

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

B11 RABU, 21 OKTOBER 2020

5

Nasional

Penularan COVID-19

862 kes baharu, 3 kematian

Sabah kekal catat pertambahan jangkitan tinggi daripada kluster sedia ada

Oleh Rafidah Sulzki dan Noor Atiqah Matriz
bhnews@bh.com.my

Putrajaya: Sebanyak 862 kes baharu dilaporkan semalam, membabitkan 860 kes penularan tempatan dan dua kes import, manakala tiga kematian direkodkan membabitkan dua wanita dan seorang lelaki di Sabah.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata ini menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes COVID-19 di negara ini 22,225 kes dengan 7,681 kes aktif.

Beliau berkata, Sabah kekal mencatatkan pertambahan kes tinggi semalam, iaitu 673 kes atau 78.1 peratus daripada jumlah kes baharu yang dilaporkan semalam dan 4,754 ujian sedang dijalankan di Sabah dan masih menunggu keputusan, manakala 7,087 ujian lagi dalam perjalanan ke makmal untuk diuji.

"Lebih banyak ujian makmal *Reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction* (RT-PCR) sudah dijalankan di Sabah serta dihantar ke Semenanjung untuk diproses," katanya pada sidang media harian COVID-19, di sini, semalam.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, pertambahan 673 kes di Sabah membabitkan 260 kes daripada kluster sedia ada dan 243 kes hasil saringan kontak rapat kes aktif COVID-19.

"Selain itu, 168 kes daripada

lain-lain saringan COVID-19 dan dua kes lagi dikesan daripada kluster baharu, iaitu Kluster Kerang. Kedah mencatatkan 17 kes baharu, iaitu 15 kes daripada kluster sedia ada dan masing-masing satu kes daripada saringan kontak rapat kes aktif dan hasil saringan pesakit Jangkitan Pernafasan Akut Teruk (SARI).

"Lain-lain negeri mencatatkan pertambahan kes satu angka, iaitu sembilan kes dari Perak membabitkan lapan kes daripada kluster sedia ada dan satu kes daripada lain-lain saringan COVID-19. Pulau Pinang mencatatkan lapan kes dan semua daripada kluster sedia ada. Di Labuan pula mencatatkan enam kes, iaitu masing-masing dua kes daripada kluster sedia ada dan saringan pulang dari kawasan berisiko, iaitu Sabah serta satu kes masing-masing daripada saringan kontak rapat kes aktif dan lain-lain saringan COVID-19," katanya.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, hanya satu kes dicatatkan di tiga kawasan, iaitu Putrajaya, Johor dan Kelantan. Bagi Putrajaya dan Johor masing-masing dikesan daripada kluster sedia ada, manakala Kelantan dikesan hasil saringan kontak rapat kes positif COVID-19.

Beliau turut memaklumkan terdapat 634 kes sembuh dilaporkan menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes sembuh di negara ini 14,351 kes atau 64.6 peratus daripada jumlah keseluruhan kes, manakala jumlah kes kematian disebabkan COVID-19 di negara ini meningkat kepada 193 kes, bersamaan 0.87 peratus daripada jumlah keseluruhan kes.

"Kes kematian ke-191 ialah lelaki berusia 78 tahun yang mempunyai penyakit darah tinggi, dislipidemia dan penyakit jantung, manakala kes kematian



Lebih banyak ujian makmal RT-PCR sudah dijalankan di Sabah serta dihantar ke Semenanjung untuk diproses.

Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah,
Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan

ke-192 membabitkan wanita berusia 59 tahun. Beliau mempunyai penyakit darah tinggi, kencing manis dan penyakit buah pinggang yang kronik. Mereka disahkan meninggal dunia di Hospital Tawau," katanya.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, bagi kes kematian ke-193 pula membabitkan wanita berusia 90 tahun dan mempunyai penyakit darah tinggi dan jantung serta disahkan meninggal dunia di Hospital Queen Elizabeth.

Sementara itu, beliau berkata, pihaknya turut mengesan satu kluster baharu, iaitu Kluster Kerang membabitkan daerah Kota Belud di Sabah dan sehingga kini sudah menjangkiti 21 individu.

Beliau berkata, kes indeks bagi kluster ini ialah kes ke-17,623 yang dikesan positif COVID-19 hasil saringan kontak rapat kes positif pada 14 Oktober lalu.

"Beliau dimasukkan ke Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan CO-

VID-19 (PKRC) di Projek Perumahan Rakyat (PPR) Taman Seri Bayu, Kota Belud untuk rawatan lanjut. Sehingga jam 12 tengah hari semalam, 216 individu sudah disaring dan daripada jumlah itu 21 individu sudah dijangkiti dan 195 individu lagi mendapat keputusan negatif," katanya.

Selain itu, beliau juga berkata, Selangor mencatatkan peningkatan kes mendadak sejak penghujung September ketika negeri itu mengalami gelombang ketiga jangkitan COVID-19 ketika ini, berikutan kepadatan penduduk dan kadar pergerakan tinggi dalam kalangan penduduk di Selangor dan penguji di negeri itu.

Katanya, kluster pertama yang dilaporkan di Selangor dalam gelombang ketiga ini adalah Kluster Jalan Apas, iaitu pada 28 September lalu membabitkan keluarga yang pulang dari Sabah, dengan Kluster Utama mencatatkan kes terbesar setakat ini.

"Peningkatan kes penularan tempatan di Selangor mula dilihat pada 2 Oktober lalu, meningkat secara konsisten sehingga ke hari ini. Sejumlah 26 kluster aktif dicatatkan di Selangor bermula kluster pertama (Kluster Jalan Apas) sehingga kluster terbaru diumumkan (Kluster Hentian).

"Sebanyak 18 kluster aktif (69.2 peratus) adalah kluster jangkitan tempatan, manakala lapan kluster (30.8 peratus) mempunyai kaitan dengan pengembara pulang dari Sabah. Enam kluster terbaru yang dilaporkan sejak 11 Oktober lalu berkaitan dengan jangkitan tempatan," katanya.

Beliau berkata, sembilan daripada 26 kluster yang direkodkan mempunyai kaitan yang amat rapat dengan penularan di tempat kerja (34.6 peratus) dengan satu kluster di Selangor juga dikaitkan dengan kompleks beli-belah awam (3.8 peratus).

184 negara sertai COVAX pastikan vaksin dikongsi secara adil

Geneva: Sebanyak 184 negara bergabung di bawah COVAX, sebuah inisiatif antarabangsa dipimpin Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO) dan rakannya untuk memastikan akses vaksin COVID-19 yang adil dan berkesan di seluruh dunia, lapor agensi berita *Xinhua*.

Ketua Pengarah WHO, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus pada sidang media maya, berkata COVAX mewakili portfolio terbesar vaksin COVID-19 dan kaedah paling berkesan untuk memastikan vaksin dapat dikongsi dengan selamat dan berkesan di seluruh dunia.

"Berkongsi vaksin secara adil adalah cara terpantas untuk melindungi masyarakat yang berisiko tinggi, menstabilkan sistem kesihatan dan mendorong pemulihan ekonomi global yang berkesan," katanya, semalam.

