

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Penularan COVID-19

1,210 kes baharu dilaporkan, 518 dari Lembah Klang

19 dapat jangkitan luar negara, jumlah kumulatif pulih 73.6 peratus

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Putrajaya: Jumlah kes baharu COVID-19 terus meningkat apabila 1,210 kes dicatatkan semalam berbanding 1,103 kelmarin, menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes di negara ini 49,730 kes.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata daripada jumlah kes baharu semalam, 19 adalah kes import yang mendapat jangkitan dari luar negara.

Hingga kini jumlah kes aktif dengan kebolehhajjangan COVID-19 di negara ini adalah sebanyak 12,788.

"Negeri di Lembah Klang mencatatkan sebanyak 518 kes baharu atau 42.8 peratus.

"Daripada jumlah ini, 435 kes (84.0 peratus) disumbangkan oleh kluster sedia ada.

"Di Kuala Lumpur terdapat 206 kes baharu yang dikesan daripada Kluster Tapak Bina Damamela yang semuanya membabitkan warga tempatan," katanya dalam kenyataan, semalam.

Selangor turut mencatatkan pertambahan jangkitan iaitu 259 kes dan daripada jumlah itu 131 dikesan dalam Kluster Teratai yang membabitkan 131 kes (92.3 peratus) dalam kalangan warga asing. Kedua-dua kluster ini adalah kluster di tempat kerja. Sabah pula mencatat 499 kes



Petugas barisan hadapan membuat pengesanan kes di asrama pekerja yang terabit pelaksanaan PKPD selepas Kementerian mengesan 215 jangkitan di Klang, semalam.
(Foto Asyraf Hamzah/BH)

atau 41.2 peratus daripada keseluruhan kes positif semalam dan daripada jumlah itu 122 (24.4 peratus) dikesan dalam Kluster Penjara Sandakan (122) diikuti 106 kes (21.2 peratus) pula adalah daripada kluster baharu iaitu Kluster Avenue.

Dalam pada itu, Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata sehingga jam 12 tengah hari semalam 1,018 kes pulih menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes pulih sebanyak 36,624 kes 73.6 peratus daripada jumlah keseluruhan kes.

Lima kematian turut dicatatkan semalam menjadikan jumlah kumulatif sebanyak 318 kes bersamaan 0.6 peratus daripada keseluruhan kes.

Empat kes kematian dilaporkan di beberapa daerah di Sabah, manakala satu kes kematian di Perak.

Kes kematian semalam membabitkan dua wanita berusia 59 dan 65 tahun, manakala tiga lelaki pula berumur antara 25 hingga 80 tahun.

Sementara itu, lima lagi kluster baharu direkodkan semalam membabitkan dua di Sabah serta masing-masing satu di Kuala Lumpur, Pulau Pinang serta Kelantan dan Terengganu.

Dua kluster di Sabah adalah Avenue di Penampang dan Kejora di Kota Kinabalu, yang mana masing-masing sudah merekod 110 kes dan sembilan kes positif setakat ini.

Sementara tiga lagi katanya, adalah Kluster Kasah (Kuala Lumpur), Kluster Summer (Pulau Pinang) serta Kluster Mengketil membabitkan daerah Kota Bharu, Machang dan Tanah Merah di Kelantan serta

Besut di Terengganu.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, peningkatan mendadak kes di Lembah Klang sejak akhir-akhir ini disebabkan peningkatan kes berkaitan dengan tempat kerja.

Daripada 162 kluster aktif yang dilaporkan, 72 kluster berkaitan tempat kerja termasuk empat kluster baharu yang ditumuhkan semalam.

"Ini berikutan ketiga-tiga negeri ini pusat tumpuan warga pekerja. Kepadatan penduduk di negeri ini juga menjadi antara faktor risiko meningkatnya kadar kebolehhajjangan atau penularan penyakit COVID-19.

"Tenaga kerja adalah aset berharga bagi sesebuah syarikat mahupun organisasi. Ini termasuk pekerja dalam kalangan warganegara mahu pun bukan warganegara," katanya.

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 49

RUANGAN : DUNIA

Penularan COVID-19

Laporan vaksin memberangsangkan

WHO bimbang peningkatan kes, beri amaran belum masa berasa selesa

Geneva: Pemimpin Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO) menyifatkan laporan perkembangan vaksin COVID-19 yang sedang dibangunkan, sebagai memberangsangkan.

Ketua Pengarah WHO, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, bagaimanapun menyuarakan kebimbangan terhadap peningkatan kes wabak itu, sekali gus memberi amaran bahawa masih belum ma-

sanya untuk berasa selesa dan berpuas hati.

"Kita terus menerima berita memberangsangkan mengenai vaksin COVID-19," katanya pada taklimat media secara maya.

Katanya, beliau 'optimis secara berjaga-jaga' bahawa hasil penemuan baharu terbabit dapat mula diedarkan dalam masa beberapa bulan lagi.

"Namun, sekarang bukan masa

untuk berasa selesa dan berpuas hati," katanya.

Beliau menjelaskan bahawa perjalanan masih jauh dan pada masa sama, kes serta kematian akibat COVID-19 pula terus melonjak di serata dunia.

"Negara yang membiarkan virus itu merebak, umpama sedang bermain dengan api," katanya.

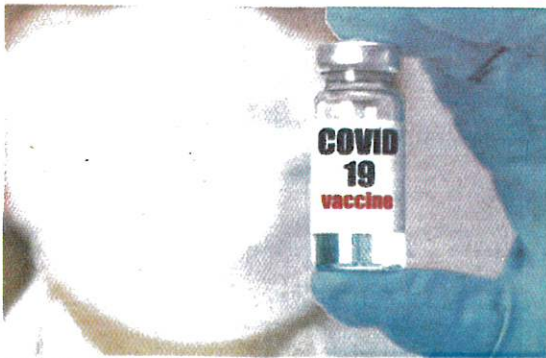
Jumlah jangkitan di seluruh dunia sudah menghampiri 55 juta dengan lebih 1.3 juta kematian.

Pakar perubatan memberi amaran kaedah masih sukar ditangan untuk beberapa bulan akan datang.

AFP



Pekerja kesihatan bergerak mengambil sampel calitan di kawasan orang ramai di New Delhi, India, semalam. (Foto AFP)



Vaksin dibangunkan Sanofi tidak memerlukan suhu terlampau sejuk (Foto hiasan)

Sanofi jangka sedia edar Jun depan

Paris: Vaksin COVID-19 sedang dibangunkan Sanofi tidak memerlukan suhu terlampau sejuk, sebaliknya memadai disimpan dalam peti sejuk biasa.

Perkara berkenaan dimaklumkan ketua syarikat berpangkalan di Paris itu, Olivier Bogillot.

Kenyataan itu menyusul selepas syarikat farmaseutikal gergasi Amerika Syarikat (AS), Pfizer bersama BioNTech dari Jerman, mengumumkan keberkesanan vaksin sedang dibangunkan oleh mereka, terbukti mencapai 90 peratus.

Bagaimanapun, vaksin itu mesti disimpan dalam suhu -70 darjah Celsius, iaitu di luar kemampuan peti beku dimiliki kebanyakan hospital dan peralatan domestik ketika ini.

"Vaksin kami akan seperti vaksin selesama. Boleh disimpan dalam peti sejuk anda.

"Ini akan memudahkan bagi se-

setengah negara," kata Bogillot kepada saluran *CNews*.

Beliau berkata, vaksin sedang dibangunkan Sanofi itu dijangka sedia untuk diedarkan pada Jun tahun depan.

Katanya, hasil ujian fasa dua ke atas vaksin berkenaan yang membabitkan ratusan individu, akan diumumkan pada awal bulan depan.

Jika keputusannya positif, ujian fasa ketiga membabitkan ribuan orang akan dimulakan.

"Vaksin Pfizer 'lebih maju sedikit' dalam proses pembangunan, namun satu makmal saja tidak akan berupaya membekalkan dos kepada seluruh dunia.

"Kita memerlukan beberapa pemenang pada akhir persaingan ini," katanya sambil memaklumkan produk Sanofi itu akan dijual pada harga mampu milik tanpa memberikan perincian lanjut.

AFP

AKHBAR : KOSMO
MUKA SURAT : 4
RUANGAN : NEGARA

1,210 kes baharu dengan lima kematian dicatatkan semalam

Kluster tempat kerja meningkat

Oleh SITI A'ISYAH SUKAIMI

PUTRAJAYA – Dua kluster melibatkan tempat kerja iaitu Kluster Tapak Bina Damanlela dan Kluster Teratai di Lembah Klang menjadi penyumbang kes tertinggi dicatatkan semalam.

