patients had recovered and were discharged from hospitals. This brought the total number of patients who had recovered to 5,979 (80.6 per cent).

Of the new cases reported yesterday, five were imported and contracted abroad.

Of the locally-transmitted cases, 159 involved foreigners, with 112 identified at three Immigration depots.

Five new Covid-19 cases were detected among the latest batch of Malaysians returning from overseas, bringing the total number to 446.

"Two of them were from Egypt, two from Pakistan and one from Indonesia."

"From April 3 to May 25, 40,716 individuals had returned from abroad and were placed under a mandatory 14-day quarantine, of which 33,092 have since completed the quarantine."

He said eight Covid-19 patients were currently in the Intensive Care Unit, with four of them requiring ventilator support.

No deaths were reported to the Crisis Preparedness and Response Centre yesterday. The Covid-19 death toll remains at 115.



Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah

AKHBAR : THE STAR  
MUKA SURAT : 2  
RUANGAN : NATION

## Most new cases involve illegal migrants

By ALLISON LAI  
allison@thestar.com

**PUTRAJAYA:** New Covid-19 cases exceeded 100 for the first time since May 3, with a majority of them involving undocumented migrants.

The figures over the next few days are expected to be higher with the release of more test results.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said another 172 positive cases were recorded as at noon yesterday, bringing the total cases in Malaysia to 7,417.

"Five of them were imported cases. Out of the 167 local transmissions, 159 involved non-citizens, where 112 were detected at three immigration detention centres," he told reporters yesterday.



There are 18 such centres under the Immigration Department nationwide, including four temporary ones.

"We have screened those in three centres in Semenyih, Bukit Jalil and Sepang.

"Everyone, including the detainees and staff, was screened, just like how it's done in areas where the enhanced movement control order (MCO) has been implemented," he said.

Dr Noor Hisham said a new cluster was detected at the Sepang detention depot, where 1,346 detainees had been screened, with 36 testing positive.

"Test results are pending for 873 samples," he said, adding that 540 of the total of 1,449 samples taken at the centre had tested negative.

At the Bukit Jalil detention depot, 1,422 samples have been taken from the detainees. Of these, 126 tested positive, while the results are pending for 896 samples.

As for the Semenyih centre, he

said 1,757 samples had been taken, involving 1,630 detainees and 127 staff members.

"A total of 66 have tested positive, including an employee.

"We are investigating if the employee contracted the virus from the detainees or from within the community," he said, adding that officers and personnel from all three detention depots had been quarantined and replaced by new staff members.

"Disinfection has been done, and so has screening and investigation. There's a possibility the infection could have been due to the confined spaces," he said.

> SEE NEXT PAGE

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : NATION

Nation 3

**Battling Covid-19**

#WeAreReady  
greenpacket<sup>TM</sup>  
kiple  
ready.greenpacket.com

## Health DG: Don't worry, detention depots are in isolated areas

> FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

There are 227 positive cases from the three detention depots involving undocumented migrants so far, with those from Bangladesh recording the highest number at 53 cases.

The rest are from India (41), Indonesia (38), Myanmar (37), Pakistan (28), China (17), Cambodia (4), Nepal (3), Sri Lanka (2) and one each from the Philippines, Libya, Egypt and Syria.

Dr Noor Hisham, however, advised the public not to worry about the increase in the number of positive cases detected at the detention depots, as the premises were in isolated areas and under surveillance by the authorities.

"The ministry will continue to cooperate with the Immigration Department, the police and other government agencies to manage the cases involving detention depots.

"For example, (we conduct) investigation, close contact tracing, risk assessment by relevant agencies, active screening for symptoms and samples for case detection and education.

"The positive cases are isolated and treated at hospitals; and close contacts are placed under observation and surveillance," he said.

Meanwhile, Dr Noor Hisham said this year's Hari Raya was very unique.

"We are celebrating Aidilfitri in a closed-door manner but our hearts remain open.

"God willing, we will break the chain of infection," he said.

AKHBAR : THE STAR  
MUKA SURAT : 4  
RUANGAN : NATION

4 Nation

THE STAR, TUESDAY 26 MAY 2020

# Health of donors is important

Blood bank faces supply crisis as many who want to donate don't meet criteria

By ARNOLD LOH  
arnold.loh@thestar.com.my

**GEORGE TOWN:** Poor health and lifestyle of many Malaysians are among the main reasons why the National Blood Centre (NBC) is now facing a supply crisis.

Supply at the NBC and other centres throughout the country is down 40% but many who want to donate blood have to be turned away.

"Despite various promotional activities, the status of blood collection has not been satisfactory to date, reaching only 57% of the target," Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said at his daily Covid-19 media briefing in Putrajaya on May 20.