Sebagai antara negara utama dalam pembangunan vaksin, China secara rasmi bergabung di bawah COVAX, langkah yang disifatkan jurucakap Kementerian Luar China sebagai penting untuk menegakkan konsep komuniti kesihatan bersama bagi semua dan komitmen menjadikan vaksin COVID-19 membawa kebaikan kepada masyarakat awam global.

Minggu lalu, Perdana Menteri, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin pada sidang media khas berkata, Malaysia bersetuju untuk menyertai pelan peruntukan vaksin COVID-19 global, COVAX walaupun perlu membayar RM42 juta.

Beliau berkata, badan itu mempunyai kemudahan kepada negara ahli untuk dapatkan vaksin yang tidak terhad untuk COVID-19 saja, tetapi vaksin penyakit lain.

"Vaksin yang dapat dibekalkan hanya 10 peratus daripada jumlah keseluruhan penduduk dan dalam kes Malaysia yang mempunyai 30 juta penduduk akan menerima tiga juta vaksin. Kita juga terikat untuk membeli vaksin dari COVAX ini dengan nilai RM600 juta dan ia satu jumlah yang cukup besar, tetapi tidak halang kita mendapat bekalan dari pembekal luar seperti China dan negara pembekal lain," katanya.

Perdana Menteri juga berkata, Malaysia akan mengadakan rundingan mengenai harga yang perlu dibayar kepada COVAX kerana kini harga untuk satu vaksin sudah ditetapkan pada harga AS\$20 (kira-kira RM82).

Menurut laman web WHO, pada 19 Oktober, terdapat 198 vaksin percubaan yang dibangunkan di seluruh dunia dan 44 daripadanya kini pada peringkat ujian klinikal.

BERNAMA

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 7

RUANGAN : COVID-19

Harian Metro | Rabu 21.10.2020


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covid-19

Arahan jalani ujian saringan

Bernama

Seorang lagi pelajar SMK Pantai positif coronavirus

Labuan

Pelajar Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan (SMK) Pantai diarah menjalani ujian saringan di Klinik Kesihatan Membedai di sini, semalam selepas seorang lagi pelajar tingkatan lima di sekolah itu disahkan positif Covid-19.

Pengarah Jabatan Kesihatan Labuan, Dr Ismuni Bohari berkata, pelajar yang disahkan positif Covid-19 itu adalah kontak rapat kepada pelajar pertama dijangkiti wabak berkenaan minggu lalu sebelum pelaksanaan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Bersyarat (PKPB) pada 17 Oktober lalu.

"Kes pertama membabit-



PELAJAR SMK Pantai menjalani ujian saringan Covid-19 di Klinik Kesihatan Membedai, semalam.

154

Jumlah kes direkodkan di Labuan kelmarin selepas peningkatan mendadak Covid-19

kan pelajar yang positif (Covid-19) pada 14 Oktober membawa kepada penutupan sekolah itu," katanya selepas pertemuan dengan lapan pegawai perubatan dari Jabatan Kesihatan Kelantan yang didatangkan untuk membantu menangani pandemik Covid-19 di pulau itu, semalam.

Dalam pada itu, Pengetua SMK Pantai, Norazita Md Noor@Shamsuri meminta

ibu bapa supaya membawa anak mereka yang belajar dalam kelas di tingkat sama dengan pelajar disahkan positif Covid-19 itu untuk menjalani ujian calitan Covid-19.

Sebelum penularan kes Covid-19 dikesan di sekolah itu pada 8 Oktober lalu, SMK Mutiara diarah tutup selepas dua pelajarnya disahkan positif wabak berkenaan diikuti dengan jangkitan terhadap seorang murid di Sekolah Kebangsaan Kerupang di pulau itu.

Sejak seminggu lalu, Labuan merekodkan peningkatan mendadak penularan Covid-19 dengan mencatatkan 154 kes keseluruhan, setakat kelmarin. Labuan diletakkan dalam arahan PKPB bermula 17 hingga 30 Oktober ini.

covid-19

Sabah kekal penyumbang kes tertinggi

Kuala Lumpur: Empat hari berturut-turut Malaysia merekodkan kes baharu Covid-19 melebihi angka 800 apabila 862 kes direkodkan sehingga jam 12 tengah hari semalam.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, jumlah itu menjadikan keseluruhan kes positif direkodkan di negara ini sebanyak 22,225 kes.

Menurutnya, jumlah kes aktif dengan kebolehan jangkitan adalah 7,681 kes dan pesakit sudah diasingkan dan diberi rawatan selanjutnya.

"Sabah masih mencatatkan jumlah kes tertinggi iaitu 673 kes dengan 235 kes direkodkan daripada Kluster Penjara Keapayan dan

Kluster Tembok. "Selangor pula terus mencatatkan pertambahan kes dan kluster dengan 132 kes baharu dengan 84 kes adalah daripada kluster sedia ada dan lapan kes yang mempunyai sejarah perjalanan ke Sabah," katanya dalam sidang media

harian Covid-19 di Putrajaya, semalam.

Beliau berkata, terdapat 95 kes positif yang sedang dirawat di Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU) dengan 29 kes memerlukan bantuan pernafasan.

Katanya, terdapat tiga kematian semalam seperti dilaporkan Pusat Kesiapsiagaan dan Tindakan Ce-

pat Krisis Kebangsaan (CPRC).

"Tiga kematian melibatkan warga tempatan masing-masing lelaki berusia 78 tahun dan wanita berusia 59 tahun di Hospital Tawau manakala wanita berusia 90 tahun di Hospital Queen Elizabeth di Kota Kinabalu.

"Mereka yang meninggal dunia memiliki sejarah penyakit darah tinggi, kencing manis, sakit jantung, komplikasi buah pinggang kronik dan dislipidemia" katanya.

Tambahnya, Malaysia mencatatkan kes pulih sebanyak 634 kes dan menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes yang telah pulih sepenuhnya adalah 14,351 kes.



DR Noor Hisham

KES POSITIF MENGIKUT NEGERI

Setakat jam 12 tengah hari, 20 Oktober 2020

Kes baharu: 862 Bilangan kes positif: 22,225 Jumlah kematian: 193 Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU): 95 Jumlah discaj: 14,351



1	Perlis	38	0	9	Melaka	299	0
2	Kedah	1,957	17	10	Johor	840	1
3	P Pinang	670	0	11	Kelantan	174	1
4	Perak	424	9	12	Terengganu	163	0
5	Selangor	3,489	112	13	Pahang	388	0
6	K Lumpur	2,860	7	14	Sawarak	769	1
7	Putrajaya	129	1	15	Labuan	160	6
8	N Sembilan	1,110	6	16	Sabah	8,755	673

PETUNJUK: Kes positif (hitam), Tambahan kes positif (merah). Sumber: CPRC KKM

Sejuta pekerja diarah bekerja dari rumah

Kuala Lumpur: Semua pekerja sektor awam dan swasta peringkat pengurusan serta pentadbiran dalam kawasan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Bersyarat (PKPB) diarah bekerja di rumah mulai esok.

Menteri Kanan (Keselamatan), Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob berkata, ia membabitkan sejuta pekerja di Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya dan Selangor.

Menurutnya, keputusan itu dibuat menerusi Sidang Khas Majlis Keselamatan Negara (MKN) yang dipengerusikan Perdana Menteri, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin selepas mengendera pembentangan Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) mengenai peningkatan kes jangkitan Covid-19 membabitkan pekerja di pejabat.

