

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Penularan COVID-19

Asing OKT baharu, lama elak jangkitan

Penularan terhadap individu dalam sel sama boleh berlaku walaupun keputusan ujian RT-PCR negatif

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Putrajaya: Kementerian Kesihatan meminta supaya Orang Kena Tahan (OKT) baharu supaya diasingkan daripada individu yang sudah lama dalam tahanan bagi membendung penularan COVID-19 seperti yang berlaku dalam Kluster Benteng Lahad Datu (LD).

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata semua OKT itu perlu diasingkan walaupun Ujian Real-Time Reverse Transcription-Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) mendapat keputusan negatif.

"Kes indeks bagi Kluster Benteng LD ini adalah daripada warga asing. Apabila ujian saringan dilakukan ke atas kes terabit beliau tidak menunjukkan sebarang gejala atau demam sebelum di-

tempatkan dalam lokap di Ibu Pejabat Polis Daerah (IPD) LD dan Penjara Tawau.

"Walaupun tiada gejala, apabila diletakkan dalam satu sel ia boleh menjangkiti individu yang lain. Jadi Prosedur Operasi Standard (SOP) kita kalau boleh asingkan OKT baharu dengan lama.

"Walaupun ujian RT-PCR negatif, tetap tidak boleh campurkan OKT baharu dengan lama kerana tempoh inkubasi virus itu ialah 14 hari.

"Selepas tempoh inkubasi itu tamat, baru boleh disekalikan OKT terabit," katanya, semalam.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, sekiranya SOP itu dapat dilaksanakan sama ada di DTI atau penjara, ia dapat membendung penularan jangkitan daripada OKT baharu dengan yang lama.

Kluster Benteng LD yang dikesan 1 September lalu, memba-



Dr Noor Hisham pada sidang media harian di Kementerian Kesihatan, Putrajaya, semalam. (Foto BERNAMA)

bitkan dua daerah di Sabah, Dr Noor Hisham berkata seramai 1,909 individu sudah disaring di Tawau dengan 83 daripadanya dikesan positif setakat ini, manakala 770 individu telah disaring di Lahad Datu dengan 87 kes dikesan positif.

Sementara itu, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, 45 kes baharu COVID-19 dilaporkan semalam dan daripada jumlah berkenaan 40 kes dikesan dalam Kluster Benteng

LD.

Empat lagi kes baharu dikesan di Kedah iaitu masing-masing satu kes daripada Kluster Sungai dan kes saringan bergejala di Klinik Kesihatan Simpang Kuala serta dua kes dikesan dalam Kluster Telaga.

Hanya satu kes import dicatatkan hingga jam 12 tengah semalam membabitkan rakyat Malaysia yang baru pulang dari Brazil.

"Kes baharu membabitkan penularan tempatan itu membabitkan 11 individu rakyat Malaysia dan 33 adalah warga asing. Dengan pertambahan kes baharu, jumlah kumulatif kes COVID-19 di negara ini sebanyak 9,628 kes. Oleh itu, jumlah kes aktif dengan kebolehan jangkitan COVID-19 adalah 333 kes.

Hingga kini sembilan individu sedang dirawat di Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU), yang mana lima kes memerlukan bantuan pernafasan. Tiada pertambahan kes kematian berkaitan COVID-19 dilaporkan justeru, jumlah kumulatif kes kekal 128 kes bersamaan 1.33 peratus daripada jumlah keseluruhan kes.

Sementara itu, ketika ditanya sama ada penularan COVID-19 dalam Kluster Telaga dan Sungai itu mempunyai kaitan kerana membabitkan petugas kesihatan, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, pihaknya masih belum mengetahui punca jangkitan.

Bagaimanapun, Dr Noor Hisham berkata berkemungkinan dua kluster itu mempunyai hubungan kait dengan Kluster Tawar dan Kluster Sivagangga kerana ia mempunyai kebolehan jangkitan yang sangat tinggi.

"Kalau lihat cara virus ini merebak (dalam Kluster Sungai dan Kluster Telaga) kebolehan jangkitannya amat tinggi dan kita rasa virus ini daripada Kluster Tawar dan Sivagangga. Tetapi kita belum boleh pastikan mengenai perkara ini dan makmal juga sedang jalankan ujian," katanya.

Daripada Kluster Sungai, seramai 1,456 orang sudah disaring di Kedah dengan 39 dikesan positif manakala tujuh individu disaring di Perlis dengan satu kes positif, sementara bagi Kluster Telaga pula, seramai 4,626 individu sudah disaring di Kedah dengan 13 dikesan positif.

Walaupun tiada gejala, apabila diletakkan dalam satu sel ia boleh menjangkiti individu yang lain. Jadi Prosedur Operasi Standard (SOP) kita kalau boleh asingkan OKT baharu dengan lama.

Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah,
Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan

KKM pantau negara luar menerusi sistem merit

Putrajaya: Kementerian Kesihatan memantau negara luar menerusi Sistem Merit bagi menilai risiko pengimportan jangkitan COVID-19 ke Malaysia.

Menerusi sistem merit itu, kementerian sudah mengenal pasti enam kriteria sebelum warga-negara sesebuah negara itu disekat kemasukannya. Antaranya ialah jumlah kes COVID-19 yang dicatatkan oleh negara terabit dalam tempoh 14 hari terkebelakang serta kadar insiden per sejuta penduduk dalam tempoh sama.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata pihaknya juga melihat jumlah kematian dalam tempoh 14 hari, indeks pemu-

lihan serta kes kumulatif COVID-19 melebihi 15,000 kes.

"Setiap negara dinilai berdasarkan kriteria yang dinyatakan dan diletakkan di bawah kategori risiko tertentu

"Hasil penilaian terhadap semua 23 buah negara yang di-

kenakan sekatan perjalanan ke Malaysia didapati mempunyai risiko tinggi membawa masuk jangkitan COVID-19 ke dalam negara kita," katanya pada sidang media, semalam.

Pemantauan itu dibuat kementerian selepas melihat kenaikan mendadak kes import COVID-19 di Malaysia.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, sejak 3 April hingga 9 September lalu, jumlah pengembara yang masuk ke Malaysia adalah seramai 119,268 orang.

Daripada jumlah berkenaan 995 disahkan positif COVID-19, iaitu 742 kes dikesan ketika saringan ketibaan dan 253 kes dikesan daripada saringan kedua pada hari ke-13.

Fakta Nombor

995 kes

pengembara masuk ke Malaysia sejak 3 April hingga 9 September positif COVID-19

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO
 MUKA SURAT : 3
 RUANGAN : LOKAL

Catat 45 kes jangkitan baharu semalam

Kuala Lumpur: Sebanyak 45 kes baharu Covid-19 dikesan sehingga jam 12 tengah hari semalam, menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes di negara ini sebanyak 9,628 kes dengan 333 kes aktif.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, daripada jumlah itu, satu kes import dilaporkan di Selangor iaitu warganegara Malaysia yang pulang dari Brazil.

Menurutnya, daripada 44

kes penularan di dalam negara, 11 adalah dalam kalangan warganegara dan 33 bukan warganegara.

"Berdasarkan perincian empat kes iaitu dua daripada Kluster Telaga serta masing-masing satu daripada Kluster Sungai dan saringan bergejala di Klinik Kesihatan Simpang Kuala yang mana beliau sudah dimasukkan ke Hospital Sultanah Bahiyah.

"Di Sabah, terdapat 40 kes daripada Kluster Benteng LD dengan 33 kes membabitkan bukan warganegara," katanya pada sidang media Covid-19 di Putrajaya, semalam.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, terdapat 24 kes pulih semalam menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes pulih sepenuhnya sebanyak 9,167 kes (95.2 peratus daripada jumlah keseluruhan kes).

"Sehingga kini, terdapat sembilan kes positif Covid-19 yang sedang dirawat di Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU), yang mana lima kes memerlukan bantuan pernafasan.

"Tiada pertambahan kes kematian dilaporkan hari ini (semalam), justeru, jumlah kumulatif kes kematian Covid-19 di Malaysia kekal sebanyak 128 kes (1.34 peratus daripada jumlah keseluruhan kes)," katanya.

