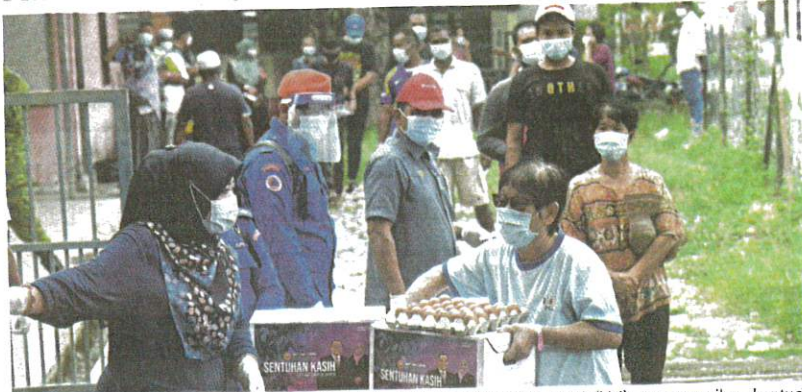


AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

## Penularan COVID-19



Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Kebajikan Negeri Kedah, Hglimaton Shaadiah Saad (kiri) menyampaikan bantuan COVID-19 di Dewan Kampung Napoh, Jitra. (Foto BERNAMA)

## 25 jangkitan baharu

12 kes positif daripada Kluster PUI Sivagangga

Oleh Samadi Ahmad  
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**Putrajaya:** Sebanyak 25 kes baharu COVID-19 dilaporkan, semalam, termasuk 12 jangkitan daripada Kluster Pesakit Bawah Siasatan (PUI) Sivagangga yang dikesan di tiga negeri.

Setakat jam 12 tengah hari semalam, pertambahan itu menjadikan jumlah kes positif kini mencecah 9,063, manakala jumlah kes aktif dengan kebolehhangkitan COVID-19 pula 210 kes.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata sembilan daripadanya adalah kes import yang mendapat jangkitan di luar negara membabitkan lapan rakyat Malaysia dan seorang bukan warganegara.

Ia meliputi empat jangkitan di Sabah membabitkan kes import dari Filipina; Emiriah Arab Bersatu (satu kes di Selangor); Turki (satu kes di Selangor); Djibouti, Afrika Timur (satu kes di Kuala Lumpur); Australia (satu kes di Kuala Lumpur) dan Yaman (satu kes di Sarawak).

Beliau berkata, baki 16 jangkitan baharu adalah penularan dalam negara dengan 15 kes membabitkan rakyat Malaysia dan satu lagi bukan warganegara.

"Bagi penularan dalam negara membabitkan rakyat Malaysia, 10 kes adalah daripada Kluster PUI Sivagangga di Perlis dan masing-masing satu kes daripada kluster sama di Kedah ser-



Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah

ta Pulau Pinang.

"Selain itu, dua kes Penyakit Seperti Influenza (ILI) di klinik sentinel dan satu kes saringan bergejala di Kuala Lumpur yang sudah dimasukkan ke Hospital Sungai Buloh.

"Satu kes jangkitan dalam negara membabitkan bukan warganegara pula adalah saringan tahanan yang juga pendatang asing tanpa izin (PATTI) di Johor," katanya dalam kenyataan, semalam.

Menjelaskan lanjut, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, Kementerian Kesihatan melaporkan pertambahan 13 lagi kes positif dalam Kluster PUI Sivagangga, termasuk 12 jangkitan baharu semalam.

Hingga jam 12 tengah hari kelmarin, katanya, seramai 3,246 orang telah disaring dalam kluster itu dengan 43 kes dikesan positif membabitkan 31 di Kedah, Perlis (11) serta Pulau Pinang (satu), manakala 2,320 lagi negatif dan 883 masih menunggu keputusan.

Beliau berkata, seramai 1,884 kontak rapat telah dikenal pasti dan bakal disampel di Perlis dan Pulau Pinang susulan kes positif yang diumumkan semalam.

"Sebanyak 10 jangkitan baharu di Perlis, hari ini (semalam), serta kes ke-9,002 yang dilaporkan di negeri itu pada 4 Ogos

lalu, terdiri daripada sebuah keluarga. Ini menjadikan kesemua 11 kes di Perlis itu adalah daripada Kluster Sivagangga.

"Hasil siasatan mendapati salah seorang ahli keluarga itu (kes ke-9,054) adalah pelanggan tetap gerai milik kes ke-8,976 (generasi pertama kluster terbabit). Ini menjadikan kes ke-9,054 adalah generasi kedua dan 10 ahli keluarganya pula generasi ketiga kluster itu.