"Terdapat sembilan kluster dari tempat kerja di negeri Selangor sehingga hari ini (semalam).

"Justeru, pekerja bagi sektor awam dan swasta di peringkat pengurusan serta pengawasan tidak perlu ha-



PENIAGA kedai makan dan pelanggan mematuhi SOP di medan selera di sebuah kompleks membeli-belah.

Bernama

Labuan

Penduduk kampung dalam kluster baharu Covid-19 Saguking, Sebor, di sini, diarah memakai gelang tangan kuarantin di rumah semalam berikutan peningkatan kes positif di kampung yang sebahagian kecilnya dihuni pendatang asing tanpa izin (Pati).

Sekurang-kurangnya 30 kes baharu Covid-19 direkodkan semalam di kampung itu dan 18 daripada mereka adalah Pati.

Pengarah Jabatan Kesihatan Labuan, Dr Ismuni Bohari berkata, saringan bersasar ke atas penduduk kampung di Saguking, Sebor diteruskan semalam dan tindakan itu sebahagian daripada perintah duduk di rumah untuk memastikan mereka berada dalam jejari lingkungan yang dibenarkan.

"Kami sedang melakukan yang terbaik bagi mendapatkan semua penduduk kampung di Saguking, Sebor untuk memakai gelang tangan itu supaya mereka duduk di rumah dan tidak merayau di bandar serta menjadi risiko kepada masyarakat tempatan," katanya kepada Bernama.

Saringan yang bermula jam 10 pagi semalam dilaksanakan di balai raya terapung dalam perkampungan atas air itu dengan beberapa kakitangan merinyu (penyelia) kesihatan dan pegawai perubatan ditempatkan di situ.

Saguking, yang terletak kira-kira 400 meter dari pusat bandar Labuan ialah kampung Melayu Bru-



PENDUDUK di Kampung Patau-Patau 1 melakukan ujian calitan.

Pakai gelang elak merayau

Penduduk dalam kawasan kluster baharu di Saguking dinasihat duduk rumah

nei-Kedayan tetapi kini beransur-ansur terbahagi kepada dua bahagian dengan kawasan di sebelah lembah bertukar kepada perkampungan setingan di atas air dikenali sebagai Saguking, Sebor.

Dr Ismuni berkata, satu lagi penempatan di atas air Kampung Patau-Patau 1

dan 2 juga menyaksikan ratusan penduduk kampung termasuk kanak-kanak terbabit dalam saringan bersasar itu beratur untuk ujian calitan dan *polymerase chain reaction* (PCR) di balai raya.

Labuan merekodkan peningkatan kes setiap hari sejak seminggu lalu menjadikan ju-

malah keseluruhan 154 kes setakat kelmarin dan kini diletakkan di bawah Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Bersyarat (PKPB) dari 17 hingga 30 Oktober.

Pulau bebas cukai itu merekodkan empat kluster aktif, iaitu Saguking (39 kes), Bah Bangat (11 kes), Bah Bundle (22 kes termasuk yang merebak di Johor) dan Bah Layangan yang menular ke Rembau, Negeri Sembilan dengan 13 kes (hanya satu kes di Labuan).

"Kami sedang melakukan yang terbaik bagi mendapatkan semua penduduk"
Dr Ismuni

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 18

RUANGAN : LOKAL

18

www.hmetro.com.my @hmetromy @hmetromy

lokal



PRODUK resdung tidak berdaftar yang dirampas BPF JKNS.

Aktif jual ubat resdung 'maut'

Sindiket sasar pengguna, pembekal dalam kalangan peniaga di pekan kecil seluruh negara

Oleh Mohd Jamilul
Anbia Md Denin
anbia@hmetro.com.my

Putrajaya

Sengaja campurkan racun steroid di dalam ubat resdung haram. Itu antara kegiatan sindiket yang dikesan aktif menipu pengguna sekali gus memudaratkan kesihatan mangsa.

Lebih menakutkan sindiket ini dikesan menyasarkan golongan orang kampung dan penduduk di pedalaman yang kurang pengetahuan berhubung bahaya produk ini.

Sindiket yang dipercayai mengilangkan produk di Perak dan Pulau Pinang, didapati mengedarkan ubat resdung 'maut' ini kepada pengguna dan pembekal dalam kalangan peniaga di pekan kecil seluruh negara.

Terbaharu Cawangan Penguatkuasaan, Bahagian Perkhidmatan Farmasi (BPF) Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Selangor (JKNS) menjalankan serbuan ke atas dua premis yang menjalankan penjualan produk tidak berdaftar dengan Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) di Sungai Besar, Sabak Bernam, Selangor, kelmarin.

Pengarah Kesihatan Negeri Selangor, Datuk Indera Dr Sha'ari Ngadiman berkata, dalam serbuan itu, sejumlah 930 kotak produk kapsul resdung dianggarkan bernilai RM83,700 berjaya



PEGAWAI BPF JKNS melakukan pemeriksaan terhadap sebuah premis menjual ubat resdung haram.

dirampas.

Menurutnya, siasatan mendapati nombor pendaftaran yang dipamerkan di label produk itu adalah nombor pendaftaran yang dipalsukan menyamai satu lagi produk berdaftar dengan KKM.

"Perbuatan syarikat ini adalah tidak bertanggungjawab kerana ia mampu mengelirukan orang ramai terutama kepada pengguna produk itu.

"Siasatan lanjut akan dijalankan mengikut Akta Jualan Dadah 1952 dan jika sabit kesalahan, syarikat itu boleh dikenakan hukuman iaitu denda tidak melebihi RM50,000 mengikut akta sama," katanya.

Sehubungan itu, JKNS menasihatkan orang ramai supaya sentiasa berhati-hati

sewaktu membeli apa-apa produk kesihatan dan kosmetik yang dijual secara dalam talian serta memastikan produk kesihatan dan kosmetik yang dibeli di pasaran mematuhi keperluan undang-undang dikuatkuasakan.

Orang ramai boleh menyemak kesahihan nombor pendaftaran produk atau notifikasi kosmetik dengan melayari www.npra.moh.gov.my/ atau dengan menghubungi Bahagian Regulatori Farmasi Negara di talian 03-78875400.

Difahamkan bahan steroid di dalam produk tidak berdaftar boleh menyebabkan pembekuan darah, kanser, kecacatan pada janin, tekanan darah tinggi dan pelbagai penyakit bahaya lain.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 10

RUANGAN : MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19

10



MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19

862 positif, 3 kematian

Sabah masih catat jumlah kes harian tertinggi sebanyak 673 kes

Oleh TUAN BUQHAIKHAH
TUAN MUHAMAD ADNAN

PUTRAJAYA

Sebanyak 862 kes baharu positif coronavirus (Covid-19) dilaporkan Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) semalam.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, pertambahan itu menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan kes meningkat kepada

22,225 kes. "Jumlah kes aktif pula sebanyak 7,681 kes," katanya pada sidang akhbar perkembangan terkini Covid-19 di sini semalam.

Menurutnya, Sabah masih mencatatkan jumlah kes tertinggi iaitu sebanyak 673 kes bersamaan 78.1 peratus.

"Secara keseluruhan, sebanyak 235 kes iaitu 27.3 peratus semalam daripada Kluster Penjara Keapayan dan Kluster Tembok.