Berdasarkan angka kes harian negara, sebanyak 1,210 kes baharu dilaporkan dengan negeri-negeri di Lembah Klang mencatatkan sebanyak 518 kes positif.

Kluster Tapak Bina Damanlela mencatatkan 206 kes kesemuanya warga asing menjadikan jumlah kes positif sebanyak 1,338 kes.

Ia diikuti Kluster Teratai di Selangor dengan 142 kes melibatkan 131 warga asing dengan keseluruhan kes positif sebanyak 370 kes.

Sabah mencatatkan sebanyak 499 kes antara lain disumbangkan oleh Kluster Penjara Sandakan dan kluster baharu iaitu Kluster Avenue.

Dalam masa sama, kluster-kluster penjara merekodkan sebanyak 172 kes melibatkan Klus-

ter Penjara Sandakan (122 kes), Kluster Tembok (20 kes), Kluster Penjara Kepyayan (16 kes) dan Kluster Penjara Seberang Perai (14 kes).

Terdapat pertambahan lima kes kematian iaitu satu di Perak dan empat di Sabah membabitkan tiga lelaki dan dua wanita berusia 25 hingga 80 tahun dengan pelbagai latar belakang penyakit.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr. Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, terdapat lima kluster baharu dilaporkan semalam iaitu Kluster Avenue di Penampang, Sabah dengan kes indeks seorang penyelia tapak pembinaan positif hasil saringan bergejala.

Menurutnya, Kluster Kejora di Kota Kinabalu dengan kes indeks saringan bergejala sementara Kluster Kasah di Kepong, Kuala Lumpur melibatkan kes-kes kluster hasil saringan kumpulan berisiko tinggi iaitu pekerja di sebuah syarikat keselamatan," katanya di sini semalam.



NOOR HISHAM

Beliau berkata, kluster baharu lain ialah Kluster Summer di Timur Laut, Pulau Pinang, Kluster Mengketil di Kota Bharu, Machang dan Tanah Merah, Kelantan serta Besut, Terengganu.

Sementara itu, Noor Hisham

Angka Terkini Kes Covid-19 Di Malaysia sehingga semalam

	Jumlah
• Kes baharu	1,210
• Import: 19 Tempatan: 1,191	
• Pullih	1,018
• Kematian	5
• Masih dirawat	12,788
• Jumlah kes sembuh	35,624
• Jumlah Kematian	318
Jumlah kes keseluruhan	49,730

menyeru majikan memainkan peranan lebih besar dalam bersama-sama menangani penularan Covid-19 dalam kalangan pekerja warga asing.

Menurutnya, beberapa faktor yang menyumbang kepada penularan penyakit berjangkit dalam

kalangan pekerja misalnya isu tempat penginapan, kebersihan sendiri dan persekitaran di tempat tinggal serta tempat kerja. Justeru katanya, majikan boleh mengambil tindakan dengan memberikan pendidikan kepada pekerja mengenai amalan kebersihan sendiri, persekitaran di tempat kerja dan tempat tinggal serta langkah pencegahan.

Dalam pada itu, beliau berkata, peningkatan kes mendadak di negeri-negeri Lembah Klang akhir-akhir ini disebabkan peningkatan kes berkaitan dengan tempat kerja. "Daripada 162 kluster aktif Covid-19 yang dilaporkan, sebanyak 72 kluster adalah berkaitan tempat kerja termasuk empat kluster baharu yang diumumkan hari ini.

"Ini berikutan ketiga-tiga negeri (di Lembah Klang) ini adalah pusat tumpuan warga pekerja.

"Kepadatan penduduk juga menjadi salah satu faktor risiko meningkatnya kadar kebolehtangkitan atau penularan penyakit Covid-19," jelasnya.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 8

RUANGAN : COVID-19

covid-19

Pendakwaan dua lelaki dijalankan melalui sidang video Zoom

Petaling Jaya: Dua lelaki warga asing yang disahkan positif Covid-19, semalam masing-masing didakwa dari sebuah lokap dan wad sebuah hospital melalui aplikasi video Zoom.

Prosiding dakwaan terhadap lelaki warga Bangladesh yang berusia 33 tahun dan lelaki warga India berusia 43 tahun itu dikendalikan secara dalam talian yang dihadiri majistret, timbalan

pendakwa raya (TPR) dan peguam yang berada di mahkamah.

Bagi warga Bangladesh itu yang kini ditahan di sebuah lokap di sini, dia didakwa atas pertuduhan melarikan diri selepas disahkan positif Covid-19, yang perbuatannya itu boleh menyebabkan merebaknya penyakit yang boleh membahayakan nyawa.

Dia dituduh melakukan

kesalahan itu di sebuah tapak projek di Kota Damansara di sini, pada jam 10 malam, 22 Oktober lalu mengikut Seksyen 269 Kanun Keseksaan yang memperuntukkan hukuman penjara maksimum enam bulan atau denda atau kedua-duanya jika sabit kesalahan.

Tiada pengakuan direkodkan daripada tertuduh yang tidak diwakili peguam itu

kerana dia tidak memahami Bahasa Melayu. Pendakwaan dikendalikan TPR Sharifah Zafirah Syed Mustapa.

Majistret M Barath menetapkan 8 Februari depan untuk sebutan semula kes bagi kehadiran jurubahasa bahasa Bangladesh.

Sementara itu, bagi prosiding dalam talian di Mahkamah Majistret berasingan, lelaki warga India yang ditahan di wad sebuah hos-

pital kerana positif Covid-19 pula mengaku tidak bersalah tinggal di Malaysia tanpa premit yang sah.

Dia dituduh melakukan kesalahan itu di Persiaran Margosa Bandar Sri Damansara di sini, pada jam 6:30 petang, 2 November lalu mengikut Seksyen 6(1)(c) Akta Imigresen 1959/63 dan boleh dihukum di bawah Seksyen 6(3) akta sama yang memperuntukkan hukuman den-

da maksimum RM10,000 atau penjara hingga lima tahun dan sebat tidak melebihi enam kali, jika sabit kesalahan.

Pendakwaan dikendalikan TPR Zamriah Zarifah Aris manakala, tertuduh diwakili peguam Syed Azharul Asiq Syed Azhar.

Majistret Muhammad Iskandar Zainol menetapkan 18 Januari untuk sebutan semula kes.

Kekal empat angka

1,210 kes positif Covid-19 dilaporkan dan lima kematian direkodkan

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Kuala Lumpur

Kes positif Covid-19 kekal empat angka selama dua hari berturut dengan 1,210 kes dilaporkan sehingga jam 12 tengah hari semalam.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, angka itu menjadikan kes positif di Malaysia 49,730 kes dan kes aktif dengan kebolehan jangkitan sebanyak 12,788 kes.

Menurutnya, negeri di Lembah Klang seperti Selangor, Kuala Lumpur (KL) dan Putrajaya mencatatkan se-

banyak 518 kes positif.

"Daripada jumlah itu, sebanyak 435 kes daripada kluster sedia ada dengan 206 kes bagi Kluster Tapak Bina Damanlela yang membabitkan warganegara asing di KL.

"Sebanyak 142 kes yang dilaporkan di Selangor pula daripada Kluster Teratai yang membabitkan 131 bukan warganegara manakala Sabah merekodkan 499 kes," katanya dalam satu kenyataan media, semalam.

Beliau berkata, Malaysia mencatatkan kes pulih Covid-19 sebanyak 1,018 kes menjadikan jumlah kes pulih sepenuhnya 36,624 kes.

Dalam pada itu, lima kematian direkodkan menjadikan jumlah kumulatif sebanyak 318 kes.

"Kematian membabitkan tiga lelaki dan dua wanita berusia antara 25 tahun hingga 80 tahun dengan empat daripadanya di Sabah dan seorang di Perak.

"Empat pesakit yang meninggal dunia ini menghidap pelbagai penyakit kronik antaranya darah tinggi, kencing manis, sakit jantung, buah pinggang dan asma," katanya.



Cari rezeki tepi jalan

NURHANA Ismail bersama rakannya, Raja Ahmad Taufik yang hilang pekerjaan mula berniaga di tepi jalan menjual udang harimau dan latok atau anggur laut di Taman Setiawangsa. Mereka berterima kasih kepada Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur (DBKL) membenarkan peniaga kecil seperti mereka berniaga di tepi jalan semasa dalam Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Bersyarat (PKPB). Mereka memulakan perniagaan seawal jam 9 pagi hingga jam 7 malam setiap hari.

KKM kesan lima kluster baharu

Kuala Lumpur: Sebanyak lima lagi kluster baharu Covid-19 dikesan Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM), semalam.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, dua kluster iaitu Kluster Avenue dan Kluster Kejora membabitkan kawasan di Penampang dan Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.