Oleh Amir Abd Hamid
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Kuala Lumpur

Enam kriteria dikenal pasti sebelum kerajaan membuat keputusan drastik mengenakan sekatan perjalanan ke atas negara berisiko tinggi yang mengambil kira potensi gelombang ketiga penularan jangkitan Covid-19 menjelang musim sejuk.

Menteri Kanan (Keselamatan) Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob berkata, kriteria penilaian risiko pengimportan jangkitan virus itu adalah berdasarkan *Scoring Board*: Sistem Merit Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) yang mengguna pakai data dari *Europe CDC* dan *Our World in Data*.

"Enam kriteria berkenaan termasuk bilangan kes Covid-19 dalam tempoh 14 hari kebelakangan; kadar insiden per sejuta penduduk dalam tempoh 14 hari kebelakangan.

"Selain itu, kadar kematian 14 hari kebelakangan per sejuta penduduk; kadar kematian kes kumulatif; indeks pemulihan dan kes melebihi 150,000," katanya.

KENAL PASTI 6 KRITERIA

Kerajaan buat penilaian sebelum laksana sekatan perjalanan ke atas negara berisiko tinggi



Bagi pemegang Pas Ekspatriat dan pekerja mahir, mereka perlu terlebih dahulu mendapat kelulusan JIM"

Ismail Sabri

Beliau berkata demikian pada sidang media semalam mengenai pelaksanaan Perintah Kawalan Pemulihan (PKP) hari ke-177 dan hari ke-93 Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Pemulihan (PKPP).

Ismail Sabri berkata, tindakan itu diambil bagi memastikan jangkitan kes import dapat dikawal dan

melindungi rakyat Malaysia dari ancaman gelombang ketiga Covid-19 menjelang musim sejuk di negara yang berkenaan.

Bagaimanapun, katanya, sekatan perjalanan ini tidak membabitkan semua pihak kerana diplomat asing dan ahli keluarga serta delegasi dari luar negara bagi urusan berkaitan hubungan dua hala masih dibenarkan masuk.

Katanya, susulan pengumuman sekatan kemasukan pemegang Pas Jangka Masa Panjang, Mesyuarat Khas Menteri semalam bersetuju memberi sedikit kelonggaran untuk membenarkan Pemegang Pas Ekspatriat dan Pekerja Mahir dari negara terbabit memasuki Malaysia.

"Bagi pemegang Pas

Ekspatriat dan pekerja mahir, mereka perlu terlebih dahulu mendapat kelulusan dari Jabatan Imigresen Malaysia (JIM) dan surat sokongan dari Lembaga Pembangunan Pelaburan Malaysia (Mida) atau agensi berkaitan.

"Bagi penduduk tetap dan pasangan warganegara Malaysia, mereka boleh memohon dengan JIM untuk memasuki Malaysia dengan syarat perjalanan sehalu sahaja. Pemegang Pas Pelajar dari negara yang terbabit juga dibenarkan masuk ke Malaysia dengan memohon JIM terlebih dahulu.

"Bagaimanapun JIM tidak akan menerima permohonan pas penuntut baharu," katanya.

Sempadan Johor-Singapura bakal dibuka

Iskandar Puteri: Sempadan Johor-Singapura akan dibuka dalam masa terdekat sekiranya sistem kemasukan terhadap iaitu sistem Laluan Hijau Timbal Balik (RGL) dan Peraturan Ulang Alik Berkala (PCA) berjalan lancar serta berjaya.

Menteri Besar Datuk Hasni Mohammad berkata, isu sempadan adalah perkara yang membabitkan hubungan dua hala antara negara dikendalikan Kerajaan Persekutuan selain memerlukan perbincangan sebelum capai kata putus.

Menurutnya, sejak sistem

kemasukan RGL dan PCA dibuka pada 17 Ogos hingga 31 Ogos lalu, 8,597 individu menggunakan skim itu.

"Sehingga 31 Ogos lalu, 327 individu menggunakan sistem RGL yang mana 45 keluar dari negeri ini dan 282 pula masuk ke Johor Bahru. Manakala 8,270 individu lagi menggunakan sistem PCA membabitkan 6,784 individu keluar dan 1,486 masuk.

"Sekiranya sistem ini berjaya, saya yakin, Kerajaan Persekutuan akan membuka pintu sempadan Johor-Singapura dengan

prosedur operasi standard (SOP) terancang.

"Bagi memastikan SOP yang dirancang dapat dipatuhi dan dilaksanakan dengan baik, kerajaan negeri mengambil langkah proaktif dengan menyelaras pembabitkan agensi yang berada di barisan hadapan, termasuk mampu melakukan pemeriksaan Covid-19 dengan kapasiti 2,000 individu yang masuk sehari," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian ketika menjawab soalan tambahan **Andrew Chen (DAP-Stulang)** pada

Mesyuarat Kedua Penggal Persidangan Ketiga Sidang Dewan Undangan Negeri (DUN) Johor ke-14 di Bangunan Sultan Ismail, Kota Iskandar, semalam.

Mengulas lanjut, Hasni berkata, penutupan sempadan Johor-Singapura memberi kesan langsung terhadap ekonomi Johor.

Katanya, dianggarkan lebih 50 peratus daripada perbelanjaan pelancong asing yang menjadi penyumbang utama sektor perniagaan di Johor, kini menyusut berikutan penutupan sempadan.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO
 MUKA SURAT : 10
 RUANGAN : LOKAL

KKM rekod 465 kes cubaan bunuh diri

Petaling Jaya: Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) merekodkan 465 kes cubaan bunuh diri yang dilaporkan dan menerima rawatan di hospitalnya sejak Januari hingga Jun tahun ini.

Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba berkata, jumlah itu berkurangan 210 kes berbanding tempoh sama pada 2019 iaitu 675 kes.

Beliau berkata, KKM sudah melaksanakan beberapa inisiatif bagi menangani isu tingkah laku bunuh diri termasuk kempen Let's TALK

Minda Sihat bermula sejak 2019 dan adalah perkongsian pintar bersama agensi kerajaan, swasta serta badan bukan kerajaan (NGO).

Ini katanya, sebagai usaha mengatasi stigma dan menggalakkan masyarakat mendapatkan bantuan awal bagi masalah kesihatan mental dialami.

"Perkataan TALK di dalam tajuk kempen ini adalah singkatan kepada: *T-Tell someone you trust about your problems* (Berkongsi masalah yang dihadapi dengan



DR Adham

orang yang dipercayai). *A-Ask for help* (Meminta pertolongan). *L-Listen without judgement* (Mendengar tanpa menghukum atau menghakimi). *K-Know where to seek help* (Mengetahui di mana untuk mendapatkan bantuan).

"Sempena Hari Pencegahan Bunuh Diri Sedunia pada 10 September setiap tahun, kempen Let's TALK Minda Sihat kali ini berte-makan Kesihatan Mental Milik Semua, Bersama Cegah Bunuh Diri," katanya.

Terima 11,791 panggilan talian sokongan psikososial

Petaling Jaya: Sebanyak 11,791 panggilan diterima talian sokongan psikoso-sial sejak 25 Mac hingga akhir Ogos lalu.

Menteri Kesihatan Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba ber-kata, daripada jumlah itu, 50 peratus pemanggil mengutarakan isu yang memerlukan sokongan emosi dan kaunseling seperti tekanan, risau serta putus harapan.

Katanya, antara punca pemanggil menggunakan talian ini adalah faktor so-sial seperti hilang pekerjaan, tiada sumber penda-patan, masalah hubungan interpersonal, isolasi dan pengurangan akses kepada perkhidmatan bantuan sewaktu Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP).

"Selain itu pemanggil yang ingin mendapatkan maklumat berkaitan Co-vi-d-19 sebanyak 17 peratus, isu rumah tangga termasuk penderaan dan kega-nasan sebanyak 8 peratus; masalah kewangan serta

isu bantuan kewangan dan sumbangan sebanyak 7.4 peratus dan masalah psi-kiatri sebanyak 3.4, pera-tus.

