

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Pénularan COVID-19

10 lagi kes kematian, rekod angka tertinggi

467 pesakit sembuh, 710 jangkitan baharu dilapor

Oleh Ahmad Suhael Adnan dan Noor Atiqah Sulaiman
bhnews@bh.com.my



Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah

Putrajaya: Malaysia mencatat kes kematian tertinggi akibat COVID-19, semalam apabila 10 kes dilaporkan kepada Pusat Keselamatan dan Tindak Cepat Krisis (CPRC) Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM).

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata ini menjadikan jumlah kes kematian sebanyak 214 kes atau 0.9 peratus daripada keseluruhan kes.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, kes kematian itu membabitkan pesakit berusia antara 33 hingga 69 tahun di beberapa daerah di Sabah serta di Kedah dan Labuan.

Katanya, terdapat lima kes meninggal dunia di Hospital Duchess of Kent, Sandakan dan masing-masing satu kematian dilaporkan di Hospital Queen Elizabeth, Hospital Tuaran, Hospital Wanita dan Kanak-Kanak Sabah di Likas, Hospital Sultanah Bahiyah dan Hospital Labuan.

"Kes kematian ke-205 membabitkan kes ke-12,154, iaitu lelaki berusia 77 tahun. Beliau mempunyai penyakit kencing manis, kanser pankreas dan dislipidemia serta disahkan meninggal dunia di Hospital Queen Elizabeth.

"Bagi kes kematian ke-206, ia kes ke-14,924, iaitu wanita berusia 69 tahun dan disahkan meninggal dunia di Hospital Duchess of Kent.

"Bagi kematian ke-207 ialah lelaki berusia 54 tahun iaitu kes ke-15,274 yang mempunyai beberapa penyakit antaranya penyakit kencing manis, darah tinggi, jantung dan dislipidemia serta disahkan meninggal dunia di Hospital Duchess of Kent," katanya dalam kenyataan di sini, semalam.

Bagi kes kematian ke-208, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, ia membabitkan kes ke-15,306, iaitu lelaki berusia 66 tahun dan mempunyai penyakit kencing manis, darah tinggi dan penyakit jantung serta disahkan meninggal dunia di Hospital Duchess of Kent.

"Dua lagi kematian turut dilaporkan di Hospital Duchess of Kent, iaitu kes ke-209 dan 210. Bagi kes kematian ke-209, ia membabitkan kes ke-24,267, iaitu wanita berusia 62 tahun dan mempunyai penyakit kencing manis, darah

tinggi, dislipidemia, gout, penyakit jantung dan obesiti.

"Kematian ke-210 ialah kes ke-24,330, iaitu lelaki berusia 63 tahun dan mempunyai penyakit darah tinggi dan strok. Bagi kes kematian ke-211, ia membabitkan kes ke-24,331, iaitu lelaki berusia 61 tahun yang mengidap penyakit darah tinggi serta disahkan meninggal dunia di Hospital Tuaran," katanya.

Sementara itu bagi kes kematian ke-212, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, ia membabitkan kes ke-24,332, iaitu lelaki berusia 33 tahun yang mempunyai penyakit buah pinggang dan disahkan meninggal dunia di Hospital Wanita dan Kanak-Kanak Sabah, Likas.

"Kes kematian ke-213 dilaporkan di Kedah, iaitu Hospital Sultanah Bahiyah. Beliau ialah kes ke-18,681, iaitu lelaki berusia 67 tahun. Bagi kes kematian ke-214, ia membabitkan wanita berusia 58 tahun yang mempunyai penyakit asma dan meninggal dunia di Hospital Labuan," katanya.

Mengenai kes baharu, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, sebanyak 710 kes baharu COVID-19 dilaporkan semalam, menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan 24,514 kes dengan jumlah kebalehjangkitan 8,416 kes.

Beliau berkata, daripada jumlah berkenaan 74.4 peratus atau 528 kes dilaporkan di Sabah.

"Negeri di Lembah Klang pula mencatatkan pertambahan 73 kes atau 10.3 peratus daripada jumlah keseluruhan kes. Daripada 73 kes baharu, 34 kes (46.6 peratus) daripada kluster sedia ada dan baharu.

"Lembah Klang dan Sabah kini diletakkan di bawah Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Bersyarat (PKPB).