Menurutnya, Kluster Avenue merekodkan 110 kes positif selepas saringan dijalankan terhadap 246 individu manakala sembilan dilaporkan positif daripada Kluster Kejora.

"KKM juga mengesan Kluster Kasah di Kepong membabitkan pekerja syarikat keselamatan dengan

19 daripada 70 individu yang disaring adalah positif.

"Kluster Summer di daerah Timur Laut, Pulau Pinang merekodkan 11 kes positif hasil saringan terhadap 53 individu.

"Bagi Kluster Mengketil yang membabitkan daerah Kota Bharu, Machang dan Tanah Merah di Kelantan dan Besut, Terengganu merekodkan 24 kes positif hasil saringan 210 individu," katanya dalam satu kenyataan media, semalam.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, semalam juga menyaksikan lima kluster ditamatkan membabitkan Kluster Bangau-Bangau, Tasik, Olive, Buang Sayang dan Kau Sing.

19 positif di Kelantan

Kota Bharu: Kelantan mencatatkan 19 kes positif Covid-19, semalam dengan satu kluster baharu iaitu Kluster Mengketil.

Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri menerusi Facebooknya memaklumkan, ia membabitkan 12 kes dari Kota Bharu, lima kes di Tanah Merah dan dua kes di Machang.

Daripada jumlah kes berkenaan, 12 kes adalah daripada Kluster Mengketil, tiga kes daripada Kluster Kube dan empat kes daripada Kluster Raya dan saringan survelan.

Kota Bharu kini berada di zon jingga dengan merekodkan 28 kes dan tiga daerah zon kuning iaitu Machang, Tanah Merah dan Jeli.

Pada masa sama, empat kes dilaporkan sembuh dan

dibenarkan keluar hospital.

Sementara itu, Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Kerajaan Tempatan, Perumahan dan Kesihatan negeri, Dr Izani Husin berkata, orang ramai diminta berhati-hati dan mengikut prosedur operasi standard (SOP) ditetapkan bagi memutuskan rangkaian Covid-19.

"Sehingga kini sudah terdapat dua kluster di Kelantan. Walaupun ia membimbangkan, namun masih dalam keadaan terkawal.

"Saya menasihatkan orang ramai supaya tidak keluar serta membawa anak ke tempat orang ramai bagi mengelak dijangkiti Covid-19.

"Patuhilah arahan dikeluarkan. Jika tidak penting, janganlah keluar rumah," katanya.



DR Noor Hisham

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 9

RUANGAN : COVID-19

Kadar kesembuhan pesakit lebih tinggi

Kuala Lumpur: Malaysia berjaya mengimbangi kes positif jangkitan Covid-19 dan pesakit yang sedang dirawat di hospital dengan kadar kesembuhan lebih tinggi berbanding ketika gelombang pertama dan kedua pandemik itu.

Menteri Kesihatan Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba berkata, kejayaan itu hasil usaha kerajaan yang menggunakan pelbagai langkah kesihatan awam dalam menangani pandemik dengan pelaksanaan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Bersyarat (PKPB) dan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Diperketatkan (PKPD).

"Ada sesetengah pihak mahu PKPB ditamatkan lebih awal namun kami (kerajaan) perlu melihat penilaian risiko iaitu trend ataupun kebolehhajangan dalam komuniti sebelum membuat keputusan wajar.

"Walaupun kita (rakyat) dapat mematuhi prosedur operasi standard (SOP) pergerakan, mengimplimentasikan segala penguatkuasaan dan norma baharu menjadi mandatori, perlu diingatkan setakat ini masih tiada ubat khusus merawat Covid-19.

"Yang ada hanya rawatan yang berpatutan untuk kadar kesembuhan yang tinggi," katanya mengulas situasi semasa COVID-19 dalam rancangan Selamat Pagi Malaysia yang disiarkan RTM, semalam.



Katanya, setakat kelmarin, kadar kesembuhan dan discaj mencatatkan 73.4 peratus daripada keseluruhan 48,520 jumlah kes positif, manakala jumlah kes aktif dengan kebolehhajangan sebanyak 12,601 kes.

Dr Adham berkata, bagi mengawal penularan Covid-19 dalam komuniti, PKPB dan PKPD dilihat sebagai jalan terbaik untuk melandaikan lengkung jangkitan.

"Pergerakan antara daerah dan negeri membantu mengawal kawasan hijau daripada bertukar status kepada kawasan jingga dan merah. Sekiranya tidak dapat dikawal maka PKPD perlu dilaksanakan," katanya.

Mengenai vaksin Covid-19, Dr Adham berkata, sebelum mendapatkannya, Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) memerlukan data klinikal fasa ketiga bagi melihat keberkesanan dan keselamatan serta kualiti vaksin itu.

"Walaupun Pfizer dan BioNtech menyasarkan 90 peratus keberkesanan, manakala Moderna mengatakan 94 peratus berkesan, kita masih perlu berunding dengan pihak pembangun vaksin," katanya.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 12

RUANGAN : LOKAL

KKM tukar jadual imunisasi kanak-kanak

Kuala Lumpur: Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) melaksanakan pertukaran Jadual Imunisasi Kebangsaan Untuk Kanak-kanak membatikan semua Klinik Kesihatan KKM di seluruh negara secara berperingkat bermula awal bulan ini.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, pelaksanaan pertukaran jadual imunisasi itu susulan pertukaran jenis vaksin kombinasi lima serangkai - *difteria-tetanus-pertussis-polio-Haemophilus influenza type B (pentavalent DTaP-IPV/Hib)* - kepada vaksin kombinasi enam serangkai di bawah Program Imunisasi Kebangsaan bagi kanak-kanak.

"Vaksin enam serangkai diberikan untuk mencegah

enam jenis penyakit iaitu penyakit *difteria*, *tetanus* (kancing gigi), *pertussis* (batuk kokol), *poliomyelitis*, jangkitan *Haemophilus influenza type B* dan *Hepatitis B (hexavalent DTaP-IPV-HepB-Hib)*.

"Sebanyak empat dos vaksin enam serangkai diberikan kepada setiap kanak-kanak pada umur dua bulan, tiga bulan, lima bulan dan 18 bulan. Di samping itu, vaksin Hepatitis B yang diberi selepas lahir diteruskan.

"Vaksin Hepatitis B yang sebelum ini diberikan pada umur satu bulan dan enam bulan tidak perlu diberikan kerana komponen vaksin Hepatitis B terkandung dalam vaksin kombinasi enam serangkai," katanya dalam kenyataan semalam.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 18

RUANGAN : MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19

Kes di Lembah Klang terus melonjak

Antara penyumbang kepada 1,210 kes baharu Covid-19 dilaporkan semalam

PUTRAJAYA

Kes positif pandemik koronavirus (Covid-19) di Lembah Klang terus melonjak kepada 518 kes baharu semalam.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, jumlah berkenaan antara penyumbang kepada 1,210 kes baharu positif Covid-19 di Malaysia semalam.

"Jumlah kes positif Covid-19 di negara ini ialah 49,730 kes dengan 12,788 masih dirawat,"

katanya dalam satu kenyataan di sini semalam.

Menurutnya, daripada 518 kes di Lembah Klang, sebanyak 435 kes membabitkan kluster.

"Sebanyak 206 kes yang dilaporkan di Kuala Lumpur adalah daripada Kluster Tapak Bina Damanlela yang kesemuanya melibatkan warga asing," katanya.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, sebanyak 142 daripada 259 kes yang dilaporkan di Selangor pula terdiri daripada Kluster Teratai membabitkan 131 warga asing.

"Kedua-dua kluster ini merupakan kluster tempat kerja," katanya.

Sementara itu, katanya, di Sabah pula mencatatkan sebanyak 499 kes baharu Covid-19 semalam.

"Sebanyak 122 kes di-

laporkan daripada Kluster Penjara Sandakan manakala 106 kes pula adalah daripada kluster baharu iaitu Kluster Avenue," katanya.

Beliau berkata, sebanyak 172 kes yang dilaporkan semalam adalah berkaitan kluster-kluster di penjara.

"Ini melibatkan Kluster Penjara Sandakan (122 kes), Kluster Tombok (20 kes), Kluster Penjara Kepong (16 kes) dan Kluster Penjara Seberang Perai (14 kes)," katanya.

Selain itu, beliau berkata, Negeri Sembilan merekodkan sebanyak 67 kes baharu selain Perak (47 kes), Pulau Pinang



DR NOOR HISHAM

(33 kes), Kelantan (19 kes), dan Johor (14 kes).

