

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Penularan COVID-19

Penerima dos kedua vaksin masih wajib patuh SOP

Varian baharu SARS-CoV-2 dikhuatiri mengganggu keberkesanan program imunisasi

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

Putrajaya: Individu yang sudah menerima dos lengkap vaksin COVID-19, masih perlu mematuhi prosedur operasi standard (SOP) ditetapkan kerajaan, kata Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

Beliau berkata, perkembangan semasa kebelakangan ini menunjukkan varian baharu virus SARS-CoV-2 muncul di luar negara yang dikhuatiri mengganggu keberkesanan Program Imunisasi COVID-19 Kebangsaan yang sedang dijalankan di negara ini.

"Pengembara dari luar negara, terutama dari negara dengan kadar jangkitan COVID-19 yang tinggi, berisiko meningkatkan penularan penyakit ini ke dalam negara. Sehubungan itu, kerajaan menetapkan beberapa langkah pencegahan, misalnya kawalan sempadan, saringan COVID-19 di semua pintu masuk antarabangsa dan perintah kuarantin wajib di tempat kediaman atau stesen kuarantin bagi seluruh pengembara.

"Ia terus dijalankan walaupun individu itu sudah mendapat vaksin COVID-19 yang lengkap di negara asal sebelum berlepas. Kita menasihati individu terbabit mematuhi SOP ditetapkan," katanya dalam kenyataan, semalam.

Dr Noor Hisham menjelaskan, perkara itu selaras pendirian Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO) yang menyarankan vaksin COVID-19 tidak dijadikan 'pasport imuniti' memandangkan program imunisasi masih peringkat awal.

"Berdasarkan maklumat terkini, pengambilan vaksin COVID-19

yang lengkap boleh mengurangkan komplikasi penyakit itu, selain membantu mengurangkan penularan dalam masyarakat. Kementerian Kesihatan sentiasa memantau dan meneliti perkembangan penyelidikan vaksin dijalankan di seluruh dunia serta Program Imunisasi COVID-19 Kebangsaan demi menjamin kesejahteraan awam," katanya.

Dalam pada itu, angka harian jangkitan baharu COVID-19 meningkat kepada 1,482 kes semalam, meliputi 1,480 penularan tempatan dan dua kes import, selain tujuh lagi kematian. Pertambahan itu membawa jumlah kumulatif 345,500 jangkitan dengan 14,604 kes aktif, manakala korban COVID-19 mencecah 1,272 mangsa (0.37 peratus), setakat ini.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, Selangor melaporkan angka harian jangkitan baharu tertinggi dengan 661 kes (44.6 peratus), diikuti Pulau Pinang dengan 200 kes (13.5 peratus) dan Sarawak sebanyak 176 kes (11.9 peratus). Kematian

baharu pula membabitkan lima rakyat Malaysia dan dua bukan warganegara berusia 53 hingga 96 tahun, dengan empat mangsa di Selangor serta masing-masing satu di Johor, Sarawak dan Sabah.

"Sebanyak 13 kluster baharu dikenal pasti, membabitkan tujuh kluster tempat kerja, komuniti (5) dan kumpulan berisiko tinggi (1). Kluster tempat kerja ialah Kluster Jalan Rasmi dan Hevea Scruciana di Selangor; Jalan Kingsway dan Bulatan Aman, Sarawak; Jalan Jelawat, Pulau Pinang; Delima Baiduri, Kedah serta Pulau Enoe, Labuan.

"Lima kluster komuniti pula, Kluster Kampung Baru Pasir Putih dan Rimbayan, Sabah; Layer dan Emas Bemban, Kedah serta Jalan Baji, Sarawak. Kluster kumpulan berisiko tinggi, Kluster Lorong Mulia di Johor," katanya menambah, 1,070 pesakit sembuh semalam menjadikan jumlah kumulatifnya 329,624 (95.4 peratus), manakala 164 kes dirawat di Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU) dan 81 me-



Pengembara dari luar negara, terutama dari negara dengan kadar jangkitan COVID-19 tinggi, berisiko meningkatkan penularan penyakit ini.

Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah,
Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan

melukan bantuan pernafasan.

Sementara itu kadar kebolehan jangkitan (Rt) COVID-19 di Malaysia terus menunjukkan trend penurunan apabila berada pada 0.93 kelmarin, namun lapan negeri mencatat nilai Rt melebihi purata kebangsaan, iaitu Pahang dengan 1.17, Melaka (1.09), Kelantan (1.08), Kedah (1.05), Sarawak (1.03), Pulau Pinang (1.02), Sabah (0.96) dan Johor (0.96).

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 7

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Penularan COVID-19

Lebih 1,000 individu belum rayu kurangkan kompaun

Kadar baharu dikeluarkan berdasar jenis, tarikh kesalahan berbanding jumlah awal RM10,000

Putrajaya: Lebih 1,000 individu yang dikompaun RM10,000 sejak Ordinan Darurat (Pencegahan dan Pengawalan Penyakit) (Pindaan) 2021 dikuatkuasakan pada 11 Mac lalu belum mengemukakan rayuan pengurangan.

Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba, berkata individu dikenakan kompaun boleh membuat rayuan kepada Pengarah dan Timbalan Pengarah Kesihatan negeri untuk mendapatkan pengurangan berdasarkan jenis kesalahan dilakukan.

"Setakat ini, tiada individu dikenakan kompaun RM10,000 itu membuat rayuan mengenainya.

"Apabila rayuan dibuat, kompaun (baharu) akan dikeluarkan berdasarkan jenis dan tarikh kesalahan itu dilakukan," katanya selepas majlis menandatangani Nota Kerjasama antara Kementerian Perpaduan Negara dengan Kementerian Kesihatan, di sini, semalam.

