

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 1

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

KKM cadang larangan rentas negeri rai Aidilfitri

Putrajaya: Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) mencadangkan pergerakan rentas negeri dilarang sempena sambutan Aidilfitri tahun ini, susulan situasi penularan pandemik COVID-19 yang masih membimbangkan ketika ini.

Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba, berkata ia berikutan rungutan dan rayuan pelbagai pihak supaya kerajaan menangguhkan kebenaran pergerakan rentas negeri disebabkan jumlah kes positif COVID-19 yang masih tinggi.

"Seperti yang kita sedia maklum, kebanyakan negeri ketika ini masih bawah Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Bersyarat (PKPB) dan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Pemulihan (PKPP).

"Memandangkan kes harian masih meningkat dan belum stabil, maka pergerakan ini perlu

ditangguhkan.

"Program vaksinasi (Program Imunisasi COVID-19 Kebangsaan) pun masih berjalan," katanya pada sidang media selepas melancarkan buku *Malaysia Health Sector Response to COVID-19: Perspectives From The Field*, di pejabat beliau di sini, semalam.

Baru-baru ini, Menteri Kanan (Keselamatan), Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob meminta KKM membuat pengumuman awal berhubung rentas negeri sempena Aidilfitri selepas membuat penilaian risiko supaya rakyat boleh membuat persediaan.

Malaysia semalam merekodkan 2,148 jangkitan baharu COVID-19, dengan peningkatan hampir di semua negeri. Kali terakhir KKM melaporkan lebih 2,000 kes adalah pada 5 Mac lalu.

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 2

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Penularan COVID-19

Jangkitan pandemik kembali melonjak

2,148 kes baharu direkod, Terengganu catat kadar kebolehhajngkitan tertinggi

Oleh Zanariah Abd Mutalib, Noor Atiqah Sulaiman, Mohd Amin Jalil. bhnews@bh.com.my

Kuala Lumpur: Jangkitan pandemik COVID-19 di negara ini, kembali melonjak kepada 2,148 kes baharu dengan 10 kematian semalam, selepas kali terakhir merekodkan angka melepasi 2,000 kes pada 5 Mac lalu.

Selain menyaksikan lonjakan kes baharu itu, kadar kebolehhajngkitan atau R-naught (Rt) COVID-19 di seluruh negara juga, turut meningkat apabila berada pada 1.14 pada Rabu lalu, ber-

banding 1.09 hari sebelumnya.

Terengganu kini mencatatkan kadar kebolehhajngkitan tertinggi dengan nilai Rt 1.30, diikuti Kelantan (1.27), Putrajaya (1.26), Sabah (1.21), Sarawak (1.19), Perlis (1.17), Kuala Lumpur (1.15), Kedah (1.08), Negeri Sembilan (1.06) dan Perak (1.06).

Pada masa sama, COVID-19 varian Afrika Selatan B.1.351 dan UK B.1.1.7 COVID-19, yang mempunyai kadar kebolehhajngkitan yang tinggi dan cepat turut di kesan di negara ini, ketika banyak kajian saintifik masih berjalan berhubung gejala dan kesan jangkitannya.

Situasi penularan ketika ini, jika gagal dikawal dengan pematuan prosedur operasi standard (SOP) yang ketat, mencecutkan kebangkitan terhadap risiko berlaku penularan gelombang keempat kes positif COVID-19 di negara ini.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata kumulatif COVID-19 di negara ini kini mencapai 367,977 kes, dengan Sarawak mencatatkan kes tertinggi

semalam dengan 512 kes, diikuti Selangor (459) serta Kelantan (221).

Beliau berkata, selain 10 kematian dengan masing-masing tiga dilaporkan di Selangor dan Kuala Lumpur, manakala dua kes di Sarawak serta satu di Johor dan Sabah, sejumlah 15 kluster baharu dikesan membabitkan tempat kerja dan dalam komuniti.

"Kluster tempat kerja membabitkan pusat pendidikan, pekerja kilang, restoran serta pusat perkhidmatan, dikenali sebagai Kluster Kampung Bunut Sarang Burung (Tumpat, Kota Bharu dan Tanah Merah di Kelantan) menjangkiti 50 kes; Kluster Kampung Domis (Kuala Krai, Machang, Pasir Mas, Tumpat dan Tanah Merah) menjangkiti 40 kes.

"Turut dikesan ialah Kluster Kampung Labok (Machang) menjangkiti sembilan kes; Kluster Kok Lanas (Kota Bharu, Tanah Merah dan Tumpat) menjangkiti 31 kes dan Kluster Jaya Setia (Petaling) menjangkiti 12 kes.

"Selain itu Kluster Perabot Olak Lempit (Kuala Langat) men-

Kumulatif COVID-19 di negara ini kini mencapai 367,977 kes, dengan Sarawak mencatatkan kes tertinggi semalam dengan 512 kes, diikuti Selangor (459) serta Kelantan (221)

Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan



jangkiti 25 kes; Kluster Lorong Megah Jaya (Sandakan) menjangkiti 18 kes serta Kluster Jalan Labuk Tiga (Sandakan dan Lahad Datu) menjangkiti 15 kes," katanya.

Menteri Penyelaras Program Imunisasi COVID-19 Kebangsaan (PICK), Khairy Jamaluddin, menyarankan kajian semula terhadap kelonggaran seperti kebenaran mengunjungi bazar Ramadan susulan 17 kes positif COVID-19 varian Afrika Selatan B.1.351 di negara ini.

Beliau berkata, varian virus itu dikatakan lebih mudah tersebar kerana mempunyai kadar kebolehhajngkitan lebih tinggi, seterusnya mewujudkan risiko berlakunya gelombang keempat kes positif COVID-19 di negara ini.

"Apa yang membimbangkan beberapa vaksin yang ada tidak efektif untuk melawan varian terbahit, sekali gus memberi kesan kepada PICK yang dilaksa-

nakan dan gelombang keempat mungkin akan lebih teruk.

"Minggu lalu, kita tengok hampir berjaya menurunkan gelombang ketiga, namun beberapa hari lalu ia meningkat semula, saya bimbang ini akan beri kesan kepada PICK," katanya selepas melawat Pusat Pemberian Vaksin Negeri Sembilan di Dewan Majlis Bandaraya Seremban, semalam.

Justeru, Khairy berkata, Majlis Keselamatan Negara (MKN) perlu meneliti semula kelonggaran diberikan kepada orang ramai termasuk berkaitan bazar Ramadan.

"Kita tidak boleh salahkan orang ramai kerana mereka memang nak ke bazar Ramadan, tapi yang jelas sukar kalkalkan penjarakan fizikal, walaupun penguatkuasaan dilakukan.

"Mereka akan berdekatan dengan orang lain, justeru saya rasa kita perlu melihat perkara ini dengan serius," katanya.

Kadar kebolehhajngkitan seluruh negara meningkat

Dari Muka 1

Malah, kadar kebolehhajngkitan atau R-naught (Rt) COVID-19 mengikut kes seharian di seluruh negara Rabu lalu juga terus meningkat kepada 1.14, berbanding 1.09 pada hari sebelumnya.

Berdasarkan data dikongsi Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, Terengganu mencatatkan kadar kebolehhajngkitan COVID-19 tertinggi dengan nilai Rt 1.30, manakala Kelantan (Rt 1.27), Putrajaya (1.26), Sabah (1.21), Sarawak (1.19), Perlis (1.17), Kuala Lumpur (1.15), Kedah (1.08), Negeri Sembilan (1.06) dan Perak (1.06).

Dr Noor Hisham juga berkata, KKM mengesan dua lagi kes jangkitan virus varian UK B.1.1.7, menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan kes dijangkiti varian itu menjadi lima.