"Kes positif di Kedah pula merekodkan lapan kes, Melaka dan Putrajaya masing-masing dua; manakala Labuan, Sarawak dan Terengganu mencatatkan masing-masing peningkatan satu kes.

"Daripada 1,210 kes baharu hari ini (semalam), sebanyak 19 kes merupakan kes import yang mendapat jangkitan dari luar negara," katanya.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, terdapat 105 kes sedang dirawat di unit rawatan rapi (ICU) termasuk 40 pesakit memerlukan bantuan pernafasan.

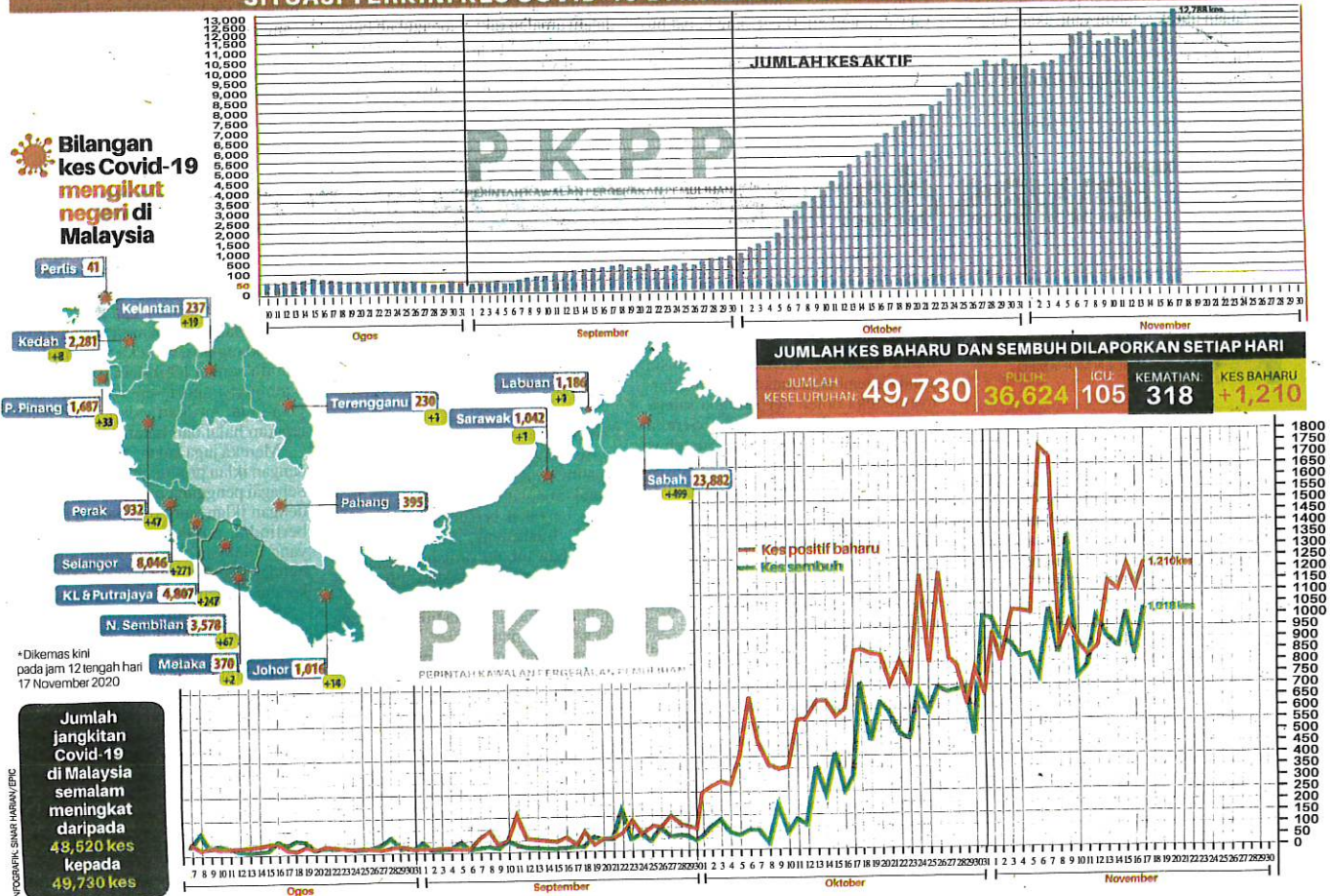
"Daripada maklumat terkini yang dilaporkan, dukacita dimaklumkan bahawa terdapat pertambahan lima kes kematian berkaitan Covid-19. Justeru, jumlah kumulatif kes kematian Covid-19 di Malaysia ialah sebanyak 318 kes iaitu bersamaan 0.6 peratus daripada jumlah keseluruhan kes," katanya.

Berdasarkan ringkasan kes kematian pula, beliau berkata, empat direkodkan di Sabah dan satu di Perak.

Dalam pada itu, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) mencatatkan sebanyak 1,018 kes pulih semalam.

"Ini menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes yang telah pulih sepenuhnya daripada Covid-19 adalah 36,624 kes bersamaan 73.6 peratus daripada jumlah keseluruhan kes," katanya.

SITUASI TERKINI KES COVID-19 DI MALAYSIA SETAKAT SEMALAM



AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 20

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

KKM tukar jadual imunisasi kanak-kanak mulai bulan ini

KUALA LUMPUR - Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) melaksanakan pertukaran Jadual Imunisasi Kebangsaan Untuk Kanak-kanak melibatkan semua Klinik Kesihatan KKM di seluruh negara secara berperingkat bermula awal bulan ini.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, pelaksanaan pertukaran jadual imunisasi itu susulan pertukaran jenis vaksin kombinasi lima serangkai - difteria-tetanus-pertussis-polio-Haemophilus influenza type b (pentavalent DTaP-IPV//Hib) - kepada vaksin kombinasi enam serangkai di bawah Program Imunisasi Kebangsaan bagi kanak-kanak.

"Vaksin enam serangkai diberikan untuk mencegah enam jenis penyakit iaitu penyakit difteria, tetanus (kancing gigi), pertussis (batuk kokol), poliomyelitis, jangkitan Haemophilus influenza type b dan Hepatitis B (hexavalent DTaP-IPV-HepB-Hib).

"Sebanyak empat dos vaksin enam serangkai akan diberikan kepada setiap kanak-kanak pada umur dua bulan, tiga bulan, lima bulan dan 18 bulan. Di samping itu, vaksin Hepatitis B yang diberi selepas lahir akan diteruskan.

"Vaksin Hepatitis B yang sebelum ini diberikan pada umur satu bulan dan enam bulan tidak perlu lagi diberikan kerana komponen vaksin Hepatitis B telah terkandung dalam vaksin kombinasi

enam serangkai," katanya dalam satu kenyataan di sini semalam.

Susulan pertukaran vaksin itu, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, bilangan suntikan untuk mencegah enam jenis penyakit dapat dikurangkan daripada tujuh suntikan kepada hanya lima suntikan, sekaligus memudahkan ibu bapa untuk memastikan anak-anak mereka diberikan suntikan vaksin mengikut jadual imunisasi yang ditetapkan.

"Walaupun tiada suntikan imunisasi diberikan kepada kanak-kanak pada umur satu bulan dan enam bulan seperti sebelum ini, ibu bapa juga perlu mematuhi jadual kedatangan ke fasiliti kesihatan untuk pemantauan pertumbuhan dan perkembangan kanak-kanak seperti yang ditetapkan dalam Buku Rekod Kesihatan Bayi dan Kanak-kanak (0 hingga 6 tahun)," tambahnya.

Mengulas lanjut, beliau berkata, vaksin enam serangkai adalah vaksin yang berkesan dan selamat dengan kesan advers susulan imunisasi (AEFI) vaksin itu dipantau oleh Bahagian Regulatori Farmasi Negara (NPRA).

Beliau berkata, sejak vaksin itu digunakan oleh fasiliti kesihatan swasta di Malaysia pada 2013, tiada sebarang isu keselamatan serius dilaporkan.

"Namun, ia merupakan vaksin yang baharu digunakan di bawah Program Imunisasi Kebangsaan di fasiliti kesihatan KKM," katanya. - *Bernama*

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI



Ujian saringan Covid-19

SERAMAI 3,550 pekerja kilang Top Glove di Meru, Klang, Selangor menjalani saringan Covid-19 berikutan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Diperketat (PKPD) mulai kelmarin sehingga 30 November ini. PKPD di asrama pekerja Top Glove itu

dikuatkuasakan selepas 215 kes positif Covid-19 dikesan di situ.

Operasi kilang itu bagaimanapun berjalan seperti biasa kerana PKPD hanya melibatkan pekerja-pekerja yang tinggal di asrama dalam sektor A dan B.