Yang turut hadir, Menteri Perpaduan Negara, Datuk Halimah Mohamed Sadique.

Nota Kerjasama itu ditandatangani Ketua Setiausaha Kementerian Perpaduan Negara, Datuk Wan Suraya Wan Md Radzi dan Ketua Setiausaha Kementerian Kesihatan, Datuk Mohd Shafiq Abdullah.



Halimah (dua dari kiri) dan Dr Adham menyaksikan majlis pertukaran Nota Kerjasama antara Wan Suraya mewakili Kementerian Perpaduan Negara dengan Mohd Shafiq dari Kementerian Kesihatan di Putrajaya, semalam.

(Foto BERNAMA)

Mengenai proses rayuan kompaun itu, Dr Adham berkata, kertas siasatan akan dibuka inspektor kesihatan bagi menilai jenis kesalahan dan jumlah kompaun yang bakal dikenakan semula.

Beliau berkata, kertas siasatan itu dibuka mengikut empat kategori iaitu orang kurang upaya (OKU), kumpulan B40, pelajar, dan mereka yang dirasakan tidak mampu membayar kompaun.

"Orang daripada kumpulan B40 perlu mengemukakan bukti bagi membolehkan mereka membuat rayuan terhadap kompaun dikeluarkan," katanya.

Dr Adham berkata, penguatkuasaan undang-undang dan kenaikan kadar kompaun sejak 11 Mac lalu bukan bertujuan mengemukakan. Sebaliknya, ia langkah pencegahan bagi memutuskan rantaian penularan COVID-19.

"Ia bertujuan menggalakkan

masyarakat sentiasa mematuhi prosedur operasi standard (SOP) yang ditetapkan.

"Kementerian Kesihatan juga ingin menegaskan individu ditawarkan kompaun oleh pegawai diberi kuasa supaya segera membayar kompaun itu bagi mendapatkan pengurangan," katanya.

Mengulas Nota Kerjasama antara Kementerian Perpaduan Negara dengan Kementerian Kesihatan pula, Dr Adham berkata, ia membolehkan kedua-dua kementerian bekerjasama melaksanakan program dan aktiviti bawah inisiatif Gaya Hidup Sihat Komuniti Perpaduan-Agenda Nasional Malaysia Sihat (ANMS) bagi tempoh 2021-2025.

Lapan program dirangka dalam kolaborasi strategik itu, termasuk Advokasi Cegah COVID-19, PPE for Frontliners, Komuniti Sihat Pembina Negara

(KOSPEN), *Communication For Behavioural Impact* (COMBI), Kenali Ubat Anda dan Penjagaan Kesihatan Pergigian (Ikon Gigi).

Beliau berkata, 42,812 ejen dan sukarelawan Kementerian Kesihatan akan menyertai program yang dirangka kedua-dua kementerian itu.

"Kementerian Kesihatan dan Kementerian Perpaduan Negara akan memperkasakan ejen, sukarelawan dan komuniti perpaduan antara kedua-dua kementerian, supaya komuniti berupaya memainkan peranan dalam membudayakan amalan cara hidup sihat dan penjagaan kesihatan sendiri," katanya.

Sementara itu, Halimah berkata, pihaknya ada 8,274 jentera dengan 248,220 ahli yang akan berperanan menyebarkan maklumat kesihatan cara hidup sihat dan kesihatan sendiri.

BERNAMA

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 12

RUANGAN : COVID-19

1,000 kena kompaun RM10k

Bernamea **Semua individu disaman belum kemuka rayuan pengurangan**

Putrajaya

Lebih 1,000 individu dikenakan kompaun RM10,000 sejak Ordinan Darurat (Pencegahan dan Pengawalan Penyakit) (Pindaan) 2021 dikuatkuasakan pada 11 Mac dengan semuanya belum mengemukakan rayuan pengurangan,

kata Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba.

Bercakap kepada pemberita di sini semalam, Dr Adham berkata, individu yang dikenakan kompaun boleh membuat rayuan kepada pengarah dan timbalan pengarah kesihatan negeri untuk mendapatkan pengurangan berdasarkan

jenis kesalahan dilakukan.

"Setakat ini tiada individu yang dikenakan kompaun RM10,000 membuat rayuan. Apabila rayuan dibuat, kompaun (baharu) akan dikeluarkan berdasarkan jenis dan tarikh bila kesalahan itu dilakukan," katanya selepas majlis menandatangani Nota Kerjasa-

ma di antara Kementerian Perpaduan Negara (KPN) dan Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM), semalam.

Turut hadir, Menteri Perpaduan Negara, Datuk Halimah Mohamed Sadique. Nota Kerjasama itu ditandatangani Ketua Setiausaha KPN, Datuk Wan Suraya Wan Md Radzi manakala

KKM oleh Ketua Setiausaha hanya Datuk Mohd Shafiq Abdullah.

Mengulas proses rayuan kompaun itu, Dr Adham berkata, kertas siasatan akan dibuka oleh inspektor kesihatan bagi menilai apakah jenis kesalahan dilakukan dan jumlah kompaun akan dikenakan semula.

Menurutnya, kertas siasatan akan dibuka kepada empat kategori iaitu orang kurang upaya, kumpulan B40, pelajar dan mereka yang merasakan tidak mampu membayar kompaun.

"Orang yang dari kumpulan B40 perlu kemukakan bukti bagi membolehkan mereka membuat rayuan terhadap kompaun dikeluarkan," katanya.