"Kes-kes ini semanginya terasing di dalam penjara dan tidak menjangkiti masyarakat," katanya.

Beliau berkata, berikutan kepadatan penduduk dan kadar pergerakan penduduk tinggi, Selangor terus mencatatkan pertambahan kes dan kluster ba-



DR NOOR HISHAM

haru setiap hari.

"Hari ini (semalam), Selangor catat pertambahan 132 kes dan daripada jumlah itu, 84 kes daripada kluster-kluster sedia ada termasuk lapan kes daripada kluster yang berkaitan dengan sejarah perjalanan pulang dari Sabah.

"Pusat Kesiapsiagaan dan Tindak Cepat Ke-

bangsaan menerima tiga lagi kematian dari hospital di Sabah," katanya.

Sementara itu, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, semua pihak tidak boleh ambil mudah dan perlu memerangi Covid-19.

"Saya dapati petugas barisan hadapan, wartawan dan rakyat lesu selepas berhadapan Covid-19 yang panjang tetapi virus ini terus bermutasi dengan jangkitan lebih aktif iaitu kebolehhangkitan yang tinggi," katanya.

Namun, tegasnya, virus Covid-19 tidak pernah lesu, malah terus bermutasi dan menular.

"Kalau boleh duduk di rumah dalam tempoh 10 hari, besar kemungkinan boleh kita putuskan jangkitan," kata beliau.

26 kluster aktif di Selangor

PUTRAJAYA - Sebanyak 26 kluster coronavirus (Covid-19) yang aktif dikesan dalam tempoh tiga minggu di Selangor.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, daripada jumlah tersebut, sebanyak 18 kluster aktif merupakan kluster jangkitan tempatan, manakala lapan kluster lagi mempunyai kaitan dengan pengembara pulang dari Sabah.

"Enam kluster terbaru yang dilaporkan sejak 11 Oktober lalu adalah berkaitan dengan jangkitan tempatan," katanya.

Menurutnya, sembilan daripada 26 kluster mempunyai kaitan yang amat rapat dengan perebakan di tempat kerja.

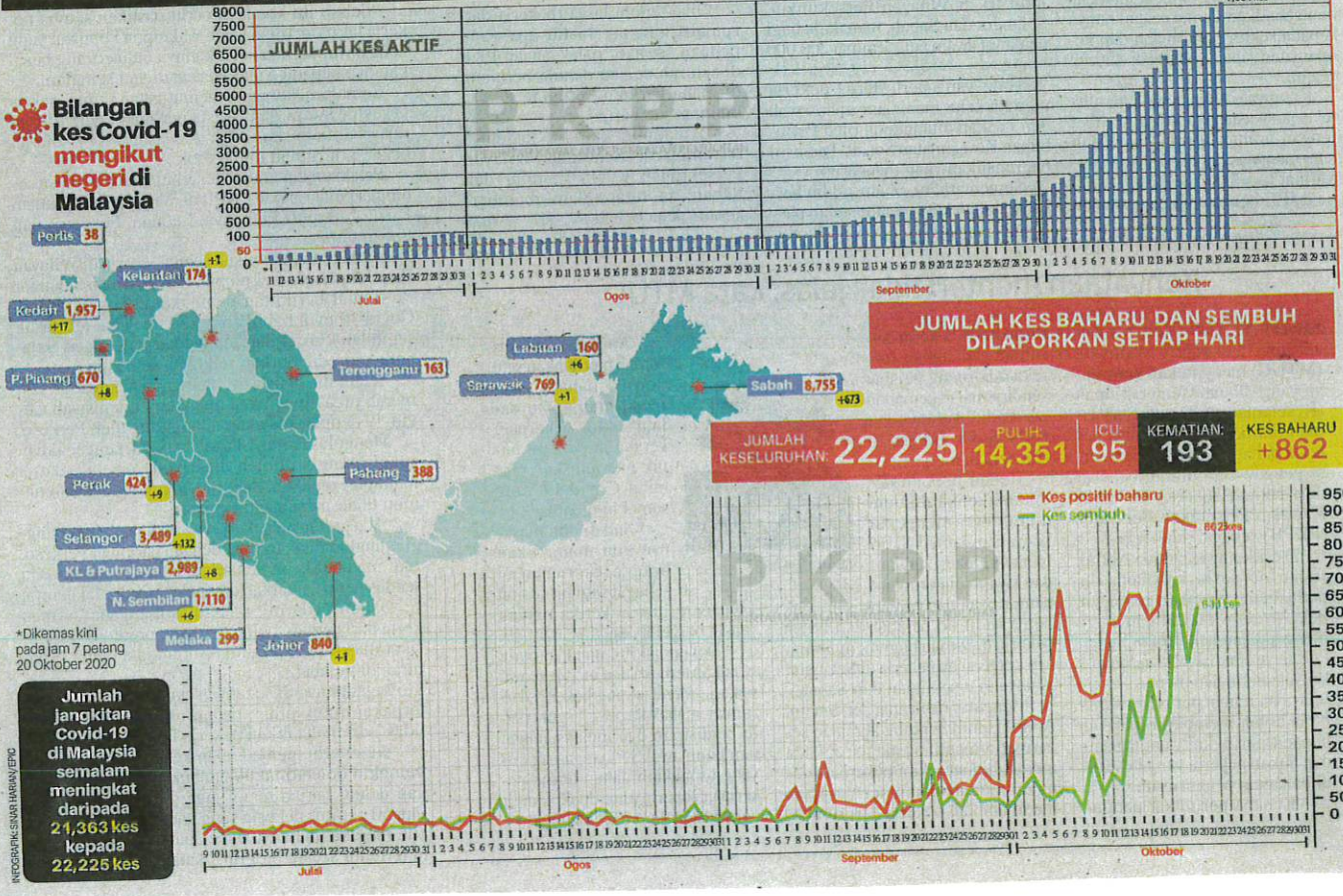
"Satu kluster dikaitkan dengan tempat membeli-belah awam," katanya.

Beliau berkata, situasi itu berikutan kepadatan penduduk dan kadar pergerakan yang tinggi dalam kalangan penduduk Selangor serta pengunjung di negeri itu.

"Dengan pertambahan sebanyak 132 kes positif hari ini (semalam), jumlah keseluruhan kes positif Covid-19 di Selangor adalah sebanyak 3,489 kes," katanya.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, peningkatan kes penularan tempatan di negeri itu mula dilihat pada 2 Oktober lalu dan meningkat secara konsisten sehingga hari ini.

SITUASI TERKINI KES COVID-19 DI MALAYSIA SETAKAT SEMALAM



INFOGRAFIK SINAR HARIAN/EPIC

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA

MUKA SURAT : 8

RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI

8

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
RABU • 21 OKTOBER 2020

Dalam Negeri

HARIAN	Kes baharu	Tempatan	Mati	Sembuh	Aktif	STATISTIK KES COVID-19	KESELURUHAN	Jumlah Keseluruhan	Jumlah Sembuh	Jumlah kematian
	862	860	3	634	7,681			22,225	14,351	193

Covid-19: Selangor makin berisiko

Oleh: MAISARAH SHEIKH RAHIM
maisarah.rahim@mediamulla.com.my

PUTRAJAYA: Selangor menjadi negeri semakin berisiko penularan jangkitan Covid-19 selepas menunjukkan peningkatan konsisten kes positif sejak awal Oktober lalu dalam tempoh gelombang ketiga wabak ketika ini.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr. Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, bagi tempoh semalam, negeri berkenaan menyaksikan pertambahan 132 kes daripada 862 kes baharu positif menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan kes sebanyak 3,489 kes dicatatkan di Selangor.

Menurut beliau, gelombang ketiga di negeri itu mula menyaksikan peningkatan kes pada akhir September lalu apabila kemasukan pengunjung dari Sabah ke Selangor dengan kluster pertama direkodkan ialah Jalan Apas pada 28 September melibatkan sekeluarga pulang dari Sabah.

"Pada 2 Oktober, kes mula meningkat secara konsisten sehingga hari ini (semalam), sebanyak 26 kluster aktif di Selangor daripada 84 kluster manakala 18 kluster aktif melibatkan jangkitan tempatan dan lapan kluster berkaitan kepulangan dari Sabah," katanya dalam sidang akhbar di sini semalam.

Noor Hisham berkata, terdapat enam kluster terbaharu yang dilaporkan sejak 11 Oktober iaitu



SEORANG pelanggan menggunakan aplikasi MySejahtera sebelum memasuki sebuah pasar raya di Jalan Bukit Bintang, Kuala Lumpur baru-baru ini. - GAMBAR / FARIZ RUSADIO

berkaitan dengan jangkitan tempatan di Selangor selain sembilan kluster adalah jangkitan di tempat kerja dan satu kluster melibatkan pusat beli-belah.

Bagaimanapun, kata beliau, peningkatan kes positif itu juga adalah berkaitan dengan kepadatan penduduk di Selangor, pergerakan tinggi penduduk dan pengunjung ke negeri itu.

Beliau berkata, Nilai RO (R Naught) perlu diturunkan kepada bawah kadar 1 yang ketika ini di-

catatkan 1.48 di Selangor, maka kawalan pergerakan penduduk perlu dilakukan demi memutuskan rantaian jangkitan penularan Covid-19.

Bagaimanapun, katanya, ia bergantung kepada situasi semasa dan tertakluk kepada penilaian pihak Kementerian dari semasa ke semasa.

Mengulas mengenai perkembangan kes positif di seluruh negara, Noor Hisham berkata, daripada 862 kes baharu yang di-

catatkan semalam, Sabah masih lagi mencatatkan kes tertinggi iaitu sebanyak 673 kes menjadikan keseluruhan kes ketika ini sebanyak 22,225 kes dengan kes aktif kebolehhjangkitan sebanyak 7,681 kes.

Beliau menjelaskan, terdapat tiga kes kematian direkodkan di Sabah selain satu lagi pertambahan kluster baharu iaitu Kluster Kertang di Sabah dengan merekodkan 20 kes.

Katanya, hanya dua kes import

dicatatkan manakala empat kes melibatkan pengunjung pulang dari Sabah, sekali gus menjadikan keseluruhan kes berkaitan sebanyak 452 kes sejak 20 September lalu.

"Daripada 673 kes di Sabah, ia membabitkan kluster-kluster sedia ada dan dua kes daripada Kluster Kertang.

"Di Selangor, 84 kes daripada 132 kes adalah kluster-kluster sedia ada, Kedah (17 kes), Perak (9 kes) manakala Pulau Pinang (lapan kes).

"Di Labuan, Negeri Sembilan dan Kuala Lumpur mencatatkan enam kes, selain satu kes dicatatkan di Putrajaya, Johor dan Kelantan," katanya.

Noor Hisham turut membeberitahu, pada masa ini terdapat 86 kluster masih aktif daripada keseluruhan 193 kluster termasuk 28 kluster menunjukkan pertambahan kes, selain 107 kluster telah ditamatkan melibatkan dua kluster semalam iaitu Kluster Setapak dan Kluster Selamat.

Katanya, sebanyak 61 kapasiti makmal ujian pengesanan Covid-19 telah melakukan 58,466 ujian seharian dan bagi tempoh semalam sebanyak 19,017 ujian seharian dijalankan.

Kapasiti tiga makmal di Sabah pula mampu melakukan 2,600 ujian seharian namun semalam makmal-makmal tersebut telah berjaya menjalani 3,551 ujian melebihi kapasiti.

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA

MUKA SURAT : 17

RUANGAN : RENCANA

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
RABU • 21 OKTOBER 2020

17

Rencana

Sedih dilabel 'anak' Covid-19

**CAKNA
SOKMO**
Oleh
Rosalinda Md. Said



MENGHINA dan membuat tohmahan melulu terhadap individu atau waris yang dijangkiti mahupun dikuarantin akibat Covid-19 seolah-olah menjadi budaya baharu dalam masyarakat hari ini. Sikap berlebihan itu sekali gus menyebabkan kelompok yang bekerja di premis sama, turut menerima tempias dipulaukan orang ramai, walaupun hakikatnya mereka tidak mempunyai sebarang kontak rapat dengan mangsa.

Salah faham melampau masyarakat sebegitu berulang kali ditegur Pengarah Kesihatan Terengganu, Dr. Nor Azimi Yunus menerusi hantaran di laman Facebook miliknya pada Julai lalu dan terbaru, Khamis, 8 Oktober.

Dalam perkongsiannya Nor Azimi berkata, ada segelintir individu dilarang masuk ke kedai, tidak terkecuali ibu bapa yang diminta segera mengambil anak masing-masing di sekolah atas alasan mereka bekerja di premis 'X' yang ditutup akibat pandemik. Lebih menyedihkan apabila ada yang disindir dengan gelaran 'anak' atau 'bapa' Covid-19.

Turut terpalit dengan diskriminasi itu ialah Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin (Unisza), Baru-baru



Setelah lebih enam bulan kita berperang dengan Covid-19, tidak sepatutnya isu salah faham tentang wabak penyakit ini masih menghantui masyarakat."

ini, sebuah klinik panelnya di Kuala Terengganu mengeluarkan notis enggan merawat kakitangan universiti berkenaan dan keluarga mereka bermula 4 hingga 18 Oktober lalu berikutan kes Covid-19 membabitkan salah seorang warganya.

Setelah lebih enam bulan kita berperang dengan Covid-19, tidak sepatutnya isu salah faham tentang wabak penyakit ini masih menghantui masyarakat. Adalah lebih baik jika mendoakan kesejahteraan mereka yang terjejas kerana kita tidak pernah tahu, mungkin ada yang terpaksa mendapatkan pil hipertensi buat kali pertama dalam hidup semata-mata trauma dengan penghinaan dan diskriminasi yang perlu dilalui setiap hari.

PENULIS ialah Koresponden Utusan Malaysia Terengganu.



KERJA-KERJA penyemburan cecair pembasmi kuman di kolej kediaman pelajar Unisza di Kuala Terengganu, baru-baru ini.
- UTUSAN/PUQTRA HAIRRY

AKHBAR : KOSMO
 MUKA SURAT : 4
 RUANGAN : NEGARA

4 | **Negara!**



Covid-19 #kitamestimenang

Kosmo! RABU 21 OKTOBER 2020

862 individu disahkan positif semalam, satu kluster baharu direkodkan

Kes Selangor meningkat mendadak

Oleh SITI A'ISYAH SUKAIMI

PUTRAJAYA – Kepadatan penduduk dan kadar pergerakan yang tinggi dalam kalangan penduduk dan pengunjung di Selangor menyumbang kepada peningkatan kes yang mendadak di negeri tersebut.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr. Noor Hisham Abdulah berkata, berdasarkan kes baharu semalam, sebanyak 132 daripada 862 kes yang dilaporkan adalah di Selangor menjadikan sejumlah 3,489 kes di negeri tersebut.