"Pandemik Covid-19 tu-rut mendatangkan impak besar kepada segenap la-pisan masyarakat teruta-ma mereka yang memang mempunyai masalah kesi-hatan mental dan penyakit mental.

"Setiap lapisan masya-rakat terkesan dengan si-tuasi semasa terutama da-lam tempoh PKP yang bermula pada 18 Mac lalu sehingga Perintah Kawa-lan Pergerakan Pemulihan (PKPP) yang dilanjutkan hingga 31 Disember 2020," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian ketika berucap merasmi-kan pusat aktiviti dan pe-ngurusan krisis Persatuan Kesedaran dan Sokongan Penyakit Mental (MIASA) iaitu *The Orchid Clubhouse* sempena Hari Pencegahan Bunuh Diri Sedunia 2020, di sini, semalam.

AKHBAR : KOSMO

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NEGARA

4

Negara!



Covid-19 #kitamestimenang

Kosmo! JUMAAT 11 SEPTEMBER 2020

Kluster Benteng LD rekod 40 kes harian

PUTRAJAYA – Kluster Benteng LD di Sabah merekodkan 40 kes semalam membabitkan 33 tahanan warga asing dan satu tahanan warga Malaysia di Tawau.

Enam kes lagi membabitkan ahli keluarga kakitangan penjara iaitu anak kakitangan penjara selain seorang kanak-kanak lelaki berusia tiga tahun, cucu saudara kepada kes ke-9,395.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr. Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, bagi Kluster Benteng LD, jumlah saringan dijalankan ke atas seramai 2,679

individu di Tawau dan Lahad Datu.

"Jika kita lihat kluster ini, kes indeks membabitkan dua pendatang asing tanpa izin (PATI) dan ketika disaring, mereka tiada gejala seperti demam lalu ditempatkan di lokap Ibu Pejabat Polis Daerah Lahad Datu dan Penjara Tawau.

"Walaupun tidak bergejala tetapi bila diletakkan dalam satu sel yang sama, jangkitan boleh berlaku, justeru kalau boleh diasingkan tahanan dengan yang sedia ada.

"Ini kerana, apabila ujian RT-PCR didapati negatif, seharusnya jangan campurkan tahanan baharu dengan yang lama kerana tempoh inkubasi Covid-19 ialah 14 hari," katanya pada sidang akhbar di sini semalam.

Dalam pada itu, beliau berkata, empat lagi kes penularan tempatan ialah di Kedah iaitu satu daripadanya ialah Kluster Sungai membabitkan seorang lelaki pekerja hospital swasta berusia 40 tahun.

Katanya, dua lagi kes baharu dilaporkan dalam Kluster Telaga

membabitkan wanita berusia 53 tahun iaitu ibu kepada kes ke-9,306 melibatkan petugas hospital lelaki berusia 30 tahun yang dilaporkan positif pada 28 Ogos lalu.

Beliau berkata, adik perempuan kepada petugas hospital tersebut berusia 26 tahun juga dilaporkan positif Covid-19 semalam.

"Satu lagi kes di Kedah ialah kes saringan bergejala di Klinik Kesihatan Simpang Kuala dan telah dimasukkan ke Hospital Sultanah Bahiyah," katanya.

Angka Terkini Kes Covid-19 Di Malaysia sehingga semalam

	Jumlah
• Kes baharu	45
Import: 1 Tempatan: 44	
• Pulih	24
• Kematian	0
• Masih dirawat	333
• Jumlah kes sembuh	9,167
• Jumlah Kematian	128
Jumlah kes keseluruhan	9,628

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

6

Jangan Putus Asa
#Malaysia
Sinar

N NASIONAL

JUMAAT 11 SEPTEMBER 2020 • SINAR HARIAN

Sekatan 28 mukim di Kota Setar



Pelaksanaan PKPD secara pentadbiran akan dikuatkuasakan di 28 mukim di Kota Setar, Kedah bermula jam 12.01 tengah malam tadi sehingga 25 September ini bagi membendung penularan Covid-19.

Melibatkan seramai 366,787 orang penduduk secara keseluruhan

PUTRAJAYA

Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Diperketatkan (PKPD) secara pentadbiran dikuatkuasakan di 28 mukim di Kota Setar, Kedah bermula jam 12.01 tengah malam tadi sehingga 25 September ini.

Menteri Kanan (Keselamatan), Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob berkata, ia akan membabitkan seramai 366,787 orang penduduk secara keseluruhannya.

Menurutnya, perkara itu diputuskan pada mesyuarat khas semalam selepas mengambil kira

peningkatan kes positif coronavirus (Covid-19) Kluster Sungai dan Kluster Tawar di daerah berkenaan.

"Ia juga selaras dengan cadangan oleh Menteri Besar Kedah, Muhammad Sanusi Md Nor," katanya pada sidang media perkembangan terkini Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Pemulihan (PKPP) di sini semalam.

Beliau berkata, prosedur operasi standard (SOP) di daerah tersebut adalah sama seperti SOP PKPD pentadbiran yang lain termasuk larangan keluar dan masuk di kawasan berkenaan.

"Individu yang perlu keluar masuk dan yang ingin keluar masuk untuk bekerja juga tidak dibenarkan di kawasan PKPD."

"Saya berharap majikan mengambil maklum tentang perintah ini. Ia bukan atas kehendak pekerja mereka tetapi atas perintah yang dikeluarkan kerajaan yang menyebabkan mereka

tidak dapat bekerja," katanya.

Ismail Sabri berkata, sepanjang tempoh tersebut, kemasukan melalui pintu masuk antarabangsa di Bukit Kayu Hitam juga dihentikan, manakala perkhidmatan feri di jeti Kuala Kedah juga tidak dibenar beroperasi.

Menurutnya, turut diarah tutup ialah masjid dan rumah ibadat, semua institusi berkaitan pendidikan, pasar tani dan pasar malam, selain aktiviti sukan, rekreasi dan sosiobudaya.

"Hanya premis perniagaan yang menyediakan perkhidmatan perlu dibenar beroperasi seperti premis menjual makanan, kedai runcit, warung, stesen minyak, farmasi, klinik dan hospital."

"Perkhidmatan lain seperti kilang perlu memohon kebenaran daripada Polis Diraja Malaysia (PDRM) terlebih dahulu sebelum dibenar beroperasi. Restoran dan kedai makan walaupun dibenarkan hanya boleh menggunakan kaedah take away dan beroperasi dari jam 8 pagi sehingga 8 malam."

"Klinik dan hospital dibenarkan beroperasi 24 jam, manakala waktu operasi farmasi dan kedai menjual ubat-ubatan dibenarkan sehingga jam 8 malam. Stesen minyak dan kedai runcit pula boleh beroperasi dari jam 8 pagi sehingga 8 malam, pasar harian pula dari jam 6 pagi sehingga 2 petang," katanya.

Beliau turut menegaskan hanya ketua atau seorang wakil keluarga dibenar keluar untuk menjalankan sebarang urusan harian.

Sementara itu, Ismail Sabri turut mengumumkan lanjutan tempoh PKPD secara pentadbiran di Amanjaya, Sungai Petani selama tiga hari lagi sehingga 13 September ini bagi memberi ruang kepada KKM menyempurnakan keputusan saringan kedua Covid-19 di kawasan itu. - Bernama

Sultan minta rakyat Kedah tenang hadapi Covid-19

ALOR SETAR - Sultan Kedah, Sultan Sallehuddin Sultan Badlishah menzahirkan ucapan terima kasih kepada kerajaan Kedah kerana telah merancang dan mengambil tindakan yang bertepatan bagi menghadapi gelombang kedua pandemik coronavirus (Covid-19).

Sultan Sallehuddin turut bertitah agar rakyat Kedah kekal tenang, berhati-hati dan sentiasa patuh kepada arahan kerajaan supaya sentiasa berada di rumah dan hanya keluar apabila perlu.

"Rakyat tidak boleh ambil mudah dengan arahan dan prosedur operasi standard (SOP) yang ditetapkan kerajaan," titah baginda dalam satu kenyataan di sini semalam.