"Semua 10 kes baharu ini tidak bergejala dan dimasukkan ke Hospital Tuanku Fauziah, Perlis, untuk rawatan," katanya.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, satu kes baharu di Kedah (kes ke-9,053) adalah kontak rapat kepada kes ke-9,035 (suami kepada kes ke-90) yang telah dilaporkan pada 6 Ogos lalu.

"Satu kes baharu di Pulau Pinang (kes ke-9,052) pula disaring kerana pada 30 Julai lalu, beliau telah pulang ke kampung halaman yang juga antara kawasan yang kini berada bawah pelaksanaan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Diperketatkan (PKPD) Secara Pentadbiran (TEMCO).

"Saringan kontak rapat dan aktiviti pengesanan kes secara aktif diteruskan. Langkah pencegahan seperti proses nyah kuman dan nyah cemar dijalankan di kawasan yang telah dikenal pasti berkait rapat dengan kluster ini," katanya.

Dalam pada itu, 15 pesakit pulih dilaporkan, semalam, menjadikan jumlah kumulatifnya mencecah 8,728 (96.3 peratus), manakala tiada kematian baharu akibat COVID-19 dengan angka kes kekal 125 (1.38 peratus).

Ketika ini, dua kes sedang dirawat di unit rawatan rapi (ICU) dengan satu memerlukan bantuan pernafasan.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NEWS/NATION

NewStraitsTimes . SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 2020

## 6 | NEWS / Nation



It is all quiet in Pekan Napoh, Jitra, following the implementation of the Targeted Enhancement Movement Control Order due to rise in cases from the Sivagangga Persons Under Investigation cluster. BERNAMA PIC

## PANDEMIC WATCH

## 25 NEW COVID-19 CASES RECORDED YESTERDAY

12 cases are linked to the Sivagangga Persons Under Investigation cluster, says Health D-G

## KUALA LUMPUR

**T**WENTY-FIVE new Covid-19 cases were recorded yesterday, with 12 of them linked to the Sivagangga Persons Under Investigation (PUI) cluster.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said there were 210 active cases, who had been isolated and were undergoing treatment.

Of the 25 new cases, 16 were local transmissions, while nine were imported, comprising eight Malaysians and a foreigner.

The imported cases comprised four who returned from the Philippines and were detected in Sabah, the United Arab Emirates (one; in Selangor), Djibouti, East Africa (one; in Kuala Lumpur), Australia (one; in Kuala Lumpur) and Yemen (one; in Sarawak).

"The 16 local transmissions involved 15 Malaysians and one foreigner," he said in a statement yesterday.

He said 12 of the local transmission cases were linked to the Sivagangga PUI cluster, with 10 cases detected in Perlis, and one each in Kedah and Penang.

Others were detected in Perak (two with Influenza Like Illness at a sentinel clinic) and Kuala Lumpur (one during symptomatic screening and was sent to Sungai Buloh Hospital), and the foreigner, an illegal immigrant; was detained in Johor.

"The Health Ministry reported 13 more Covid-19 positive cases in the Sivagangga PUI Cluster, including the 12 new cases reported today (yesterday).

"Up to Aug 6 noon, 3,246 people have been screened for Covid-19 in this cluster, with 2,320 testing negative and 883 awaiting test results."

From the 43 positive Covid-19 cases, 31 were detected in Kedah, 11 in Perlis and one in Penang.

A total of 1,884 close contacts had been identified and would be screened in Perlis and Penang.

"The 10 cases reported in Perlis today (yesterday), as well as Case 9,002 reported in Perlis on Aug 4, 2020 were from the same family. This makes 11 detected cases in Perlis from the Sivagangga cluster," said Dr Noor Hisham.

"Investigations revealed that one of the family members, Case 9,054, who is the second generation of the cluster, was a regular

patron of an eatery owned by Case 8,976 (first generation of the cluster)."

He said Case 9,054's 10 family members, the third generation of the cluster, were asymptomatic and were being treated at Tuanku Fauziah Hospital.

Case 9,053 (in Kedah) was a close contact of Case 9,035 (the husband of Case 90) reported on Aug 6, 2020, while the new case in Penang (Case 9,052) was screened on July 30 after returning to hometown, an area placed under the Enhanced Movement Control Order (EMCO).

"Close contact screening and active case detection are ongoing. Preventive measures like disinfection and sanitisation have been conducted at places linked to the cluster," said Dr Noor Hisham.

He said 15 more Covid-19 patients had recovered and were discharged yesterday. He said the total number of patients who had fully recovered up to noon yesterday stood at 8,728 (96.3 per cent) of the cumulative 9,063 confirmed cases of Covid-19.

"Two patients are in the Intensive Care Unit, with one on ventilator support."

With no new deaths reported to the Crisis Preparedness and Response Centre, the death toll remains at 125 (1.38 per cent of the cumulative cases).