Menurutnya, bagi gelombang ketiga ini, Selangor mula menyaksikan peningkatan kes pada penghujung September setelah memasuki dan kepulauan pengunjung dari Sabah.

"Kluster pertama dilaporkan di Selangor dalam gelombang ketiga ini adalah Kluster Jalan Apas, iaitu pada 28 September melibatkan keluarga yang pulang dari Sabah.

"Peningkatan kes penularan tempatan di dalam negeri itu

mula dilihat pada 2 Oktober dan meningkat secara konsisten sehingga ke hari ini (semalam)," katanya di sini semalam.

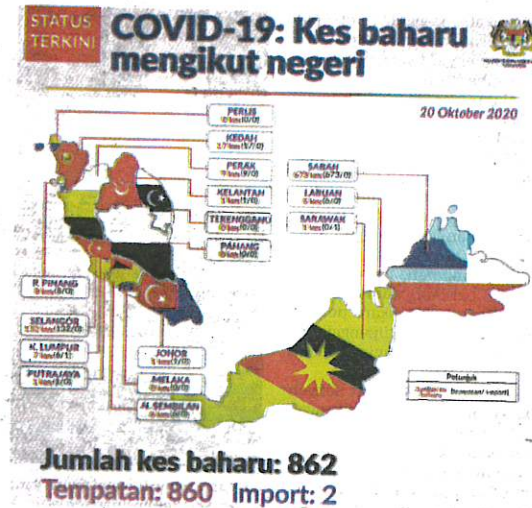
Beliau berkata, sehingga kini Selangor mencatatkan 26 jumlah kes aktif yang bermula dengan Kluster Jalan Apas sehingga kluster terbaharu diumumkan iaitu Kluster Hentian.

"Sebanyak 18 kluster aktif adalah kluster jangkitan tempatan, manakala lapan kluster mempunyai kaitan dengan pengembara pulang dari Sabah," katanya.

Dalam pada itu, Noor Hisham berkata, daripada 862 kes baharu yang dilaporkan semalam, dua daripadanya adalah kes import mendapat jangkitan dari luar negara iaitu Mesir dan Indonesia.

Katanya, sebanyak 860 kes adalah penularan tempatan yang turut disumbangkan daripada satu kluster baharu iaitu Kluster Kertang dikenal pasti di daerah Kota Belud, Sabah melibatkan kes indeks iaitu kes ke-17,623.

Pada masa sama, beliau berkata, Sabah masih merekodkan kes



tertinggi (673), diikuti Selangor (132), Kedah (17), Perak (sembilan), Pulau Pinang (lapan), Kuala Lumpur serta Labuan dan Negeri

Sembilan (masing-masing enam), manakala satu kes baharu dilaporkan di Putrajaya, Johor dan Kelantan.



Angka Terkini Kes Covid-19 Di Malaysia sehingga semalam

	Jumlah
Kes baharu	862
Import: 2 Tempatan: 860	
Pulih	634
Kematian	3
Masih dirawat	7,681
Jumlah kes sembuh	14,351
Jumlah Kematian	193
Jumlah kes keseluruhan	22,225

Mengulas lanjut, Noor Hisham berkata, terdapat tiga pertambahan kes kematian semalam dilaporkan di Sabah menjadikan sebanyak 193 kes sehingga kini.

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

NewStraitsTimes . WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2020

4 | NEWS / Story of the day

PANDEMIC UPDATES

862 NEW CASES, 3 DEATHS

Sabah continues to log the highest number of cases at 673

HANA NAZ HARUN
 AND TEOH PEI YING
KUALA LUMPUR
 news@nst.com.my

DESPITE showing a slight reduction on Monday, the daily Covid-19 figures remain in the 800 zone, with 862 new infections recorded yesterday. All but two of the cases were locally transmitted.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said Sabah continued to log the highest number of cases at 673 (78.1 per cent) up to noon yesterday.

Of this, 260 new cases were from existing clusters, 243 from close contacts, 168 from other screenings and two from the new Kertang Cluster in Kota Belud.

Up to yesterday, 21 cases were recorded from this cluster.

The Health Ministry registered three fatalities yesterday — a 78-year-old man and a 59-year-old woman at Tawau Hospital and a 90-year-old woman at Queen Elizabeth Hospital — all in Sabah.

Dr Noor Hisham said Selangor saw three-digit cases at 132, which included two people who returned from Sabah.

He said the state had seen a drastic increase in Covid-19 cases since the end of last month due to returnees from Sabah.

He said the first cluster reported in Selangor, also the country's third wave, was the Jalan Apas



A Klang Municipal Council worker sanitising a row of houses at Taman Ehsan Jaya in Pandamaran, Klang, yesterday. PIC BY FAIZ ANUAR

Cluster that was detected on Sept 28.

"This cluster was linked to a family who returned from Sabah. The increase in local infections in Selangor started on Oct 2, and have been increasing consistently," he said yesterday.

There are 26 active clusters in Selangor comprising 18 (69.2 per cent) local infection clusters and eight (30.8 per cent) linked to those who returned from Sabah.

Six clusters reported since Oct 11 were linked to local infections, said Dr Noor Hisham.

"Nine out of 26 clusters are closely linked to infections from work (34.6 per cent), while one cluster is linked to a shopping mall (3.8 per cent).

"This situation is due to the density of the population and the

high mobility among the public in Selangor."

The Utama Cluster, linked to the 1Utama Shopping Centre in Bandar Utama, was Selangor's largest active cluster.

Dr Noor Hisham said the mall had been sanitised and disinfected during its week-long closure.

"This Utama Cluster is in its sixth generation. We were able to trace people thanks to the MySejahtera app. This is one of the important reasons to use contact tracing to contain positive cases."

Cases were also recorded in Kedah with 17, Perak (nine) and Penang (eight), Labuan, Negri Sembilan and Kuala Lumpur (six each) and Putrajaya, Johor and Kelantan (one each).

Meanwhile, Dr Noor Hisham

said the first week of the Conditional Movement Control Order (CMCO) had improved the Covid-19 infectivity rate (R0) to 1.5 from 2.2.

He said although this was an improvement, he believed that the rate could be further reduced.

"We can do better (and lower the R0). We will still adopt the strategy of enforcing the CMCO, but in areas with high cases such as Semporna, we can implement the Targeted Enhanced MCO.

"This is where everyone is swabbed according to the locality and clusters, such as the Bangau-Bangau and Benteng LD clusters."

He explained that the decision to adopt the CMCO instead of MCO was to balance between health and economy.

"We realised that when the CMCO was implemented, we managed to bring down the cases to single digits. We even had three days of zero (local infections). This is why we adopted the same strategy."

He said the R0 needed to be reduced from 1.5 to below 1.0.

On whether the CMCO would be extended, Dr Noor Hisham said the ministry would continue monitoring the situation daily before coming up with recommendations.