Titah Sultan Sallehuddin lagi, rakyat tidak boleh memandang remeh SOP yang telah ditetapkan kerana keingkaran mematuhi mendedahkan diri kepada bahaya dan risiko untuk dijangkiti Covid-19.

"Beta dan Sultanah Kedah, Sultanah Maliha Tengku Arif serta seluruh keluarga kerabat diraja negeri Kedah sentiasa mendoakan keselamatan dan kesejahteraan rakyat serta negeri Kedah kembali bebas daripada wabak Covid-19," titah baginda.



PKPD KOTA SETAR

- Dikuatkuasakan di 28 mukim
- Melibatkan seramai 366,787 orang penduduk
- Dari 11 hingga 25 September 2020
- Susulan peningkatan kes positif Covid-19 Kluster Sungai dan Kluster Tawar

LARANGAN

- Keluar masuk daerah
- Keluar masuk bekerja
- Aktiviti sukan, sosial dan budaya

PKPD secara pentadbiran bagi tempoh sama di Penjara Tawau, Sabah

PUTRAJAYA - Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Diperketatkan (PKPD) secara pentadbiran turut dikenakan bagi tempoh sama di Penjara Tawau, Sabah selepas mengambil kira penularan kes jangkitan positif di lokasi berkenaan.

Menteri Kanan (Keselamatan), Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob berkata, ia akan melibatkan banduan, anggota dan ahli keluarga jabatan penjara di Penjara Tawau.

Menurutnya, perintah keluar masuk juga dikenakan iaitu mereka berada dalam kawasan PKPD penjara tidak dibenar keluar dan tiada pengunjung dari luar untuk masuk ke dalam kawasan penjara.

"Rakyat di kawasan Tawau dan Lahad Datu tidak perlu gusar dengan kenaikan kes positif coronavirus (Covid-19) di penjara ini kerana mereka telah terkurung dan berada di dalam kawasan penjara."

"Jadi, kemungkinan atau peluang kes disebarkan kepada orang ramai adalah terhad, yang ada memang sudah terkurung di dalam itu," katanya.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19

SINAR HARIAN • JUMAAT 11 SEPTEMBER 2020

MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19



Asingkan tahanan lama dan baharu

KKM kenal pasti ruang sempit dan sesak jadi punca jangkitan di Kluster Benteng LD

Oleh **TUAN BUQHAI RAH**
TUAN MUHAMAD ADNAN

PUTRAJAYA

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah menyaran agar tahanan lama dan baharu diletak dalam sel lokap atau penjara berasingan.

Menurutnya, pengasingan tahanan itu perlu dilakukan sehingga tempoh 14 hari meskipun ujian saringan Covid-19 adalah negatif.

"Jangan campur tahanan lama dan baharu kerana tempoh

inkubasi bagi virus ini adalah 14 hari," katanya pada sidang akhbar perkembangan terkini Covid-19 di kementeriananya di sini semalam.

Beliau berkata demikian ketika mengulas sama ada berlaku ketidakpatuhan terhadap prosedur operasi standard (SOP) di Lahad Datu sehingga mencetuskan Kluster Benteng LD.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) telah mengenal pasti dua kes indeks bagi kluster berkenaan.

"Kes indeks merupakan pendatang asing tanpa izin (PATI) yang masing-masing dihantar ke lokap Ibu Pejabat Polis Daerah (IPD) Lahad Datu dan Penjara Tawau.

"Kluster Benteng LD dikesan



DR NOOR HISHAM

Kluster Benteng LD dikesan KKM pada 1 September lalu. Dalam tempoh 10 hari, ia telah merekodkan 170 individu termasuk pegawai penjara dan ahli keluarga."

san KKM pada 1 September lalu. Dalam tempoh 10 hari, ia telah merekodkan 170 individu termasuk pegawai penjara dan ahli keluarga," katanya.

Setakat ini, seramai 3,449 individu telah disaring manakala 1,491 masih menunggu keputusan.

Sebelum ini, KKM telah mengenal pasti ruang sempit dan sesak menjadi punca wabak berkenaan menjangkiti ramai individu.

Dalam pada itu, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, sebanyak 45 kes baharu positif Covid-19 di-

catatkan di Malaysia semalam dengan 44 kes merupakan penularan dalam negara.

"Daripada 44 kes tersebut, 11 kes merupakan penularan dalam kalangan rakyat tempatan dan 33 kes merupakan warga asing.

"Di Kedah, KKM merekodkan empat kes iaitu dua daripada Kluster Telaga dan masing-masing satu daripada Kluster Sungai dan saringan bergejala di Klinik Kesihatan Simpang Kuala," katanya.

Menurutnya, di Sabah, sebanyak 40 kes daripada Kluster Benteng LD dikesan di mana

33 daripadanya melibatkan warga asing.

"Satu kes import dilaporkan di Selangor iaitu seorang rakyat tempatan yang pulang dari Brazil," katanya.

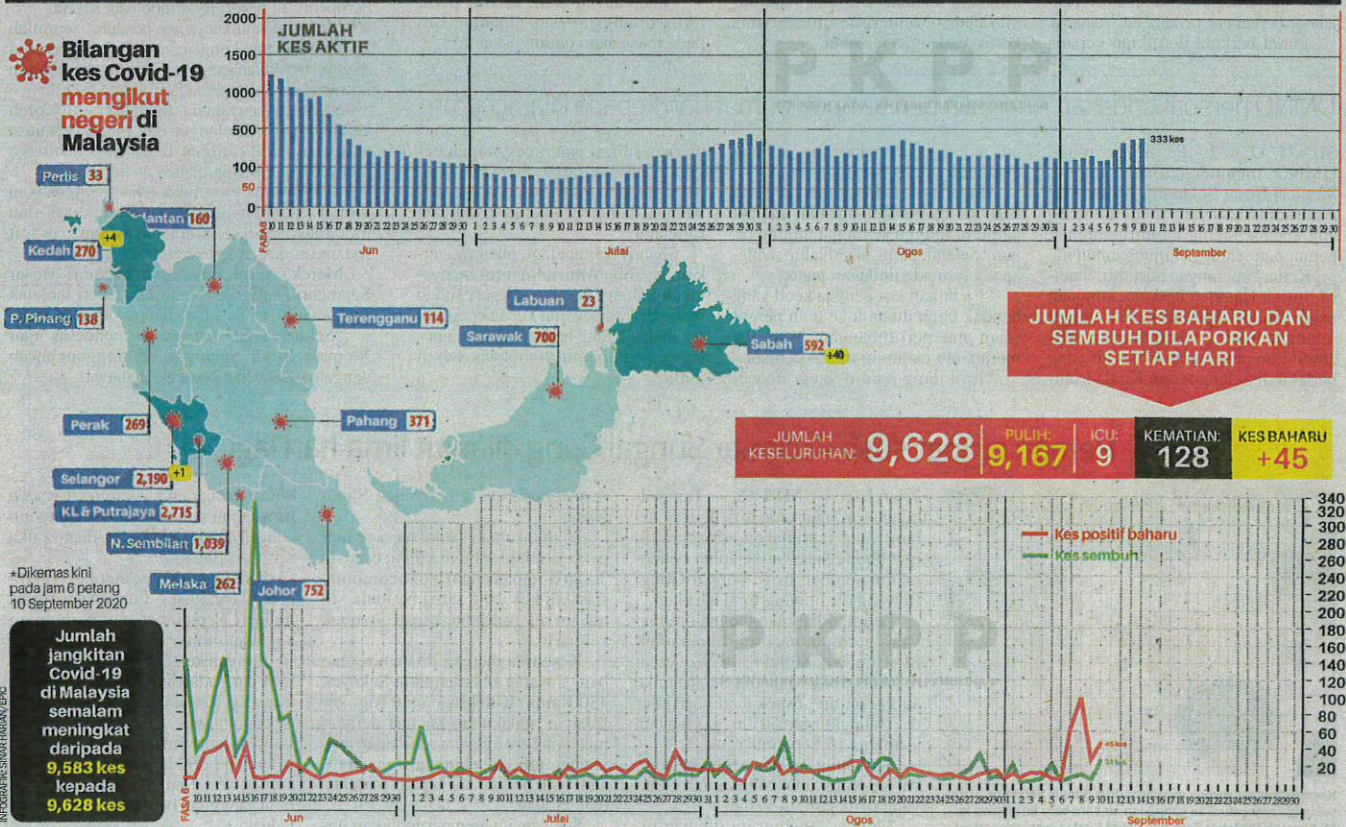
Noor Hisham berkata, pertambahan itu menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan kes Covid-19 di Malaysia kini adalah sebanyak 9,628 kes.