Dr Adham ketika ditanya ke-

ungkinan mereka yang sudah lengkap menerima dua dos vaksin COVID-19 dibenarkan untuk merentas negeri berkata, pihaknya masih menunggu dapatan Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO) serta Pusat Kawalan dan Pencegahan Penyakit yang berpangkalan di Amerika Syarikat, sebelum keputusan mengenai itu dibuat.

Sementara itu, Dr Adham memaklumkan, pihaknya menerima banyak aduan berhubung kegagalan pematuan prosedur operasi standard (SOP) di beberapa lokasi bazar Ramadan seluruh negara.

Beliau menegaskan, kerajaan memandang serius perkara itu dan tidak menolak kemungkinan bazar Ramadan akan ditutup jika wujud kluster baharu yang ada kaitan dengan aktiviti bazar.

"Kalau kluster bazar wujud, kita (KKM) akan melakukan siasatan melalui rekod aplikasi

MySejahtera untuk mendapatkan punca yang tepat. Mudah bagi kita mengesan punca atau tempat bermula jangkitan.

"Jika penganjur didapati tidak bertanggungjawab, kita tidak akan teragak-agak mengenakan kompaun," katanya.

Mengenai penurunan kuasa kepada pihak berkuasa tempatan (PBT) mengenakan kompaun terhadap individu yang gagal mematuhi SOP, beliau berkata, lantikan dibuat di bawah Seksyen 25 Akta Pencegahan dan Pengawalan Penyakit Berjangkit (Akta 342) bertujuan memastikan tahap pematuan SOP di bazar Ramadan.

Berkuat kuasa kelmarin, KKM menurunkan kuasa kepada Datuk Bandar, Yang Dipertua dan pegawai penguat kuasa PBT Gred 19 ke atas, untuk mengkompaun kesalahan bawah Akta 342, termasuk ketidakpatuhan SOP di bazar Ramadan. BERNAMA

Terkini COVID-19

1,259

Pulih, dibenarkan keluar hospital, semalam

2,148

Kes baharu disahkan, semalam

1,363

Jumlah kematian dicatat

367,977

Jumlah kes disahkan positif

17,575

Kes yang masih dirawat

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 10

RUANGAN : COVID-19

430 petugas KKM dihantar ke Sarawak

Putrajaya: Seramai 430 petugas Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) akan dihantar ke Sarawak pada 21 April ini bagi menambah petugas kesihatan dalam menangani penularan pandemik Covid-19.

Menterinya Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba berkata, keputusan untuk menambah petugas kesihatan itu dibuat selepas beliau membuat lawatan ke Sarawak pada Isnin dan Selasa lalu termasuk melawat Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan Covid-19 di

Stadium Perpaduan, Kuching.

"Berdasarkan keadaan dan dapatan daripada lawatan itu, kami dapati wujud keperluan segera untuk menambah petugas kesihatan ke Sarawak. Penambahan akan dilaksanakan secara berperingkat," katanya.

Kelmarin, Sarawak merekod 489 kes baharu Covid-19, dengan Kluster Tembok Sri Aman dan Kluster Jalan Puncak Borneo menjadi punca utama kes positif. Dr Adham berkata mengi-

kut data dikumpul, Sarawak memerlukan 1,436 petugas kesihatan termasuk pegawai perubatan, penolong pegawai perubatan, pegawai sains mikrobiologi, jururawat dan pemandu.

"Semua petugas kesihatan dihantar (ke Sarawak) terdiri daripada mereka yang sudah menerima dua dos suntikan vaksin Covid-19," katanya.

Menurut Dr Adham, hampir 600,000 petugas barisan hadapan mendapatkan suntikan dos pertama vaksin Co-

vid-19 dan hampir 470,000 melengkap dos ke dua.

Mengenai taburan kes mengikut daerah di Sarawak, beliau berkata, bagi 1 April hingga semalam, daerah Meradong mencatatkan jumlah tertinggi iaitu 771 diikuti Julau (605), Bintulu (556), Kapit (387), Beluru (343) dan Sibul (283).

"Ini antara daerah mempunyai kadar kes tinggi melebihi *average* negeri iaitu per 100,000. Jadi KKM akan hantar lebih ramai petugas di kawasan itu" katanya.



ANGGOTA Polis Diraja Malaysia, Jabatan Sukarelawan Malaysia (Rela) dan Angkatan Tentera Malaysia (ATM) mengawasi sekatan jalan raya (SJR) di pintu gerbang sempadan negeri Pahang dan Terengganu di Kampung Chendor, Kuantan, semalam.

Putrajaya

RENTAS NEGERI SAMBUT AIDILFITRI

KKM cadang tangguh dahulu

Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) mencadangkan pergerakan rentas negeri bagi sambutan Aidilfitri tahun ini ditangguh susulan situasi penularan pandemik Covid-19 masih membimbangkan ketika ini.

Menteri Kesihatan Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba berkata, ia berikutan rungutan serta rayuan pelbagai pihak supaya kerajaan menagih kebenaran pergerakan berkenaan.

"Seperti mana kita sedia maklum, kebanyakan negeri ketika ini masih di bawah PKPB (Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Bersyarat) dan PKPP (Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Pemulihan) sehingga 28 April ini.

"Memandangkan kes harian meningkat dan belum stabil maka pergerakan perlu ditangguhkan. Program vaksinasi (Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan) pun masih dijalankan," katanya pada sidang media selepas melancarkan buku Malaysia

Health Sector Response to Covid-19: Perspectives From The Field di sini, semalam.

Ditanya mengenai kemungkinan mereka yang lengkap menerima dua dos suntikan vaksin Covid-19 dibenarkan rentas negeri, Dr Adham berkata, pihaknya masih menunggu dapatan daripada Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO) serta Pusat Kawalan dan Pencegahan Penyakit berpangkalan di Amerika Syarikat.

"Kita masih tunggu dapatan ini untuk dapatkan keputusan sama ada perkara ini boleh dibenarkan," katanya.

Mengenai prosedur operasi standard (SOP) di bazar Ramadan, Dr Adham memaklumkan pihaknya me-

nerima aduan mengenai kegagalan pematuan SOP di beberapa lokasi bazar Ramadan di seluruh negara.

Katanya, kerajaan memandang serius mengenai perkara tersebut dan tidak menolak kemungkinan bazar Ramadan ditutup sekiranya terdapat kluster baharu dipercayai daripada aktiviti bazar.

"Kalau kluster bazar wujud, KKM akan siasat melalui rekod aplikasi MySejahtera bagi mendapatkan punca yang tepat. Mudah bagi kita untuk kesan punca atau tempat bermula jangkitan. Sekiranya penganjur tidak bertanggungjawab, kita tidak teragak-agak dikenakan kompaun," katanya.

Mengenai kuasa pihak berkuasa tempatan (PBT) mengenakan kompaun kepada individu yang gagal mematuhi SOP, beliau berkata, lantikan di bawah Seksyen 25 Akta Pencegahan dan Pengawalan Penyakit Berjangkit (Akta 342) itu bertujuan memastikan tahap pematuan SOP di bazar Ramadan adalah tinggi.

Berkuat kuasa semalam, Kementerian Kesihatan telah menurunkan kuasa kepada Datuk Bandar, Yang Dipertua PBT dan pegawai penguat kuasa PBT Gred 19 ke atas untuk mengkompaun kesalahan di bawah Akta 342 termasuk sebarang ketidakpatuhan SOP bazar Ramadan.



ORANG ramai mematuhi ketetapan dengan memakai pelitup muka di sekitar KL Sentral berikutan kes Covid-19 kembali meningkat di Kuala Lumpur dan Selangor.

2,148 kes baharu koronavirus dicatat

Kuala Lumpur: Kes positif Covid-19 terus meningkat apabila 2,148 kes direkodkan Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM), semalam.