1,482 kes jangkitan, 7 kematian dilapor

Kuala Lumpur: Selangor terus mencatatkan kes baharu positif Covid-19 tertinggi semalam dengan 661 kes daripada 1,482 kes yang dilaporkan di seluruh negara.

Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) juga melaporkan tujuh kematian baharu dilaporkan semalam.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, daripada 1,482 kes baharu itu, hanya dua kes import dilaporkan manakala 1,480 kes lagi membabitkan penularan tempatan.

"Selangor melaporkan kes harian baharu tertinggi iaitu sebanyak 661 kes (44.6 peratus). Daripada jumlah ini, sebanyak 565 kes (85.5 peratus) adalah daripada kluster dan saringan kontak rapat Covid-19 yang aktif di-

jalankan di lapangan.

"Ini diikuti oleh Pulau Pinang sebanyak 200 kes (13.5 peratus) dan Sarawak sebanyak 176 kes (11.9 peratus)," katanya, semalam.

Beliau berkata, sebanyak 39 kes (2.6 peratus) yang dilaporkan pula adalah berkaitan kluster di penjara dan depot tahanan imigresen (DTI) yang membabitkan Kluster Telok Mas (19), Kluster Tembok Tapah (7), Kluster Tembok Muhasabah (5), Kluster Penjara Jalan Harapan (3), Kluster Pagar Bukit Chagar (2), Kluster Depot Imigresen Semuja (2), dan Kluster Tembok Bukit Besi (1).

"Terdapat 164 kes positif Covid-19 dirawat di unit rawatan rapi (ICU) dengan 81 kes memerlukan bantuan pernafasan," katanya.

AKHBAR : KOSMO

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NEGARA

Kluster baharu babit saringan masuk wad dikesan

PUTRAJAYA – Hasil saringan masuk wad membabitkan seorang pesakit yang menjalani rawatan dialisis di sebuah pusat dialisis di Kota Tinggi, Johor mencetuskan kluster baharu iaitu Kluster Lorong Mulia yang berkaitan kluster berisiko tinggi di Ulu Tiram, Johor.

Kluster tersebut adalah antara 13 kluster baharu yang dilaporkan semalam yang menjadi penyumbang kepada 1,482 kes baharu sekali gus mengatasi 1,070 kes sembuh.

Terdapat tujuh kematian melibatkan lima warga tempatan dan dua warga asing dengan empat kes di Selangor serta masing-masing satu kes di Johor, Sarawak dan Sabah membabitkan individu berusia 53-hingga 96 tahun dengan pelbagai latar belakang penyakit.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr. Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, Selangor terus merekodkan kes tertinggi sebanyak 661 kes diikuti Pulau Pinang (200 kes) dan Sarawak (176 kes) yang antara lain disumbangkan daripada tujuh kluster tempat kerja, lima kluster komuniti dan satu kluster kumpulan berisiko tinggi.

Beliau berkata, selain itu, sebanyak 66 kluster merekodkan pertambahan kes baharu tertinggi semalam dengan Kluster Tapak Bina Persiaran Cyber-south (196 kes), Kluster Jalan Jelawat (88 kes) dan Kluster Subang Dua (46 kes).

Mengulas mengenai Kluster Lorong Mulia, beliau berkata, kes indeks bagi kluster itu dilaporkan positif pada 24 Mac lalu hasil saringan masuk wad dan saringan kontak rapat seterusnya mengesan sembilan lagi kes positif.

Selain itu, terdapat tujuh kluster tempat kerja yang dikesan iaitu Kluster Hevea Scruciana melibatkan Petaling dan

COVID-19

Angka terkini kes Covid-19 di Malaysia sehingga semalam

	Jumlah
Kes baharu	1,482
Import	2
Tempatan	1,480
Pulih	1,070
Kematian	7
Masih dirawat	14,604
Jumlah kes sembuh	329,624
Jumlah Kematian	1,272
Jumlah kes keseluruhan	345,500

Klang, Selangor dengan 55 kes; Kluster Jalan Rasmi melibatkan Gombak, Hulu Langat, Hulu Selangor, Klang, Petaling dan Sepang, Selangor serta Cheras, Kuala Lumpur (58 kes); Kluster Jalan Kingsway di Miri, Sarawak (51 kes) serta Kluster Bulatan Aman di Sibul, Sarawak (43 kes).

Tiga lagi iaitu Kluster Jalan Jelawat melibatkan Seberang Perai Utara, Seberang Perai Tengah, Seberang Perai Selatan dan Timur Laut, Pulau Pinang serta Kerian, Perak dengan 145 kes serta Kluster Delima Baiduri di Kuala Muda, Kedah (10 kes) dan Kluster Pulau Enoe di Labuan (lapan kes)," katanya

Beliau berkata, lima kluster komuniti pula ialah Kluster Jalan Baji di Sarikei, Sarawak dengan 20 kes; Kluster Kampung Baru Pasir Putih melibatkan Kalabakan dan Tawau, Sabah (lapan kes); Kluster Rimbayan di Keningau, Sabah (15 kes) serta Kluster Emas Bemban melibatkan Baling dan Sik di Kedah (enam kes) dan Kluster Layar melibatkan Kota Setar dan Kuala Muda, Kedah (10 kes).

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 12

RUANGAN : VAKSIN UNTUK RAKYAT

Kes jangkitan kekal empat digit

Malaysia catat 1,482 kes baharu Covid-19 dengan 7 kematian

KUALA LUMPUR

Kes harian Covid-19 di negara ini kekal empat digit dalam tempoh 24 jam lepas dengan 1,482 kes dan tujuh kematian dicatatkan.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah memaklumkan, jumlah kes sembuh pula ialah 1,070, menjadikan kumulatif kes pulih kini 329,624, manakala kes aktif setakat ini 14,604.