"Seramai sembilan pesakit kini dirawat di unit rawatan rapi (ICU) dan lima daripadanya memerlukan bantuan pernafasan.

"Tiada pertambahan kes kematian berkaitan Covid-19 dilaporkan. Justeru, jumlah kumulatif kes kematian adalah kekal sebanyak 128 kes iaitu 1.33 peratus daripada jumlah keseluruhan kes," katanya.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, terdapat 24 kes yang telah pulih dan dibenarkan discaj semalam.

SITUASI TERKINI KES COVID-19 DI MALAYSIA SETAKAT SEMALAM



AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN
 MUKA SURAT : 15
 RUANGAN : NASIONAL

SINAR HARIAN • JUMAAT 11 SEPTEMBER 2020

NASIONAL

15

#JanganPutusAsa
#Malaysia

465 kes cubaan bunuh diri

Hilang pekerjaan, tiada sumber pendapatan dan pengurangan akses kepada perkhidmatan bantuan sewaktu PKP

PETALING JAYA

Sebanyak 465 kes cubaan bunuh diri dirujuk kepada Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) bagi tempoh dari Januari hingga Jun pada tahun ini berbanding sebanyak 675 kes dalam tempoh yang sama pada tahun lalu.

Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba berkata, KKM telah mewujudkan Talian Sokongan Psikososial sejak 25 Mac lalu dengan kerjasama Mercy Malaysia bagi membantu menangani isu berkenaan dan agensi-agensi kerajaan lain seperti Jabatan Kemajuan Islam Malaysia (Jakim) dan Kementerian Pembangunan Wanita, Keluarga dan Masyarakat turut mewujudkan talian bantuan ma-

sing-masing.

Menurutnya, secara keseluruhan sejak 25 Mac hingga hujung Ogos lalu, sebanyak 11,791 panggilan telah diterima oleh talian-talian berkenaan dan setiap pemanggil mempunyai purata tiga isu dengan 50 peratus isu yang dirujuk memerlukan sokongan emosi serta kaunseling seperti stres, risau dan putus-harapan.

"Ia berpunca daripada faktor-faktor seperti hilang pekerjaan, tiada sumber pendapatan, masalah hubungan interpersonal, isolasi dan pengurangan akses kepada perkhidmatan bantuan sewaktu Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP)," katanya ketika merasmikan The Orchid Clubhouse Persatuan Kesedaran dan Sokongan Penyakit Mental (MIASA) sempena Hari Pencegahan Bunuh Diri Sedunia 2020 di sini semalam.

Dr Adham berkata, Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO) melaporkan lebih 800,000 orang membunuh diri setiap tahun dengan purata satu kejadian bunuh diri setiap 40 saat.



Dr Adham (tiga dari kanan) bersama Penaung Diraja MIASA, Tengku Puteri Raja Tengku Puteri Iman Afzan Al-Sultan Abdullah (tiga dari kiri) selepas majlis pelancaran The Orchid Clubhouse MIASA di Petaling Jaya semalam.

Menurutnya, secara global, kejadian bunuh diri adalah antara 20 penyebab utama kematian bagi semua peringkat umur dan satu daripada tiga penyebab utama kematian dalam kalangan umur 15 hingga 44 tahun.

Sementara itu, Dr Adham berkata, tema hari pencegahan

bunuh diri pada tahun ini iaitu 'Let's TALK Minda Sihat: Kesihatan Mental Milik Semua, Bersama Cegah Bunuh Diri' bertepatan dengan situasi pandemik coronavirus (Covid-19) yang mempunyai impak signifikan terhadap kesihatan mental.

Menurutnya, selain kempen dan promosi, KKM juga telah menyediakan perkhidmatan mental termasuk di 1,001 klinik kesihatan mental seluruh Malaysia, empat institusi mental, 66 hospital kerajaan dan 28 Pusat Kesihatan Mental Masyarakat (Mentari). - Bernama

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 24

RUANGAN : NEGERI

Sasaran 80 penderma darah tercapai

KELANA JAYA – Sasaran Angkatan Koperasi Kebangsaan Malaysia Berhad (Angkasa) mendapatkan sekurang-kurangnya 80 orang penderma darah melalui kempen Jom Derma Darah sempena Sambutan Hari Kebangsaan 2020 akhirnya tercapai.

Seramai 87 individu telah menderma darah pada program yang dianjurkan dengan kerjasama Pusat Darah Negara dan Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia di Wisma Ungku A Aziz, Kelana Jaya semalam.

Presiden Angkasa, Datuk Abdul Fattah Abdullah berkata, program itu merupakan salah satu inisiatif yang dirancang oleh Angkasa bagi meningkatkan kesedaran masyarakat dalam pentingnya menderma darah terutama untuk membantu menampung keperluan bekalan darah negara yang menyusut sewaktu Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP) dilaksanakan.

Beliau yang juga Presiden ASEAN Co-operative Organization berkata,



Abdul Fattah (dua dari kanan) bermesra dengan penderma darah sewaktu program Coop Care Jom Derma Darah sempena Hari Kebangsaan 2020 anjuran Angkasa dengan kerjasama Pusat Darah Negara semalam.

Angkasa sentiasa berusaha menunaikan tanggungjawab sosial koperasi melalui payung Coop Care yang dirangka dalam memenuhi Prinsip Koperasi Ketujuh iaitu Berperihatin Terhadap Masyarakat.

“Kita mahu koperasi dilihat sebagai institusi yang bukan sahaja mementingkan pembangunan ekonomi, malah menitikberatkan kesejahteraan sosial serta dekat di hati masyarakat supaya dapat menarik minat orang ramai untuk berkoperasi,” katanya ketika ditemui semalam.

Turut hadir, Naib Presiden Angkasa, Datuk Mohamad Ali Hasan dan

Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Perhubungan Angkasa Wilayah Persekutuan, Zulkifli Jamaludin.

Program sehari itu turut diisi dengan ceramah oleh Pegawai Perubatan Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah Petaling, Dr. Nazirul Akmal mengenai amalan norma baharu di tempat kerja dan perkongsian pengalaman langsung mantan Ketua Pengarah Institut Koperasi Malaysia, Ariffin Mamat sebagai pesakit Covid-19.

Majlis turut menyaksikan pelancaran buku travelog yang ditulis oleh Ariffin bertajuk *CoronaVirus: Hikmah Dalam Musibah*.

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA

MUKA SURAT : 7

RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI

Kluster Benteng penyumbang terbesar kes positif wabak

45 kes baharu Covid-19

Oleh HASIF IDRIS
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PUTRJAYA: Jangkitan Covid-19 merekodkan 45 kes baharu semalam dengan 40 daripada mereka berpunca daripada Kluster Benteng di Lahad Datu, Sabah.

Jumlah tersebut menyebabkan angka jangkitan meningkat kepada 9,628 kes dengan jumlah kes aktif kebolehjangkitan adalah 333 kes.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr. Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, daripada 40 kes Kluster Benteng, 34 melibatkan banduan manakala enam ahli keluarga kakitangan penjara.

"Seramai 2,769 individu disaring iaitu di Tawau (1,909) dan Lahad Datu (770). Sehingga se-



NOOR HISHAM ABDULLAH

malam, 83 kes dikesan positif Covid-19 di Tawau manakala 1,201 individu masih menunggu keputusan.