## Kulim folk upset to lose green zone status

**KULIM:** With night markets closed and shopping malls deserted, Kulim is heading for quiet days ahead.

Since Tuesday, six Covid-19 cases had been detected there from the Sivagangga Cluster, which erupted in Napoh last week.

Now, town folk are worried and knowing that it took only one person to start it all over again has left them angry and helpless.

Nurul Azita Athirah Aziz, 25, said she had decided not to leave her house unless it was necessary.

"The recent cases make a lot of people angry and worried. It ap-

pears that people have been too comfortable with our green zone status and let their guard down.

"Now, I am scared to leave my house even to shop for groceries," she told the *New Straits Times*.

Adlin Suraya Che Jafri, 25, said the cluster could have been avoided if the people had followed the government's standard operating procedure (SOP).

"I am upset because our district could have remained a green zone until a vaccine was found if only the home quarantine measures were strictly followed.

"The person who broke the rules is selfish and has put everybody's health at risk."

Adlin said she was taking precautions, including leaving her house only when it was necessary, due to the rise in infections stemming from the new cluster.

"I also hope people would stop sharing unverified information or misinformation on social media because it could cause panic.

"We need to work together to stop the chain of transmission. We have done it before and we can do it again.

"All we need to do is follow the directives from the Health Ministry."

Kulim, which had been a green zone since July 21, had its status changed to yellow following the new cases.

Production purchaser Muhammad Aiman Md Jonid, 25, urged the people to stop circulating fake news on social media.

"I understand that such messages are meant to caution people out there, but fake news and misinformation can do more

**I am upset because our district could have remained a green zone until a vaccine was found if only the home quarantine measures were strictly followed.**

**ADLIN SURAYA CHE JAFRI**  
Kulim resident

harm than good. What is important is to follow the government's SOP.

Aiman hoped that more SOP compliance checks could be carried out at crowded places in Kulim.

A teacher, who wanted to be known only as Mohamad, said since Wednesday, many parents had stopped sending their children to school even before news of the first Covid-19 case in

Kulim was announced by the authorities.

"Many people make decisions based on their own perceptions, without taking into account official information from the health authorities. I hope they would not make hasty decisions based on unverified information. What's important is to be vigilant and follow the SOP.

"At times like this, we get to see how powerful the social media is. I hope people will be more responsible with what they post online. As for me, I have become a bit paranoid of crowded areas."

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NATION

## Blood bank appeals for donations

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The National Blood Centre is appealing for blood donations from members of the public, especially those with blood type A and B, to meet daily demand at hospitals.

The centre pointed out that with the Covid-19 situation, more blood reserves were now required.

"Carry out your social responsibility to help save patients in need," the centre said yesterday.

Those who wish to donate can check out blood donation service locations organised by the centre via [http://pdn.gov.my/index.php?option=com\\_jevents&v](http://pdn.gov.my/index.php?option=com_jevents&v).

The National Blood Centre in Jalan Tun Razak is open Monday to Friday, from 7.30am to 8pm, and on Saturday and Sunday (8am to 6pm).

Operation hours at the Midvalley Donation Suite, Mid Valley Mega Mall, is from Monday to Sunday (10am to 9pm) while the Puspanita Blood Donation Suite, Puspanitapuri in Putrajaya opens from Monday to Sunday (10am to 6pm). — Bernama

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 8

RUANGAN : NATION

8 Nation

THE STAR, SATURDAY 8 AUGUST 2020

**Covid-19: Current situation globally**

(As at 7pm Aug 7, 2020)

	Malaysia											
	New cases		Total cases		Total deaths		Total recovered					
	25		9,063		125		8,728					
Asean+	Philippines	Indonesia	China	Singapore	Japan	S. Korea	Thailand	Vietnam	Myanmar	Cambodia	Brunei	Laos
Confirmed cases	122,754	121,226	84,565	54,797	42,263	14,519	3,345	750	359	243	142	20
Deaths	2,168	5,593	4,634	27	1,026	303	58	10	6	0	3	0
Recovered	66,852	77,557	79,088	48,031	28,877	13,543	3,148	392	308	214	138	19
Global Top 10	US	Brazil	India	Russia	South Africa	Mexico	Peru	Chile	Colombia	Spain		
Confirmed cases	5,032,805	2,917,562	2,030,001	877,135	538,184	462,690	455,409	366,671	357,710	354,530		
Deaths	162,812	98,644	41,673	14,725	9,604	50,517	20,424	9,889	11,939	28,500		
Recovered	2,577,349	2,047,660	1,378,642	683,592	387,316	308,848	310,337	340,168	192,355	N/A		

# Sivagangga cluster spreads out of state

By FATIMAH ZAINAL  
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## 12 new infections found in Perlis and Penang, says DG

**PETALING JAYA:** The Sivagangga cluster has spread out from Kedah, with 10 in a family in Perlis infected and Penang breaking its green state streak after recording its first active case in months.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, who disclosed this, said 12 of the 25 new infections reported yesterday were from the Persons Under Investigation (PUI) Sivagangga cluster in Napoh, Kedah.