■ PETUGAS kesihatan melakukan ujian saringan Covid-19 terhadap pekerja kilang warga asing Top Glove selepas 215 kes positif Covid-19 dikesan di asrama pekerja kilang sarung tangan itu di Meru, Klang, semalam. - UTUSAN/ZULFADHLI ZAKI

Kes warga asing makin tinggi

Oleh MAISARAH SHEIKH RAHIM
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PUTRAJAYA: Lembah Klang mencatatkan sebanyak 518 kes baharu positif Covid-19 dengan 435 kes daripadanya disumbangkan daripada kluster-kluster.

Sebanyak 206 kes daripada keseluruhan 238 kes di Kuala Lumpur adalah daripada Kluster Tapak Bina Damanlela yang kesemuanya melibatkan bukan warganegara.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr. Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, sebanyak 142 kes dilaporkan di Selangor pula adalah daripada Kluster Teratai melibatkan 131 kes bukan warganegara dengan kedua-dua kluster itu merupakan kluster melibatkan tempat kerja.

Menurut beliau, sebanyak 72 daripada 162 kluster aktif dilaporkan adalah berkaitan dengan tempat kerja termasuk empat kluster baharu hari ini.

"Peningkatan kes mendadak di Lembah Klang akhir-akhir ini disebabkan peningkatan kes berkaitan tempat kerja berikutan ketiga-tiga negeri ini adalah pusat tumpuan warga pekerja.

"Kepadatan penduduk di

“Kepadatan penduduk di negeri-negeri ini juga menjadi salah satu faktor risiko meningkatnya penularan penyakit Covid-19.”

NOOR HISHAM ABDULLAH

negeri-negeri ini juga menjadi salah satu faktor risiko meningkatnya penularan penyakit Covid-19," katanya dalam kenyataan di sini semalam.

Noor Hisham berkata, Sabah mencatatkan sebanyak 499 kes daripada keseluruhan 1,210 kes positif baharu menjadikan jumlah kes positif di negara ini sebanyak 49,730 kes, manakala jumlah kes aktif kebolehhajangkitan pula adalah 12,788 kes.

Katanya, terdapat lima kematian direkodkan selain lima lagi kluster baharu dicatatkan iaitu Kluster Avenue di Penampang,

Sabah dengan kes indeks melibatkan seorang penyelia tapak pembinaan sekali gus menjadikan kes positif dikesan dalam kluster itu sebanyak 110 kes.

Selain itu, kata beliau, Kluster Kejora di Kota Kinabalu, Sabah merekodkan 19 kes manakala Kluster Kasah di Kepong, Kuala Lumpur pula dikenal pasti dari hasil saringan kumpulan berisiko tinggi iaitu pekerja-pekerja di sebuah syarikat keselamatan melibatkan kesemua bukan warganegara.

Kluster Summer pula, jelas beliau, melibatkan Timur Laut, Pulau Pinang (11 kes) dan Kluster Mengketil di Kota Bharu, Machang dan Tanah Merah, Kelantan dan Besut, Terengganu (24 kes).

"Sebanyak lima kluster disyiharkan tamat iaitu Kluster Bangau-Bangau, Kluster Tasik, Kluster Olive, Kluster Buang Sayang dan Kluster Kau Sing.

"Sehingga kini, terdapat 105 kes positif sedang dirawat di Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU) yang mana 40 kes memerlukan bantuan pernafasan, manakala bilangan kes pulih amat membanggakan sebanyak 1,018 kes," katanya.

Perkembangan kes positif di negeri-negeri lain pula, kata be-

liau, Selangor merekodkan 259 kes, Negeri Sembilan (67 kes), Perak (47 kes), Pulau Pinang (33 kes), Kelantan (19 kes), Johor (14 kes) dan Kedah (lapan kes).

Selain itu, katanya, terdapat dua kes di Melaka dan Putrajaya selain Labuan, Sarawak dan Terengganu masing-masing mencatatkan satu kes.

"Sebanyak 172 kes berkaitan kluster-kluster di penjara melibatkan Kluster Penjara Sandakan (122 kes), Kluster Tombok (20 kes), Kluster Penjara Keparayan (16 kes), dan Kluster Penjara Seberang Perai (14 kes)," katanya.

Mengulas lanjut, Noor Hisham berkata, terdapat beberapa faktor penularan penyakit berjangkit dalam kalangan pekerja misalnya isu tempat penginapan, kebersihan kendiri dan juga persekitaran tempat tinggal serta tempat kerja.

Jelasnya, isu penularan Covid-19 dalam kalangan pekerja bukan warganegara merupakan isu penting yang perlu ditangani, justeru pihak majikan diseru memainkan peranan lebih besar dalam sama-sama menanganinya termasuk menyediakan penginapan kondusif untuk memastikan penjarakan fizikal selamat dapat diamalkan.

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA

MUKA SURAT : 39

RUANGAN : LUAR NEGARA

Vaksin Moderna lindungi 75 peratus rakyat AS

WASHINGTON: Pegawai tertinggi penyakit berjangkit di Amerika Syarikat (AS), Anthony Fauci menyifatkan kejayaan syarikat bioteknologi Moderna menghasilkan vaksin Covid-19 dengan 94.5 peratus keberkesanan sebagai 'sangat membanggakan'.

Menerusi wawancara bersama AFP, Fauci menyatakan bahawa vaksin tersebut boleh melindungi 70 hingga 75 peratus penduduk negara ini daripada jatuh sakit atau dijangkiti wabak Covid-19.

"Penghasilan vaksin tersebut yang mempunyai tahap keberkesanan melebihi 90 per-

tus amat membanggakan dan saya tidak rasa pihak lain boleh mencapai kejayaan sebegini," katanya.

Vaksin itu dihasilkan dengan teknologi messenger RNA (mRNA) yang ciri-cirinya diprogram menggunakan molekul sintetik.

Tiada vaksin yang dihasilkan menggunakan teknologi tersebut pernah diluluskan sebelum ini.

Semalam, Moderna mengumumkan bahawa ujian klinikal terhadap 30,000 responden yang dijangkiti Covid-19 menunjukkan vaksin tersebut berkesan 94.5 peratus untuk mencegah

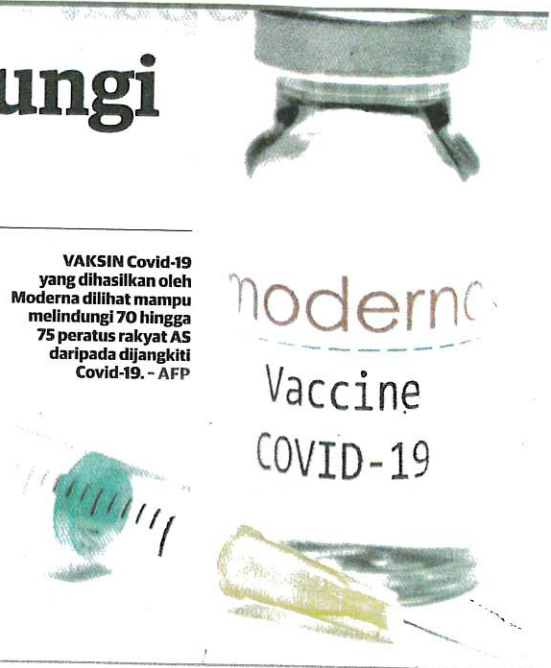
jangkitan koronavirus.

Dalam pada itu, syarikat farmaseutikal Pfizer mula melancarkan program penghantaran vaksin ke empat negeri di AS sebagai pemantauan.

Hal ini kerana vaksin yang dihasilkan oleh Pfizer memerlukan suhu terlalu rendah dan keadaan itu menyukarkan proses penghantaran secara menyeluruh.

Vaksin keluaran syarikat tersebut perlu disimpan pada suhu -70 darjah Celsius berbanding vaksin biasa hanya memerlukan suhu serendah 2 hingga 8 darjah Celsius. - AFP/REUTERS

VAKSIN Covid-19 yang dihasilkan oleh Moderna dilihat mampu melindungi 70 hingga 75 peratus rakyat AS daripada dijangkiti Covid-19. - AFP



AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES
 MUKA SURAT : 4
 RUANGAN : NEWS/STORY OF THE DAY

FIVE NEW CLUSTERS DETECTED

1,210 NEW CASES, 5 DEATHS RECORDED

Health D-G: Surge of Covid-19 cases in Klang Valley are from clusters related to workplace

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FOR the fifth consecutive day, Malaysia's daily cases hit four digits with 1,210 new Covid-19 cases up to noon yesterday.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the figures raised Malaysia's cumulative tally of infections to 49,730, 12,788 of which are active cases.