"Daripada 45 kes baharu, terdapat satu kes import di Selangor yang melibatkan rakyat tempatan yang pulang dari Brazil," kata beliau dalam laporan harian mengenai perkembangan terkini Covid-19 di sini semalam.

Menurut beliau, bagi 44 kes penularan dalam negara, 11 melibatkan rakyat tempatan manakala 33 bukan warganegara.

Dr. Noor Hisham berkata, baki empat kes melibatkan Kluster Sungai (1 kes), Kluster Telaga (2 kes) serta satu kes saringan bergejala di Klinik Kesihatan Simpang Kuala dan pesakit dimasukkan ke Hospital Sultanah Bahiyah.

Mengenai Kluster Benteng, beliau menyarankan supaya

setiap banduan baharu dan lama diasingkan di dalam lokap berlainan walaupun ujian *Real-Time Reverse Transcription-Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR)* adalah negatif.

Katanya, tempoh inkubasi bagi individu terbabit selama 14 hari dan selepas tempoh itu baru dibenarkan untuk banduan diletakkan dalam lokap yang sama.

"Kita sudah mengenal pasti kes indeks di lokap Ibu Pejabat Polis Lahad Datu dan Penjara Tawau yang melibatkan pendatang asing tanpa izin.

"Apabila disaring, didapati mereka tidak bergejala seperti demam. Walaupun tiada gejala, apabila ditempatkan dalam satu sel jangkitan boleh berlaku," jelasnya.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NEWS/ NATION

CASES ON THE RISE

HEALTH D-G: DON'T IGNORE S.O.P

Covid-19 will spread if people let their guard down, says Dr Noor Hisham

TEH ATHIRA YUSOF
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HEALTH director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah yesterday expressed concern over the nonchalant attitude of some towards the Covid-19 standard operating procedures (SOP), which could lead to failure

to contain the pandemic.

He said the SOP had proven to be effective with Covid-19 cases reduced to a single digit up until early June.

"With no vaccine so far, safety measures including physical distancing, wearing a mask and good hygiene will be the defence mechanism in the fight against the virus for now."

Dr Noor Hisham warned that the virus would keep spreading if people let their guard down.

He also urged recovered Covid-19 patients to check their antibody levels and to monitor for any complications, citing blood clotting as an example.

"There are cases abroad of a blood clot in the retina artery which can disrupt vision."

"The ministry is also looking

into antibody response in patients. A recent three-month study indicated that some patients have only 20 per cent of antibodies in them."

He added that an infection could recur if the antibody level was less than 80 per cent.

Dr Noor Hisham said new cases up to noon yesterday rose to 45 from 24, bringing the tally in the country to 9,628.

He said 40 of the new cases were detected in Sabah under the Benteng LD cluster with 33 involving foreigners.

"Out of the 40 new cases, 34 were inmates while six are family members of the prison staff," he said, adding that 2,679 people had been screened under the Benteng LD cluster.

On the two-week administra-

tive Enhanced Movement Control Order (EMCO) imposed at existing three clusters until Sept 25, Dr Noor Hisham said the decision was made following an upward trend in the Benteng LD cluster in Sabah, and the Telaga and Sungai clusters in Kedah.

"In Kedah, 1,456 people were screened and 39 tested positive, including one new positive case recorded today (yesterday). A total of 1,017 were found negative and 400 are awaiting their test results."

"In Penang, 122 people were screened and 43 tested negative while 79 are still waiting for their test results."

"In Perlis, seven had been screened for Covid-19, and one of them tested positive while three came back negative and three

were awaiting test results."

Under the Telaga cluster, Dr Noor Hisham said 4,626 were screened and 13 cases tested positive, including two new cases yesterday; 4,524 were negative for the virus and 89 were still awaiting test results.

"In Penang, 47 people were screened and 46 were found negative while one is awaiting test results."

He said the administrative EMCO in Amanjaya was extended until Sept 13 to ensure screening tests covered all residents in the area.

Dr Noor Hisham also said the ministry was conducting tests to determine if cases recorded in the Telaga and Sungai clusters, which currently had 53 positive cases, were related.

FROM MARCH 25 TO AUGUST

'11,791 rang hotline for psychosocial support'

PETALING JAYA: A total of 11,791 calls were made to the Health Ministry's psychosocial support hotline between March 25 and August this year.

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba said the hotline was set up during the Covid-19 pandemic, in collaboration with Mercy Malaysia on March 25.

He said on average, the issues faced by callers were related to emotional support, such as stress, anxiety and despair, which amounted to 50 per cent of the total calls.

"The factors (behind the number of calls) were loss of jobs, no source of income, interpersonal relationships, isolation and reduced access to mental health help and services during the Movement Control Order (MCO)."

"Calls were also made on information related to Covid-19 (17 per cent), marital issues, including domestic violence (8 per cent), followed by financial issues (7.4 per cent) and psychiatric problems (3.4 per cent)," he said when launching the Mental Illness Awareness and Support Association (Miasa)'s activity and crisis management centre, the Orchid Clubhouse, here yesterday.

Dr Adham said the pandemic

and the MCO, which was enforced on March 18, had affected those with mental health issues.

On attempted suicide cases, Dr Adham said based on data collected by the Health Ministry, a total of 465 cases were recorded between January and June.

"There were 210 fewer cases this year compared with the same period last year, which recorded 675 cases."

He said the ministry organised the "Let's TALK Minda Sihat" campaign, which was launched in October last year, focusing on an intersectoral collaboration between governmental, corporate and non-governmental agencies. It is aimed at promoting mental health.

"TALK stands for T-Tell someone you trust about your problems, A-Ask for help, L-Listen without judgement and K-Know where to seek help."

"The ministry offers mental health screening and treatment services at 66 hospitals, 1,001 primary healthcare clinics and 28 Pusat Kesihatan Mental Komuniti (Mentari) to increase public access to mental health services."

"Other governmental agencies created support hotlines, such as the KSK Care Centre by the Department of Islamic Development Malaysia and Talian Kasih



Mental Illness Awareness and Support Association (Miasa) royal patron Tengku Puteri Raja Tengku Puteri Iman Afzan Al-Sultan Abdullah (third from left) and Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba (third from right) launching the Orchid Clubhouse in Petaling Jaya yesterday. With them are Miasa president Anita Abu Bakar (second from left) and Association of Wives and Women Employees of Petronas (Petronita) president Jemilia Md Jelas (right). BERNAMA PIC

by the Women, Family and Community Development Ministry."

Dr Adham said the ministry supported calls by non-governmental organisations to decriminalise suicide.

"The government is aware that attempted suicides are worrying and must be addressed."

"The Attorney-General's Chambers is studying the laws related to accomplice and attempted suicide offences."

"Hopefully, efforts made towards decriminalising attempted suicide will give a chance for those who need help to come for-

ward and to get treatment without facing any stigma," he said.

Dr Adham said the launch of the Orchid Clubhouse in conjunction with the World Suicide Prevention Day yesterday was timely.

"The Orchid Clubhouse is the first of its kind in the country. It implements the concept of peer support to empower those experiencing mental health conditions through activities, such as workshops and training sessions as well as classes on cooking, baking and religion."

"It will serve as a crisis centre

with volunteers, while also becoming a safe zone for those who need help. It will teach the public to normalise mental health views and reduce the stigma surrounding matter," he said.