From March to May this year only 67,135 bags of blood were collected compared to 111,328 bags during the same period in 2018.

Each bag of blood is usually 1 pint or 450 ml.

Last September, the Health Ministry launched Kampungku Sihat, in Penang, a large-scale health screening of close to 10,000 residents in 79 villages.

The reported results were sobering: 65% of those screened were at risk of diabetes and 40% teetered on the edge of hypertension.

Meanwhile the 2015 National Health and Morbidity Survey found that one in two Malaysian adults were obese, one in three suffered from hypertension, and one in five lived with diabetes.

This poor state of health directly affects blood bank supply.

Penang Adventist Hospital blood



transfusionist Wang Pack Yee said 443 or 14% of the 3,173 people who wanted to donate blood at the hospital last year had to be turned away.

He said 28% of those rejected had low haemoglobin (HB) count.

"Women frequently have low HB, especially after menstruation. Regular donors also have low HB if they do not take enough iron. Their HB is actually considered normal and they are healthy. But to donate, you have to be better than normal," said Wang, who has been a transfusionist for 11 years.

Another 11% of those rejected had high blood pressure, 10% were on certain medications which make their blood unusable, and 9% had abnormal white blood cell count.

"When your white blood cell count is high, it can mean your body is dealing with an infection, even if you don't have symptoms," Wang explained.

Wang, who previously served at both the Penang Hospital and also NBC, said those who had casual or paid sex — even once — should not



**Blood shortage:** A nurse arranging packs of blood on a trolley as the National Blood Centre appeals for healthy donors to help.

donate blood.

He said there was a case of an individual who donated blood every three months for around five years, until the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) was detected in his blood.

He said every patient who received the donor's blood in the previous 12 months had to be called back for testing.

"It was an ordeal for all of them."

"Even if you are completely free of sexually transmitted diseases and practice protected sex, this lifestyle puts recipients of your blood at great risk. That is why hospitals are prevented from receiving your donation," he said, adding that blood was also not taken from males who had sex with other men.

Wang said while HIV risks, like

what he had encountered was rare, the underlying issue was the challenge that blood banks faced in finding regular, healthy donors.

Other less common reasons to reject donations include women in the first three days of menstruation, those found to have symptomatic infections, are underweight, have low blood pressure, a pulse of more than 100 beats per minute or a vein too small for the needle.

Those who passed everything but faint at the sight of the needle are also rejected, and Wang said he has seen this "more than once".

The rejection rate recorded by Central Seberang Prai Malaysian Red Crescent Society (MRCS) was higher, at 25%.

The society's blood programme sub-committee chairman Ng Poh

Heng said out of 4,697 people wanting to donate blood last year through them, 1,151 had to be rejected.

The society did not compile the reasons for their rejection.

A study published in the *Malaysian Journal of Medicine and Health Sciences* in January last year pointed out that only 2% to 2.25% of Malaysians donate blood, while World Health Organisation stipulates that 5% of any country's population need to be donors for a stable supply.

*The Star* has contacted the NBC on the rejection rate nationwide and is awaiting its reply.

More information on donation criteria can be found in NBC's website, [www.pdn.gov.my](http://www.pdn.gov.my).

During the movement control order, many state government hospitals appealed on social media for blood donors to step forward.

Regular donors were given written permission to leave their homes and head to donation centres.

On Feb 20, NBC ran a creative post on Facebook when it was low on blood.

"If you could queue up for four pieces of chicken, you can also queue up to donate blood. Our stocks are low and getting lower. We appeal to your kindness to donate quickly," NBC, which supplies blood to the Klang Valley, said in its post, which was shared over 2,100 times.

The "four pieces of chicken" referred to that day's queuing up by thousands of people for a promotion at a fast food franchise.

## Man finds out it is not so easy to donate blood

**GEORGE TOWN:** A Penangite found just how hard it is to find blood donors when his mother had a health emergency recently.

Wishing to be known only as Sam, the 40-year-old said his mother was hospitalised due to excessive bleeding.

"She is A+. The surgeon alerted us that the hospital was low on this blood type and asked us to contact friends and relatives to donate," he said.

Sam went on social media with his plea and friends started a group chat to find A+ blood donors.

There was no shortage of people with the same blood type, who rushed to the hospitals to donate, he said.

"They included strangers, who wanted to help my mother, but many were rejected," he said.

He said they were turned down because they had high blood pressure, long-term overseas stays, had

recently changed sex partners or had surgery less than six months ago.

Sam himself could not donate because he was in the United Kingdom for more than six months between 1980 and 1996, when the country had an outbreak of mad cow disease.

"We never knew it would be so hard," he said.

It took him more than a week to find donors to keep his mother

alive. She is now recuperating.