Angka melebihi 2,000 kes itu direkodkan pertama kali sejak tempoh lebih dua minggu lalu.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, Sarawak mencatatkan kes harian baharu tertinggi 512 kes.

Katanya, daripada jumlah ini, sebanyak 420 kes adalah daripada kluster dan saringan kontak rapat kes positif yang aktif dijalankan di lapangan.

"Ini diikuti Selangor 459 kes dan Kelantan 221 kes manakala 57 kes dilaporkan pula berkaitan kluster di penjara yang membabitkan Kluster Telok Mas sebanyak 45 kes dan Kluster Penjara Jalan Harapan pula 12 kes,"



Ini diikuti Selangor 459 kes dan Kelantan 221 kes manakala 57 kes yang dilaporkan pula berkaitan kluster di penjara"

Dr Noor Hisham

katanya.

Menurutnya, KKM merekodkan 10 kes kematian semalam dengan masing-masing tiga kes di Selangor dan Kuala Lumpur, Sarawak (dua) dan masing-masing satu kes di Johor dan Sabah membabitkan sembilan warganegara dan seorang bukan warganegara.

Beliau berkata, 212 kes dirawat di unit rawatan rapi manakala 82 kes memerlukan bantuan pernafasan.

Selamba rentas negeri nak jumpa kekasih hati

Seremban: Sengaja undang masalah apabila seorang lelaki sengaja merentas negeri tanpa permit pergerakan yang sah semata-mata mahu melepaskan rindu dan bertemu teman wanita berusia 21 tahun.

Lelaki berusia 29 tahun yang memandu dari Melaka ke pusat bandar ini bagaimanapun diberkas polis petang kelmarin.

Ketua Polis Seremban, Asisten Komisioner Mohd Said Ibrahim, berkata, kedua-dua individu itu ditahan oleh Unit Kereta Peronda Ibu Pejabat Polis Daerah (IPD) Seremban di Jalan Persiaran Utama S2/1 di sini, jam 4 petang.

"Lelaki terbabit yang memandu sebuah kereta didapati tidak berhenti apabila diarah berhenti untuk peme-

riksaan oleh anggota polis. "Polis mengejar kereta itu selain mendapatkan bantuan daripada tiga lagi unit kereta peronda polis.

"Kereta dipandu suspek didapati melanggar lampu merah selain membuat pusingan U tanpa kebenaran. Malah, kenderaan lelaki itu melanggar cermin sisi sebuah kereta lain sebelum berjaya ditahan," katanya.

Beliau berkata, pemeriksaan terhadap pemandu kereta mendapati lelaki itu datang dari Melaka tanpa mendapatkan permit pergerakan yang sah untuk melawat teman wanitanya di sini.

"Hasil ujian air kencing juga mendapati suspek positif dadah methamphetamine. Lelaki itu kini ditahan reman sehingga 15 April," katanya.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 2

RUANGAN : VAKSIN UNTUK RAKYAT



Dr Adham (tengah) melancarkan buku *Malaysia Health Sector Response to Covid-19: Perspectives From The Field* di pejabatnya di Putrajaya pada Khamis.

Tak boleh beraya di kampung?

KKM cadang pergerakan rentas negeri sambut Aidilfitri ditangguh

PUTRAJAYA

Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) mencadangkan pergerakan rentas negeri bagi sambutan Aidilfitri tahun ini ditangguhkan susulan situasi penularan pandemik Covid-19 masih membimbangkan ketika ini.

Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Adham Babu berkata, ia berikutan rungutan serta rayuan pelbagai pihak agar kerajaan menangguhkan kebenaran pergerakan berkenaan.

"Sepertimana kita sedia maklum, kebanyakan negeri ketika ini masih di bawah PKPB (Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Bersyarat) dan PKPP (Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Pemulihan) sehingga 28 April ini.

"Memandangkan kes harian masih meningkat dan belum stabil, maka pergerakan ini perlu ditangguhkan.

"Program vaksinasi (Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan) pun masih dijalankan," katanya pada sidang akhbar selepas melancarkan buku *Malaysia Health Sector Response to Covid-19: Perspectives From The Field* di pejabatnya di sini pada Khamis.

Untuk rekod, Malaysia mencatatkan sejumlah 1,889 kes Covid-19 pada Rabu berbanding 1,767 kes pada Selasa.

Ditanya mengenai kemungkinan individu yang lengkap menerima dua dos suntikan vaksin Covid-19 dibenarkan

untuk rentas negeri, Dr Adham berkata, pihaknya masih menunggu dapatan daripada Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO) serta Pusat Kawalan dan Pencegahan Penyakit yang berpangkalan di Amerika Syarikat.

"Kita masih menunggu dapatan ini untuk mendapatkan keputusan sama ada perkara ini boleh dibenarkan," katanya.

Mengenai prosedur operasi standard (SOP) di bazar Ramadan, Dr Adham berkata, pihaknya menerima aduan mengenai kegagalan pematuhan SOP di beberapa lokasi bazar Ramadan di seluruh negara.

Katanya, kerajaan memandang serius mengenai perkara tersebut dan tidak menolak kemungkinan bazar Ramadan ditutup sekiranya terdapat kluster baharu dipercayai daripada aktiviti bazar.

"Kalau kluster bazar wujud, kita (KKM) akan lakukan siasatan melalui rekod aplikasi MySejahtera bagi mendapatkan punca yang tepat.

"Mudah bagi kita untuk kesan punca atau tempat bermula jangkitan. Sekiranya penganjur tidak bertanggungjawab, kita tidak teragak-agak kenakan kompaun," katanya.

Mengenai kuasa pihak berkuasa tempatan (PBT) mengenakan kompaun kepada individu yang gagal mematuhi SOP, beliau berkata, lantikan di bawah Seksyen 25 Akta Pencegahan dan Pengawalan Penyakit Berjangkit (Akta 342) itu bertujuan memastikan tahap pematuhan SOP di bazar Ramadan adalah tinggi.

Berkuatkuasa Rabu, Kementerian Kesihatan menurunkan kuasa kepada Datuk Bandar, Yang Dipertua PBT dan pegawai penguat kuasa PBT Gred 19 ke atas, untuk mengkompaun kesalahan di bawah Akta 342 termasuk ketidakpatuhan SOP bazar Ramadan. - *Bernama*

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 6
RUANGAN : VAKSIN UNTUK RAKYAT

Tertinggi sejak 40 hari lalu dengan kes aktif sebanyak 17,575 kes

Covid-19 kembali meningkat

Oleh **TUAN BUQHAIRAH TUAN MUHAMAD ADNAN**

PUTRAJAYA

Sebanyak 2,148 kes positif baharu Covid-19 dilaporkan pada Khamis iaitu tertinggi sejak 40 hari lalu.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, pertambahan itu menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan kes di negara ini setakat ini ialah sebanyak 367,977 kes.

"Terdapat 19 kes import dan 2,129 kes penularan tempatan membabitkan seramai 1,791 rakyat tempatan dan 338 warga asing," katanya dalam satu kenyataan pada Khamis.

Kali terakhir kes baharu Co-

vid-19 tertinggi dilaporkan adalah pada 5 Mac lalu dengan 2,154 kes.

Dalam pada itu, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, jumlah kes aktif di seluruh negara ialah sebanyak 17,575 kes.

"Sebanyak 212 kes dirawat di unit rawatan rapi (ICU) dan 82 daripadanya memerlukan alat bantuan pernafasan," katanya.

Beliau berkata, Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) menerima sebanyak 10 laporan kes kematian berkaitan Covid-19 melibatkan sembilan rakyat tempatan dan seorang warga asing.

"Jumlah kumulatif kes



DR NOOR HISHAM

kematian adalah sebanyak 1,363 kes," ujarnya.

Menurutnya, KKM turut merekodkan 1,259 kes pulih sepenuhnya daripada Covid-19 menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes pulih adalah sebanyak 349,039 kes.