Present during the event was Miasa royal patron Tengku Puteri Raja Tengku Puteri Iman Afzan Al-Sultan Abdullah, Miasa president Anita Abu Bakar, Petaling Jaya district police chief Assistant Commissioner Nik Ezanee Mohd Faisal, and Association of Wives and Women Employees of Petronas (Petronita) president Jemilia Md Jelas.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 12

RUANGAN : NATION

Covid-19: Current situation globally

(As at 7pm Sept 10, 2020)

Covid-19: Current situation globally							New cases	Total cases	Total deaths	Total recovered		
(As at 7pm Sept 10, 2020)							Malaysia	45	9,628	128	9,167	
Asean+	Philippines	Indonesia	China	Japan	Singapore	S. Korea	Thailand	Myanmar	Vietnam	Cambodia	Brunei	Laos
Confirmed cases	248,947	207,203	85,153	72,726	57,229	21,743	3,454	2,009	1,059	274	145	22
Deaths	4,066	8,456	4,634	1,393	27	346	58	14	35	0	3	0
Recovered	186,058	147,510	80,358	64,100	56,492	17,360	3,310	553	890	273	139	21
Global Top 10	US	India	Brazil	Russia	Peru	Colombia	Mexico	South Africa	Spain	Argentina		
Confirmed cases	6,549,771	4,470,166	4,199,332	1,046,370	702,776	686,856	647,507	642,431	543,379	512,293		
Deaths	195,245	75,119	128,653	18,263	30,236	22,053	69,095	15,168	29,628	10,658		
Recovered	3,846,659	3,471,783	3,453,336	862,373	536,959	552,885	454,982	569,935	N/A	382,490		

'Raise dogs the right way'

Groups: Owners must monitor temperament of certain breeds

By ASHLEY TANG
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PETALING JAYA: Man's best friend always has its own personality, so owners of restricted breeds should pay particular attention to their dog's temperament, say animal groups.

This advice came about following the Veterinary Services Department's (DVS) recent Facebook post on restricted dog breeds.

The breeds on the list are the bull mastiff, bull terrier, doberman, German shepherd, perro de presa canario (also known as canary dog) and rottweiler.

Selangor Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) chairman Christine Chin explained that the breeds on the restricted list were mainly working dogs that need training and exercise.

"These dogs are mainly bred to do more security work or guard work, and they have strong personalities. It means that they are not a pet that you just cuddle and do not train. Also, not the type, when you are fed up, you put them in the cage."

"You cannot do that to these dogs. They need space, your time and they need you to exercise them rigorously. That's why they are restricted," she said when contacted.

PAWS Animal Welfare Society shelter manager Edward Lim pointed out that breeds such as the German shepherd, rottweiler and

Lists of restricted dog breeds



Source: Department of Veterinary Services

doberman were bred to be guard dogs.

"They tend to be more alert, more ferocious, more brave, and have more guts compared to normal dogs. They have that advantage because they are bred for that purpose."

"It is the question of how we bring up the dog that is more important than the breed itself. Like all pure bred dogs, they are bred for a reason and purpose," he said.

Lim said that owners of these dogs should train them, keep them

secure in the compound and put them on a leash when they are taken out for a walk.

DVS director-general Datuk Dr Norliza Mohd Noor said: "The restricted list refers to the breed of dogs that is trained to perform certain duties such as for the military, police, customs or as guard dogs."

As such, he said these dogs "act on command and are not usually kept as pets or companions."

Dr Norliza said those who decide to have dogs as a pet are advised to train their dogs.

"All dogs are to be licensed by the local authorities according to the Local Government Act," he added.

"The DVS list is also based on benchmarking against global guidelines as well as air travel guidelines for dogs," said Malaysian National Animal Welfare Foundation secretary Shrilan Sivagurunathan.

He said restricted dog breeds kept as pets must get higher levels of exercise, mental stimulation through toys and lots of activities for bonding instead of being locked in a cage the whole day.

40 new cases from Benteng LD cluster, says Health DG

Covid-19 Road to recovery

PUTRAJAYA: The Benteng LD (Lahad Datu) cluster in Sabah continues to record an increase in infections with 40 out of 45 new cases linked to it.

This brings the total cases to 160 – currently Malaysia's biggest and most active Covid-19 cluster.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the new cases under this cluster involved 34 detainees and six family members of Tawau prison staff.

"A total of 33 of them are non-Malaysians. We have conducted screening on 1,909 people at the Tawau prison and 770 people at the Lahad Datu police headquarters."

"Out of the total, 83 positive cases were detected in Tawau and another 87 cases in Lahad Datu," he told a press conference yesterday.

The Benteng LD cluster was first detected on Sept 1 after two illegal immigrants from the Philippines were caught by the "authorities under Op Benteng."

Dr Noor Hisham said the spread of the disease among detainees could have been prevented if new inmates had been isolated.

"Even if the test results were negative, new detainees should not be placed together with existing inmates for up to 14 days because of the Covid-19 incubation period."

"This should not just apply at lock-ups or prisons but also Immigration detention depots," he said.

Dr Noor Hisham said the other five new Covid-19 cases comprised four local transmissions in Kedah and one imported case.

He said two of the cases were linked to the Telaga cluster while one was linked to the Sungai cluster.

Both clusters originated from public and private healthcare workers in the state.

Another case was detected from the Simpang Kuala clinic following screening of those with symptoms.

The sole imported case involved a Malaysian returning from Brazil.

There was no death reported yesterday while 24 patients were discharged, bringing the total of those who have recovered from the disease to 9,167 or 95.2%.

The country's total number of cases stands at 9,628. Currently, nine people are being treated at the intensive care unit with five of them needing ventilator support.

AKHBAR : THE SUN

MUKA SURAT : 1-2

RUANGAN : NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS

Vaccine plan needed

■ BY CINDI LOO
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PETALING JAYA: Malaysia has to be able to act at short notice to ensure it has quick access to the Covid-19 vaccine once it is ready to hit the market.

That means its procurement and deployment readiness must already be in place when the time comes.

The government must also ensure that available supply is enough to meet local demand, health expert Azrul Mohd Khalib said yesterday.

Azrul, who is chief executive of Galen Centre for Health and Social Policy, was commenting on a statement by Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin that Malaysia will have access to a Covid-19 vaccine even if one is not manufactured locally.

Muhyiddin said on Tuesday that the government is already in discussions with several countries that are now developing a vaccine, and has offered its assistance.

Azrul noted that countries such as Thailand, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand could have already put together their own plans to be ready the moment a viable, safe and effective vaccine becomes available.

"The first issue to consider is the supply. The prime minister will have to evaluate the best possible option, very likely guided by World Health Organisation (WHO) advisories, based on the best available evidence."

He said more than 160 potential vaccines are already in the pipeline, and the first priority should not be to produce the vaccine in Malaysia but to secure a safe and effective vaccine that can be rapidly deployed to the population.

"The sooner we have the vaccine, the quicker we can benefit from any herd immunity. That should be the priority," he said.

Azrul said despite the current economic conditions, it is still possible to get reliable yet affordable Covid vaccines.

"Working with other governments in the region to procure the vaccines through bulk purchase can reduce the price considerably."

However, Azrul said the price factor should be taken into account first.

"For instance, Pfizer has indicated that its vaccine will

► Govt must be ready to quickly procure, distribute cure once it becomes available: Health expert

Turn to page 2

AKHBAR : THE SUN

MUKA SURAT : 1-2

RUANGAN : NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS

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NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS



STARBUCKS

Danger of prisons becoming virus hotspots

BY KEERTAN AYAMANY
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PETALING JAYA: Temporary measures could help to prevent the spread of Covid-19 among inmates in prisons and detention centres, as it is difficult to deal with overcrowding in such places in the short term.

Criminologists yesterday said expanding prison capacity is not an immediate viable option to prevent new clusters, as happened in the Lahat Datu case.

"There are building, space, manpower and budget constraints," said Assoc Prof Dr Geshina Ayu Mat Saat, a criminologist at Universiti Sains Malaysia in Kelantan.

"There is a very clear danger of prisons becoming Covid-19 hazard zones. However, building new centres to reduce infection risk is costly and

Measures needed to stem spread of Covid among inmates, says criminologist

time consuming."

She suggested that detainees be moved to areas that could be better monitored by prison staff or policemen.

"There is a need to consistently screen inmates and those in remand at various times because social distancing within prison cells and common areas will be difficult.

"There is also daily traffic in and out of prisons involving those on remand, personnel and visitors. Temporarily restricting movements of inmates and visitors would also be a viable solution."

Geshina suggested a reshuffling of

prisoners' eating and exercise schedules to enable social distancing, frequent cleaning and good hygiene practices.

"But how far these measures will be effective remains to be seen as some areas are just too small or congested."

She also said court cases needed to be managed promptly to reduce remand periods.

Prof Datuk Dr P. Sundaramoorthy of Universiti Sains Malaysia in Penang called for long-term measures to be considered to manage future threats.

"Prison authorities have

acknowledged that there is overcrowding in jails.

Now we are bringing in those who have violated movement control orders. It will definitely be very challenging and an extra responsibility for the Prisons Department.

"Besides short-term measures, long-term ones must be explored to address overcrowding in prisons, so that we will be able to cope with other pandemics in future."

Malaysian Medical Association president Dr N. Ganabaskaran said limiting the risk of infection could be best done before detainees enter confinement premises.

"Personal hygiene, wearing of masks and physical distancing by authorities and detainees must be observed throughout the detention process."

Bulk of 45 new cases from cluster in Sabah

BY NICOLAS ANIL
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PETALING JAYA: There were 45 new cases of Covid-19 as of noon yesterday, and most of them were from the Benteng Lahat Datu cluster.

Health Director-General Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said of the 45 cases, 44 were infected through local transmission. The sole imported case was a returnee from Brazil.

The additional cases bring the national tally to 9,628.

Noor Hisham said yesterday of the 44 cases, 11 are Malaysians and the rest are foreigners.

The Benteng Lahat Datu cluster in Sabah accounted for 40 of those cases, while the other four were from Kedah.

There are nine positive Covid-19 cases being treated at intensive care units, with five requiring ventilator assistance.

There were no fatalities, with the death toll remaining at 128.

Of the four new cases in Kedah, two were from the Telaga cluster and one from the Sungai cluster.

Noor Hisham said an enhanced movement control order will be imposed until Sept 25 to deal with the Telaga and Sungai clusters in Kedah and the prison quarters in Tawau.

Of the 119,268 people who have returned to Malaysia, 995 were Covid-19 positive. The Health Ministry is also developing a system to measure the risk that each foreign country poses to Malaysia.

The criteria that will be considered are the number of Covid-19 cases in each country, incidence per one million people and deaths per one million people in the last 14 days, among others.

Steps taken to prevent possible third wave

PETALING JAYA: The government has taken a drastic approach to restrict trips to and from high risk countries, considering the possibility of a third wave during winter months.

Senior Minister (Defence) Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said based on the Health Ministry "Scoring Board Merit System", that uses data from the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control as well as Our World in Data, there are several criteria to consider.

He was referring to entry bans on citizens from 23 countries.

"These include the number of Covid-19 cases, incident rate per million residents and death rate per million residents, all during the last 14 days, cumulative death rate, recovery index, and cases over 150,000," he said at a media conference yesterday.

The restrictions are necessary to control the number of import cases and to protect Malaysians from a third Covid wave.

However, diplomats and their families and delegations coming here for bilateral discussions will be exempted.

Expatriate pass holders and skilled workers will also be allowed entry into Malaysia soon.

"However, they have to get approval from the Immigration Department and a supporting letter from the Malaysian Investment Development Authority or relevant agencies prior to entry."

VIRUS BUSTER ... A Kota Star district health department worker sanitising Masjid Ar-Rahman near Alor Merah yesterday in the wake of new cases reported in Kedah.
—BERNAMAPIX



'Funding may be hindrance for govt to join Covax'

sell at US\$20 (RM85.25) per dose, while Johnson and Johnson expects to charge US\$10 (RM42.62) and AstraZeneca expects to sell it at just US\$4 (RM17.05).

"China's Sinopharm has said that it will be charging US\$145 (RM618) per dose. Depending on whether one needs only one dose or more, the cost is as much an issue as the efficacy."

From front page

Azrul said Malaysia could have reservations about joining the Covax initiative because of its status as an upper middle income country so it would have to offer funding upfront to finance the effort.

Covax is a WHO-led initiative that counts more than 170 countries on its list that will be given priority when a vaccine is available.

"Perhaps the government thinks it cannot afford to provide the funding. It's good to be cautious but we can also be accused of riding on the coat tails of others to benefit from their efforts rather than stepping up for the collective good."

Former deputy health minister Dr Lee Boon Chye said the government must act based on the availability of potential vaccines, and determine if

everyone or only certain segments of the population, such as the elderly or those with co-morbidities, will be given priority to receive vaccinations.

"We also need to know how much (money) the government is prepared to allocate to procure the vaccine, and whether once produced, it can last long," he said, urging WHO to ensure the vaccine is available to developing countries and affordable.

Plan ahead for vaccine distribution: IATA

KUALA LUMPUR: The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has urged governments and industry stakeholders to put in place a comprehensive plan in time for the distribution of Covid-19 vaccines when it becomes available.

It warned of potentially severe capacity constraints to transport vaccines by air, pointing out the key role air cargo plays in the distribution of vaccines in normal times through well-established global time and temperature-sensitive distribution systems.

"This capability will be crucial for

quick and efficient transport and distribution of vaccines when they are available, and it will not happen without careful planning, led by governments and supported by industry stakeholders," IATA said in a statement yesterday.

"We urge governments to take the lead in facilitating cooperation across the logistics chain so that facilities, security arrangements and border processes are ready for the mammoth and complex task ahead," said IATA director general and chief executive officer Alexandre de Juniac.

Meanwhile, chief executive officer of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, Dr Seth Berkley said delivering billions of doses of vaccine to the entire world efficiently will involve huge and complex logistical obstacles along the supply chain.

IATA said governments must also consider the current diminished cargo capacity of the global air transport industry.

"The World Health Organisation, Unicef and Gavi have already reported severe difficulties in maintaining their planned vaccine programmes during the Covid-19

crisis, due in part to limited air connectivity."

Providing a single dose to 7.8 billion people would fill 8,000 747 cargo aircraft, it highlighted.

Land transport will help, especially in developed economies with local manufacturing capacity but vaccines cannot be delivered globally without significant use of air cargo.

He said even if IATA assumed that half of the vaccines can be transported by land, the air cargo industry will still face its largest single transport challenge ever. —Bernama

AKHBAR : THE SUN

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS

theSUN ON FRIDAY | SEPTEMBER 11, 2020 3

NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS

theSun says ...

Advance preparation crucial in managing Covid-19 vaccine

■ BY EDDIE HOO

A NATIONAL vaccination plan has to be drawn up ahead of the approval for Covid-19 vaccines by health regulatory authorities in every country. With multiple vaccines being worked on using different medical technologies, the world is cautiously confident of finding one that will help to bring the pandemic to an end.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) does not expect widespread vaccinations against the virus until the middle of next year, but the United States is already eyeing a roll-

out of the vaccines by the end of 2020.

In a global initiative called Covax, WHO and the GAVI vaccine alliance hope to procure and deliver two billion doses of approved vaccines.

That means the supply of the vaccines will not meet the demand, and every country ought to ensure fair and efficient distribution of them to the right segments of their populations. The issue of preferential access due to purchasing ability and political power will inevitably crop up.

The rush for toilet paper in the early stage of the pandemic will pale

in comparison as there would not be enough dosages for the whole population.

To ensure fair allocation and effective use of the vaccines, we have to identify the initial key recipients as part of our war against the virus. Instead of giving them to the highest bidders or holding a lottery to determine the recipients, the vaccines should be used as part of our strategy to overcome the pandemic.

A distribution framework can be put in place after evaluating the benefits of vaccinating people according to the role they play and

the infection risk they pose to others.

Off the top of the head, we can expect the frontliners to be the initial recipients followed by the most vulnerable among us, and not the rich and politically connected.

Only beyond that, can we look at private sale and lotteries for those in need.

Then a host of other questions will start to crop up.

Do we allow the vaccines to be brought in privately or only through the Health Ministry?

Control is needed here as we cannot risk introducing vaccines that are not safe and effective. Given

the complex process in producing the vaccines and the urgency at hand, we can cause irreparable damage to the people's health and their confidence in returning to normalcy.

It will become a logistics nightmare unless we plan ahead for distribution of the vaccines, their proper storage, administration and follow-up studies on their effects on recipients.

Since we are not looking at a localised problem, a holistic approach is needed in handling what could be the endgame in our fight against Covid-19.