"Daripada jumlah kes baha-

ru pada Rabu, 1,480 adalah penularan tempatan dan dua kes import, sementara 164 individu dirawat di unit rawatan rapi (ICU) dengan 81 daripadanya memerlukan alat bantuan pernafasan.

"Jumlah keseluruhan kes kini 345,500, manakala kes kumulatif kematian kini 1,272," katanya dalam satu kenyataan pada Rabu.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, tiga negeri yang mencatat kes paling tinggi terdiri dari Selangor dengan 661 kes diikuti Pulau Pinang (200) dan Sarawak (176), Johor (86), Sabah (69) Kelantan (57), Kuala Lumpur (42), Melaka (41), Kedah (37), Pahang (36), Negeri Sembilan (32), Perak (31), Labuan (lapan) Putrajaya (tiga), Terengganu

(dua) dan Perlis (satu).

Dalam kenyataan itu, beliau kesian membabitkan tujuh kluster di tempat kerja, lima kluster komuniti dan satu melibatkan kumpulan berisiko tinggi iaitu Kluster Lorong Mulia di Johor.

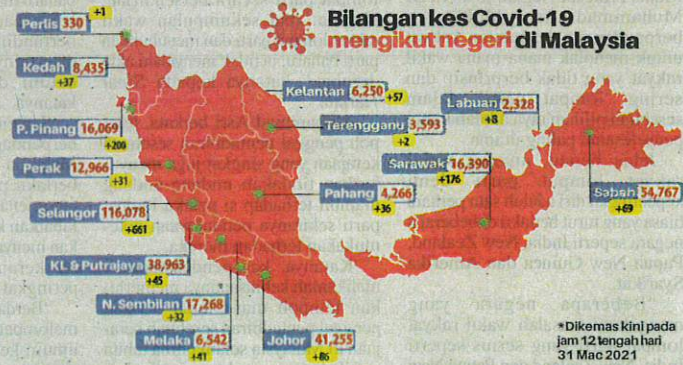
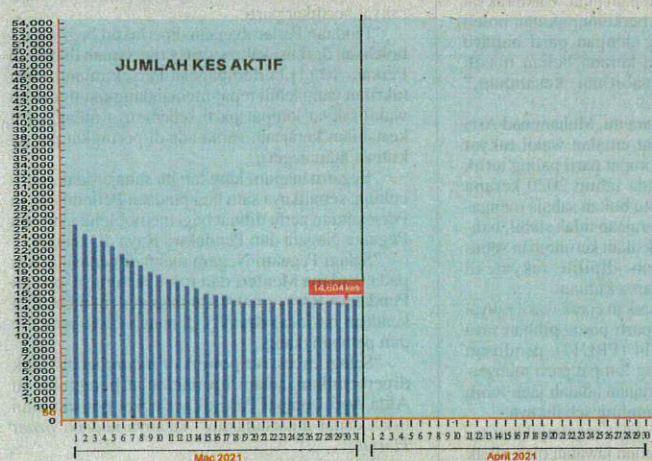
Kluster tempat kerja adalah Kluster Jalan Kingsway dan Bulatan Aman di Sarawak; Delima Baiduri (Kedah); Jalan Hevena Scruciana (Selangor); Jalan Rasmi (Selangor dan Kuala Lumpur); Pulau Enoe (Labuan) serta Jalan Jelawat (Pulau Pinang dan Perak), manakala kluster komuniti adalah Emas Berman dan Layar di Kedah; Jalan Baji (Sarawak) serta Kampung Baru Pasir Putih dan Rimbayan masing-masing di Sabah.

- Bernama

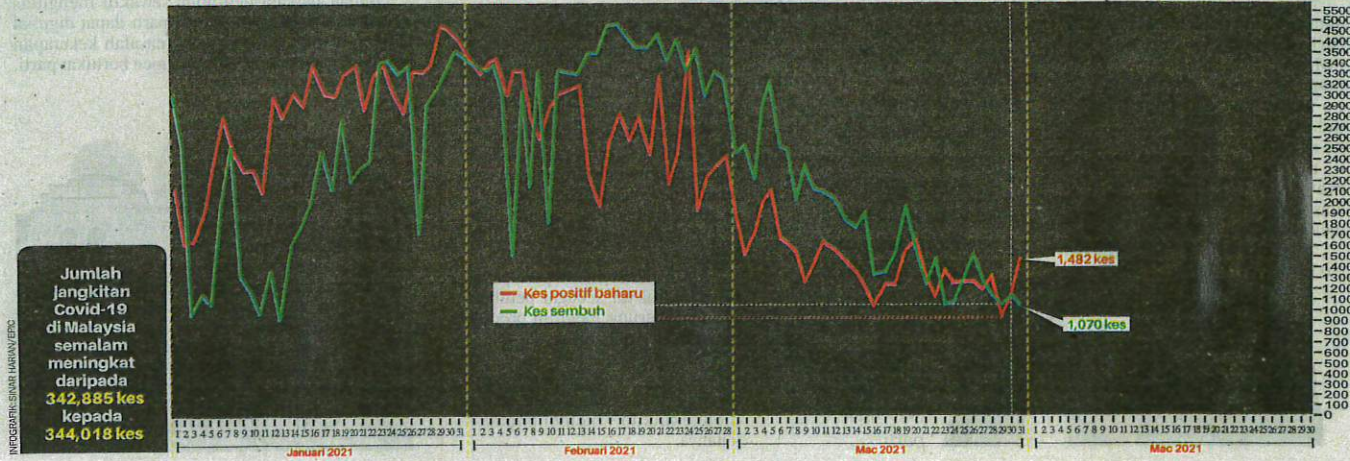


Papan tanda yang mempamerkan 'Daftar dan Dapatkan Vaksin Anda' dipasang di Jalan Air Itam di Georgetown bagi menggalakkan rakyat segera mendaftar bagi mendapatkan vaksin Covid-19.