He said Klang Valley contributed 42.8 per cent, or 518 cases, yesterday. From this, 435 cases were from clusters.

"A total of 206 new cases were recorded from Damanlela construction site cluster in Kuala Lumpur involving foreigners, while 142 other new cases were from Teratai cluster in Selangor, involving 131 foreigners," he said.

Selangor recorded a total of 259 new cases yesterday, followed by Kuala Lumpur with 238 and Putrajaya with two.

Dr Noor Hisham said Sabah recorded 499 new cases (41.2 per cent), with 122 cases recorded from the Sandakan Prison cluster and 106 others from the Avenue cluster.



Frontliners conducting active case detection at a workers' dormitory in Klang yesterday. PIC BY ASYRAF HAMZAH

He added that 172 cases recorded yesterday were linked to prison clusters.

They were the Sandakan Prison cluster with 122, Tembok cluster (20), Kepayan Prison cluster (16) and Seberang Perai Prison cluster (14).

Negeri Sembilan recorded 67 new cases, followed by Perak (47), Penang (33), Kelantan (19), Johor (14), Kedah (eight), Melaka (two), Labuan (one), Sarawak (one) and Terengganu (one).

On yesterday's new cases, Dr Noor Hisham said 19 were im-

ported, involving five Malaysian citizens and 14 non-citizens who arrived from Nepal (four), Qatar (three), India (three), the Philippines (two), Nigeria (one), United States (one), Turkey (one), Russia (one), Tunisia (one), Romania (one) and Myanmar (one).

Dr Noor Hisham said a total of 105 patients were being treated at Intensive Care Units, with 40 requiring ventilator support.

He added that 1,018 patients had recovered and were discharged from hospitals, bringing the tally of recoveries to 36,624

(73.6 per cent from the total).

Meanwhile, up to noon, Dr Noor Hisham said five deaths were reported to the National Crisis Preparedness and Response Centre, raising the nationwide death toll to 318 (0.64 per cent).

Four were in Sabah and one in Perak, involving three Malaysian citizens and two non-citizens.

Dr Noor Hisham said a surge of Covid-19 cases in the Klang Valley were from clusters related to workplace, with 72 out of 162 active clusters linked to workplace, including four clusters reported

yesterday.

Among the factors behind the spike in cases at workplace were issues relating to accommodation, personal hygiene and the conditions of living and working environment, he said.

"Population density in these states is also one of the risk factors behind the increasing rates of infection or transmission of Covid-19.

"The Health Ministry is urging employers to play a bigger part to combat this together," he said in a statement yesterday.

The ministry also directed employers of foreign workers to provide conducive accommodation as well as ensure they were educated on hygiene.

Dr Noor Hisham also called on employers to ensure that prevention of infection practices were consistently being taken by the workers at their workplace and their homes.

"We are reminding the people to continue to adhere to the advice and make it as part of new norms in life.

"Adhere to the standard operating procedure as part of the new norm," he added.

Meanwhile, five new Covid-19 clusters have been detected in the country.

They are Avenue and Kejora clusters in Sabah, Kasah cluster (Kuala Lumpur), Summer cluster (Penang) and Mengketil cluster (Kelantan).

Dr Noor Hisham also said clusters that ended yesterday were Bangau-Bangau, Buang Sayang and Kau Siang (Sabah) as well as Tasik and Olive clusters (Selangor).

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 10

RUANGAN : NEWS/NATION

NATIONAL IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME

Children's vaccine schedule to be revised

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THERE will be a change in the vaccination schedule for children at health clinics nationwide under the National Immunisation Programme.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the amendment to the schedule was because the vaccine administered had been switched to one that gave immunisation against six diseases rather than five.

It provides immunity against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), polio, Haemophilus influenzae type B and hepatitis B.

He said the changes to the schedule would be carried out in stages starting this month.

Four doses of the vaccine will be given to children.

The initial dose is given to infants at the age of two months and the booster shot is given to

those aged 18 months.

"As the vaccine incorporates immunisation for hepatitis B, there is no longer a requirement for children to be given separate shots of the vaccine."

The current vaccine, which is being phased out, has been in use in Malaysia since 2008.

It provides immunity against five diseases; diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio and Haemophilus influenzae type B.

Three doses of the vaccine are required, with an initial dose given at two months, and the booster shot given at 18 months.

Dr Noor Hisham said that the new schedule no longer included shots for one month and six-month-old children.

Parents were, however, required to follow the timelines for routine paediatric check-ups to chart their children's growth during the stipulated ages.

The schedule has been underlined in the record book for infant and toddler health from the ages of 0 to 6.



Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah

He urged parents to follow the immunisation schedules set by the ministry.

"If they have missed out on any immunisations, please bring your children to the nearest public or private clinics to have their schedules redrawn."

Parents can call the ministry at 03-8883 4042/03-8883 4504 for enquiries.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 27

RUANGAN : WORLD

COVID-19 VACCINE TRIALS

FAUCI HAILS VACCINE RESULTS

Top US infectious disease official says mRNA technology has been proven

WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE United States' top infectious disease scientist on Monday hailed early trial results from Moderna's Covid-19 vaccine as "stunningly impressive", and said the findings were an emphatic validation of experimental mRNA technology that some had doubted.

In an interview, Anthony Fauci said he would have settled for injections that protected 70 to 75 per cent of people from falling sick.

"The idea that we have a 94.5 per cent effective vaccine is stunningly impressive. It is really a spectacular result that I don't think anybody had anticipated would be this good," he said.

Fauci leads the National Institutes of Allergies and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), which began co-developing the vaccine with Moderna in January after China shared the genetic sequence of the coronavirus.



Anthony Fauci

It is based on a relatively new technology that uses a synthetic version of a molecule called "messenger RNA" to hack into human cells, and effectively turn them into vaccine-making factories.

No vaccine based on this platform has ever been approved.

"There were many who had reservations about using something that had not been tried and true over the years; in fact, some people even criticised us for that," said Fauci.

On Monday, Moderna and NIAID announced their preliminary results based on 95 of the 30,000 volunteers they had recruited who fell ill with Covid-19.

Of the 95, 90 had been in the trial's placebo group, and five in the group that received the drug, called mRNA-1273, translating to an efficacy rate of 94.5 per cent.

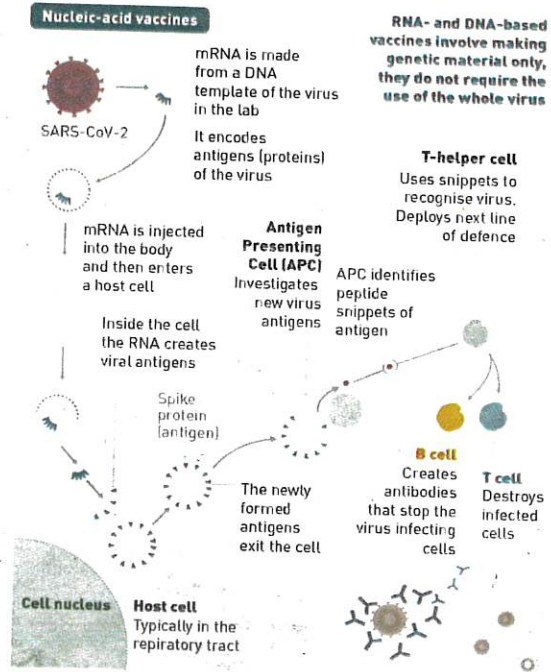
Fauci recalled that some had questioned whether the vaccine would prevent severe forms of Covid-19, not just mild or moderate cases — and this, too, had been resoundingly answered.

"There were 11 severe events, none in the vaccine group — 11 in the placebo group, so that settles the question of whether it prevents severe disease, which it definitely does."

It follows a similarly impressive

TRIGGERING IMMUNITY FROM GENETIC CODE

The Moderna and Pfizer vaccines are nucleic-acid* vaccines. They use a lab-made SARS-CoV-2 messenger RNA (mRNA) to trigger the body's natural defences



*The cell's main information-carrying molecules, which direct protein production

Source: Vaccine pipeline/Nature journal/pfizer.co.uk/modernatx.com AFP

result from American pharmaceutical firm Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech last week, who reported an efficacy of 90 per cent for their vaccine.

Asked whether it was too early to say if mRNA technology had been proven, Fauci, known for his cautious statements, said the jury was definitely in.

"I think when you have two vaccines like this, that have proven to be greater than 90 per cent effective, I think mRNA is here, it's established itself, it doesn't need to prove anything anymore."

"The data speak for themselves; it isn't me, it isn't my opinion — look at the data," he said. AFP

Moderna's shot easier to deliver than Pfizer's

WASHINGTON, D.C.: One of the biggest challenges to delivering a promising coronavirus vaccine based on unprecedented technology to millions around the world just got easier.