"There is still one more week to look into the data. If we have done well, we will probably suggest differently. It is important to see the progress daily."

He said should the R0 remained at 1.5, the number of cases would spike to 1,300 cases by Oct 31.

"We do not want that, so we want everyone to come together to bring down the R0 to less than 1.0."

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 7

RUANGAN : NEWS / NATION

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2020 . NewStraitsTimes

Nation / NEWS

7

'ANYONE CAN BE A SUPERSPREADER'

'NO AGE GROUP IS IMMUNE TO COVID-19'

Deaths among younger people show virus does not discriminate, say health experts

DAWN CHAN
KUALA LUMPUR
news@nst.com.my

THE deaths of three people in their 40s due to Covid-19 in Malaysia recently demonstrate that the virus does not discriminate and is potentially fatal for people from all age groups, said health experts.

Rejecting the perception that only the elderly were susceptible, they said no one was immune to the infection and could even become superspreaders of the virus.

Epidemiologist Datuk Dr Awang Bulgiba Awang Mahmud said there was a possibility that the death toll could rise following the spike in cases in recent weeks.

"All age groups can contract Covid-19. Even babies have been known to die from Covid-19. No age group is immune.

"There have been reports of young people dying from Covid-19 elsewhere in the world even though deaths are reportedly higher among the elderly," he told the *New Straits Times*.

The Universiti Malaya professor was commenting on three new deaths on Sunday involving two people aged 41 and 44 in Sabah, as well as a 46-year-old in Selangor, which bucks the trend of generally older victims.

The Health Ministry said the patients aged 41 and 46 did not display any health complications unlike the other victim who suffered from heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes and dyslipidemia.

Dr Awang said although the nation's Covid-19 fatality rate was low at 0.9 per cent, by virtue of the denominator growing, the number of deaths would continue to climb.

"As more people from all age groups are infected, Covid-19 deaths among all age groups are also likely to result."

On whether anyone could be a Covid-19 superspreader, he said it depended on one's viral load.

"Viral load depends on virus genotype and the body's response to the virus. Anyone can be a superspreader if the condi-



Physical distancing has become the new norm as seen in this food court in Kuala Lumpur yesterday PIC BY FATHIL ASRI.



Datuk Dr Awang Bulgiba Awang Mahmud



Dr Malina Osman



Datuk Dr Zainal Ariffin Omar

tions are right.

"Some people are unaware they are infected, whether they are asymptomatic or having only mild symptoms. But they can still transmit the disease. It is unclear whether asymptomatic patients will transmit the virus as effectively as someone with symptoms, but they are still able to."

Melaka Manipal Medical College's community and occupational medicine professor Dr G. Jayakumar expressed concern that Malaysia recorded the death of a 1-year-old girl due to Covid-19 earlier this month in Tawau, making her the country's youngest known victim.

The World Health Organisation, he said, had also announced the increase of infections among younger people.

He described the shift of the

pandemic trend towards the younger demographic, who were classified as mild cases or asymptomatic, as a worrying sign.

"The worrying issue is that many of them live with older or vulnerable individuals. Those who are positive with the virus but have mild symptoms or no symptoms at all are the silent carriers of disease.

"They unknowingly spread the illness to others. The young and old both have the potential to be superspreaders."

He said young people were not entirely shielded from Covid-19.

"It is believed with the opening up of workplaces, business entities and institutions of higher education, people are mingling in proximity, resulting in higher Covid-19 cases.

"More Covid-19 screenings by

the ministry have shown that there are higher cases among the young and old," he added.

However, Universiti Putra Malaysia epidemiology and biostatistics expert Assoc Prof Dr Malina Osman believed that the significance of Sunday's fatalities among younger patients with no underlying health conditions was inconclusive due to the limited information released by the ministry on their health history.

"Among the documented causes of death among young patients were delays in access to healthcare services, history of immunity abnormality, those with pulmonary abnormality and other underlying chronic disorders.

"Some of them were unaware that they had a chronic disorder, such as undiagnosed hypertension or dyslipidemia," she said.

Young and healthy adults, she added, could be potential Covid-19 superspreaders but the clinical manifestations varied from the spectrum of being asymptomatic to having severe infections, depending on one's immune response.

"The risk of infections is similar to all age groups and it falls in the hands of the people whether they comply with the recommended standard operating procedure (SOP) and preventive measures. Based on the current trend, it is expected that the number of cases will increase due to active contact tracing."

Malaysian Public Health Physicians' Association president Datuk Dr Zainal Ariffin Omar said Covid-19 could infect young and healthy people and cause deaths due to extensive organ damage in the lungs.

"Most infected young people are mild cases and many are asymptomatic. They are active and can be a source of infections in workplaces, institutions and the community.

"However, the elderly with chronic diseases are high on the list of risk of infection and death due to Covid-19. Other high-risk individuals include those who are obese, smokers, drug addicts as well as chronic alcoholics."

Dr Zainal stressed the importance of adhering to the new norms and SOP to break the chain of Covid-19 transmissions and to protect vulnerable groups.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : NATION

Selangor sees spike in cases

Health DG: Uptrend contributed by high population density and travelling frequency

By JOSEPH KAOS Jr
and ALLISON LAI
newsdesk@thestar.com.my

PUTRAJAYA: Selangor has seen an increase in positive cases in the third wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, says Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

He said the state recorded 132 new infections yesterday, making the total number of positive cases in Selangor 3,489.

"For this third wave, Selangor has seen a spike in cases since September following the return of visitors from Sabah.

"The first cluster reported in Selangor in the third wave is the Jalan Apas cluster on Sept 28, which involved a family who returned from Sabah.

Battling Covid-19

"The uptrend in local transmission cases in Selangor began since Oct 2 and it has been consistent until now," he said in a press conference yesterday.

On Monday, Selangor recorded 107 positive cases and 77 the day before.

So far, Selangor has 26 active clusters with 18 of them (69.2%) involving local transmissions, while eight (30.8%) were Sabah returnees.

"Nine clusters (34.6%) are closely related to workplace transmission, while one cluster (3.8%) involves public shopping places," he said.

Dr Noor Hisham also noted that the situation in Selangor was contributed by the high density of residents and the high travelling frequency involving residents and visitors in the state.

Yesterday, Dr Noor Hisham said Malaysia recorded 862 new infections. This is the fourth day in a row that cases have gone above 800.

Of the total number of cases, two were imported cases from Egypt and Indonesia, which were reported in Kuala Lumpur and Sarawak respectively.

The rest were all local transmissions, including four returnees from Sabah.

Three new deaths were reported in Sabah – a 78-year-old man and two women aged 59 and 90. They are all Malaysians.

The country's Covid-19 death toll is now 193 people.

A total of 634 patients have been discharged while active cases have gone up to 7,681.

Currently, 95 people are being treated at intensive care units with 29 of them requiring ventilator support.

Dr Noor Hisham noted that a new cluster had been identified in Kota Belud, Sabah.

"The index case of the Kertang cluster is a close contact who tested positive on Oct 14 and has been admitted to the quarantine and treatment centre at PPR Taman Seri Bayu in Kota Belud.

"From the close contact screenings, another 19 positive cases have been identified.

"As of noon (yesterday), a total of 216 people have been screened with 21 testing positive," Dr Noor Hisham said, adding that there were currently 86 active clusters in the country.