Blood transfusionist Wang Pack Yee said the stringent rules for donor screening was developed by the World Health Organisation and adopted by the Health Ministry.

"If your BP (blood pressure) is high and we still allowed you to donate, your BP will shoot up even higher because your heart will be struggling to circulate a reduced amount of blood around your body.

"After we remove 450ml of blood,

your heart must work hard to keep circulation going. You can have cardiac arrest," he explained.

Wang said 450ml was how much most Malaysians weighing 50kg and above could donate.

Wang urged university and college students to donate regularly, because they would most likely be in the best state of health to do so.

"Youths above 18 must realise how important they are in keeping blood banks stocked."

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NATION

## The unsung heroes roughing it out at the screening lab

By TARRENCE TAN  
newsdesk@thestar.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR: The busy bees at the laboratory go about their work unnoticed.

Some were at their desks, peering into microscopes. Others were crunching data on their respective desktops.

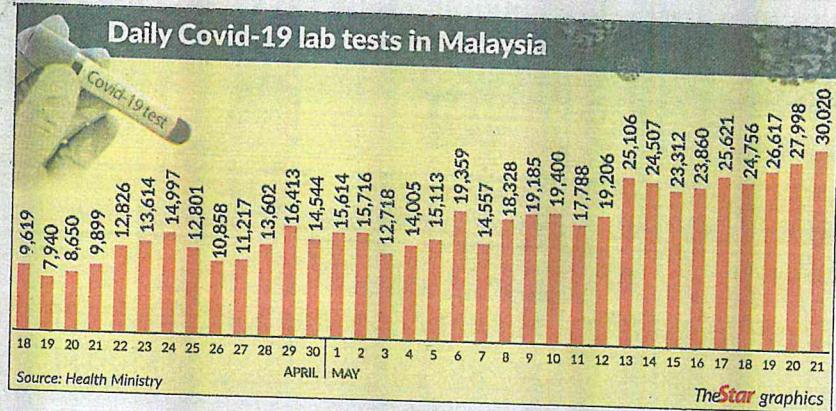
The above sums up a typical day at Lablink, one of the laboratories in Malaysia that is tasked with testing Covid-19 samples.

According to the Health Ministry, there are 45 public and private labs that are carrying out these tests. Their maximum capacity is 27,667 tests per day. Another five laboratories are expected to come up soon in Sabah (Tawau and Sandakan), Sarawak (Miri and Bintulu) and Johor (Kluang).

Lablink chief microbiologist Dr Muhammad Nazri said the staff would have to go through about 1,000 samples each day, an increase from about five tests in February before progressing to about hundreds of tests daily last month.

The testing of Covid-19 virus involves three processes – pre-analytical, analytical, post-analytical, he said.

The pre-analytical process starts at the sample collection sites or hospitals while the analytical process,



which determines the status of the virus, is managed by Lablink itself.

It involves a team of about 30 staff working through shifts of 24 hours a day to ensure a turnaround time of no more than 48 hours.

Upon receiving the test sample, a three-shift schedule of clinical laboratory scientists would embark on the second-stage sample registration, until the release of the results.

It is a critical stage, as potential analytical vulnerabilities during the laboratory diagnosis might occur.

"Pathologists, senior clinical laboratory scientists and a quality team at Lablink work around the clock to ensure that the generation of false-positive and false-negative results are prevented by integrating the quality management system into diagnostics activities," Dr Muhammad Nazri said.

He added that the main priority in the lab is ensuring safety, where its staff members are required to adhere to standard operating procedures that are in line with the laboratory standards and requirements of the WHO Biosafety 2004 and Malaysian Biosafety and Biosecurity Guidelines 2015.

Staff members are also required to wear personal protective equipment at all times while working on site.

"We prioritise safety because we want to prevent a lab-associated infection among our lab staff. Because the Covid-19 is considered a novel virus, which means that treatment is not well established, vaccine

is not available and infection among the elderly is significant."

At the same time, access cards are also compulsory to ensure biosafety onsite in order to protect the virus from being used for intentional motives such as bioweapon or theft.

Dr Muhammad Nazri also spoke about the importance of generating accurate results, as false-negative or false-positive test results would not only jeopardise the health of a patient, but also disrupt the efficacy of public health policies and measures by the authorities.

"A majority of our doctors are in their 50s and the same goes for other private hospitals, where a majority of their frontliners are senior professionals.

"A false-negative result may also cause human-to-human transmission and further spread the virus to the community," he added.

Noting that Covid-19 is an emerging infectious disease, Dr Muhammad Nazri quoted World Health Organisation director general Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, who said that the worst of Covid-19 is yet ahead.

"Ending the pandemic would require a sustained effort on the parts of individuals, communities, governments, to continue suppressing and controlling this deadly virus," he said.