Mengulas lanjut mengenai penularan dalam negara, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, Sarawak melaporkan kes tertinggi dengan 512 kes.

"Daripada jumlah ini, sebanyak 420 kes adalah daripada kluster dan saringan kontak rapat kes positif Covid-19 yang aktif dijalankan di lapangan," katanya.

Sementara itu, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, KKM mengesan dua lagi varian UK B.1.1.7 di negara ini sekali gus menjadikan jumlahnya lima kes.

"Dua kes terbaru merupakan pengembara Malaysia yang mempunyai sejarah perjalanan ke Poland pada Mac lalu," katanya.

Menurutnya, kedua-dua individu tersebut didapati positif pada 30 Mac dan telah diberikan rawatan selanjutnya.

"Analisa filogenetik pula menunjukkan kes keempat yang dijangkiti dengan varian UK B.1.1.7 mempunyai persamaan ketara dengan varian dari Poland dan mempunyai kebarangkalian tinggi bahawa kes tersebut mendapat jangkitan ketika berada di negara tersebut.

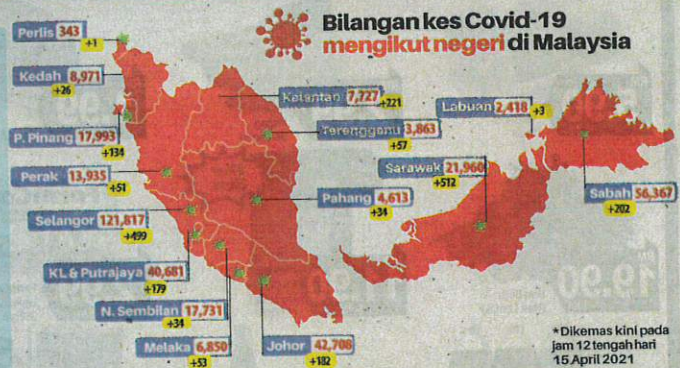
"Walau bagaimanapun, punca jangkitan bagi kes kelima pula tidak dapat ditentukan kerana analisis menunjukkan perbezaan bagi varian yang menjangkiti kes tersebut.

"Ini juga menunjukkan bahawa kedua-dua kes ini mendapat jangkitan melalui sumber yang berlainan," katanya.

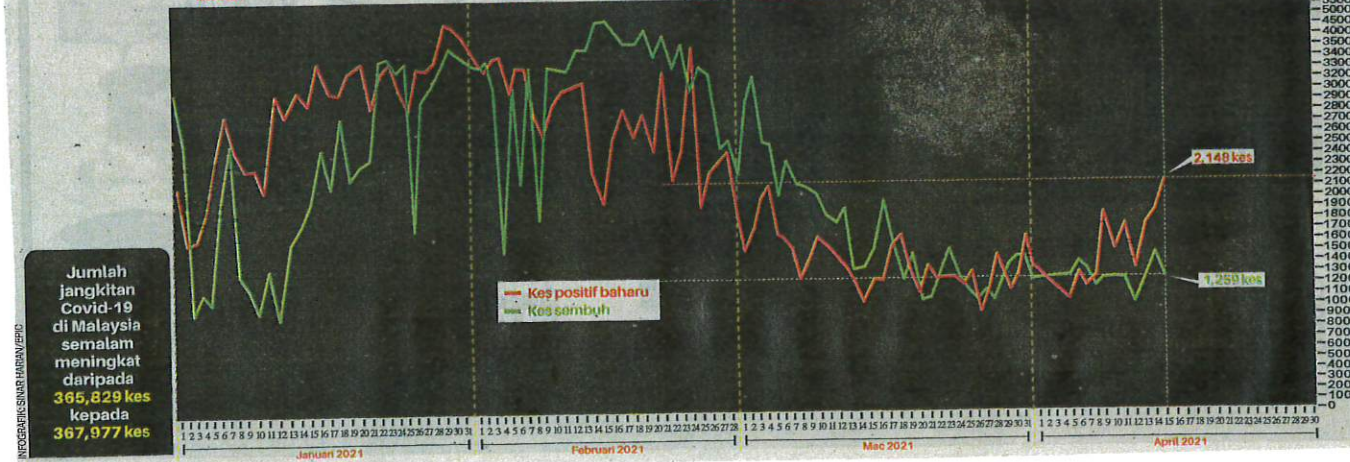
Beliau berkata, varian UK B.1.1.7 dan varian South African B.1.351 yang telah dikesan di Malaysia boleh menular dengan mudah dan cepat.

"Orang ramai dinasihati agar sentiasa mengamalkan kebersihan sendiri dengan kerap membasuh tangan, memakai pelitup muka di tempat awam, dan menjaga penjarakan fizikal setiap masa," katanya.

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
367,977	349,039	212	1,363	+2,148	1,078,695



Jumlah jangkitan Covid-19 di Malaysia semalam meningkat daripada 365,829 kes kepada 367,977 kes

INFOGRAFI SINAR HARIAN/EPIC

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 9

RUANGAN : VAKSIN UNTUK RAKYAT



WARGA kota kemungkinan tidak dapat menyambut Aidilfitri di kampung buat kali kedua. - GAMBAR HIASAN

KKM akan memohon tangguh rentas negeri

Tiada balik kampung buat kali kedua

Oleh AMREE AHMAD

PUTRAJAYA - Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) kemungkinan besar akan memohon pengangguhan cadangan bagi tujuan merentas negeri untuk sambutan Hari Raya Aidilfitri pada bulan depan.

Menterinya, Datuk Seri Dr. Adham Baba ketika memberi bayangan itu tidak menolak kemungkinan tiada 'balik kampung' pada musim perayaan kali ini sama seperti situasi tahun lalu.

"Memandangkan kes semakin meningkat, kita cadang rentas negeri ditangguh terlebih dahulu dalam masa terdekat sebab bimbang banyak varian baharu muncul dalam komuniti," katanya pada sidang akhbar selepas melancarkan buku *Malaysia Health Sector Response To Covid-19 Pandemic: Perspective From The*

Field di sini semalam.

Bagaimanapun, ujar beliau, segala-galanya bergantung kepada suasana semasa sebelum Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP) Bersyarat dan Pemulihan berakhir pada 28 April depan.

Sebelum itu, Adham pernah memberi bayangan kemungkinan umat Islam dapat menyambut Hari Raya Aidilfitri dengan merentas negeri pulang ke kampung jika lengkap dua dos vaksin.

Mengulas lanjut, beliau berkata, individu yang sudah menerima vaksin di bawah Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan juga belum dibolehkan pulang merayakan perayaan itu.

"Setakat ini kita masih tunggu data Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia dan Pusat Kawalan Penyakit di Amerika Syarikat mengenai tahap kekebalan penerima vaksin," katanya.

Justeru, ujar beliau, banyak negara turut melarang rakyatnya merentas negeri atau wilayah domestik walaupun bukan pada musim perayaan kerana bimbang berlaku penularan baharu.

Dalam pada itu, Adham menyatakan kerajaan tidak menolak kemungkinan untuk menutup operasi bazar Ramadan sekiranya terdapat kluster baharu dipercayai daripada aktiviti bazar.

Ujarnya, penutupan bazar hanya boleh dibuat jika ada kes bergejala dan semua pengunjung yang direkodkan hadir melalui data MySejahtera akan dipanggil untuk saringan.

"Mungkin semalam (kelmarin) baru masuk hari kedua umat Islam berpuasa dan ramai teruja ke bazar Ramadan sebab tiada tahun lepas tetapi SOP tetap kena patuh," tegasnya.

Unjuran 500 kes Mei ini tidak kesampaian

PUTRAJAYA - Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr. Adham Baba tidak dapat menyembunyikan kekecewaan apabila mengakui unjuran penurunan kes pada Mei ini tidak mungkin berlaku.