"Selain itu, 180 kes atau 25.4 peratus hari ini (semalam) membabitkan kluster di dalam penjara. Antaranya Kluster Penjara Keparan dengan 140 kes; Kluster Penjara Reman (39) dan Kluster Tombok (satu)," katanya.

Beliau berkata, hanya satu kes dilaporkan semalam, membabitkan pengunjung mempunyai sejarah perjalanan ke kawasan berisiko, iaitu Sabah.

"Sejak 20 September lalu, sebanyak 466 kes membabitkan individu yang pulang dari negeri berkenaan. Satu kes import yang dilaporkan hari ini (semalam) ialah mendapat jangkitan dari Nepal," katanya.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, Sabah yang mencatatkan pertambahan 528 kes itu, sebanyak 203 kes dikesan daripada kluster sedia ada termasuk dua kes dalam kluster baharu.

"Selain itu, 169 kes dikesan hasil saringan kontak rapat kes positif dan 156 kes lagi adalah menerusi lain-lain saringan. Selain Sabah, Selangor turut mencatatkan pertambahan kes baharu iaitu 62 kes.

"Daripada jumlah berkenaan, 29 kes daripada kluster sedia ada termasuk 10 kes dalam kluster baharu dan 18 kes pula adalah hasil saringan kontak rapat kes positif COVID-19; hasil saringan pulang dari kawasan berisiko (satu) dan lain-lain saringan (14).

"Pulau Pinang pula mencatatkan 39 kes baharu dan semuanya dikesan dalam kluster sedia ada. Bagi Negeri Sembilan, terdapat 37 kes baharu dilaporkan di mana, 28 kes daripada kluster sedia ada termasuk satu kes dalam kluster baharu; saringan kontak rapat (dua) dan lain-lain saringan (tujuh)," katanya.

Tambah Dr Noor Hisham, Labuan mencatatkan pertambahan 19 kes baharu, iaitu 16 kes daripada kluster sedia ada; saringan kontak rapat (satu) dan lain-lain saringan (dua).

"Kuala Lumpur mencatatkan 10 kes baharu, iaitu lima kes daripada kluster sedia ada, termasuk satu kes daripada kluster baharu, saringan kontak rapat kes positif (dua) serta lain-lain saringan (tiga).

"Perak dan Johor masing-masing mencatatkan empat kes baharu, iaitu daripada kluster sedia ada, lain-lain saringan COVID-19 dan saringan kontak rapat kes positif.

"Terengganu dan Sarawak turut ada pertambahan kes iaitu masing-masing dua kes baharu. Di Terengganu masing-masing satu kes dikesan hasil saringan kontak rapat kes aktif dan lain-lain saringan COVID-19, manakala di Sarawak kedua-duanya dikesan daripada lain-lain saringan COVID-19," katanya.

Katanya, satu kes masing-masing dicatatkan di Kedah dan Pahang, iaitu daripada kluster sedia ada.

Dr Noor Hisham turut memaklumkan sehingga jam 12 tengah hari semalam, terdapat 467 kes sembuh dilaporkan.

Tiga kluster baharu dikesan

Putrajaya: Tiga lagi kluster baharu COVID-19 dikesan Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) semalam, yang membabitkan enam daerah di tiga negeri.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata kluster baharu itu ialah Kluster Samudera di Sandakan, Sabah; Kluster Palma di Gombak dan Hulu Selangor; Selangor serta Kepong, Kuala Lumpur; dan Kluster Jaya di Sepang, Selangor dan Seremban, Negeri Sembilan.

Beliau berkata, Kluster Samudera mula dikesan membabitkan kes ke-22,612 yang didapati positif COVID-19 hasil saringan individu bergejala pada Selasa lalu, sebelum dimasukkan ke Hospital Duchess of Kent, Sandakan.

Sehubungan itu, katanya, saringan membabitkan tujuh kontak rapat dijalankan setakat semalam dan mendapati semua individu positif COVID-19, menjadikan keseluruhan lapan positif bagi kluster berkenaan.

"Kluster Palma pula dikesan apabila kes ke-20,399 positif COVID-19 hasil saringan individu bergejala pada 17 Oktober dan dimasukkan ke Hospital

Sungai Buloh.

"Saringan kontak rapat mengenali pasti 12 lagi kes positif COVID-19. Hingga 23 Oktober, jam 12 tengah hari, seramai 101 individu disaring, yang mana 13 kes dikesan positif COVID-19 (sembilan kes baharu) dan 88 individu masih menunggu keputusan," katanya dalam kenyataan, semalam.