SITUASI TERKINI KES COVID-19 DI MALAYSIA



JUMLAH KES BAHARU DAN SEMBUH DILAPORKAN SETIAP HARI					
JUMLAH KESELURUHAN	PULIH	ICU	KEMATIAN	KES BAHARU	SUDAH DI VAKSIN
345,500	329,624	164	1,272	+1,482	661,661



Jumlah jangkitan Covid-19 di Malaysia semalam meningkat daripada 342,885 kes kepada 344,018 kes

INFOGRAFI: SINAR HARIAN/ETIC

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 13

RUANGAN : VAKSIN UNTUK RAKYAT

PKPD di tiga kawasan di Tawau

KUALA LUMPUR - Tiga kawasan di Tawau, Sabah dikenakan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Diperketatkan (PKPD) bermula hari ini hingga 14 April, berikutan berlaku peningkatan kes secara mendadak di lokaliti itu.

Menteri Kanan (Keselamatan), Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob berkata, kawasan yang terlibat ialah Kampung Rangu Batu 10, Mukim Balung; Fasa 2 Taman Semarak dan Kampung Baru Pasir Putih, Mukim Sri Tanjung.

“Sehingga semalam (Selasa) Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) telah mengesan lapan kes positif hasil 59 ujian saringan yang dilakukan di Kampung Rangu Batu 10, manakala di Fasa 2 Taman Semarak pula seramai enam individu didapati positif hasil 16 ujian saringan, sembilan lagi sampel saringan masih menunggu keputusan.

“Di Kampung Baru Pasir Putih pula, sebanyak lapan kes positif dikesan hasil 89 ujian saringan, 75 lagi sampel masih menunggu keputusan,” katanya dalam kenyataan mengenai pelaksanaan PKP Bersyarat dan PKP Pemulihan pada Rabu.

Menurutnya, pelaksanaan PKPD itu untuk memudahkan KKM melaksanakan saringan secara bersasar ke atas semua penduduk serta mengawal pergerakan dan penularan jangkitan dalam komuniti.

Sementara itu, PKPD di Kilang YTY dan asrama pekerja, di Lekir, Sitiawan, Perak yang sepatutnya ditamatkan pada Khamis dilanjutkan dua minggu lagi sehingga 15 April depan. - *Bernama*

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI



ADHAM BABA

Menteri UMNO terus bertugas

PUTRAJAYA: Kesepakatan semua menteri daripada UMNO untuk terus kekal dalam Kabinet adalah demi membantu kerajaan dan negara menangani Covid-19 dan pemulihan ekonomi.

Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr. Adham Baba berkata, ia adalah satu tekad pemimpin UMNO dalam barisan Kabinet untuk memastikan semua perancangan yang diatur dilaksanakan dengan baik.

Sebagai individu yang ditugaskan menjaga kesihatan rakyat, kata beliau, ia merupakan tugas yang amat besar dalam memastikan urusan negara dalam mendepani pandemik itu.

"Perdana Menteri mengeluarkan kenyataan yang sangat telus dan berharga, apabila kita sebenarnya mempunyai tugas yang besar iaitu memastikan pengurusan negara dalam menangani Covid-19, pemulihan ekonomi dan sebagainya," katanya di sini semalam.

Adham yang juga Ahli Parlimen Tenggara berkata, apa yang diputuskan pucuk pimpinan tertinggi parti semasa Perhimpunan Agung UMNO 2020 hanyalah untuk berhadapan Pilihan Raya Umum Ke-15 (PRU-15).

Sementara itu Menteri Belia dan Sukan, Datuk Seri Reezal Merican Naina Merican berkata, ketika ini semua menteri UMNO sedang bergelumang dalam perjuangan membantu program yang membabitkan rakyat.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 2

RUANGAN : NEWS/STORY OF THE DAY

COVID-19 IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME

NO DEADLINE FOR VACCINE REGISTRATION

Pos Malaysia, Grab among those roped in to help

VEENA BABULAL
AND DHESEGAAN BALAKRISHNAN
KUALA LUMPUR
news@nst.com.my

THERE will be no deadline for the Covid-19 vaccine registration under the National Immunisation Programme (NIP) despite the low numbers.

Instead the government would go all out to increase vaccine registration by roping in agencies, such as Pos Malaysia, among others, to assist in the exercise, especially in places where the uptake is low.

Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Khairy Jamaluddin said Pos Malaysia would distribute flyers door to door in rural areas and states that have low registration numbers.

“Pos Malaysia will launch a Covid-19 stamp edition to show its appreciation for frontliners and will launch a #BersamaMencegahCovid-19 campaign for vaccine registration.

“I have also received a request from Post Malaysia to categorise postmen as frontliners to be inoculated in the near future.

“As the vaccines become available, I’ll be happy to consider the request,” he said at the launch of the Corporate Collaboration for Covid-19 Immunisation Programme here yesterday.

Apart from Pos Malaysia, Khairy said, Grab Malaysia’s app would also have a direct link to MySejahtera to facilitate the registration.

“Grab will also provide updated and accurate information about NIP to users.

“We will discuss further how we can map out the vaccination centres and to ensure that those who have an appointment can get to the centres with e-hailing rides from their homes.