Dalam nada kesal, beliau menyifatkan kegagalan masyarakat yang alpa pematuhan prosedur operasi standard (SOP) sebagai antara penyumbang terbesar lonjakan penularan Covid-19.

"Jika anda lihat pada rajah unjuran awal ini, ia menunjukkan graf trend menurun dan kita unjur kemungkinan dapat mencapai sekitar 500 kes baharu sehari menjelang bulan depan.

"Bagaimanapun, nampaknya keadaan ketika ini tidak memberangsangkan apabila ramai tidak patuh SOP dan mungkin kes positif melonjak balik," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian pada sidang akhbar selepas melancarkan buku *Malaysia Health Sector Response To Covid-19 Pandemic: Perspective From The Field* di pejabatnya di sini semalam.

Menyentuh isu vaksin AstraZeneca sama ada akan digunakan dalam Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan (PICK), beliau berkata, perkara itu dijangka diketahui pada minggu depan melalui Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Khas Jaminan Akses Vaksin (JKJAV) yang dipengerusikan beliau dan Menteri Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi, Khairi Jamaludin Abu Bakar yang akan meneliti semula isu tersebut.

"Secara terus terang, saya yang mendandatangani perolehan vaksin ini daripada dua sumber termasuk dihasilkan di Thailand untuk keperluan 10 peratus penduduk Malaysia," jelas beliau.



ADHAM

COVID-19
Angka terkini kes Covid-19 di Malaysia sehingga semalam

Jumlah	
Kes baharu	2,148
Import:	19
Tempatan:	2,129
Pulih	1,259
Kematian	10
Masih dirawat	17,575
Jumlah kes sembuh	349,039
Jumlah Kematian	1,363
Jumlah kes keseluruhan	367,977

Bagaimanapun, ujar Adham, bekalan itu dijangka tiba pada Mei atau Jun dengan ada tempoh masa lagi jika JKJAV memutuskan untuk pembatalan perolehan atas faktor risiko tertentu.

Justeru katanya, rakyat negara ini diharap tidak perlu berasa bimbang kerana pihak kerajaan akan membuat penilaian semula berdasarkan data dan rekod terkini dari seluruh dunia.

Dua lagi kes varian UK B.1.17 dikesan masuk ke Malaysia

PUTRAJAYA - Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) mengesahkan sehingga semalam, dua lagi kes Covid-19 varian UK B.1.17 telah dikesan melibatkan pengembara warga Malaysia, menjadikan sebanyak lima kes positif Covid-19 dengan varian tersebut di negara ini.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr. Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, kes keempat dan kelima itu mempunyai sejarah perjalanan ke Poland pada Mac 2021 dan mereka didapati positif pada

30 Mac lalu serta telah diberikan rawatan selanjutnya.

"Analisis filogenetik menunjukkan kes keempat yang dijangkiti dengan varian UK B.1.17 mempunyai persamaan ketara dengan varian dari Poland dan mempunyai kebarangkalian tinggi bahawa kes itu mendapat jangkitan ketika berada di negara tersebut.

"Bagaimanapun, punca jangkitan bagi kes kelima pula tidak dapat ditentukan kerana analisis menunjukkan perbezaan

bagi varian yang menjangkiti kes tersebut. Ini juga menunjukkan bahawa kedua-dua kes ini mendapat jangkitan melalui sumber yang berlainan," katanya dalam satu kenyataan akhbar di sini semalam.

Sehubungan itu, beliau mengingatkan, varian UK B.1.17 dan varian South African B.1.351 yang dikesan di Malaysia boleh menular dengan mudah dan cepat walaupun banyak kajian saintifik masih berjalan untuk mengkaji gejala dan kesan jangkitan va-

rian-varian ini.

Berhubung kes harian negara, Noor Hisham berkata, angka tersebut kembali mencatatkan melebihi 2,000 dengan 2,148 kes semalam, menjadikan jumlah positif kes Covid-19 sebanyak 367,977 kes, manakala kes aktif dengan kebolehhajjangan merekodkan sebanyak 17,575 kes.

Menurutnya, kes harian yang dilaporkan antara lain disumbangkan oleh 15 kluster baharu melibatkan sembilan kluster tempat kerja dan enam kluster

komuniti dilaporkan di Kelantan, Selangor, Sabah, Kuala Lumpur, Johor, Terengganu dan Kedah.

"Kluster baharu iaitu Kluster Kampung Bunut Sarang Burung di Tumpat, Kota Bharu dan Tanah Merah, Kelantan dengan 50 kes melibatkan kakitangan dan pelajar pusat pendidikan di Kampung Bunut Sarang Burung, Tumpat.

"Selain itu, 40 kes Kluster Kampung Domis dikesan di Kuala Krai, Machang, Pasir Mas, Tumpat dan Tanah Merah," ujarnya.

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI

Zon merah diutamakan untuk vaksin

PUTRAJAYA: Kementerian Kesihatan akan menjalankan penilaian risiko bersama pihak negeri untuk mengenal pasti lokaliti merah seperti kluster berpanjangan untuk dipertimbangkan keutamaan pemberian vaksinasi Covid-19.

Bercakap kepada *Utusan Malaysia*, Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr. Adham Baba berkata, ini termasuk kluster tempat kerja selain mengambil kira keberadaan vaksin untuk diberikan kepada kumpulan itu dalam fasa 2 dan 3 bermula 17 April ini.

Walau bagaimanapun katanya, pelaksanaan Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan (PICK) fasa kedua diutamakan kumpulan berisiko



DR. ADHAM BABA

tinggi mendapat jangkitan iaitu warga emas berusia 60 tahun dan ke atas, individu dengan komorbiditi termasuk orang

kurang upaya.

Menurutnya, mereka yang berumur 18 tahun ke atas dengan faktor komorbiditi seperti darah tinggi, kencing manis, penyakit saluran pernafasan kronik dan lain-lain merupakan golongan berisiko tinggi mendapat jangkitan wabak itu.

“Rekod menunjukkan sebanyak 69 peratus kematian di negara ini berkaitan jangkitan Covid-19 adalah dalam kalangan berumur 60 tahun dan ke atas manakala 86.9 peratus dari jumlah kematian pula mempunyai faktor komorbiditi.

“Oleh itu, dengan pemberian vaksin kepada warga emas serta mereka yang mempunyai komorbiditi diharapkan dapat

mengurangkan tahap jangkitan dan kematian akibat Covid-19,” katanya di sini semalam.

Mengulas lanjut, Adham berkata, keutamaan pemberian vaksin kepada warga emas juga diamalkan di negara-negara lain kerana mereka mempunyai risiko tinggi mendapat jangkitan Covid-19 dan mengalami komplikasi jangkitan dan mengesyorkan supaya warga emas diberi keutamaan sebagai kumpulan pertama diberi vaksin.

Sebagai contoh, katanya, di Amerika Syarikat, Singapura dan lain-lain, warga emas disenaraikan sebagai kumpulan berisiko dan diberikan keutamaan vaksin selepas anggota barisan hadapan.

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI

Sarawak, Selangor, Kelantan catat peningkatan kes mendadak

PUTRAJAYA: Kes jangkitan Covid-19 di negara ini kembali mencatatkan angka melebihi 2,000 kes dengan tiga negeri iaitu Sarawak, Selangor, Kelantan mencatat peningkatan kes yang mendadak.

Sebanyak 2,148 kes positif direkodkan semalam mengatasi kes sembuh iaitu 1,259 kes.

Sebanyak 15 kluster dan 10 kematian direkodkan

manakala kes aktif menunjukkan peningkatan iaitu 17,575 kes berbanding semalam iaitu 16,696 kes.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr. Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, sebanyak 212 kes memerlukan rawatan di Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU) manakala 82 kes memerlukan bantuan pernafasan.

Katanya, Sarawak kembali menjadi negeri tertinggi

iaitu 512 kes diikuti Selangor 459 kes, Kelantan (221), Sabah (202), Johor (182), Kuala Lumpur (171) dan Pulau Pinang (134).

“Baki negeri merekodkan kes dua angka iaitu Terengganu 57 kes, Melaka (53), Perak (51), Negeri Sembilan (34), Pahang (34) dan Kedah (26) manakala Putrajaya (8), Labuan (3) dan Perlis (1),” katanya dalam satu kenyataan semalam.

Dr. Noor Hisham berkata, 10 kes kematian melibatkan sembilan kes warga tempatan dan satu warga asing dengan masing-masing tiga kes di Selangor dan Kuala Lumpur, dua kes di Sarawak, dan satu kes di Johor dan Sabah.

Mengulas mengenai 15 kluster baharu, beliau berkata, ia melibatkan sembilan kluster tempat kerja dan enam kluster komuniti.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 2

RUANGAN : NEWS/NATION

HEALTH MINISTRY PROPOSAL

INTERSTATE TRAVEL MAY BE POSTPONED

Covid-19 situation still at worrying stage, says Dr Adham

PUTRAJAYA

THE Health Ministry has proposed that interstate travel for Hari Raya Aidilfitri be postponed as the Covid-19 situation in the country is still at a worrying stage.

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba said the proposal was also made following complaints and appeals from various quarters for the government to postpone the lifting of the interstate travel ban.

"Most states are under the CMCO (Conditional Movement Control Order) and RMCO (Recovery Movement Control Order) until April 28. As daily Covid-19 cases are rising and not yet stable, interstate travel needs to be postponed. The (National Covid-19)

vaccination programme is also ongoing," he said after launching a book titled *Malaysia Health Sector Response to COVID-19: Perspectives from the Field* at his office here yesterday.

Malaysia yesterday recorded 2,148 new cases, the highest so far this month. The last time new cases were in the 2,000 range was on March 5, when 2,154 new infections were logged.

On whether those who have received both doses of the Covid-19 vaccine would be given exemption for interstate travel, Dr Adham said the ministry was waiting for input from the World Health Organisation and the United States' Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

He said the ministry also received complaints on non-compliance with standard operating procedures (SOP) at several Ramadan bazaars.

He said the government viewed the matter seriously and did not rule out the possibility of Ramadan bazaars being closed if new clusters originating from bazaar activities were found.



"If the organisers are not responsible, we will not hesitate to issue a compound."

He said 430 ministry personnel would be sent to Sarawak on Wednesday to assist in efforts to contain the spread of Covid-19 in the state.

He said the decision to increase the number of health personnel in Sarawak followed his visit to the state last Monday and Tuesday, during which he also visited the Covid-19 Quarantine and Treatment Centre at Stadium Perpaduan in Kuching.

"Based on the situation there and findings from the visit, we determined that there is an urgent need to increase the number of health workers in Sarawak, which will be carried out in stages."

People willing to sacrifice for safety

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysians are willing to forego celebrating Hari Raya Aidilfitri in their hometowns to keep Covid-19 at bay.

While some are looking for alternative ways to usher in the start of Syawal, others are making early arrangements to care for elderly family members.

Amirah Aidel, 26, said she was mentally prepared to miss out on celebrating Hari Raya Aidilfitri with her parents and in-laws in Sarawak.

"If the government decides to do away with interstate travel for Hari Raya, it will be my second year of celebrating without my parents. It's probably going to be another Raya via Zoom.

"Honestly, I expect the travel ban to be maintained as daily Covid-19 numbers are increasing, and many Malaysians have yet to be vaci-

nated. It will be safer for us not to travel during the festive season to avoid another surge in cases," said the mother of a 2-year-old girl.

She was reacting to Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba's announcement yesterday on the possibility of the government postponing any form of interstate travel during Hari Raya Aidilfitri.

Baker and freelance writer Shakilawati Abd Rahman, 43, was looking for alternative ways to keep in touch with her family in her hometown during Hari Raya Aidilfitri.

She will send cookies and fabric to make baju kurung for her 79-year-old mother in Baling, Kedah.

"The most affected are my three children, especially my youngest. My mother has been video-calling them every day and they will ask her when she is returning to Kuala Lumpur.

"Of course, it is sad for us. We feel empty not having her during Hari Raya."

Shakilawati said her mother previously stayed with her after her father died in 2008, but she later moved to Baling to stay with her brother.

"My mother and I have many traditions for Raya which I look forward to. We would make rendang pedas ayam, ketupat palas, nasi dagang and sambal udang petai. I think I'll send some of my rendang to her by bus, or some biscuits by post."

She said she will adhere to any interstate travel ban because senior citizens were in the high-risk group.

"It's our responsibility to take care of the elderly. We need to embrace the new norm for everyone's safety."

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : NEWS/NATION



Police checking interstate travel documents at the Pahang-Terengganu border in Kuantan yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

He said Sarawak needed about 1,436 health workers, including medical officers, assistant medical officers, microbiological science officers, nurses and drivers.

"Health workers who will be sent (to Sarawak) are those who have received two doses of the Covid-19 vaccine," he added.

He said almost 600,000 frontline workers had received the first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine and almost 470,000 of them had completed both doses.

On the distribution of cases in Sarawak between April 1 and Wednesday, he said the Meradong district recorded the highest number at 771, followed by Julau (605), Bintulu (556), Kapit (387), Beluru (343) and Sibul (283).

Postgraduate student Tasnim Lokman, who is based in Kuantan, said the interstate travel ban should be maintained until the number of daily cases dropped to a double-digit figure.

"My family and my husband's family are in Kuala Lumpur and we fear returning there as it is a red zone. I'm sacrificing my Hari Raya for the second year in a row. It is best to isolate your family from others because you don't know who is carrying the virus," said the mother of two.

Entrepreneur Sabrina Bolivar said her family planned to get permission from the police to bring her 77-year-old grandmother from Terengganu to Kuala Lumpur.

She said members of her family had been taking turns to travel to Terengganu since last year to care for her grandmother. For Hari Raya Aidilfitri, they planned to bring her to Kuala Lumpur instead.

"Whenever we seek permission, the police will file our re-

"These are the districts with a high rate of cases or above average. So the Health Ministry will send more staff to these areas.

"The ministry will also mobilise health workers from districts that do not have cases such as Simunjan, Pusa and Lundu."

On the use of the AstraZeneca vaccine, Dr Adham said the decision would be announced after the Special Committee on Covid-19 Vaccine Supply Access Guarantee meeting next week.

It was reported that Denmark, on Tuesday, had announced its decision to discontinue the use of the AstraZeneca vaccine, making it the first European country to do so following concerns over the side effects of the vaccine. **Bernama**

quest as a trip for welfare purposes. As our grandmother's caretakers, we always provide the necessary documents."

University student Mohamad Danish Jaffri, 22, admitted he was sad when he heard the news yesterday.

"I'm from Penang and I currently stay on campus in Shah Alam. It'll be my first time celebrating Aidilfitri without my family. I guess I'll make do by celebrating with my friends and on campus," he said.

Electronic engineer, Afiq Zaki, 26, said it was better to be safe than sorry.

"I know some folks haven't seen their families for quite some time, but the number of cases is still high even with our current movement controls.

"Just imagine what would happen if there is mass exodus of people during Hari Raya?"

"We don't need to look far as even the Ramadan bazaars are overcrowded."

2,148 new infections, 10 deaths

KUALA LUMPUR: Covid-19 positive cases in the country rose to 2,148 yesterday, the highest this month so far, bringing the overall cases to 367,977.

The figure was the highest single-day tally since March 5, when 2,154 new infections were logged. Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said 2,129 cases involved Malaysians.

There were 10 deaths yesterday, with all but one involving Malaysians in Selangor (three), Kuala Lumpur (three), Sarawak (two), Johor (one) and Sabah (one).

The deceased, six men and four women, were aged between 54 and 97.

They had a medical history of heart and kidney diseases, high blood pressure and diabetes.

There were 1,259 recoveries, while active cases stood at 17,575.

He said there were 212 patients in Intensive Care Units, with 82 requiring breathing assistance.

Dr Noor Hisham said Sarawak recorded the highest number of cases at 512, 420 of which were from existing clusters and the result of close contact screenings.

This was followed by Selangor at 459 and Kelantan at 221.

There were 57 cases linked to



A frontline worker receiving a vaccine at the Covid-19 Vaccine Administration Centre in Seremban yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

prisons involving the Telok Mas (45) and the Jalan Harapan Prison (12) clusters.

There were 202 new infections in Sabah, followed by Johor (182), Kuala Lumpur (171), Penang (134), Terengganu (57), Melaka (53), Perak (51), Negri Sembilan (34), Pahang (34), Kedah (26), Putrajaya (eight), Labuan (three) and Perlis (one).

Dr Noor Hisham said the Health Ministry had detected two more cases of the B117 Covid-19 strain, raising the total number of cases linked to the variant to five up to yesterday.

He said the fourth and fifth cases involved Malaysians with a travel history to Poland last month.

"Both travellers tested positive on March 30 and have received further treatment.

"Meanwhile, phylogenetic analysis showed that the fourth

case, which was infected with the B117 variant from the United Kingdom, had similarities with the variant from Poland and indicates a high probability that the case contracted the virus while in that country.

"However, the cause of infection in the fifth case could not be determined yet because the analysis differed on the variant.

"This also indicates that both cases were infected through two different sources," he said.

Dr Noor Hisham said the B117 variant from the UK and the B.1.351 variant from South Africa, which had been detected in Malaysia, could spread easily and rapidly.

Malaysia identified the first case of the B117 strain on Jan 9 after the UK confirmed on Dec 20 that the new highly infectious B117 coronavirus strain had surfaced in the country.

Sandakan under two-week MCO

KUALA LUMPUR: A two-week Movement Control Order (MCO) will be enforced in Sandakan, Sabah, starting tomorrow until April 30.

Senior Minister (Security Cluster) Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said the MCO was imposed to control the infection rate and prevent the virus from spreading within districts.

"To date, 46 new cases have been recorded, and cumulatively, 6,806 cases have been reported in the district.

"The Health Ministry also recorded 78 cases within 14 days, with a high infectivity rate in this locality.

"Following the risk assessment by various agencies in the MCO Technical Committee and on the Health Ministry's advice, the government has agreed to implement the MCO in Sandakan from April 17 to 30," he said in a statement yesterday.

He also said the MCO in Tawau, which was slated to end today, has been extended until April 30.

The Health Ministry, he said,

had logged many new cases in 11 localities in Tawau, which was under the Enhanced Movement Control Order (EMCO).

Tawau also recorded 124 cases out of the 729 reported in a two-week period.

Ismail Sabri said the government had also decided to extend the EMCO at the Henry Gurney School in Telok Mas, Melaka, to April 30.

"The Health Ministry expects there will be an increase in cases from time to time as screenings are still being carried out among close contacts."

He said the ministry had conducted 1,710 Covid-19 screenings with 191 people testing positive.

He also announced that the EMCO would be enforced at SMU (A) Tarbiah Diniyah Tahfiz Bunut Sarang Burung in Tumpat, Kelantan, and the police training centre and staff quarters in Kuching.

Both localities will be placed under the EMCO, starting today until April 29.

Up until Wednesday, the

Health Ministry had conducted 113 tests at the tahfiz school, with 50 positive cases.

At the police training centre, 123 positive Covid-19 cases had been reported, after screening 633 people, he added.

Ismail Sabri also announced that the government had ended the EMCO in five localities in Sarawak and Sabah.

In Sarawak, the areas include Kampung Baji, Sarikei; Sungai Rassau, Batang Igan, Matu District in Mukah; and Kampung Binyu Lama in Kuching. In Sabah, it is the Kilang Sungai Tenegang Factory housing in Kinabatangan.

On flouters of the standard operating procedures, Ismail Sabri said police had detained 55 people and 54 of them had been slapped with compounds. One was remanded.

Among the violations were failure to record details or register when entering a premises (17 people), not practising physical distancing (17), not putting on a face mask (12), and others (nine).

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NATION

'Balik kampung' may have to wait



Read all about it: Dr Adham holding the 'Malaysia Health Sector Response to Covid-19: Perspectives From The Field' during its launch in Putrajaya. — Bernama

MOH proposes postponing interstate travels

PUTRAJAYA: The Ministry of Health (MOH) has proposed the interstate travel for the upcoming Hari Raya celebrations be postponed as the Covid-19 situation in the country is still worrying.

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba said the proposal was also following complaints and appeals from various quarters for the government to postpone the lifting of the interstate travel ban.

"As we all know, most states are currently under conditional movement control order and recovery MCO until April 28.

"As daily cases are still rising and not yet stable, this interstate travel

needs to be postponed. The vaccination programme (National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme) is also still ongoing," he told a press conference after launching a book entitled *Malaysia Health Sector Response to Covid-19: Perspectives from the Field* at his office here yesterday.

Malaysia recorded 2,148 cases yesterday and 1,889 on Wednesday.

Asked whether those who have received both doses of the Covid-19 vaccine will be given an exemption for the interstate travel, Dr Adham said the ministry was still waiting for the input from the World Health

Organisation (WHO) and the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Meanwhile, he said the ministry received complaints about non-compliance with standard operating procedure at several Ramadan bazaars throughout the country.

He said the government viewed the matter seriously and did not rule out the possibility of the Ramadan bazaar being closed if new clusters originated from bazaar activities.

"If the organisers are not responsible, we will not hesitate to issue a compound," he said. — Bernama

Funerals, weddings and cock-fighting spur new clusters

By **RAZAK ARMAD** and **DIYANA PFORDTEN**
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PETALING JAYA: Celebrations, weddings, funerals and other social activities have led to 83 Covid-19 community clusters throughout the country since March 1.

This is among the findings of an analysis done by *The Star* based on Health Ministry figures.

According to the ministry's data, there were 347 Covid-19 clusters that emerged throughout the country from March 1 to April 14.

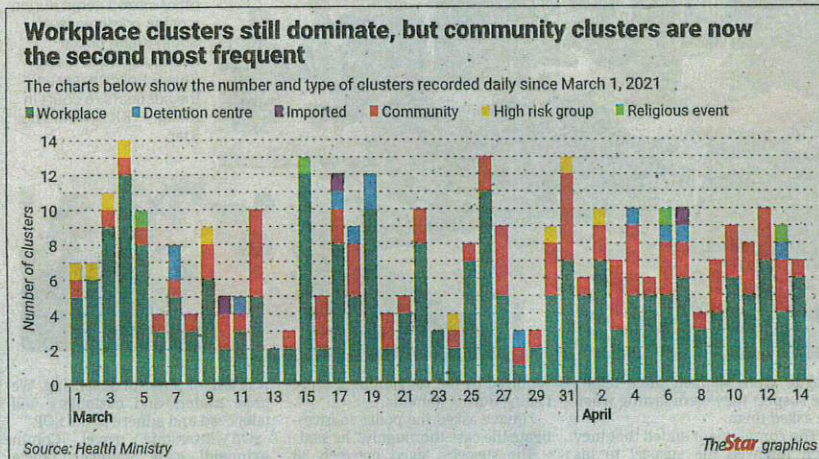
Of the total, 236 (68%) were categorised as workplace clusters, followed by 83 (23.9%) community clusters and 12 detention centre clusters (3.5%).