Berhubung Kluster Jaya, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, ia bermula apabila kes indeks didapati positif pada 20 Oktober lalu hasil saringan di tempat kerja, sebelum dimasukkan ke Hospital Sungai Buloh.

"Saringan kontak rapat mengenali pasti lapan lagi kes positif COVID-19. Hingga 23 Oktober, jam 12 tengah hari, sejumlah 48 individu disaring, yang mana sembilan kes dikesan positif COVID-19 (tiga kes baharu), manakala 39 individu masih menunggu keputusan," katanya.

Sementara itu, Dr Noor Hisham memaklumkan, sebanyak 31 kluster aktif COVID-19 mencatatkan kes harian baharu semalam, dengan 14 daripadanya membabitkan kluster dikesan di Sabah.



Sebahagian pelajar STIAS yang positif dibawa keluar ke pusat kuarantin. (Foto Azrul Edham Mohd Aminuddin/BH)

26 lagi kakitangan, pelajar STIAS positif

Seremban: Seramai 26 individu lagi membabitkan, 18 pelajar dan lapan kakitangan Sekolah Tinggi Islam As-Sofa (STIAS) yang beroperasi di Jalan Bunga Tanjung 1/1, Taman Perindustrian Senawang dekat sini, disahkan positif COVID-19.

Pengerusi Pengelola STIAS Senawang, Abdullah Abdul Razak yang mengesahkan perkara itu berkata, pertambahan baharu bilangan positif COVID-19 itu hasil ujian saringan baharu diperolehi.

"Kami memaklumkan keputusan lanjut hasil ujian saringan mendapati terdapat per-

tambahan baharu 26 individu disahkan positif COVID-19.

"Keputusan ini diperolehi hasil laporan Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) kepada pihak sekolah," katanya dalam kenyataan di sini, semalam.

Sebelum ini difahamkan, 33 pelajar sekolah berkenaan disahkan positif COVID-19 daripada keseluruhan 84 pelajar yang mengambil ujian saringan sebelum ini.

Bermula 21 Oktober lalu, STIAS ditutup selama 14 hari susulan seorang pelajar sekolah berkenaan disahkan positif COVID-19.

AKHBAR : KOSMO
MUKA SURAT : 4
RUANGAN : NEGARA

710 kes baharu dicatatkan semalam dengan 34 kluster masih aktif

10 kematian, tertinggi sejak Covid-19

Oleh SITI A'ISYAH SUKAIMI

PUTRAJAYA – Angka kes harian semalam mencatatkan 710 kes selain pertambahan 10 lagi kematian baharu, sekali gus merekodkan angka tertinggi kematian sejak pandemik Covid-19 melanda negara.

Pertambahan kes kematian itu menjadikan sebanyak 214 kes sehingga kini dan ia melibatkan tiga wanita dan tujuh lelaki berusia antara 33 hingga 77 tahun dengan pelbagai latar belakang penyakit.

Kematian tersebut dilaporkan di Sabah iaitu di Hospital Queen Elizabeth, Hospital Duchess of Kent, Hospital Tuaran serta Hospital Wanita dan Kanak-Kanak Sabah, Likas selain Hospital Sultanah Bahiyah di Kedah dan Hospital Labuan di Labuan.

Jumlah kes baharu yang dilaporkan pula turut disumbang-



Angka Terkini Kes Covid-19 Di Malaysia sehingga semalam

	Jumlah
• Kes baharu	710
• Import: 1 Tempatan: 709	
• Pulihan	467
• Kematian	10
• Masih dirawat	8,416
• Jumlah kes sembuh	15,884
• Jumlah Kematian	214
Jumlah kes keseluruhan	24,514

dan daripada 34 kluster aktif termasuk tiga daripadanya ialah kluster baharu iaitu Kluster Samudera, Kluster Palma dan

Kluster Jaya.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr. Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, Sabah terus mencatatkan jumlah kes tertinggi dengan 528 kes atau 74.4 peratus berikutan hasil usaha gigih pengesanan kes secara aktif di negeri tersebut.

Menurutnya, mobilisasi petugas kesihatan telah membantu usaha saringan di lapangan dan rawatan perubatan, manakala aspek logistik dan penghantaran sampel juga ditambah baik dan membantu dalam menjalankan ujian RT-PCR dengan lebih cepat.