The Kepyayan Prison cluster in Sabah recorded 213 new cases yesterday with a total of 415 cases so far.

The Tembok cluster recorded four new cases and is now the biggest cluster with 1,576 cumulative cases.

Two clusters – the Setapak cluster in Kuala Lumpur and the Selamat cluster in Sabah – have been declared closed after not recording new infections for 28 days straight.

Frontliners put duty as top priority

By LIEW JIA XIAN
and N. TRISHA
north@thestar.com.my

GEORGE TOWN: He is among the high-risk group but 68-year-old Tang Heng Kok continues to soldier on in his fight against the Covid-19 pandemic which is still a major threat.

The Sri Tanjung voluntary firefighter has been disinfecting work premises and school buildings besides being on standby to face any eventuality.

"Since the first wave, we have been disinfecting buildings to ensure everyone is safe from the virus.

"On a busy day, we disinfect up to three schools and spent around two hours in each school," he said.

Tang said besides helping with cleaning and sanitising buildings, his team is also on standby for emergencies.

"It's not tiring at all since we get to work on shifts. But I'll be drenched in sweat as it is hot to wear a layer of personal protection equipment (PPE) on top of our uniform.

"But I understand that it is double protection for us," he said.

Tang is among the many frontliners who have been fighting the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

A businessman with two grandchildren aged five and eight living with him, Tang said he would disinfect himself upon reaching home.

"My two grandchildren also belong to the high-risk category so I'd always clean myself properly before playing with them.

"I have to be healthy so that I can take good care of them," he said.

Penang Island City Council public



Prep work: Tang preparing the disinfectant spray at the Sri Tanjung voluntary squad station in Weld Quay, Penang. — LIM BENG TATT/The Star

health officer M. Komagan, 29, is at a higher risk of contracting the virus as his job requires him to move around and he is living with his parents, who are in their 60s.

"My mother has diabetes. I have to go to many public places to ensure sweeping, cleaning and sanitising are done there.

"This exposes us to getting the virus," Komagan said.

He added that he would usually laze around the house after work before showering but nowadays he would rush straight to the bathroom before speaking to his parents.

"I'll do the grocery shopping and make sure my parents always have their face masks on when they

leave the house," he said.

George Town OCPD Asst Comm Soffian Santong said combating several emerging clusters during the third wave of the pandemic was very challenging and tiring for him and his men.

"The mutation of the virus and its easy transmission are a real challenge as we have to double up our enforcement to make sure the public follows the standard operating procedure (SOP).

"We don't have time to deal with fatigue and tiredness. We are always ready to serve the public and enforce the law until this country is free from this virus," he said in a phone interview.

ACP Soffian also advised the public to adhere strictly to the SOP and avoid the 3Cs – confined spaces, crowded places and close conversations.

"Besides wearing face masks, the public can also help us by stopping the spread of fake or unverified information," he said.

Penang Remand Prison director Mohamed Jusoh Ismail said his staff on duty would only move around in their PPEs.

"The virus has been contained as no staff members are working outside the prison gates.

"The public need not fear contracting the virus," ACP Soffian said.

Doctors and nurses stay put despite missing home

By IVAN LOH
ivanloh@thestar.com.my

IPOH: "Home sweet home" will have to wait a while for some of the doctors and nurses here.

"There are quite a few of the staff members here who are from Klang Valley.

"They miss their family but they are also aware of the risk of travelling back, as many areas are now red zones," said a doctor who declined to be named.

The doctor, who works at Raja Permaisuri Bainun Hospital, also said that there were staff members who had yet to return to see their family members living in other states since March.

Malaysia's total caseload stood at 21,363 as of Monday. In Perak, the cumulative number is 415 infections, with 137 active cases. Most of the recent infections happened in Taiping (79 cases).

Other areas with a high number of active cases include Parit Buntar (14) and Lekir (12), while Ipoh and Pengkalan Hulu each have six cases.

The doctor said the movement restrictions in March had been disruptive to his three children's daily routine. He said his children had been spending too much time on screens during the three months as classes had been suspended.

"I was mostly at work and was unable to supervise them," he added.

He also said that the current standard operating procedure had been tough on patients.

"With the new norms, we cannot see as many patients as before. "Appointments have to be postponed, including surgery for non-urgent cases," he said.

A 29-year-old nurse at the hospital, who also declined to be named, said she had not returned to her hometown in Manjung since March.

"I call my parents regularly to check up on them and they assure me that they will be careful," she said.

"Personally, it is quite mentally exhausting but we still need to continue fighting," she added.

DG: First week of CMCO records improvement

PUTRAJAYA: The first week of the conditional movement control order (CMCO) in the Klang Valley and Sabah has produced some improvement in Covid-19 infectivity, says Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

The Health director-general said the country's R0 (pronounced R-naught) value, which measures the infectivity of a virus outbreak, has gone down from 2.2 to 1.5 in the past week.

However, Dr Noor Hisham said the improvement was not good

enough and needed to be below 1.0 before a decision can be made on whether or not to continue with the conditional CMCO.

"Although there is an improvement in the value, we can do better.

"There is still one more week to go. If we manage to bring down the R0 to 0.3, that would be good. We are still monitoring this every day," he said during the Covid-19 press conference yesterday.

Dr Noor Hisham said with an R0 of 2.2, Malaysia could reach 4,500 Covid-19 cases a day by Oct 31.

"Our R0 right now is 1.5, which means our cases could reach 1,300 cases a day. We do not want that, so we must bring it down to less than one," he said.

Currently, the conditional CMCO is enforced in Sabah as well as Selangor, Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya.

Sabah's conditional CMCO is expected to end on Oct 26, while the order is until Oct 27 for Klang Valley and Putrajaya, subject to the government's decision on the need for a further extension.

AKHBAR : THE SUN

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS

Number of infections still high, 862 cases

PETALING JAYA: There was a slight dip in the number of new Covid-19 cases yesterday when 862 cases were detected compared with 865 the previous day. This brings the total number of active cases in the country to 7,681.

"The majority of cases are still originating from Sabah, as 673 cases or 78.1% of the cases were from there," Health Director-General Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said in a live press conference yesterday.

Three deaths were reported, all in Sabah, involving two women and a man, who were aged between 59 and 90.

All of them had a history of medical problems, including high blood pressure and heart disease.

The death toll has now risen to 193, which is 0.87% of the total number of cases.

The Kepayan prison and Tembok clusters accounted for 235 cases (27.3%).

"These cases are all within prisons and are not community infections," Noor Hisham said.

Of the total, only two were imported cases involving a Malaysian returning from Egypt and a foreigner from Indonesia.

Selangor recorded 132 new cases yesterday followed by Kedah, with 17.

Perak, Penang, Labuan, Negri Sembilan, Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya, Johor and Kelantan all recorded fewer than 10 cases each.

Meanwhile, 634 patients have been discharged from hospital, bringing the total number of recoveries to 14,351 cases.

Noor Hisham added that 95 patients are in intensive care units with 29 requiring ventilator assistance.

One new cluster, known as the Kertang cluster, has been detected in Kota Belud, Sabah.

The index case was found positive on Oct 14 and was admitted to a quarantine and treatment centre in Kota Belud.

A total of 216 individuals in the cluster were tested and 21 positive cases have been reported.