When Pfizer announced effective preliminary results for its vaccine candidate last week, the downside was that it must be stored at ultra-cold temperatures, posing significant logistical issues.

But Moderna on Monday upped its rival, offering a vaccine based on the same technology that appears to be equally effective, but which also can be stored at regular refrigerated temperatures for up to a month.

The difference is significant.

Delivering normal vaccines to populations in the remotest regions from India to Africa is difficult enough just on supply and transport issues.

The temperature factor introduces a daunting hurdle, requiring countries to build storage and transportation networks that can keep temperatures far colder than that required for frozen meat.

The massive investment and coordination needed raised the likelihood that only rich nations would be guaranteed access.

"The Moderna vaccine is a much more viable option for low- and middle-income countries than the Pfizer vaccine," said Rachel Silverman, a Washington-based policy fellow at the Center

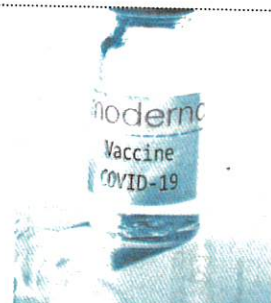
for Global Development.

"Cold-storage needs are less extreme."

Not only can Moderna's vaccine remain stable in the fridge for 30 days, it can also be kept in ordinary freezers for long-term use. Pfizer's vaccine has to be kept at -70°C and could only be refrigerated for up to five days.

Although Moderna has only cut deals with a handful of developed countries for its vaccine, it received funding from the non-profit Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations and may, therefore, be bound to help enable access in low-middle income countries, said Silverman.

Pfizer could also make its vaccine more viable by reformulating



Moderna's vaccine remains stable in the fridge for 30 days and can be stored in ordinary freezers. AFP PIC

it — possibly to a freeze-dried form — to avoid the refrigeration issue, said Gillies O'Bryan-Tear, chair of policy and communications at the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine in the UK. Bloomberg

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 9

RUANGAN : NATION

Vaccination plan to change

Govt clinics to start new immunisation schedule for children

PETALING JAYA: A new vaccination schedule will be introduced for children at all government-run health clinics under the National Immunisation Programme, says the Health Ministry.

In a statement yesterday, Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the change was a result of the ministry switching to a six-in-one combination vaccine from the current five-in-one vaccine.

Combination vaccines merge two or more vaccines so that the child undergoes a minimum amount of shots.

The existing five-in-one vaccine is generically known as the pentavalent DTaP-IPV-Hib, which protects against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio and *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib).

Hib is a bacteria that can cause severe pneumonia, meningitis and other diseases almost exclusively in children aged less than five years.

Hib is transmitted through the respiratory tract from infected to susceptible individuals.

The six-in-one combination vaccine will protect children against the five diseases as well as Hepatitis B (HepB).

Dr Noor Hisham said the switch to the DTaP-IPV-HepB-Hib vaccine would take place in stages, beginning this month, depending on availability.

The previous five-in-one combo has been in use since 2008 in eight states before it was expanded nationwide in 2010.

It was administered in three doses, at the ages of two months, three months and five months, as well as a booster shot at 18 months.

On the other hand, the HepB vaccine has been in use since 1989, where it is administered to a child at birth, a month later and at six months.

Dr Noor Hisham said with the new vaccination schedule, a child only needs to undergo five sessions, down from seven.

"With this reduction, it is easier for parents to ensure their children are given the vaccination injections according to the immunisation schedule," he added.

"As much as four doses will be administered to each child, at the age of two months, three months, five months and 18 months, while the Hepatitis B vaccine that is given after birth will continue.

"The previous Hepatitis B vaccine (doses)



Leveling up: Dr Noor Hisham says the change was a result of the ministry switching to a six-in-one combination vaccine from the current five-in-one vaccine. — Bernama

given at the first and sixth months are no longer required as it is already inside the six-in-one vaccine," he said.

Dr Noor Hisham also assured the track record of the six-in-one vaccine was good based on experience elsewhere, as well as those used in the private healthcare setting here.

"Observations made by WHO (World Health Organisation) showed that up to Oct 20, 49 countries have changed to the hexavalent DTaP-IPV-HepB-Hib vaccine in their respective national immunisation programmes.

"While it has been used at private medical facilities here since 2013 and has been proven to be safe, its use under the National Immunisation Programme at Health Ministry facilities is new.

"As such, the ministry will observe to see whether there will be any adverse events following immunisation on every child after each dosage.

"For this purpose, parents should report any adverse effects experienced by their child to medical officers after each injection

by returning the reporting form, even if the effect is minor, such as a red spot at the injection site," he said.

Dr Noor Hisham added that parents could also report the matter to the National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency via npra.gov.my.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 10

RUANGAN : NATION

Dr Noor Hisham: Five new clusters detected

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PETALING JAYA: Five Covid-19 clusters have ended but five new ones have emerged.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah declared the end of the Bangau-Bangau, Tasik, Olive, Buang Sayang and Kau Sing clusters.

"However, five new clusters were reported today (yesterday).

"They are known as Avenue, Kejora, Kasah, Summer and Mengketil," Dr Noor Hisham said.

The Kejora and Avenue clusters were detected in Sabah while Kasah, Summer and Mengketil were detected in Kuala Lumpur, Penang, Kelantan and Terengganu.

The index case of the Avenue cluster which was detected in Penampang, Sabah, was identified as a supervisor at a construction site following a screening of people exhibiting Covid-19 symptoms there.

The patient was then admitted to a Covid-19 Low-risk Treatment and Quarantine Centre in Sabah.

"We found 109 more cases through active contact tracing in this cluster," he said.

Meanwhile, nine out of 71 people screened for Covid-19 in the Kejora cluster which was detected in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, tested positive for the disease.

In the Klang Valley, the Kasah cluster was reported after 19 people from a security company tested positive for Covid-19 in Kepong.

In the Summer cluster, which was detected

in northeast Penang, 11 people tested positive for the disease and were admitted to Hospital Pulau Pinang.

The Mengketil cluster was detected in Kota Baru, Machang and Tanah Merah in Kelantan as well as Besut in Terengganu.

The index case of this cluster was identified following a screening of a patient with Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) on Nov 13.

"In total, 24 people in this cluster tested positive," Dr Noor Hisham said.

Yesterday, the Health Ministry recorded 1,210 new Covid-19 cases, bringing the total number of cases in Malaysia to 49,730.

Out of the new cases, 1,191 were local transmissions while 19 were imported.

Sabah recorded 499 new cases which include those from the two new clusters.

Meanwhile, Selangor recorded 259 new cases from existing clusters while there were 238 new cases in Kuala Lumpur.

Dr Noor Hisham also said that 1,018 patients recovered from the disease, bringing total recoveries to 36,624.

However, the ministry also recorded five new fatalities with four deaths in Sabah and one in Perak, bringing the death toll to 318.

All except one of the fatalities had underlying health conditions such as high-blood pressure, diabetes, respiratory problems, heart disease and kidney disease.

Those who died were between 25 and 80, with two of them being foreigners.

Dr Noor Hisham also said that 105 patients were being treated at intensive care units, with 40 of them requiring ventilator support.



AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 19

RUANGAN : STAR ASEAN

'Virus survives for three weeks'

Study finds high amount of Sars-CoV-2 on meat kept in fridge or freezer

Singapore AN ongoing study by local researchers found that the Sars-CoV-2 virus, which causes Covid-19, can survive – in sufficiently high amounts – on frozen fish, chicken and pork for three weeks at refrigeration temperature.

Co-led by Dr Danielle Anderson, scientific director of the Duke-NUS Medical School ABSL3 laboratory, in collaboration with Professor Dale Fisher from the National University of Singapore's Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, the study was conducted to test the "longevity and infectivity of Sars-CoV-2" in refrigerated and frozen food.

High amounts of the virus were used to infect pieces of salmon, chicken and pork sourced from

local supermarkets.

The samples were stored at three different temperatures: 4°C (refrigeration temperature), -20°C (freezer temperature) and -80°C (deep freezer temperature generally used in labs to preserve the virus) respectively.

The samples were then harvested at specified time points reflecting food transport timelines.

It was found that the virus was able to survive and remain infectious at refrigeration and freezer temperatures, that is 4°C and -20°C respectively, for three weeks.

As such, it is possible for the virus to survive transport and storage, which occur in controlled settings with consistent temperature and humidity levels, comparable to

that of a laboratory.

The study also noted that an infected food handler could be an index case to a new outbreak, and such an event – though unlikely – could still occur from time to time.