"Negeri-negeri di Lembah Klang pula mencatatkan pertambahan sebanyak 73 kes atau 10.3 peratus daripada jumlah keseluruhan kes dengan 34 kes daripadanya atau 46.4 peratus daripada kluster sedia ada dan baharu.

"Selain itu, sejumlah 180 kes

atau 25.4 peratus adalah daripada Kluster Penjara Kepayan (140 kes), Kluster Penjara Reman (39 kes) dan Kluster Tembok (satu kes)," katanya dalam satu kenyataan akhbar di sini semalam.

Beliau berkata, kluster baharu yang dilaporkan semalam iaitu Kluster Samudera melibatkan daerah Sandakan, Sabah dengan kes indeks dikenal pasti positif hasil saringan bergejala pada 20 Oktober dan telah dimasukkan ke Hospital Duchess of Kent.

Katanya, susulan itu tujuh lagi dikenal pasti positif selepas saringan kontak rapat dijalankan dan sehingga semalam, lapan individu dikesan positif.

"Bagi Kluster Palma pula melibatkan daerah Gombak dan Hulu Selangor, Selangor dan Kepong, Kuala Lumpur melibatkan kes indeks yang positif hasil saringan individu bergejala pada 17 Oktober dan telah dimasukkan ke

Hospital Sungai Buloh.

"Saringan kontak rapat telah mengenal pasti 12 lagi positif menjadikan 13 kes dikesan Covid-19, manakala 88 individu masih menunggu keputusan," ujarnya.

Mengulas lanjut, beliau berkata, Kluster Jaya dilaporkan memabatkan daerah Sepang dan Seremban, Negeri Sembilan dengan kes indeks positif hasil saringan di tempat kerja pada 20 Oktober dan telah dimasukkan ke Hospital Sungai Buloh.

"Saringan kontak rapat telah mengenal pasti lapan lagi kes positif dan sehingga hari ini (semalam), sembilan kes dikesan Covid-19, manakala 39 individu masih menunggu keputusan," katanya.

Sementara itu, beliau berkata, bagi satu kes import yang dilaporkan semalam, ia melibatkan warga asing yang memasuki negara dari Nepal.



ANGGOTA polis, tentera melakukan kawalan ketat di hadapan Penjara Pokok Sena, Kedah.

PKPD Penjara Pokok Sena dilanjut

KUALA LUMPUR – Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Diperketatkan (PKPD) Penjara Pokok Sena di Kedah yang sepatutnya berakhir hari ini akan dilanjutkan selama 14 hari lagi sehingga 7 November depan.

Menteri Kanan (Keselamatan), Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob berkata, ia berikutan sehingga semalam masih terdapat kes positif dalam kalangan banduan serta kakitangan penjara itu.

"Kerajaan melaksanakan PKPD di Penjara Pokok Sena sejak 11 Oktober sehingga 24 Oktober lalu. Saringan oleh Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) sehingga 22 Oktober lalu mendapati masih terdapat kes positif dalam kalangan banduan dan kakitangan

penjara tersebut.

"Sehubungan itu, atas cadangan Majlis Keselamatan Negara dan nasihat KKM, kerajaan bersetuju melanjutkan PKPD Penjara Pokok Sena selama 14 hari lagi sehingga 7 November ini.

"Pelanjutan ini bagi memastikan rantaian Covid-19 diputuskan sepenuhnya di dalam Penjara Pokok Sena terutama dalam kalangan kakitangan," katanya dalam satu kenyataan akhbar di sini semalam.

Dalam pada itu, Ismail Sabri berkata, kerajaan bersetuju menamatkan PKPD di Penjara Tawau dan Kuarters Penjara Taman Ehsan Tawau pada 25 Oktober ini seperti yang dijadualkan.

Menurutnya, penamatan

PKPD Penjara Tawau berikutan tiada lagi kes aktif direkodkan, manakala hanya dua kes di Kuarters Penjara Taman Ehsan sedang menerima rawatan.

Jelasnya, sehingga 21 Oktober lalu, KKM telah membuat 1,250 saringan di Penjara Tawau dan 1,196 saringan kakitangan di kuarters Taman Ehsan.

"Bagaimanapun, lokaliti ini masih tertakluk di bawah pelaksanaan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Bersyarat bagi seluruh negeri Sabah," katanya.

Terdahulu, katanya, seramai 639 individu yang ingkar arahan PKPB ditahan dan daripada jumlah itu, seramai 634 individu dikompau, empat individu direman dan seorang dijamin.