Of the 12 new PUI Sivagangga cluster cases, 10 were in Perlis, one in Penang and another in Kedah,

said Dr Noor Hisham.

"The 10 new cases reported in Perlis and another case previously reported in the state on Aug 4, are all from the same family.

"This means all 11 cases in Perlis stemmed from the PUI Sivagangga cluster. Investigations found that one of the family members was a loyal customer of the restaurant belonging to the Sivagangga cluster index case," he said in a statement yesterday.

He said all 10 new cases were asymptomatic and the patients were being treated at Hospital

Tuanku Fauziah in Perlis.

Green state Penang recorded its first case after a person tested positive upon returning home on July 30.

"The person's hometown was in an area that is now under the targeted enhanced movement control order," said Dr Noor Hisham, adding that the new case in Kedah was a close contact to a previously reported case on Thursday.

A total of 1,884 close contacts were identified and will be tested in Perlis and Penang, following the new positive cases in these states, said Dr Noor Hisham.

Currently, there is a total of 31 positive Covid-19 cases in Kedah, 11 in Perlis and one in Penang, all from the PUI Sivagangga cluster.

As of Thursday at noon, a total of 3,246 people had been screened from this cluster, said Dr Noor Hisham.

Out of this, 43 tested positive for Covid-19, 2,320 were negative and another 883 were still awaiting their results.

On Thursday, Dr Noor Hisham said that the PUI Sivagangga cluster might be from a super-spreader strain of Covid-19 as the cluster had

a faster rate of transmission compared with the nine other clusters in other states.

Separately, Perlis Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Azlan Man said in a press conference yesterday that the state government might consider putting two villages under the targeted enhanced movement control order following the 10 new cases.

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



AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 16

RUANGAN : NATION

16 Nation

THE STAR, SATURDAY 8 AUGUST 2020

# More access to Hep C treatment

## Govt clinics nationwide provide screening and medical care for patients

By LOH FOON FONG  
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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Those at risk of getting Hepatitis C can now get screened, tested and treated if needed, at any Health Ministry clinic nationwide, said the ministry.

National Head of Gastroenterology and Hepatology Datuk Dr Muhammad Radzi Abu Hassan said previously, Hepatitis C treatment was only available in hospitals, but the government had decentralised testing and treatment to give patients more access.

The health clinics are equipped with Hepatitis C antibody rapid diagnostic test (RDT) kits and direct acting antivirals (DAAs).

The high-risk group for Hepatitis C, which transmits mainly through blood, includes intravenous drug users who share needles, those who had blood transfusions or organ transplants before 1994 and those who share personal items such as razors, accidental injury when handling contaminated needles, dialysis and possibly those with tattoos and body piercings.

"Some of the clinics have screened more than 50 patients each since the recovery movement control order (MCO) was announced in June," he said.

In July 2017, *The Star* carried a front page story highlighting the plight of Malaysians who suffered from Hepatitis C.

Only a fraction of patients were able to afford the full course of treatment that could cost up to RM300,000.

Universiti Malaya consultant hepatologist Prof Dr Rosmawati Mohamed had then estimated that more than 500,000 Malaysians aged between 15 and 60 were infected with Hepatitis C, but 74% or 386,000 had active or persistent infection which required treatment.

Subsequently, the government issued a government-use compulsory licence to enable the import of generic versions of the Hepatitis C drug sofosbuvir after failing to reach an agreeable price with the drug company.

In March 2018, the drug combi-

nation sofosbuvir and daclatasvir was delivered and used in the Health Ministry's hospitals.

Besides the usual blood samples collected for laboratory testing, the Health Ministry and the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics, funded by Unitaaid, introduced and tested the Hepatitis C RDT in 25 health clinics starting March last year.

Dr Muhammad Radzi said the majority of patients were non-cirrhotic and could easily be treated at health clinics but those with advanced stage of cirrhosis would be referred to specialists.

"The challenge is getting people screened at an early stage, when it is asymptomatic, especially the

younger age group who use drugs because they may not be aware that they have been infected," he said.

People with the infection usually do not have noticeable symptoms for 20 to 30 years even as it damages the liver and other organs.

In a webinar on the "Importance of decentralised, simplified and early HCV testing" in conjunction with World Hepatitis Day on July 28, Dr Muhammad Radzi said that in support of the World Health Organisation 2030 elimination targets, Malaysia simplified testing methods using the RDTs and decentralised screening using the kits at primary healthcare sites (clinics) as part of standard care, as well as DAAs treatment.