“We can use a similar partnership that we had during the Sea Games to identify drop-off points for vaccination centres.”

Khairy said Grab drivers were

also being considered for inclusion in subsequent phases of the vaccination, which would involve economic frontliners.

He said Parkson Corporation Sdn Bhd had agreed to set up registration counters in 20 retail stores, and its customer service counters in all stores would also assist the process.

Besides corporate groups, Khairy added that St John Ambulance Malaysia would mobilise volunteers to publicise the immunisation programme, assist vaccine registration through MySejahtera and provide ambulance and medical teams at vaccination centres should the government require them.

“They will also be doing blood drives in 50 locations in the country from May 28 to May 30 and will open counters for volunteers to help the public register.

“Living Minds Sdn Bhd has also come forward to offer 12 professional football players under their management as vaccination ambassadors to help spread the message on vaccination through their social media network.”

Khairy said the message from top athletes and footballers would encourage people in the sports sector to get inoculated for the industry to operate again.

“Currently, we have some seven million people who have registered for the NIP. I think this is a decent start. But the preparations we are doing now are in anticipation of a mass vaccination exercise, which will take place from June onwards.”

Khairy said Malaysia was formulating concessions for those who had received their full vaccine coverage, like what they could do compared with those who had not been vaccinated.

“Once we start thinking about this, besides looking at the data and announcing new regulations, it would be an incentive for people to come forward, register and get vaccinated.”

The United States’ Centre for Disease Control and Prevention was formulating a list of new regulations for those who have been vaccinated.

Khairy said the “wait-and-see” attitude that was prevalent among the public would eventually resolve itself in the next few



months when Phase 2 begins with senior citizens and those having chronic diseases.

He said those who were reluctant would be inclined to register and get vaccinated once they see more non-frontliners being safely inoculated.

“The important thing now is communication, to not panic and worry that half the people are walking away (from getting registered). We should continue to communicate and listen.

“I am confident that more people will register in the coming months. I don’t think we should force people or have a deadline. It’s a matter of continuous engagement and risk communication with the public.”

He also said the government’s main focus was to get people who wanted to talk and who were willing to listen and register on board.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES
 MUKA SURAT : 3
 RUANGAN : NEWS/STORY OF THE DAY



Frontline workers in jubilant mood after completing their Covid-19 vaccination at the KPJ Tawakkal Specialist Hospital in Kuala Lumpur. PIC BY AZHAR RAMLI

Supply unaffected by India export ban

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's supply of the AstraZeneca vaccine will not be disrupted by India's export restrictions as the doses are not from the Serum Institute of India, but from SK Bioscience, a vaccine manufacturer in South Korea.

Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Khairy Jamaluddin, however, gave his assurance that he would look into the matter further.

He also said he received AstraZeneca's delivery schedule from the company's contract manufacturing plant in Thailand yesterday, which confirmed that the delivery of Malaysia's consignment of vaccines would start in June.

He said the first 600,000 doses of the vaccine would be delivered then and subsequent deliveries would arrive monthly. This, he added, was a direct consignment from the manufacturer.

Reuters previously reported that India had put a temporary hold on all major exports of the AstraZeneca vaccine made by the Serum Institute of India, the world's biggest vaccine-maker, to meet domestic demand following a rise in infections.

The move would affect supplies to the Gavi and World Health Organisation-backed global Covax vaccine-sharing facility, through which 64 low-income countries were supposed to get doses from SII, the programme's procurement and distributing partner of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund.

Ministry wants 100,000 Neighbourhood Watch members to register for Covid-19 shot

PUTRAJAYA: The National Unity Ministry is targeting 100,000 members of the Neighbourhood Watch, especially the elderly, to register for the Covid-19 vaccination under the National Immunisation Programme within two weeks.

Its minister, Datuk Halimah Mohamed Sadique, said 62,256 Neighbourhood Watch Community members out of a total of 248,000 had registered to receive the vaccination.

Halimah said campaigns had begun to encourage Neighbour-

hood Watch members to register for the vaccination, adding that the ministry hoped it could achieve the target.

She said this after the signing of a note of cooperation between the Neighbourhood Watch and the Health Ministry here yesterday. Present was Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba.

On March 29, Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Khairy Jamaluddin said the second phase of the immunisation exercise for the elderly, the disabled and the chronically ill

would begin on April 19, adding that the appointment notice would be given beginning April 5, two weeks before the appointment date via the MySejahtera app, a telephone call and short messaging service.

Halimah said Neighbourhood Watch members would be mobilised, especially in rural areas that did not have good Internet access, to help people register for the country's largest vaccination programme.

In **Dungun**, Deputy Rural Development Minister Datuk Seri

Abdul Rahman Mohamad said two million people living in rural areas have registered for the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme.

He said the number represented only one third of the rural population and the ministry was trying its best to get the rest of them on board with the help of its agencies.

"A total of 191 Rural Community Centres now play the role of helping people in rural areas to register as Covid-19 vaccine recipients. The name list of those

who have registered will be submitted to the Health Ministry."

He said this after officiating at the Central Terengganu Development Authority Excellent Service Award 2020 ceremony here yesterday. Present were its chairman Datuk Razali Idris and managing director Tengku Ahmad Nadzri Tengku Musa.

Rahman also urged various quarters, including non-governmental organisations, to help the government in getting more rural people to register.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : NATION/NEWS

COVID-19

1,482 INFECTIONS, SEVEN DEATHS

Selangor continues to record the highest number of new cases at 661, says Health D-G

NOR AIN MOHAMED RADHI
KUALA LUMPUR
news@nst.com.my

THE Health Ministry recorded 1,482 new Covid-19 cases up to noon yesterday, raising the total number of infections to 345,500.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said yesterday's infections pushed the country's active cases to 14,604.