The team has recently been awarded a research grant from the World Health Organisation to further the study.

They are now testing lower amounts of virus on food packaging to replicate a more "natural" situation, where transmission occurs through an infected worker contaminating the food or packaging.

They are also studying the possibility of infection by consuming food that has been contaminated with the Covid-19 virus. — The Straits Times/ANN



Not a cool situation: It is possible for the virus to survive transport and storage, which occur in controlled settings with consistent temperature and humidity levels. — The Straits Times/ANN

AKHBAR : THE SUN

MUKA SURAT : 2

RUANGAN : NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS

1,210 new cases recorded: Health DG

➤ Infections detected yesterday mainly from Klang Valley and Sabah

PETALING JAYA: Selangor, Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya recorded 518 new Covid-19 infections, which is 42.8% of the 1,210 cases detected yesterday, bringing the total number of positive cases in the country to 49,730.

Health Director-General Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said 1,018

patients were reported to have recovered over the last 24 hours as of noon yesterday, bringing the cumulative number of recoveries to 36,624.

Sabah recorded the highest number of local transmission cases with 499, followed by Selangor (259), Kuala Lumpur (238), Negri Sembilan

(67), Perak (47) and Penang (33).

"Kelantan has 19 cases, Johor (14), Kedah (eight), Malacca and Putrajaya have two cases each, while Labuan, Sarawak and Terengganu reported one new case each," he said at his media conference yesterday.

"The number of active cases totalled 12,788."

There were also five fatalities, bringing the cumulative number of deaths in the country due to the pandemic to 318.

"There are 105 positive cases being treated at intensive care units,

with 40 requiring respiratory assistance."

The Health Ministry identified five new clusters yesterday in Sabah, Kuala Lumpur, Penang, Kelantan and Terengganu.

Meanwhile, at a separate media conference, Senior Minister (Security) Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said 517 individuals were detained on Monday for defying the conditional movement control order.

"Of these, 467 were compounded while 50 were remanded for violations that included not

practising physical distancing (187), not wearing face masks (83) and failing to prepare customer registration requirements (63).

"Other offences include activities at entertainment centres (56), gambling (42), crossing state/district borders without permission (37) and others (49)."

Since May 1, a total of 8,427 illegal immigrants, 789 skippers and 351 smugglers were detained under Ops Benteng while 227 boats and 922 land vehicles were also seized during the operation.

'EPF withdrawals should only be stopgap measure'

KUALA LUMPUR: The government was urged to make it clear that the i-Sinar and other Employees Provident Fund (EPF) programmes are merely stopgap measures to help contributors deal with the current economic fallout.

Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs research manager Lau Zheng Zhou said while it is understandable that the people have urgent financial obligations to meet, they must realise that EPF savings should not be the first option for funds.

He noted that about 70% of EPF contributors aged 55 to 60 opt for lump-sum withdrawals upon retirement and half of them exhaust their savings within five years.

Lau said although the EPF i-Sinar facility is expected to be fully taken up and help boost consumption, the multiplier effect could be limited as this is more like replenishing

spending that would have happened in normal times, rather than a massive injection to the economy.

"Also, a portion of these withdrawals could be used to pay debts rather than for consumption per se."

Having said that, Lau believes replenishing Account 1 would be a good measure for contributors once they have recovered their earning capacity.

Individuals should be given the right incentives, he said, to manage personal finances in a responsible manner, and to keep a healthy balance between current and future spending needs.

Universiti Malaya's Faculty of Economics and Administration senior lecturer Dr Mohammad Tawfik Yaakub said the expansion of the scope of i-Sinar is "not quite appropriate" because the government had

agreed to implement targeted withdrawals earlier.

"As such, I'd advise EPF contributors to plan small investments in the form of other savings so that the cash is not used up just to meet immediate needs."

Bank Islam Malaysia Bhd chief economist Dr Mohd Afzanizam Abdul Rashid expressed hope that EPF contributors who are not affected by job losses or pay cuts will refrain from making any withdrawals.

"This is to ensure that they have sufficient savings upon retirement," he said, adding that the Covid-19 pandemic had forced the government to take unconventional measures as many are still adversely affected.

On Monday, the EPF said it expected the i-Sinar facility to benefit two million eligible members, with an estimated RM14 billion to be made available. - Bernama

Covid-19 recovery rate higher despite surge

KUALA LUMPUR: The recovery rate of the third wave of Covid-19 infections is higher compared with previous waves, Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba said yesterday.

He attributed this to the government's public health measures taken via the conditional movement control order (CMCO) and enhanced movement control order (EMCO).

"There are some who want the CMCO to end earlier, but we (the government) need to look at risk assessments, trends or infectivity rate in the community to enable us to make the right decision."

"Although the people can comply with the standard operating procedures, it must be noted that so far there is still no specific medication to treat Covid-19."

"What we have at present is reasonable treatment for a higher recovery rate," he said on Radio Televisyen Malaysia's *Selamat Pagi Malaysia* talk show yesterday.

As of Monday, Adham said, the recovery and discharge rate stood at 73.4% of the 48,520 case tally, while there were 12,601 active cases.

He said the CMCO and EMCO have been the best way to prevent the spread of the virus and flatten the infection curve.

"Restrictions on movement between districts and states help to prevent green areas from turning into orange and red zones, and if this cannot be controlled then EMCO will have to be implemented."

On the Covid-19 vaccine, Adham said the Health Ministry would first require third phase, clinical trial data to determine its effectiveness, safety and quality.

"Although Pfizer Inc and BioNtech SE are targeting a 90% effective rate, while Moderna says it is 94% effective, we still need to consult the vaccine developers." - Bernama

Friday prayers allowed in Perak's green, yellow zones

IPOH: Mosques and surau in green and yellow zones in Perak are allowed to hold Friday and fard (obligatory) prayers.

However, the size of the congregation must be based on the actual capacity of prayer halls, taking into account the need for physical distancing between worshippers.

Perak Islamic Religion and Malay Customs Council chief executive officer Shahrul Azam Shaari said the Sultan of Perak, Sultan Nazrin Shah, had given his consent upon advice by the Perak Fatwa Committee, based on guidelines set by the National Security Council and the Health Ministry.

For the time being, he said, only Malaysian citizens are allowed to join the prayers with their personal details to be checked and recorded before being allowed to enter prayer halls.

He said all religious activities such as talks, lectures between Maghrib and Isyak prayers as well as after Subuh prayers, Dhuha lectures, Yaasin recitation and tahlil are also allowed.

"Women are also allowed to perform the prayers and join the activities in a special area in mosques and surau," he said in a statement yesterday. - Bernama



HELPING HAND ... A healthcare worker taking a tenant who has been living in a shoplot in Labuan for Covid-19 testing under an integrated active screening programme yesterday. - BERNAMAPIX

Adjustment to childhood immunisation programme

KUALA LUMPUR: The Health Ministry has announced changes to the National Immunisation Schedule for Children which is being implemented in stages from early this month.

Health Director-General Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the combination of five vaccine series - diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis-polio-Haemophilus Influenza Type B (pentavalent DTaP-IPV/Hib) - would be

replaced with a six-series vaccination programme.

"The new vaccine series covers six diseases, namely diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, Hepatitis B and Haemophilus Influenza Type B (hexavalent DTaP-IPV-HepB-Hib).

"A total of four doses will be given to children at the age of two months, three months, five months, and 18 months," he said in a statement yesterday.

"The Hepatitis B vaccine that is administered after birth will continue but doses given at one month and six months will no longer be required since the Hepatitis B vaccine component has been included in the six series vaccination programme."

Noor Hisham added the new immunisation schedule will see children getting fewer injections. - Bernama

AKHBAR : THE SUN ON THURSDAY

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUJANGAN : NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS

S. Korea tightens anti-coronavirus measures

SEOUL: South Korea will impose stricter social distancing rules for the greater Seoul area a month after easing them, officials said yesterday, warning of an even bigger crisis if anti-Covid-19 efforts fail to dampen a spike in new cases.

Starting tomorrow, tighter curbs will ban public gatherings of 100 people or more, limit religious services and audiences at sporting events to 30% capacity, and require high-risk facilities including clubs and karaoke bars to broaden distance among guests.

South Korea has been one of the world's coronavirus mitigation

success stories after tackling the first major Covid-19 epidemic outside China with aggressive tracing and testing but continues to battle persistent rises in infections.

The tougher restrictions came as the daily case tally hovered above 200 for a fourth consecutive day, with a series of cluster outbreaks emerging from offices, medical facilities and small gatherings in Seoul and surrounding regions where around half of the country's 52 million population live.

"Our anti-coronavirus efforts are facing a crisis," Prime Minister Chung Sye-kyun said. - Reuters