26 staf, pelajar STIAS Senawang positif

SEREMBAN – Seramai 26 individu dari Sekolah Tinggi Islam As Sofa (STIAS) Senawang dekat sini membabitkan lapan orang kakitangan dan 18 pelajar disahkan positif Covid-19 semalam.

Pengerusi Pengelola STIAS Senawang, Abdullah Abdol Razak berkata, kesemua pelajar yang positif ditempatkan dalam bilik khas dan segala kemudahan harian turut diasingkan daripada pelajar dan guru bagi mengengkang penularan jangkitan Covid-19.

"Manakala kesemua pelajar harian yang tidak menetap di asrama juga telah diarahkan untuk menjalani kuarantin di sekolah sementara menunggu

keputusan ujian saringan bagi mengelakkan jangkitan ini tersebar ke luar kawasan sekolah," katanya dalam satu kenyataan di sini semalam.

Semalam, seramai 33 pelajar sekolah swasta tersebut disahkan positif Covid-19 hasil ujian saringan yang dibuat selepas terdapat seorang pelajar, didapati positif Covid-19 sekali gus mewujudkan Kluster Sofi.

Sementara itu, katanya, segala keperluan asas termasuk bekalan makanan, pelitup muka dan pencuci tangan adalah mencukupi hasil sumbangan pihak Yayasan Sofa dan Kumpulan Pendidikan Muhammadiyah selain bantuan ibu bapa dan orang ramai.



BEBERAPA kakitangan kesihatan tiba di STIAS Senawang bagi membawa pelajar yang positif Covid-19 ke Hospital Rembau.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 10

RUANGAN : MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19

Jumlah kematian tertinggi

Malaysia catat 10 kematian akibat positif Covid-19 semalam

KUALA LUMPUR

Jumlah kes baharu Covid-19 di Malaysia kekal dengan tiga angka namun menurun sedikit kepada 710 kes, selain merekodkan 10 kematian baharu, iaitu yang tertinggi sejak wabak itu melanda negara.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, perkembangan baharu semalam menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes positif kini sebanyak 24,514 kes manakala jumlah maut akibat wabak itu sebanyak 214.

Beliau berkata, jumlah kes

aktif dengan kebolehtangkitan Covid-19 pula kini adalah 8,416 kes.

"Sabah terus mencatatkan jumlah kes tertinggi iaitu 528 kes susulan hasil usaha gigih dalam menjalankan pengesanan kes secara aktif di negeri itu," katanya dalam kenyataan mengenai perkembangan Covid-19 semalam.

Beliau berkata, Selangor mencatatkan 62 kes baharu diikuti Pulau Pinang dengan 39 kes, Negeri Sembilan (37), Wilayah Persekutuan Labuan (19), Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur (10) sementara masing-masing empat di Perak dan Johor.

Selain itu, dua kes direkodkan masing-masing di Terengganu dan Sarawak serta satu kes



DR NOOR HISHAM

masing-masing di Kedah dan Pahang sementara hanya satu kes import yang pulang dari Nepal dicatatkan semalam.

Mengenai kes kematian baharu, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, lapan kes direkodkan di Sabah manakala masing-masing

satu kes di Kedah dan Labuan.

"Kematian ke-206, 207, 209, 210, 211, 212 dan 213 melibatkan warga tempatan sementara kematian ke-205, 208 dan 214 pula membabitkan warga asing," katanya.

Sementara itu, sebanyak 467 kes pulih direkodkan semalam, menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes pulih sepenuhnya daripada Covid-19 adalah 15,884 kes.

Beliau berkata, daripada jumlah itu, Sabah turut mere-



Penduduk Kampung Tajau membeli barang melalui pagar kawat duri yang dipasang bagi menutup laluan di Jalan Serusup, Tuaran. Kampung Tajau antara kawasan yang mencatatkan pertambahan kes positif Covid-19 di Sabah.

kodekan jumlah kes pulih tertinggi dengan 246 kes, diikuti Selangor sebanyak 105 kes dan Kedah dengan 74 kes.

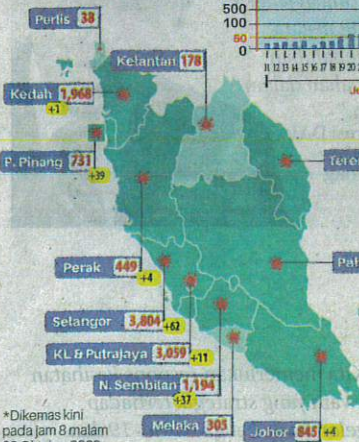
Sehingga kini, terdapat 90 kes positif Covid-19 sedang dirawat di Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU), dengan 28 kes memerlukan

alat bantuan pernafasan.

Beliau berkata, Kementerian Kesihatan turut mengesan tiga lagi kluster baharu iaitu Kluster Samudera di Sabah, Kluster Palma di Selangor dan Kluster Jaya di Selangor serta Negeri Sembilan. - Bernama

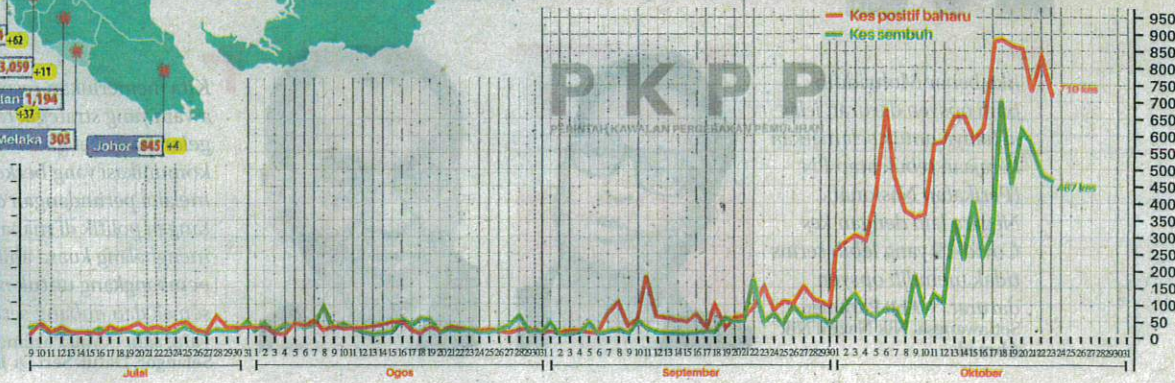
SITUASI TERKINI KES COVID-19 DI MALAYSIA SETAKAT SEMALAM

Bilangan kes Covid-19 mengikut negeri di Malaysia



JUMLAH KES BAHARU DAN SEMBUH DILAPORKAN SETIAP HARI

JUMLAH KESELURUHAN	24,514	PULIH	15,884	ICU	90	KEMATIAN	214	KES BAHARU	+710
--------------------	--------	-------	--------	-----	----	----------	-----	------------	------



*Dikemas kini pada jam 8 malam 23 Oktober 2020

Jumlah jangkitan Covid-19 di Malaysia semalam meningkat daripada 23,804 kes kepada 24,514 kes

INFOGRAFIK: SINAR HARIAN/BERNAMA

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : NATION/NEWS



Beds at the makeshift hospital for Covid-19 patients at the Tawau sports complex set up by the armed forces recently. (Inset) Health officials and policemen checking on a person undergoing home quarantine in Sandakan on Monday. BERNAMA PIX



10 die, making it the most daily number since March

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia recorded 10 Covid-19 deaths yesterday, its highest ever single day tally since the pandemic began in March.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, in a statement yesterday, said out of the 10, eight patients had underlying health problems. All 10 fatalities were recorded in Sabah.

The deaths brought the national toll to 214. Eight of the deaths occurred in Sabah, one in Labuan and one in Kedah.

Dr Noor Hisham also announced that 710 new Covid-19 cases were recorded yesterday, bringing the total number of active cases to 8,416. Cumulative cases, he added, now stood at 24,514.

He added that one imported case was recorded involving a foreigner who entered Malaysia from Nepal.

Sabah, he said, continued to record the highest number of daily Covid-19 cases, with 528 or 74.4 per cent of the 710 new cases detected yesterday coming from the state. He said most of the cases in Sabah were discovered as a result of active case tracking efforts.

"Health officers were mobilised to assist in field screening efforts

as well as providing medical treatment. Logistics and sample delivery aspects have also been improved. This, in turn, has helped in efforts to conduct RT-PCR tests faster," he said.

He said of the 528 cases in Sabah, all but one were local transmissions. The sole imported case was a tourist with a travel history to the state.

Dr Noor Hisham added that the Klang Valley registered an additional 73 cases, making up 10.3 per cent of the total new cases yesterday.

The affected areas in the Klang Valley, as well as the whole of Sabah, he noted, had been placed under the Conditional Movement Control Order (CMCO).

He said 180 of the cases originated from prison clusters, namely the Keparan Prison (140) in Sabah, and the Remand Prison (39) and Tembok Cluster (1) in Kedah.

Currently, 90 Covid-19 patients are being treated in Intensive Care Units, with 28 requiring ventilator assistance.

The ministry also recorded 467 recoveries yesterday. So far 15,884 cases, or 64.8 per cent of patients, have recovered in the country.

Home quarantine among steps taken by Sabah Health Dept

KOTA KINABALU: The Sabah Health Department has carried out a number of strategies to address a shortage of hospital beds in the state, including allowing low-risk Covid-19 patients to quarantine at home, said state Covid-19 spokesman Datuk Seri Masidi Manjun.

"If the symptom's are manageable, they will be advised to stay at home and treatment will be provided at home. It saves them from going to the quarantine or treatment centre.

"The idea is to ensure that they do not infect others. This works well in cases where two people who live together and are both infected, then they can quarantine themselves," he said.

He, however, said such patients would have to be screened before being allowed to go home for quarantine.

Masidi, who is also state local government and housing minister, was responding to reports of patients claiming that despite testing positive, they could not

get admitted to hospital until the second week.

There are 5,651 beds at Covid-19 designated hospitals and 23 premises that have been turned into Covid-19 centres in the state.

As of Thursday, the occupancy rate of state hospital beds stood at 99.5 per cent, or 5,624 beds.

Masidi also said health authorities had given priority to high-risk patients and those deemed to have a high chance of infecting others.

Meanwhile, Community Empowerment Initiative Sabah (CEIS) urged the state government to increase its engagement with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to expedite aid distribution.

CEIS, a state-based NGO, said the Covid-19 pandemic in the state was much more than a health crisis which required fast response from the government and civil society.

"The resolve and sacrifices of frontline health workers must be matched by every individual and



A mobile isolation negative pressure chamber installed by Osimal Foundation at Likas Hospital in Kota Kinabalu. PIC BY MALAI ROSMAH TUAH

political leader to put in place measures to end the pandemic.

"Given the urgency of the situation, is it not possible for the federal or state government to promptly disburse the funds for the immediate purchase of necessary tools and equipment," he said, adding that the NGOs were getting SOS calls from various quarters, including hospitals.

On hospital beds, CEIS said 250

portable beds were sent to the Tawau Hospital; 70 portable beds to the Keningau Hospital; 70 portable beds to the Sepanggar Rela Centre under the purview of the Tuaran Hospital, as well as 90 such beds to the Penampang Cultural Hall under the purview of Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

"There will be another 1,000 beds coming in Nov 1 as stand-by for the expected further increase

in Covid-19 related cases," the organisation said, adding that the portable beds were designed in Taiwan in response to the floods in Pakistan in 2010.

Apart from that, another NGO, Osimal Foundation, has managed to arrange for the purchase and delivery of mobile isolation negative pressure chambers worth RM130,000 to a local hospital in just a week.

AKHBAR : THE STAR
 MUKA SURAT : 5
 RUANGAN : NATION



On high alert: Rela officers at a roadblock near the school in Seremban. — Bernama

18 more students test positive for Covid-19 in Seremban school

SEREMBAN: Eighteen more students and eight staff members of Sekolah Tinggi Islam As Sofa Senawang here tested positive for Covid-19, says its board of governors chairman Abdullah Abdul Razak.

This brings the number of students and staff who have tested positive for the virus at the school to 59.

Abdullah said there were more students and staff who had undergone screening but have yet to get their medical results.

To prevent the coronavirus from spreading, he said, the students who do not live in the hostel and have yet to receive their medical results have been asked to remain in the school.

"We do not want them to spread the virus should their results come back positive," he said in a statement.

In a separate statement, State health committee chairman S. Veerapan said 37 cases were reported in the state yesterday.



To reopen or not to reopen

Mixed reactions over how much longer schools should be shut

By SANDHYA MENON
 sandhyamenon@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: More than 1,000 Malaysian schoolchildren have been infected by Covid-19 since the third wave of the outbreak began last month and there seem to be differing views from stakeholders as to whether schools should be shut down longer.

Most parents are not in favour of schools being closed for a long period and instead ask that children be taught necessary precautions.

Parent Action Group for Education Malaysia chairman Datin Noor Azimah Abdul Rahim said schools should reopen but with stricter standard operating procedure (SOP).

As possible solutions, she said the Education Ministry could look into having students attend schools in alternate weeks.

"The ministry should also review past options and tighten the SOP further. "It might be a great inconvenience but at least learning continues," she added.

Melaka Action Group for Parents in Education Mak Chee Kin said the country cannot afford to close all schools once again as the implications will be severe.

Additionally, the government must not force parents to send their children to school if they feel it is still unsafe to do so, he added.

"The onus is not just on teachers but everyone must do their part in following the SOP." National Union of the Teaching Profession secretary-general Harry Tan, however, said the closing of schools in affected areas controls the spread of the virus and is a "circuit breaker".

Learning is not limited to the four walls of the classroom and can be done anywhere, he said.

He said the government should, however, consider making it compulsory for students to wear masks in schools and provide measures to help those who cannot afford masks to reduce the transmission rate of the virus.

"Teachers play an important role in schools but they must be given unambiguous and doable instructions to be disseminated," he said.

"Most of them wear masks in classrooms and are on duty during recess to monitor whether students are following the SOP.

"At the end of the day, it boils down to parents' and teachers' mindset and ingenuity to



Trying times: A file photo of parents dropping off students at a school in Kuala Lumpur. While some believe schools must go on, some parents want more measures to be taken first. — AZHAR MAHFUF/The Star

conduct remote learning," he added. Parent Priya Krishnan, 40, said schools could split classes into half, reduce the number of days schoolchildren attend school, give parents the option of whether they want to send their children to school and only teach core subjects along with art, and Physical and Health Education.

"We cannot constantly be under lockdown and we must think of new and rational ways to cope with the pandemic.

"We must take children's mental health into consideration as well as not every family has the same privilege to hire home tutors to help their children cope with the curriculum," said the mother-of-two.

Fong Yit Meng, 37, believes schools must revolutionise the way it functions and upskill its teachers to adapt to the new normal as Covid-19 may not be the last pandemic the world will endure.

"Schools must be able to provide continuous learning to students in the event of another

pandemic like this. "The Education Ministry and the government should be more swift in their responsiveness and decisiveness in protecting students' safety.

"Disaster management plans are important and schools should look into this seriously," said the father of a Year One pupil.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah had said that when the outbreak started in February, Covid-19 infected 830 children in primary schools and 1,315 secondary students.

He also said from Sept 20 to Oct 21, 587 cases involved primary school pupils aged between seven and 12, and 670 cases involved secondary school students aged between 13 and 18.

Since Sept 20, the government had directed 12 schools in the country to be closed following the detection of Covid-19 cases in those schools, while all schools in more critical states were closed for a few weeks.

10 the highest number of deaths in a single day

PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia recorded 10 Covid-19 deaths, the highest number of fatalities in a single day since the pandemic began.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said eight of the deaths were in Sabah, while another two were in Labuan and Kedah.

"The cumulative total number of deaths due to Covid-19 in the country is now 214, or 0.9% of the total number of fatalities," he said in a statement yesterday.

Previously, the most number of fatalities in a span of 24 hours was on March 29, when eight deaths were recorded.

In this month alone, 78 people succumbed to Covid-19, or 36.45% of the total number of deaths caused by SARS-CoV-2, the virus behind Covid-19, in the country.

Dr Noor Hisham said the youngest person who died yesterday was a 33-year-old man with a history of kidney disease, at the Sabah Women and Children Hospital in Likas.

The other deaths involved six men and three women aged from 54 to 77.

Dr Noor Hisham also announced 710 new Covid-19 cases, bringing the number of active cases up to 8,416, while putting the cumulative total in Malaysia at 24,514 cases.

The country also discharged 467 patients, bringing the total number of recoveries to 15,884.

Currently, 90 people are being treated at intensive care units, with 28 of them requiring ventilator support.

The majority of the cases continued to come from Sabah, where 528 cases (74.4%) were reported.

Dr Noor Hisham said the high numbers in Sabah are attributed to the Health Ministry's persistence in active case detection in the state.

Selangor still has the second-highest number of cases, although its 62 cases on Friday are an improvement from the triple-digit cases in the previous days.

There is one new imported case involving a non-Malaysian arriving from Nepal. Meanwhile, Dr Noor Hisham also announced the detection of three new clusters of infection, bringing the total number of active clusters in the country to 101.