He said 1,480 of the new cases were local infections involving 896 Malaysians and 584 foreigners, while two others were imported involving foreigners.

Selangor, he said, continued to record the highest number of new cases at 661, followed by Penang (200) and Sarawak (176).

"There are 164 Covid-19 patients being treated at the intensive care units, with 81 on ventilator support."

Dr Noor Hisham said there were 1,070 new recoveries, raising the total number of recoveries to 329,624 (95.4 per cent).

"Another seven fatalities were reported, bringing the death toll to 1,272 (0.37 per cent), involving



A man records his details in compliance with standard operating procedures at Pasar Besar Kota Kinabalu yesterday. PIC BY MOHD ADAM ARININ

five Malaysians and two foreigners."

He added that four deaths were recorded in Selangor and one each in Johor, Sarawak and Sabah.

"The oldest fatality involves a 96-year-old woman, who had a history of diabetes, high-blood pressure, heart problem, and chronic kidney disease. She died at Sungai Buloh Hospital."

He said 13 new clusters were detected yesterday, with seven linked to workplaces, followed by five community clusters and one high-risk group cluster.

This, he said, brought cumulative clusters to 1,372, with 370 active clusters.

"Workplace clusters were reported in Selangor (Jalan Rasmi and Hevea Scruciana clusters), Sarawak (Jalan Kingsway and Bulatan Aman clusters), Penang (Jalan Jelawat cluster), Kedah (Delima Baiduri cluster) and Labuan (Pulau Enoe cluster)."

"Community clusters were reported in Sabah (Kampung Baru Pasir Putih and Rimbayan clusters), Kedah (Layar and Emas Bemban clusters) and in Sarawak (Jalan Baji cluster)."

The high-risk group cluster was reported in Johor (Lorong Mulia

cluster), he added.

He said 1,002 clusters had ended, including 12 yesterday.

These 12 clusters were the Jalan Utarid cluster, the Jalan Ulu Choh cluster, the Jalan Wawasan 16 cluster, the Jalan PKNK 3/3 cluster, the Parit Haji Khamis cluster, the Taman Mawar cluster, the Pulau Rusa cluster, the Ria Jaya cluster, the Perdana cluster, the Industri Mahkota cluster, the Jalan DPB Lima cluster, and the Jalan Perubatan cluster.

He said those who had completed their vaccine shots must continue adhering to the stan-

dard operating procedures.

This, he said, was in line with the World Health Organisation's advice, which said that the vaccine should not be used as an immunity passport while the immunisation programme was ongoing.

He said based on the latest information, a complete Covid-19 vaccination could reduce complications and the transmission of Covid-19 in the community. The Health Ministry, he added, would monitor the developments of vaccine research worldwide, as well as the country's immunisation programme.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 9

RUANGAN : NATION/NEWS

FIRST OUTSIDE KL

IJN in tie-up to open heart centre in Terengganu

NURADZIMMAH DAIM
KUALA LUMPUR
news@nst.com.my

A HEART specialist centre will be set up in Terengganu as part of a strategic collaboration between Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin (UniSZA) and the National Heart Institute (IJN).

IJN chief executive officer Datuk Dr Aizai Azan Abdul Rahim said it would commence the initial stage of the cooperation with UniSZA in certain cardiovascular as well as thoracic consultancy and advisory services at Hospital Pengajar UniSZA.

"We will start with specialist outpatient treatment first and expand to other services such as paediatric cardiovascular and thoracic.

"We are also looking at working

on integrated disease management with UniSZA.

"The centre would benefit some 30,000 patients in the East Coast. We have received requests from many people asking if we would give treatment outside Kuala Lumpur.

"This is the first step towards bringing our services to the people.

"We will look at possibilities of opening such centres in other areas as well," he said at a press conference yesterday.

In his speech earlier, Dr Aizai said IJN specialists would be assigned to the teaching hospital in Gong Badak — where the centre would be located — to deliver medical services, share their skills and participate in joint-research initiatives with their peers from UniSZA.

"Building upon our success so far, a core part of our current



**SMART
TECH**

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba (centre) being briefed on the features of the SmartBED by its designer Kamal Mohamad Khair (right) at the Health Ministry's Innovation Day celebration in Putrajaya on March 26. With them are (from left) Health Ministry secretary-general Datuk Mohd Shafiq Abdullah, Medical Apparatus Supplies Sdn Bhd managing director Md Azar Ismail, Deputy Health Minister Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali and Health D-G Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah. SmartBED is a multipurpose patient bed that is equipped with special features for trauma imaging. PIC BY AIZUDDIN SAAD

strategic plan is to expand our services and expertise beyond the confines of our headquarters in Kuala Lumpur," he said at the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between UniSZA and IJN, witnessed by Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

Dr Aizai said the MoU outlined their mutual interests to establish cooperation in relation to the provision and establishment of medical and health services, facilities, training, research and other related medical services in Terengganu.

UniSZA vice-chancellor Prof

Datuk Dr Hassan Basri Awang Mat Dahan said the construction of the teaching hospital was 85 per cent completed and was expected to open next year.

Present were IJN chief clinical officer Dr Hasri Samion and UniSZA director Hilmi Mohd Nashir.