In addition, there were nine (2.6%) high risk group clusters, three (0.9%) imported clusters and four (1.1%) religious event clusters.

According to the ministry's background description of the clusters, some of the 83 community clusters were linked to funerals, celebrations, gatherings and weddings.

The remaining community clusters were related to index cases detected during hospital admission and procedure screening, pre-employment screening, interstate travel screening as well as screenings of symptomatic individuals.

For context, the government on March 5 allowed travel across districts while keeping interstate



movement restricted.

Since then, there have been reports of an increase in Covid-19 cases, including those caused by social activities.

A total of 65,077 Covid-19 cases were recorded nationwide from March 1 to April 14.

Selangor recorded the most number of new clusters of various categories during that period at 74, followed by Johor (72), Sarawak (43), Sabah (31) and Kuala Lumpur (23).

Last month, Sarawak Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas reminded Sarawakians to avoid social gatherings and to comply with Covid-19 standard operating procedure (SOP).

He said the number of cases had remained high of late because of the failure of some people to adhere to the SOP, particularly at social gatherings.

"Several clusters have emerged from social gatherings, where those

affected were involved in funerals, weddings, gambling and cock-fighting activities.

"These social activities sometimes involve inter-district travel and movement from red zones to other zones, causing the disease to spread," he was reported saying at the state disaster management committee's briefing in Kuching on March 1.

Earlier this month, Terengganu state health director Dr Nor Azimi Yunus was reported as saying that

"These social activities sometimes involve inter-district travel and movement from red zones to other zones, causing the disease to spread"

Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas

mengeteh or *ngeteh* – having coffee or tea with friends in restaurants or stalls after subuh (dawn) prayers in mosques or surau – was one factor behind the emergence of a Covid-19 cluster in Besut.

On April 10, Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, responding on Twitter to user @ModGelap who asked why the east coast of Sabah was seeing a rise in cases, replied: "Social activities are increasing."

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : NATION

Cases breach 2,000 mark for first time in six weeks

PUTRAJAYA: The number of Covid-19 cases continue its upwards trend, raising concerns over a possible fourth wave to hit the country.

A total of 2,148 cases were recorded yesterday, breaching the 2,000 mark for the first time in six weeks.

Seven states saw three digit figures – Sarawak with 512 cases, Selangor (459), Kelantan (221), Sabah (202), Johor (182), Kuala Lumpur (171) and Penang (134).

“Sarawak has the highest number of new cases and 82% of them detected from clusters and contact tracing,” said Health director-gener-

al Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah in his daily Covid-19 updates.

Another 10 people died from the virus, raising the death toll to 1,363.

Dr Noor Hisham said those who died were aged between 54 and 97, comprising nine locals and a foreigner.

“Selangor and Kuala Lumpur have three fatalities each, two in Sarawak and one each in Johor and Sabah. The number of active cases has also increased to 17,525,” he said.

Currently, 212 patients are ward- ed in intensive care units with 82 of

them needing ventilator support.

Dr Noor Hisham also said five out of the 15 new clusters were detected in Kelantan.

One of the clusters in the state – Kampung Bunut Sarang Burung – saw 50 confirmed cases to date.

“This cluster involved staff and students of an education centre in Tumpat.

“The index case developed symptoms and later tested positive on April 8,” he said, adding that 121 people had been screened so far.

On the highly contagious B.1.1.7 variant from the United Kingdom,

Dr Noor Hisham said two more cases had been detected.

“There are now five confirmed cases of the UK variant. The two latest cases involved Malaysians who travelled to Poland in March.

“Both were tested positive on March 30 and are now under treatment,” said Dr Noor Hisham.

On Wednesday, he said a total of 17 locally transmitted positive cases were linked to the South African variant B.1.351.

Following this, he urged the public to be more alert due to these “more contagious variants”.

AKHBAR : THE SUN

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS

Healthy lifestyle initiative launched

KUALA LUMPUR: As public health concerns receive increasing focus during the pandemic, the Health Ministry, in partnership with digital healthcare platform BookDoc, has launched the Komuniti Sihat Pembina Negara (Kospen) initiative, aimed at promoting a healthy lifestyle among Malaysians.

BookDoc's founder and chief executive officer Datuk Chevy Beh

said the pandemic was humanity's biggest challenge in modern times and to beat this invisible enemy, it was their responsibility to act swiftly as events unfold in order to stop the spread of the virus.

"We believe that promoting a healthy lifestyle and improving overall immunity via wellness initiatives will help Malaysians to get through this pandemic," he said.

Meanwhile, Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba said the ministry was happy to be working with BookDoc on healthy lifestyle initiatives.

"Malaysia has one of the most obese populations in Asia and according to latest statistics, one out of four Malaysian adults suffer from obesity," he said.

The ministry is currently working

with BookDoc on several initiatives, including lab uberisation, online appointments, webinars on Covid-19 matters, combating non-communicable diseases via the Kospen Aktiv initiative and PDPA and HIPAA compliant tele-consultations on mental health.

BookDoc is available for free on Apple App Store, Google Play Store and Huawei App Gallery. - Bernama

AKHBAR : THE SUN

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS

Interstate travel during Hari Raya **not likely**

► Plans may have to be postponed due to high number of cases: Minister

PUTRAJAYA: Any hope of travelling to another state to celebrate the Aidilfitri may have to be put on hold.

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba said interstate travel may have to be postponed given the high number of new Covid-19 infections every day.

However, exceptions will be given to individuals who are returning to their home towns to take a dependent or parent for vaccination, according to Coordinating Minister for the National Covid-19 Immunisation* Programme Khairy Jamaluddin.

The second phase of the immunisation is scheduled to begin next Monday.

Khairy said the matter was decided at the National Security Council meeting on Wednesday.

Those who need to travel to take a parent or

dependent for their vaccination must first show police the appointment slip.

Adham said the proposal not to allow interstate travel was in response to complaints and appeals from various quarters to postpone lifting of travel ban, Bernama reported.

"As we all know, most states are under CMCO (conditional movement control order) and RMCO (recovery movement control order) until April 28," he told a press conference after launching a book titled *Malaysia Health Sector Response to Covid-19: Perspectives from the Field* at his office yesterday.

Malaysia recorded 2,148 Covid-19 cases yesterday compared with 1,889 cases on Wednesday.

Asked whether those who have received both doses of the vaccine will be given an exemption for interstate travel, Adham said the ministry was still waiting for input from the World Health Organisation and the United States Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

On the surge in the number of new cases in Sarawak, Adham said 430 Health Ministry personnel will be sent there next Wednesday to assist in containing the spread of Covid-19.

"During my visit to Sarawak last Monday and Tuesday, I found there was an urgent need to

increase the number of health workers in Sarawak, which will be carried out in stages."

Adham said a total of 653,531 individuals have completed both doses of their vaccine shots as of Wednesday.

A total of 425,164 were given their first dose during the same period, bringing the total number so far to 1,078,695.

Based on an infographic shared on his official Twitter page yesterday, Selangor has the highest number of recipients of the first dose at 90,267, followed by Kuala Lumpur (67,671), Sarawak (67,300), Johor (59,842) and Sabah (55,349).

Selangor also recorded the highest number of recipients, who had completed both doses, totalling 59,657, followed by Perak (47,098), Sabah (42,649), Kuala Lumpur (36,648) and Pahang (32,852).

Adham said 8,760,857 individuals or 36.10% has registered with the immunisation programme as of Wednesday with Selangor recording the highest number with 2,319,791.

The first phase of the programme is from February to April, involving 500,000 frontliners, including health workers. The second phase will be from April to August, involving 9.4 million senior citizens, aged 60 and above, vulnerable groups with morbidity problems and persons with disabilities.

The third phase, from May to February 2022, is for individuals aged 18 and above, with a target of about 14 million people.