

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

## Inkubasi virus lebih 14 hari belum pernah dilaporkan di Malaysia

**Putrajaya:** Kes COVID-19 yang membabitkan tempoh inkubasi virus itu lebih daripada 14 hari belum pernah dilaporkan di negara ini, walaupun pernah dilaporkan di luar negara, kata Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah. "Kebanyakan kes COVID-19 di kesan pada hari ketujuh, kelapan hingga hari ke-13. Sebanyak 25 peratus (daripada) yang dikuarantin akan bergejala pada hari ke-12 atau ke-13.

"Tetapi tempoh (inkubasi) untuk 21 hari tidak pernah lagi dilaporkan," katanya pada sidang media di sini, semalam.

Beliau berkata, dalam kes pengembara atau pemastautin tetap yang pulang dari luar negara, 75 peratus daripada 1,181 kes disahkan mendapat jangkitan pada hari pertama ujian dilakukan, manakala 25 peratus lagi di kesan positif pada hari ke-13.

Mana-mana kes didapati positif pada hari ke-13, mereka perlu menjalani kuarantin 14 hari lagi.

Sementara itu, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, seorang wanita disahkan positif selepas hari ke-18 pulang dari Labuan, didapati tidak memaklumkan kepada petugas kesihatan bahawa beliau mengalami gejala ringan pada hari ke-11. Wanita berkenaan didapati pulang dari Labuan pada 10 Oktober lalu dan dikenakan ujian calitan hari pertama.

Kes 30,811 itu sekali lagi menjalani ujian pada hari ke-10 dan dilepaskan daripada kuarantin pada hari ke-14.

"Pada hari pertama ujian dan hari ke-10 beliau didapati negatif. Apabila wanita ini didapati bergejala pada hari ke-18, beliau diuji semula dan didapati positif.

"Siasatan mendapati, pada hari ke-11, wanita ini mempunyai gejala, tetapi tidak dimaklumkan kepada pihak berkuasa," katanya sambil menambah wanita itu hanya ke klinik selepas mengalami gejala lebih teruk.

Dr Noor Hisham mengulas mengenai satu laporan membabitkan seorang wanita disahkan positif COVID-19 pada hari ke-18 di Sarawak.

Dalam perkembangan berkaitan, Dr Noor Hisham turut menasihatkan masyarakat supaya terus mematuhi saranan dan nasihat kesihatan yang sering ditunjukkan, selain menjadikannya kebiasaan baharu.

Masyarakat perlu mengamalkan 3W, iaitu kerap mencuci tangan dengan air dan sabun; memakai pelitup muka serta mematuhi amaran KKM, selain mengelak 3S, iaitu kawasan sesak dan sempit serta berbual pada jarak dekat.

## Nasional

Penularan COVID-19

# 1,000 sembuh, jumlah kes pulih paling tinggi

Bilangan kematian kekal, tiada kluster baharu

Oleh Rafidah Mat Ruzki dan Muhammad Yusri Muzamir  
bhnews@bh.com.my

**Putrajaya:** Kementerian Kesihatan semalam merekodkan sebanyak 1,000 kes pulih COVID-19, jumlah kes pulih paling tinggi sejak penularan virus itu di kesan di negara ini, kata Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

Selain itu, bilangan kes baharu yang dicatat semalam juga turun kepada 659 kes dengan tiada kematian dan tanpa pertambahan kluster baharu dilapor.

Dengan itu, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, jumlah kumulatif kes pulih sepenuhnya daripada COVID-19 di negara ini adalah 21,248 kes, manakala jumlah kes aktif dengan kebolehhajangkitan COVID-19 pula 10,051 kes.

Daripada 659 kes baharu semalam, ada satu kes import yang mendapat jangkitan dari luar negara, iaitu Bangladesh membabitkan bukan warganegara, dan bagi kes tempatan pula Sabah mencatat 529 kes, manakala negeri dan Wilayah Persekutuan di Lembah



Dr Noor Hisham pada sidang media harian di Putrajaya, semalam.

(Foto BERNAMA)

**Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) juga ingin memaklumkan bahawa tiada pertambahan kluster baharu hari ini (semalam). Justeru, jumlah kluster aktif adalah kekal 133 dengan jumlah kluster tamat adalah 114.**

Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan

Klang merekodkan 70 kes.

"Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) juga ingin memaklumkan bahawa tiada pertambahan kluster baharu hari ini (semalam). Justeru, jumlah kluster aktif adalah kekal 133 dengan jumlah kluster tamat adalah 114," katanya pada sidang media perkembangan situasi COVID-19, di sini, semalam.

Mengulas lanjut, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, Sabah dan Lembah Klang menyumbang sebanyak 599 kes atau 90.9 peratus daripada jumlah harian kes positif COVID-19 secara keseluruhan.

"Sabah, Selangor, Kuala Lumpur dan Putrajaya masih berada dalam Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Bersyarat (PKPB)," katanya.

Memperincikan jumlah kes di negeri lain, beliau berkata, Se-

langor mencatat 55 kes, Negeri Sembilan (25), Labuan (12), Kuala Lumpur (11), Sarawak (sembilan), Perak (enam), Putrajaya (empat), Kedah, Pulau Pinang dan Terengganu masing-masing dua kes, manakala Pahang dan Kelantan masing-masing satu kes.

Daripada jumlah kes berkenaan, 137 adalah berkaitan kluster penjara dan pusat tahanan sementara yang terdiri daripada Kluster Penjara Kepadayan (26 kes) dan Kluster Rumah Merah (111 kes).

Hingga kini, ada 83 kes positif COVID-19 yang sedang dirawat di Unit Rawatan Rapi dengan 19 kes memerlukan bantuan pernafasan. Jumlah kumulatif kes kematian COVID-19 di Malaysia kekal 249 kes.

## RM164.6j bendung pandemik di Sabah

**Kuala Lumpur:** Kerajaan memperuntukkan sebanyak RM164.6 juta untuk mempertingkatkan usaha membendung penularan jangkitan COVID-19 di Sabah, dari September hingga Oktober tahun ini.

Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba, berkata daripada jumlah itu, RM103.8 juta adalah daripada peruntukan mengurus dan sudah digunakan bagi menyediakan perlindungan seperti kelengkapan perlindungan diri (PPE), barangan guna habis, bahan uji selain aset mudah alih, termasuk penyumberluaran makanan serta ubat-ubatan.

Baki jumlah berkenaan, iaitu RM60.8 juta adalah daripada peruntukan pembangunan dan digunakan oleh Jabatan Kesihatan

Sabah untuk menambah baik fasiliti kesihatan seperti makmal dan bilik Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU) di hospital dan juga perolehan kenderaan serta peralatan perubatan.

"Pagi ini (kelmarin) Perdana Menteri, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin juga sudah meninjau sendiri persiapan Tentera Udara Diraja Malaysia (TUDM) di Pangkalan TUDM Subang untuk menerbangkan segera sebahagian peralatan berkenaan ke Sabah.

Penerbangan itu turut membawa peralatan yang disumbangkan oleh pelbagai pihak, termasuk pertubuhan bukan kerajaan (NGO) dan swasta," katanya dalam kenyataan, kelmarin.

Beliau berkata, kerajaan memberikan komitmen yang tinggi



Dr Adham Baba

dalam membantu menangani wabak COVID-19 dengan menyalurkan segera peruntukan itu sebagai langkah melindungi keselamatan rakyat di Sabah.

Dalam pada itu, Dr Adham menyeru semua pihak untuk bekerjasama dengan kementerianya selaras dengan pendekatan *whole*

*of government approach* dan *whole of society approach* yang dilihat berkesan bagi menyekat penularan wabak berkenaan secara bersepadu.

Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) sentiasa menasihatkan semua pihak untuk mengamalkan norma baharu dan terus mematuhi garis panduan atau prosedur operasi standard (SOP) yang dikuatkuasakan bagi memastikan rakyat sentiasa selamat dan terpelihara daripada penularan wabak COVID-19 ini.

Dr Adham berkata, kerajaan dan seluruh warga KKM akan terus berusaha dengan penuh dedikasi dan komitmen yang tinggi dalam melaksanakan tanggungjawab untuk membendung wabak COVID-19 sehingga Sabah kembali menjadi Zon Hijau.



AKHBAR : SINAR AHAD

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19

## 'Petugas kesihatan dihantar ke Sabah semua berkelayakan'

**BAGAN SERAI** - Kementerian Kesihatan menafikan dakwaan petugas kesihatan khususnya pembantu perubatan dan jururawat yang dihantar ke Sabah bagi menangani penularan pandemik koronavirus (Covid-19) tidak berpengalaman.

Timbalan Menteri, Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali berkata, kesemua mereka menjalani tapisan sewajarnya sebelum dihantar ke negeri berkenaan.

"Pemilihan adalah dari seluruh negeri. Sebelum kita hantar mereka telah periksa kelayakan, keistimewaan dan kepakaran mereka.

"Kita juga jalankan temu duga untuk memastikan hanya yang terpilih sahaja dihantar," katanya selepas program penyerahan kotak makanan bagi kawasan Dewan Undangan Negeri Semanggol di Pusat Tarbiah PAS di Jalan Gula di sini semalam.

Dr Noor Azmi yang juga Ahli Parlimen Bagan Serai mengulas laporan sebuah portal berita pada 28 Oktober lalu yang memetik seorang doktor perubatan di Sabah yang mendakwa penghantaran sejumlah jururawat dari Semenanjung belum dapat menyelesaikan masalah kekurangan tenaga kerja kesihatan di negeri itu. - *Bernamea*



AKHBAR : SINAR AHAD

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19

6

1 NOVEMBER 2020 • SINAR AHAD



MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19



1,000 kes pulih, jumlah kes baharu Covid-19 turun kepada 659 kes

# Malaysia catat jumlah kes pulih paling tinggi



DR NOOR HISHAM

### PUTRAJAYA

S ejumlah 1,000 kes pulih Covid-19 dicatat semalam iaitu jumlah kes pulih paling tinggi sejak permulaan pandemik itu di negara ini.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, bilangan kes baharu yang dicatat semalam juga turun kepada 659 kes dengan tiada kematian dan tanpa pertambahan kluster baharu dilaporkan.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, dengan itu, jumlah kumulatif kes yang telah pulih sepenuhnya dari Covid-19 di negara ini adalah 21,248 kes manakala jumlah kes aktif dengan kebolehan-

kitan pula 10,051 kes.

“Ingin dimaklumkan daripada 659 kes baharu pada hari ini (semalam) terdapat satu kes import yang mendapat jangkitan dari luar negara iaitu Bangladesh melibatkan bukan warganegara dan bagi kes tempatan pula, Sabah mencatat 529 kes manakala negeri dan Wilayah Persekutuan di Lembah Klang merekodkan 70 kes.

“Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) juga ingin maklumkan bahawa tiada pertambahan kluster baharu pada semalam. Justeru, jumlah kluster aktif adalah kekal 133 kluster dengan jumlah kluster tamat adalah 114 kluster,” kata-

nya pada sidang akhbar perkembangan situasi Covid-19 di sini semalam.

Mengulas lanjut, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, Sabah dan Lembah Klang menyumbang 599 kes atau 90.9 peratus daripada jumlah harian kes positif Covid-19 secara keseluruhan.

Sabah, Selangor, Kuala Lumpur dan Putrajaya masih berada dalam Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Bersyarat (PKPB), katanya.

Memperincikan jumlah kes di negeri lain, beliau berkata, Selangor mencatatkan 55 kes, Negeri Sembilan (25), Labuan (12), Kuala Lumpur (11), Sarawak (sembilan), Perak (enam),

Putrajaya (empat), Kedah, Pulau Pinang dan Terengganu masing-masing dua kes manakala Pahang dan Kelantan masing-masing satu kes.

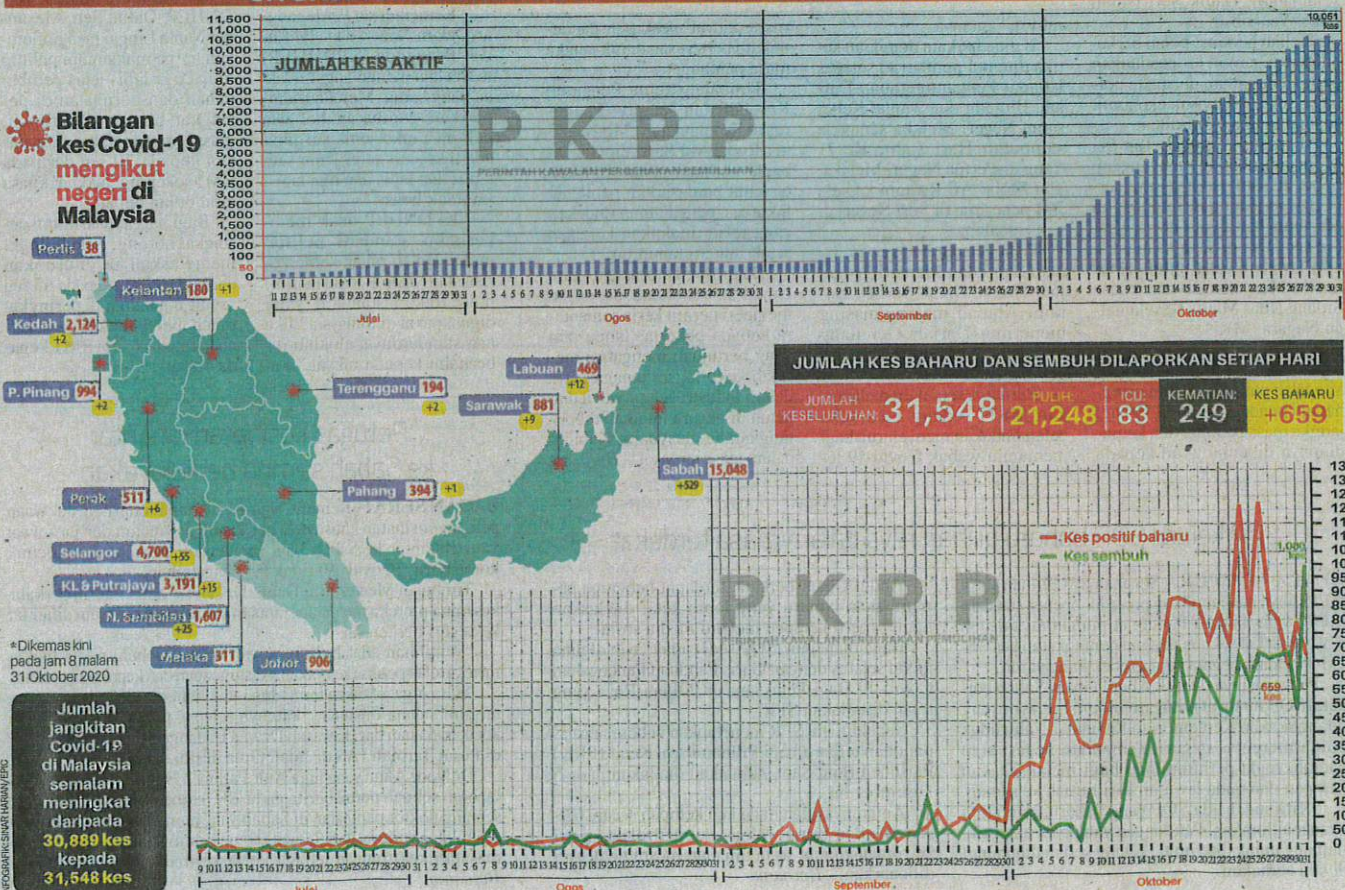
Beliau berkata, daripada jumlah kes itu, 137 adalah berkaitan kluster penjara dan pusat tahanan sementara yang terdiri daripada Kluster Penjara Keparan (26 kes) dan Kluster Rumah Merah (111 kes).

Katanya, sehingga kini, terdapat 83 kes positif Covid-19 yang sedang dirawat di Unit Rawatan Rapi di mana 19 kes memerlukan bantuan pernafasan.

Jumlah kumulatif kes kematian Covid-19 di Malaysia kekal 249 kes. - Bernama

Sabah, Selangor, Kuala Lumpur dan Putrajaya masih berada dalam Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Bersyarat (PKPB).”

## SITUASI TERKINI KES COVID-19 DI MALAYSIA SETAKAT SEMALAM





AKHBAR : KOSMO  
 MUKA SURAT : 4  
 RUANGAN : NEGARA

4 | **Negara!**



**Covid-19 #kitamestimenang**

Tiada kluster baharu, pertama sejak gelombang ketiga  
**1,000 individu sembuh, catat rekod tertinggi**

Oleh SITI A'ISYAH SUKAIMI

**PUTRAJAYA** – Sebanyak 1,000 kes sembuh Covid-19 direkodkan semalam sekali gus tertinggi dilaporkan sejak pandemik Covid-19 melanda negara, menjadikan jumlah kes pulih sepenuhnya sebanyak 21,248 kes.

Pada masa sama, buat pertama kali tiada kluster baharu direkodkan selepas hampir setiap hari pertambahan kluster dilaporkan sejak gelombang ketiga wabak tersebut bermula.

Berdasarkan data semalam, sebanyak 659 kes baharu dilaporkan menjadikan jumlah kes positif di seluruh negara sebanyak 31,548 kes yang disumbangkan oleh 33 kluster aktif.

Selain itu, tiada kematian direkodkan dan jumlah tersebut kekal sebanyak 249 kes atau 0.8 peratus daripada jumlah keseluruhan kes di seluruh negara.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr. Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, Sabah mencatatkan sebanyak 529 kes atau 80.3 peratus dan negeri-negeri di Lembah Klang merekodkan 70 kes atau 10.6 peratus daripada jumlah keseluruhan kes.

"Keempat-empat negeri ini telah menyumbang sebanyak 599 kes atau 90.9 peratus daripada jumlah harian kes positif Covid-19 secara keseluruhan.

"Selain itu, sebanyak 137 kes atau 20.8 peratus adalah berkaitan kluster-kluster penjara dan pusat tahanan sementara terdiri daripada Kluster Penjara Kepadayan (26 kes) dan Kluster Rumah Merah (111 kes)," katanya di sini semalam.

Mengulas lanjut, beliau berkata, sehingga kini jumlah kluster aktif di seluruh negara kekal 133 kluster, manakala sebanyak 114 kluster dilaporkan tamat.

Berhubung satu kes import, Noor Hisham berkata, ia memabitkan warga asing yang mendapat jangkitan dari Bangladesh.

Ditanya kes seorang wanita di Sarawak yang disahkan positif pada hari ke-18, beliau menjelaskan, pesakit tersebut sudah bergejala pada hari ke-11, namun dia tidak memaklukkannya kepada petugas kesihatan.

"Wanita tersebut pulang dari Labuan pada 10 Oktober dan telah dikuarantin di Sarawak. Seperti biasa, kita menjalankan ujian pada hari pertama dan ia negatif," seterusnya pada hari



**PETUGAS kesihatan memotong gelang merah jambu seorang penduduk Kampung Padang Che Mas, Baling selepas tempoh Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Bersyarat (PKPB) tamat semalam.**

**Angka Terkini Kes Covid-19 Di Malaysia sehingga semalam**

	Jumlah
• Kes baharu	659
• Import: 1 Tempatan: 658	
• Pulih	1,000
• Kematian	0
• Masih dirawat	10,051
• Jumlah kes sembuh	21,248
• Jumlah Kematian	249
<b>Jumlah kes keseluruhan</b>	<b>31,548</b>

ke-10 ujian ulangan juga negatif serta dilepaskan pada hari ke-14.

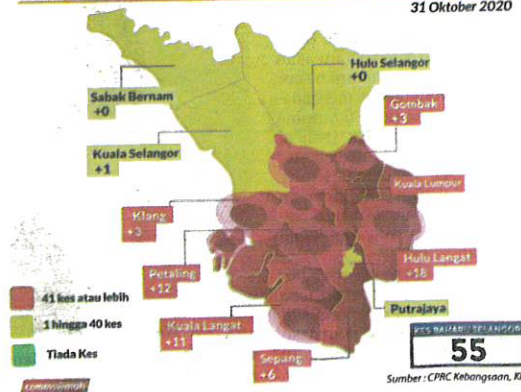
"Pada hari ke-18, wanita tersebut didapati positif Covid-19, namun siasatan semula telah dijalankan dan dia bergejala pada hari ke-11 tetapi tidak dimaklumkan kepada petugas kesihatan.

"Bagaimanapun, pada hari ke-18 keadaannya lebih teruk dan dia hadir ke klinik seterusnya apabila calitan dijalankan, ujian didapati positif Covid-19," ujarnya.

**SITUASI TERKINI**

**KES BAHARU COVID-19 DI SELANGOR**

31 Oktober 2020



Sumber: CPKC Kebangsaan, KKM

AKHBAR : KOSMO  
 MUKA SURAT : 5  
 RUANGAN : NEGARA

## Tinggalkan anak demi perjuangan Covid-19

**PUTRAJAYA** – Berbekalkan semangat juang melawan pandemik Covid-19, seorang doktor pakar sanggup berjauhan dengan lima anak yang masih kecil sejak 15 Oktober lalu untuk bersama petugas kesihatan lain dalam membendung penularan wabak di Sabah.

Dr. Noor Fadzleeyanna Mohd. Yahaya, 36, yang juga Pakar Obstetrik dan Ginekologi (O&G) Hospital Klang dengan rela hati menyuarakan keinginan menyertai mobilisasi wira dan wirawati Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) dalam membantu petugas lain dan merawat pesakit di negeri tersebut.

Pengorbanannya yang sanggup meninggalkan lima anak berusia 12, 10, lapan dan enam tahun serta bayi berusia tujuh bulan wajar dijadikan pengajaran buat rakyat Malaysia untuk terus mematuhi SOP cegah penularan Covid-19.

Bercerita lanjut, Noor Fadzleeyanna berkata, dia sendiri yang menghantar nama untuk menyertai pasukan di Hospital Tawau selepas ketua jabatan memaklumkan doktor pakar diperlukan sana.



**NOOR FADZLEEYANNA (kanan)** bersama petugas barisan hadapan di Hospital Tawau, Sabah.

"Saya belum pernah pernah terbabit dalam misi kemanusiaan jadi saya teringin menimba pengalaman melaksanakan tugas sebegini.

"Suami memberi kebenaran untuk saya sertai mobilisasi tersebut malah kedua ibu bapa juga menyokong walaupun pada mulanya mereka bimbang," katanya ketika dihubungi Kosmo! Ahad di sini semalam.

Dalam pada itu, Noor Fadzleeyanna berkata, suaminya, Dr. Muhammad Lutfi Ahamad Fouzi yang juga Pegawai Perubatan Hospital Klang menjaga kelima-lima anak mereka.

"Anak sulung memahami saya perlu ke Sabah kerana setiap hari dia mendengar berita mengenai wabak itu dan berjanji untuk menjaga adik-adiknya.

"Ini pertama kali saya tinggal-

kan mereka dalam tempoh yang lama," jelasnya.

Bagi melepaskan kerinduan, dia akan menghubungi mereka menerusi panggilan video setiap malam sekiranya tidak bertugas bagi melepaskan rindu.

Noor Fadzleeyanna menyeru rakyat Malaysia untuk terus patuh saranan dan nasihat KKM bagi membendung penularan Covid-19.



AKHBAR : NEW SUNDAY TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NEWS / NATION

NewSundayTimes, NOVEMBER 1, 2020

4

NEWS / Nation

NO NEW CLUSTERS

# NATION SETS NEW DAILY RECOVERY RECORD

Number of recovered Covid-19 cases hit 1,000 yesterday, no deaths reported

ADIB POVERA  
AND TEH ATHIRA YUSOF  
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**M**ALAYSIA recorded its highest number of Covid-19 recoveries yesterday at 1,000, bringing the tally to 21,248.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said 659 new Covid-19 cases were reported yesterday, which brings the number of active cases to 10,051.

This is the second time in a

week that Malaysia recorded higher recoveries than new cases. On Thursday, 685 patients recovered from the disease, creating a record for the most number of recoveries in a day.

He said Sabah remained as the state with the highest number of new daily cases at 529 due to mass targeted screenings.

"There is only one imported case involving a foreigner entering the country from Bangladesh."

Dr Noor Hisham said 83 positive cases were being treated in intensive care units with 19 requiring ventilator support.

He said the number of active Covid-19 clusters stood at 133 after no new clusters were reported up to noon yesterday.

However, 270 out of the 659 cases reported to the ministry over the past 24 hours were detected from the existing clusters.

From the total, Dr Noor Hisham

said almost half or 205 of the 529 new cases detected in Sabah were from clusters that were categorised as active.

A similar trend was also detected in Putrajaya and Labuan.

The existing clusters, he said, contributed to the majority of the new cases in Negri Sembilan, Kuala Lumpur and Sarawak.

"All of the new cases detected in Kedah (two), Terengganu (two) and one case in Pahang are from the existing clusters," said Dr Noor Hisham during a press conference in Putrajaya near here yesterday.

The country's Covid-19 death toll, he said, remained at 249 as no fatalities were reported to the National Crisis Preparedness and Response Centre (CPRC).

Dr Noor Hisham said the Conditional Movement Control Order had brought down the R-

naught (R0), which dipped lower than forecast.

Dr Noor Hisham said judging from the 659 cases recorded yesterday, the R0 could be 1.0 or lower.

"The projected figures were lower than predicted. The ministry earlier expected a four-digit spike of 1,357 cases based on the infectivity rate of R0 1.5, on Thursday.

"If the R0 level was at 1.0, Malaysia would have gotten 950 cases on Friday and 955 cases on Saturday (yesterday).

"However, there are only 659 cases today (yesterday).

"This means our R0 level could be less than 1.0," said Dr Noor Hisham.

For an R0 level of 1, it means each Covid-19 patient could infect one more person.

Dr Noor Hisham hoped to reduce the infectivity level to R0

0.3 in the next two weeks following increased efforts by health authorities.

"The public can play a part to ensure that standard operating procedures are adhered to in our efforts to curb the pandemic."

Dr Noor Hisham also said that although there had been reports of positive cases with incubation period exceeding 14 days, they did not take place in the country.

He said it was unlikely that the Covid-19 incubation period would exceed 14 days, referring to a case involving a patient who was tested positive after being released from the mandatory 14-day quarantine.

"Usually, cases are found positive from Day seven to Day 13. If the cases are positive based on the second test, they will have to undergo another 14 days of mandatory quarantine."



Medical frontliners on duty yesterday at Plaza Hentian Kajang, which is under the Enhanced Movement Control Order. (Inset) Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah. PIC BY ASYRAF HAMZAH



AKHBAR : SUNDAY STAR

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NATION

4 Nation

SUNDAY STAR, SUNDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2020

# Is the current law potent enough?

## Views differ on giving Healthy Ministry more bite

By CLARISSA CHUNG  
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**PETALING JAYA:** Attention is now on the effectiveness of the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Act in Malaysia's fight against the Covid-19 contagion.

Lawmakers and experts have different views on the need to amend the law to give the Health Ministry more bite in enforcing standard operating procedure (SOP) to curb the virus spread.

Beaufort MP Datuk Azizah Mohd Dun said it was vital for the Dewan Rakyat to deliberate on proposed amendments to the Act in view of the number of infections not letting up in the country.

"I'm sure the ministry has studied the matter and engaged with experts in the field. They are making such a proposal for health purposes, so we must look into the matter.

"We parliamentarians will review the information and the brief that were presented to us, and we will consider accordingly," she said.

On Friday, Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah raised the ministry's concerns about non-compliance with the SOP, especially amid the possibility of elections being held.

Amendments to the Act, also identified as

Act 342, have been sent to the Attorney General.

"It is time that we gave Act 342 a relook as it was enacted in 1988. Back then, we did not expect to have a pandemic of this scale," he said.

Among others, it has been proposed that the fine for compoundable offences under the Act be raised from RM1,000 to RM10,000.

Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) president Prof Datuk Dr M. Subramaniam agreed that the Act must be examined to manage the pandemic better.

"The Act should be stricter, so that the Covid-19 virus can be controlled," he said, citing for instance that the fines could be increased.

He said it was fair for the ministry to suggest such changes to the law, especially if there is a growing non-compliance with the SOP.

"If people are not following the SOP, the next course of action would then be to take preventive action," he said.

However, Perikatan Nasional Backbenchers Club chairman Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim said the emphasis should be on tightening enforcement of the Act.

"We need to get more people involved, get volunteers from organisations such as the Malaysian Civil Defence Force. There isn't a need to increase fines. It is not suitable in the

present economic climate," he said.

He said sterner action should only be taken in places hit hard by the virus as the severity of the contagion was not the same across the country.

"It cannot be that when one state has a severe Covid-19 situation, the rest of the country has to follow stricter rules as well," he said.

Medical Practitioners Coalition Association of Malaysia president Dr Raj Kumar Maharajah also said the current penalties stipulated in Act 342 were already adequate to prevent people from violating rules.

"The Act allows for the Health Ministry to issue a compound of a maximum RM1,000, which is sufficient. People have lost their jobs. Even if you fine them RM10,000, as suggested, they will not be able to pay. You may end up sending everyone to jail," he said.

Under the current Sections 24 and 25 of the Act, an offender may be jailed for no more than two years or fined or both.

Upon the second or subsequent offence, the person may face imprisonment of no more than five years or a fine or both.

Dr Raj Kumar said what was currently needed was to engage, educate and enhance enforcement among the public.

"It's not a time to increase fines and anger the people even more.




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"Leaders must show a good example. I would suggest one amendment to the Act - if leaders were to flout the law, they should be paying double or triple the penalty," he said.

Universiti Malaya professor of epidemiology and public health Prof Dr Sanjay Rampal said a hefty fine would "do more harm than good".

"The aim of compounds should be to rehabilitate, rather than criminalise non-compliers," he said.

He said, however, the Act could be clearly defined to list conditions for larger fines, such as repeat offences.



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# MB: Border reopening talks ongoing despite red zone status

By MOHD FARHAAN SHAH  
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**JOHOR BARU:** Economic activities, as well as the discussion to fully reopen the border with Singapore, are continuing even though Johor Baru is now a Covid-19 red zone.

Menteri Besar Datuk Hasni Mohammad said the red zone status, which was declared on Thursday, had not affected the discussions.

"What is important is the ability to control and making sure the standard operating procedure (SOP) can be followed when the border reopens to daily travellers.

"We have handed over our suggestion on the SOP to the Health Ministry which would forward it to its Singaporean counterpart during their discussion on the matter.

"The red zone status should not be an obstacle as when Singapore was recording a spike in Covid-19 cases, Malaysia still continued to send essential items across the border," he said when met after officiating the state-level Global Down Syndrome Awareness Month yesterday.

Hasni hopes the border will fully reopen as soon as possible to boost bilateral trade.

On the red zone status, he said it would not affect economic activities in Johor Baru as the instruction was only for schools and other educational institutions to close.

Besides Johor Baru, the red zone area covers

“ We have handed over our suggestion on the SOP to the Health Ministry. ”

Datuk Hasni Mohammad

Pasir Gudang and Kulai with 376 institutions ordered to close until Nov 14.

Also affected by the closure order are 124 preschools, nine community rehabilitation centres, 105 daycare centres, two senior citizen activities centres and two children activities centres as well as 217 Islamic religious institutions which are under the purview of the Johor Islamic Religious Department.

Meanwhile, state health and environment committee chairman R. Vidyantathan said although Johor Baru was a red zone now, it did not necessitate the conditional movement control order in the state capital.

"This is because most cases, which are from clusters, are found in contagion within the family and the workplace of their family members. There are four active clusters in Johor - Meldrum (six cases), Bayu (eight), Kempas (42) and Rinting (10)," he said.



# Covid-19 cases continue to drop

Health DG: R0 level less than 1, with no new clusters and deaths reported

By AUSTIN CAMOENS  
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**PUTRAJAYA:** The number of Covid-19 cases in Malaysia has seen a drop, with a record number of recoveries, along with no new clusters or deaths.

Of the 659 new cases, Sabah continues to record the highest number with 529 detected.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said no fatalities were reported, with the death toll remaining at 249.

A total of 1,000 patients have been discharged - the highest so far - bringing the total

number of recoveries to 21,248 or 67.4%

"The total number of active cases in the country has now gone up to 10,051 cases.

"Cumulatively, the country's total number of cases since the outbreak began in January is 31,548.

"Currently, 83 people are being treated in intensive care units, with 19 of them requiring ventilator support," Dr Noor Hisham told reporters in his daily briefing yesterday.

He said no new clusters were detected yesterday, with all new cases related to existing clusters.

Aside from the 529 cases in Sabah, Selangor recorded 55 cases followed by Negri Sembilan

(25), Labuan (12), Kuala Lumpur (11), Sarawak (9), Perak (6), Putrajaya (4), Terengganu (2), Penang (2), Pahang (1) and Kelantan (1).

"We also recorded one imported case on Saturday involving a Bangladesh national who got infected overseas," he said.

The health director-general said despite daily three-digit Covid-19 infection figures in the country, Malaysia was still on track to recovery. He said this was because the projected figures were much lower than expected.

The Health Ministry, he said, had predicted a four-digit spike of 1,357 cases on Thursday based on the 1.5 infectivity rate-known as R0 (pronounced R-naught).

"If the R0 level was at 1.0, Malaysia would have recorded 950 cases on Oct 30 and 955 cases on Oct 31.

"But, there were only 659 cases on Oct 31. This means our R0 level is less than 1.0," he said, adding that this meant that the conditional movement control order that allowed only the economic sector to function had a positive effect on reducing the R0 level.

An R0 level of one means that each Covid-19 patient will infect one other person.

Dr Noor Hisham also credited the lowered R0 level to the efforts of the Health Ministry, adding that they were now targeting to reduce the infectivity rate to 0.3.