AKHBAR : THE STAR
 MUKA SURAT : 5
 RUANGAN : NATION

Covid-19: Current situation (As at 7pm March 31, 2021)		Malaysia															
		New cases				Total cases				Total deaths				Total recovered			
		Perlis	Kedah	Penang	Perak	Selangor	Kelantan	Terengganu	Pahang	N. Sembilan	Melaka	Johor	Sabah	Sarawak	FT K. Lumpur	FT Putrajaya	FT Labuan
		+1	+37	+200	+31	+661	+57	+2	+36	+32	+41	+86	+69	+176	+42	+3	+8
Asean+		Indonesia	Philippines	Japan	Myanmar	S. Korea	China	Singapore	Thailand	Vietnam	Cambodia	Brunei	Laos				
Confirmed cases		1,511,712	747,288	470,175	142,412	103,088	90,201	60,381	28,863	2,594	2,440	210	49				
Deaths		40,858	13,297	9,086	3,206	1,731	4,636	30	94	35	11	3	0				
Recovered		1,348,330	603,746	443,640	131,793	95,030	85,385	60,138	27,426	2,359	1,191	194	45				
Global Top 10		US	Brazil	India	France	Russia	UK	Italy	Turkey	Spain	Germany						
Confirmed cases		31,097,154	12,664,058	12,149,335	4,585,385	4,545,095	4,341,736	3,561,012	3,277,880	3,275,819	2,809,510						
Deaths		564,138	317,936	162,502	95,337	98,850	126,670	108,879	31,385	75,305	76,833						
Recovered		23,586,796	11,074,483	11,434,301	292,796	4,166,172	3,835,218	2,889,301	2,995,033	3,042,352	2,521,800						

Steady supply assured

600,000 AstraZeneca vaccine doses to arrive in June

By ASHLEY TANG
 ashleytang@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: Malaysia will begin receiving 600,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine in June under a direct procurement exercise, says the coordinating minister for the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme, Khairy Jamaluddin.

"Subsequent deliveries will come every month," he said in a press conference after launching the Corporate Collaboration for the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme yesterday, an event that was also broadcast on social media.

Khairy, who is also the Science, Technology and Innovation Minister, assured the public that the country's AstraZeneca vaccine supply under the World Health Organisation-backed Covax programme will not be affected as its supply comes from SK Bioscience, a manufacturer in South Korea, and not from India's Serum Institute of India (SII).

He said this in response to a question that India, the world's largest vaccine manufacturer, had temporarily put a hold on exports of AstraZeneca's vaccine manufactured by SII.

Last year, Malaysia signed a deal to procure 6.4 million doses of AstraZeneca vaccine. On its website, AstraZeneca said it would deliver up to three billion doses of its Covid-19 vaccine across the globe by the end of 2021 - 18 months after the company first joined hands with the University of Oxford to develop and manufacture the vaccine.

Separately, in an effort to encourage greater uptake for Covid-19 vaccines, Khairy said the government was collaborating with Pos Malaysia, Grab Malaysia, Parkson Corporation, Living Minds as well as St John's Ambulance to raise awareness on vaccinations and to encourage more people to sign up.

"The more people involved in convincing the public to register, (through) the counters they see, the more influencers they hear, the more flyers they read, should these contribute towards increasing registration num-



Team spirit: (From left) Khairy, Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Seri Reezal Naina Merican and Deputy Youth and Sports Minister Wan Fayhsal Wan Ahmad Kamal with volunteers at the launch of the Volunteers programme. - YAP CHEE HONG/The Star

bers," he said.

Pos Malaysia, Khairy said, would send flyers door-to-door, with emphasis given to rural areas and states where vaccine registrations were low.

In the government's collaboration with Grab, Khairy said the Grab app would have a direct link to the MySejahtera app to make the vaccine registration process easier, as well as to map out the vaccination centres to ensure those who have an appointment would find it easy to get e-hailing services to and from their house.

Parkson Corporation, meanwhile, will set up vaccination registration counters in 20 of its stores, while St John's Ambulance will be setting up similar counters in 15 locations during its blood drive campaign from March 28 to May 30.

Living Minds, a local sports marketing company, will enlist 12 footballers under its management to become vaccination ambassadors.

Also at the launch was Parkson Corporation Sdn Bhd group chief executive Tan Sri William Cheng, Pos Malaysia chief executive officer

Sadly, Covid-19 numbers continue their upward trend

PETALING JAYA: The number of daily Covid-19 infections continued their recent uptick to register 1,482 new cases, with Selangor retaining the "top spot".

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the new infections over the past 24 hours brought the cumulative total to 345,500 cases.

He added that Selangor recorded the highest number with 661 cases, followed by Penang with 200 cases and Sarawak with 176 cases.

"Most of the cases or 565 cases in Selangor were detected from clusters and close contact screening," he said in a statement yesterday.

There were seven deaths, bringing the total cumulative fatalities to 1,272.

"Four fatalities were in Selangor and one each in Johor, Sarawak and Sabah," said Dr Noor Hisham, adding that five of them were locals.

There were 13 new clusters detected with seven of them linked to workplaces.

Five were community clusters while another involved a high-risk cluster.

Among them were the Jalan Rasmi and Hevea Scrutinana clusters in Selangor and the Jalan Kingsway and Bulatan Aman clusters in Sarawak, all categorised as workplace clusters.

On a separate matter, Dr Noor Hisham thanked all parties and the public for following the standard operating procedure even after they had received the first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine.

"This is in line with the World Health Organisation stand that the vaccine cannot be treated as an 'immunity passport' as it is still at its initial stages.

"We will continue to monitor and look into the latest developments involving vaccine studies and the respective immunisation programmes across the world," he added.

Dr Noor Hisham also said there was the emergence of the latest variants of Covid-19 and this might affect the effectiveness of the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme.