

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 15

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Program Imunisasi COVID-19 Kebangsaan

Suntikan AstraZeneca diberikan secara sukarela

Kerajaan ambil kira kekusaran terhadap vaksin dikaitkan kes darah beku

Oleh Rafidah Mat Ruzki
fidahruzki@bh.com.my

Putrajaya: Vaksin AstraZeneca akan diberikan secara sukarela menerusi pusat pemberian vaksin (PPV) khas, dalam tempoh terdekat.

Menteri Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi, Khairy Jamaluddin, berkata tindakan itu diambil selepas menimbang kekusaran dalam kalangan masyarakat ketika ini terhadap tahap keselamatan vaksin terabit yang sebelum ini dikaitkan dengan insiden pembekuan darah yang jarang berlaku di beberapa negara.

Beliau berkata, satu sistem tempahan secara 'siapa cepat dia dapat' akan dilaksanakan selain tiada had usia.

"Kita ambil perhatian kekusaran pelbagai pihak terhadap pengambilan vaksin keluaran AstraZeneca.

"Dalam hal ini, saya dan Dr Adham (Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba) sudah berbincang dengan teliti mengenai penggunaan vaksin AstraZeneca.

"Kita tidak mahu membazir, tetapi memahami dalam keadaan hari ini mungkin sains dan fakta tidak dapat mengatasi kebim-



Khairy (kiri) bersama Dr Adham pada sidang media Mingguan Badan Bertindak Imunisasi COVID-19 di Putrajaya, semalam. (Foto Mohd Fadli Hamzah/BH)

ngan orang ramai dan berita palsu," katanya pada sidang media mingguan Badan Bertindak Imunisasi COVID-19, di sini, semalam.

Justeru, katanya, pihaknya bersetuju satu langkah proaktif yang membolehkan negara terus menggunakan vaksin AstraZeneca dan pada masa sama dapat mengatasi ketakutan orang ramai.

Khairy berkata, semua 268,800 dos vaksin AstraZeneca yang diterima Sabtu lalu akan mula diberikan secara sukarela di Selangor dan Kuala Lumpur melalui PPV khas.

Beliau berkata, pihak Jawatankuasa Jaminan Akses Vaksin (JKJAV) membuat pertimbangan sedemikian berikutan bilangan kes di Selangor dan Kuala Lumpur masih tinggi.

"Saya sudah berbincang dengan Menteri Besar Selangor, Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari, semalam (kelmarin) untuk negeri

itu menyediakan PPV khas berseesuaian bagi tujuan berkenaan, selain kita mencari kemudahan sama di Kuala Lumpur.

"Masa untuk pemberian vaksin itu juga selama 12 minggu, selepas perbincangan dengan Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan (Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham) sama dengan saranan Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO) serta yang di amalkan di United Kingdom.

"Tempoh itu membolehkan pemberian dos pertama kepada lebih ramai orang dan kita jangka bekalan tambahan vaksin AstraZeneca akan sampai Mei ini untuk kita memberi dos kedua," katanya.

Beliau berkata, tawaran juga sudah dimaklumkan kepada kerajaan Sarawak berikutan kebimbangan negeri itu untuk menjalankan Pilihan Raya Negeri (PRN) serta mana-mana negeri yang mahu melengkapkan pemberian vaksin AstraZeneca dalam tempoh tertentu.

"Kita sudah memberi jaminan kepada kerajaan Sarawak proses pelalian di negeri itu akan diselesaikan selewat-lewatnya Ogos," katanya.

Sementara itu, Khairy berkata, seramai 1,500 petugas media menganggotai Kesatuan Kebangsaan Wartawan (NUJ) serta Persatuan Wartawan Sarawak dan Sabah bakal menerima vaksin COVID-19, bulan depan.

"Suntikan akan diberikan selepas kita menerima senarai nama petugas media berkenaan.

"Kami terima senarai 1,500 petugas media di bawah NUJ dan Persatuan Wartawan Sarawak dan Sabah.

"Kita mula vaksinasi kepada petugas media pada Mei ini," katanya.

Sebelum ini, Khairy dilaporkan berkata, kerajaan bersetuju untuk meletakkan pengamal media dalam senarai keutamaan menerima vaksin COVID-19 tertakluk kepada bekalan vaksin.

Hati, buah pinggang rosak antara kesan perokok positif virus

Putrajaya: Kerosakan hati, buah pinggang dan sindrom gangguan pernafasan akut adalah antara komplikasi dihadapi pesakit COVID-19 dalam kalangan perokok.

Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali, berkata dapatan itu diperolehi melalui kajian yang dijalankan Bahagian Kawalan Penyakit dan Bahagian Perkembangan Perubatan dan Institut Kesihatan Negara (NIH) Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM), Universiti Islam Antarabangsa Malaysia (UIAM) dan Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) bermula 1 Februari hingga 31 Mei tahun lalu.

Beliau berkata, kajian sama juga mendapati perokok berdepan dua kali ganda risiko mendapat komplikasi jika dijangkiti virus itu, berbanding bukan perokok.

"Kajian ini membabitkan 5,889 kes COVID-19 yang dirawat di semua hospital di seluruh negara.

"Perbandingan dibuat antara golongan perokok dan bukan perokok menunjukkan perokok berisiko hampir dua kali ganda mendapat komplikasi yang dinyatakan, berbanding bukan perokok.

"Penemuan hasil kajian ini juga selari dengan kenyataan dikeluarkan Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO) pada 30 Jun 2020 dan kajian dijalankan di beberapa negara lain," katanya pada Pelancaran Perkhidmatan Berhenti Merokok mQuit Fasa Tiga, di sini, semalam.

Yang turut hadir, Timbalan Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan (Kesihatan Awam), Datuk Dr Chong Chee Kheong dan Ketua Sektor Kawalan Tembakau dan Urusetia FC-TC, Bahagian Kawalan Penyakit, Dr Nor Aryana Hassan.

Dr Noor Azmi berkata, kenyataan WHO serta laporan kajian beberapa negara luar juga menunjukkan merokok meningkatkan peratusan kematian dalam kalangan pesakit COVID-19.

Justeru, beliau menasihatkan semua perokok mengambil iktibar daripada kesan yang boleh menyebabkan kesihatan mereka menjadi lebih teruk.

Dr Nor Aryana berkata, tabiat perokok itu sendiri secara amnya merosakkan paru-paru dan keupayaan ketahanannya terhadap jangkitan kuman.

Beliau berkata, sebanyak 791 atau 13.5 peratus pesakit daripada 5,889 kes COVID-19 dalam kajian yang dijalankan itu adalah perokok.

Katanya, 97.7 peratus daripada perokok terabit dalam kajian itu adalah lelaki manakala 2.3 peratus lagi adalah wanita.

Malaysia nilai semua calon vaksin baharu

Putrajaya: Malaysia akan sentiasa menilai semua calon vaksin baharu yang dibangunkan, termasuk jenis semburan hidung (nasal spray).

Menteri Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi, Khairy Jamaluddin, berkata ketika ini Malaysia sudah menempah lebih 110 peratus dos vaksin untuk kegunaan penduduk di negara ini.

"Bagaimanapun, jika kemudian kita membuat keputusan pandemik menjadi endemik dan akan kekal, sudah tentu perlu ada perolehan vaksin untuk jangka panjang.

"Buat masa ini, keperluan kita

sudah mencukupi untuk tahun ini," katanya pada sidang media mingguan Badan Bertindak Imunisasi COVID-19, semalam.

Yang turut hadir, Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba.

Khairy berkata, tempahan ke-10 vaksin keluaran Pfizer-BioNTech akan tiba hari ini hingga 30 April.

Beliau berkata demikian ketika ditanya mengenai kemungkinan Malaysia membuat perolehan terhadap pil pencegahan peringkat awal COVID-19 keluaran Pfizer yang dijangka siap menjelang akhir tahun ini.

Media antarabangsa sebelum ini melaporkan, ubat antivirus dikenali dengan nama PF-07321332 mempunyai fungsi tertentu termasuk pesakit tidak perlu ke hospital bagi mendapatkan rawatan.

Sebelum ini, media melaporkan mengenai kajian syarikat Bharat Biotech menghasilkan vaksin jenis semburan hidung yang kini dalam fasa ujian klinikal.

Turut dilaporkan membangunkan vaksin menggunakan kaedah sama ialah sebuah syarikat farmaseutikal di Kanada, SaNO-tize.

Terdahulu, Khairy berkata, seramai 9,332,413 individu sudah berdaftar dengan Program Imunisasi COVID-19 Kebangsaan (PICCK) setakat ini atau 38.5 peratus daripada populasi negara.

Katanya, sejumlah 1,384,880 sudah menerima janji temu.

"Seramai 844,906 sudah menerima dos pertama dan 524,843 sudah selesai dos kedua.

"Setakat ini, Pulau Pinang menjadi negeri tertinggi menjalankan pelalian membabitkan seramai 17,333, diikuti Pahang (14,812), Sarawak (11,863), Perlis (11,943) dan Kedah (9,085)," katanya.

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 16

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Penularan COVID-19

Kes harian makin meresahkan

3,142 jangkitan semalam, empat negeri catat pertambahan tertinggi

Oleh Ahmad Suhael Adnan
ahmad.suhael@bh.com.my

Kuala Lumpur: Kes harian COVID-19 mencatatkan lonjakan membimbangkan apabila merekodkan 3,142 kes baharu semalam, kata Menteri Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

Ia menyaksikan jumlah keseluruhan jangkitan COVID-19 di Malaysia meningkat kepada 401,593 kes iaitu yang ketiga tertinggi di Asia Tenggara selepas Indonesia dan Filipina.

Ia juga kali pertama kes baharu di Malaysia kembali memecah melebihi 3,000 kes dalam

tempoh lebih dua bulan, sejak mencatatkan 3,545 kes pada 24 Februari lalu.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, daripada jumlah itu, empat negeri mencatatkan pertambahan kes baharu membimbangkan iaitu Selangor, Kelantan, Kuala Lumpur dan Sarawak.

"Selangor mencatat pertambahan tertinggi dengan 1,019 kes atau 32.4 peratus daripada jumlah kes baharu hari ini (semalam), disusuli Kelantan (523), Kuala Lumpur (440) dan Sarawak (416), manakala dua negeri mencatat pertambahan tiga angka kes baharu iaitu Johor (194) serta Kedah (120).

"Perlis dan Labuan pula masing-masing mencatat pertambahan satu dan empat kes baharu, manakala negeri lain merekodkan peningkatan dua angka kes baharu," katanya dalam kenyataan, semalam.

Mengulas lanjut, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, sebanyak 26,719 kes aktif direkodkan ketika ini dengan 306 kes ditempatkan di unit rawatan rapi (ICU) dan 151 me-



Sekolah Kebangsaan Putrajaya Presint 11 (3) diarah tutup sehingga 29 April berikutan terdapat jangkitan COVID-19 di sekolah berkenaan.

(Foto Mohd Fadli Hamzah/BH)

merlukan bantuan pernafasan.

Selain itu, katanya, 15 kematian baharu akibat COVID-19 turut dicatatkan semalam menjadikan kes kematian keseluruhan melonjak kepada 1,477 atau 0.37 peratus daripada keseluruhan

kes di Malaysia.

"Semua kes kematian melibatkan rakyat tempatan dengan enam kes di Sarawak, dua di Kelantan dan masing-masing satu di Johor, Selangor, Sabah, Pulau Pinang, Perak, Negeri Sembilan

serta Pahang," katanya.

Katanya, sebanyak 1,822 kes sembuh direkodkan semalam, menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan 373,397 kes sembuh atau 93 peratus daripada keseluruhan jangkitan di negara ini.

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 24

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

MyUBAT diperluas ke seluruh fasiliti kesihatan KKM

Aplikasi memudahkan pesakit pantau bekalan, penggunaan ubat di telefon pintar

Oleh Mohd Nasaruddin Parzi
bhnews@bh.com.my

Kuala Lumpur: Sistem Pengurusan Pembekalan Ubat bagi Sistem Perkhidmatan Nilai Tambah Farmasi (MyUBAT) yang dibangunkan bagi membolehkan pesakit memantau bekalan dan penggunaan ubat-ubatan mereka melalui telefon pintar sudah mula diperluas penggunaannya di seluruh fasiliti kesihatan Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) mulai 15 April lalu.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata penggunaan sistem ini juga memudahkan anggota di

fasiliti farmasi menguruskan proses pendaftaran dan penyediaan ubat-ubatan susulan di kaunter farmasi dengan lebih sistematik.

MyUBAT diperkenalkan di tujuh fasiliti rintis KKM bermula 12 Ogos lalu, iaitu Hospital Ampang, Hospital Melaka, Hospital Kuala Lumpur, Hospital Tengku Ampuan Rahimah Klang, Hospital Tuanku Ampuan Najihah Kuala Pilah, Klinik Kesihatan Kelana Jaya dan Klinik Kesihatan Peringgit.

"Melalui projek rintis itu, sejumlah 14,099 pesakit sudah berdaftar dengan sistem ini dan 24,413 preskripsi didispens melalui sistem MyUBAT.

"Jumlah ini dijangka terus meningkat selepas perluasan sistem MyUBAT ke fasiliti kesihatan awam di seluruh negara," katanya dalam kenyataan semalam.

Hingga kini, MyUBAT menawarkan dua pilihan Perkhidmatan Nilai Tambah Farmasi (VAS) iaitu pengambilan ubat susulan melalui temu janji dan Ubat Melalui Pos (UMP).

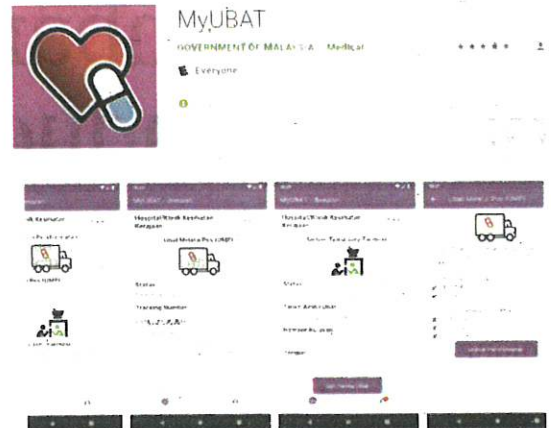
"Penambahan dua lagi jenis VAS, iaitu Pandu Lalu dan *Locker4U* dijangka dapat dilaksanakan menjelang akhir tahun ini.

"Bagi meningkatkan kecekapan pelaksanaan UMP, sistem MyUbat disepadukan dengan sistem Ezisend dikendalikan Pos Malaysia Berhad.

"Ini membolehkan pesakit untuk mengetahui status penghantaran bekalan ubat mereka melalui VAS-UMP, selain memudahkan anggota farmasi dalam pengurusan ubat yang perlu dipos kepada pesakit atau pelanggan," katanya.

MyUBAT juga dalam proses integrasi dengan Pharmacy Information System (PhIS & CPS) di dua fasiliti KKM, iaitu di Hospital Tuanku Ampuan Rahimah, Klang dan Klinik Kesihatan Kelana Jaya, bagi membolehkan pengguna mengakses maklumat yang betul mengikut kesesuaian waktu pengguna dan seterusnya dapat mempercepatkan proses pendispensan.

"Orang awam boleh memuat tu-



Aplikasi MyUBAT di Google Play.

run aplikasi MyUBAT melalui Google Play, App Store atau AppGallery, selain mendapatkan maklumat lanjut daripada fasiliti farmasi KKM," katanya.

VAS yang dijalankan melalui Sistem Pendispensan Ubat Bersepadu (SPUB), perkhidmatan Farmasi Pandu Lalu, sistem temu janji melalui kad temu janji, telefon dan aplikasi komunikasi telefon pintar bagi pengambilan ubat, UMP dan perkhidmatan *Locker4U* sudah ditawarkan secara berperingkat oleh fasiliti KKM sejak 2003.

Pelaksanaan VAS dipertingkatkan sepanjang tempoh pandemik dengan objektif mengurangkan risiko jangkitan COVID-19 terutama golongan rentan disamping menjamin kebolehcapaian pesakit kepada bekalan ubat susulan, mengatasi kesesakan serta wak-

tu menunggu lama di farmasi, beban kos pengangkutan serta kesuntukan masa bagi pesakit.

"Sepanjang 2020, pelaksanaan VAS memudahkan pengambilan ubat susulan pesakit untuk 34.4 peratus preskripsi susulan berbanding 22.3 peratus bagi 2019.

"Melalui perkhidmatan UMP yang disediakan, KKM meningkatkan keupayaan perkhidmatan ini lebih sekali ganda di mana sejumlah 4.2 peratus preskripsi susulan melalui UMP daripada jumlah keseluruhan berbanding dengan 1.5 peratus preskripsi susulan pada 2019," katanya.

Langkah ini katanya, berjaya mengurangkan kesesakan di kaunter farmasi seterusnya mengurangkan risiko penularan jangkitan COVID-19 dalam kalangan pesakit di KKM.

AKHBAR : KOSMO
MUKA SURAT : 4
RUANGAN : NEGARA

Vaksin AstraZeneca digugurkan daripada Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan

Ditawar secara 'siapa cepat dia dapat'

Oleh MOHD. HUSNI MOHD. NOOR

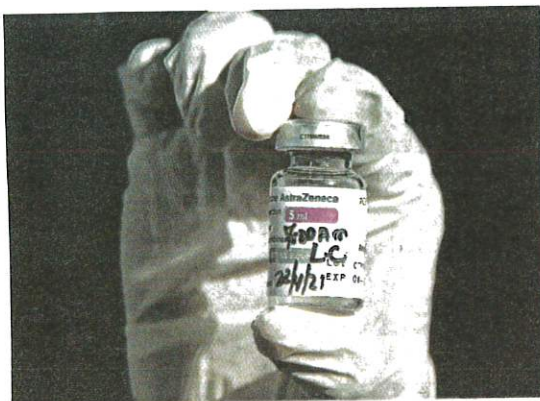
PUTRAJAYA – Kerajaan memutuskan vaksin jenis AstraZeneca akan ditawarkan kepada orang ramai secara sukarela dan diagihkan menerusi Pusat Pemberian Vaksin (PPV) khas dalam masa terdekat.

Menteri Penyelaras Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan (PICK), Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar berkata, keputusan itu dibuat selepas mengambil kira kekusaran orang ramai terhadap vaksin berkenaan.

Beliau berkata, buat permulaan, agihan 268,600 dos AstraZeneca itu bagaimanapun tidak termasuk dalam PICK yang dilaksanakan kerajaan buat masa ini.

"Vaksin itu akan diagihkan berdasarkan konsep *first come, first serve* (siapa cepat dia dapat).

"Kita juga akan membuka satu sistem tempahan khas kepada orang ramai untuk membuat tempahan janji temu bagi mendapatkan vaksin itu," katanya



MALAYSIA menempah 6.4 juta dos vaksin Covid-19 AstraZeneca bagi kegunaan 3.2 juta rakyat negara ini. – AFP

pada sidang akhbar perkembangan PICK di sini semalam.

Katanya, agihan vaksin AstraZeneca itu tidak dihadkan kepada golongan dalam fasa dua PICK tetapi ia dibuka kepada sesiapa

saja.

Khairy Jamaluddin berkata, buat permulaan, PPV khas bagi agihan vaksin itu akan dibuka di Selangor dan Kuala Lumpur selepas mengambil kira pening-

COVID-19

Angka terkini kes Covid-19 di Malaysia sehingga semalam

Jumlah	
Kes baharu	3,142
Import:	13
Tempatan:	3,129
Pulih	1,822
Kematian	15
Masih dirawat	26,719
Jumlah kes sembuh	373,397
Jumlah Kematian	1,477
Jumlah kes keseluruhan	401,593

katan kes di dua kawasan berkenaan.

Bagaimanapun, ujarnya, mereka yang berdaftar bagi mendapatkan vaksin itu perlu menjalani proses saringan kesihatan

terlebih dahulu sebelum layak menerima suntikan.

"Saya juga sudah berbincang dengan Menteri Besar Selangor, Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari semalam bagi menyediakan PPV khas untuk agihan vaksin itu.

"Saya juga sudah berbincang dengan Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr. Noor Hisham Abdullah supaya selang agihan dos kedua vaksin AstraZeneca diberikan selepas 12 minggu," katanya.

Dalam pada itu, Khairy Jamaluddin menafikan mengeluarkan arahan pemberian vaksin Covid-19 kepada sejumlah pekerja syarikat Genting Group seperti yang didakwa di media sosial.

"Semasa tempoh pelaksanaan Fasa 1 PICK, janji temu vaksinasi diuruskan oleh Badan Bertindak Imunisasi Covid-19 negeri mengikut senarai yang turut disediakan di peringkat negeri.

"Keputusan dibuat apabila negeri Pahang selesai vaksinasi dos pertama kepada semua penerima yang tersenarai," ujarnya.

Kes Covid-19 negara lewati 400,000

PUTRAJAYA – Negara merekodkan jumlah kes kumulatif positif Covid-19 melepasi 400,000 dengan 401,593 kes semalam, susulan pertambahan kes harian sebanyak 3,142 kes yang mencatatkan angka melebihi 3,000.

Kes aktif dengan kebolehhangkitan juga terus meningkat kepada 26,719 kes, manakala sebanyak 1,822 kes sembuh dengan jumlah kumulatif kes sembuh sepenuhnya daripada Covid-19 sebanyak 373,397 kes.

Selangor melaporkan kes tertinggi sebanyak 1,019 kes dengan 819 kes daripada kluster-kluster dan saringan kontak rapat kes positif yang aktif dijalankan di lapangan, diikuti oleh Kelantan sebanyak 523 kes dan Kuala Lumpur sebanyak 440 kes.

Terdapat 15 kematian di Sarawak, Kelantan, Johor, Selangor, Sabah, Pulau Pinang, Perak, Negeri Sembilan dan Pahang melibatkan sembilan lelaki dan enam wanita berusia antara 30 hingga 84 tahun, menjadikan 1,477 kes kematian Covid-19.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr. Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, 12 kluster baharu dikenal pasti melibatkan empat kluster pendidikan termasuk dua kluster institusi pendidikan Kementerian Pendidikan, empat kluster komuniti, dua kluster



PENDUDUK di Marang, Terengganu menggunakan api jamung ketika mengutip sampah dalam program Bersih Pantal Ramadan semalam.

tempat kerja dan masing-masing satu kluster kumpulan berisiko tinggi serta kluster keagamaan.

Menurutnya, Kluster Melugu di Sri Aman dan Lubuk Antu, Sarawak dengan 13 kes melibatkan kakitangan dan pelajar sebuah sekolah di Pekan Sri Aman serta Kluster Madai di Lahad Datu dan Kunak, Sabah dengan 30 kes kakitangan dan pelajar sebuah sekolah di Kampung Madai, Kunak.

"Kluster Layar Hujung di Kuala Muda, Kedah dengan 23 kes kakitangan dan pelajar sebuah

institusi pendidikan di Sungai Layar Hujung, Sungai Petani, Kuala Muda dan Kluster Jalan Gombak Dua dikesan di Gombak dan Hulu Langat, Selangor serta Tititwangsa, Kuala Lumpur dan Putrajaya.

"Ia melibatkan kakitangan institusi pendidikan di Jalan Gombak. Kluster Ulu Strass pula iaitu kluster komuniti di Meradong, Sarawak dengan 25 kes, manakala, nama kluster merujuk lokasi penularan kes di Jalan Ulu Strass, Meradong," katanya dalam satu kenyataan akhbar di sini semalam.

Komplikasi lebih tinggi bagi perokok

PUTRAJAYA – Perokok yang dijangkiti Covid-19 mempunyai risiko hampir dua kali ganda lebih tinggi untuk mendapat komplikasi seperti sindrom gangguan pernafasan akut, kerosakan buah pinggang dan kerosakan hati.

Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Dr. Noor Azmi Ghazali berkata, dapatan tersebut diperoleh menerusi kajian dengan kerjasama oleh Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) melalui Bahagian Perkembangan Perubatan dan Institut Kesihatan Negara (NIH) dengan Universiti Islam Antarabangsa Malaysia (IUM) dan Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM).

Menurutnya, ia telah dijalankan ke atas 5,889 pesakit Covid-19 yang dirawat di semua hospital seluruh negara pada 1 Februari hingga 31 Mei tahun lepas.

"Perbandingan antara golongan perokok dan bukan perokok menunjukkan perokok mempunyai risiko hampir dua kali ganda lebih tinggi untuk mendapat komplikasi Covid-19.

"Dapatan kajian tersebut juga selari dengan kenyataan dikeluarkan oleh Pertubuhan

Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO) serta kajian yang telah dijalankan di beberapa negara," katanya pada sidang akhbar di sini semalam.

Justeru, Noor Azmi menyeru semua golongan perokok mengambil iktibar daripada kesan yang boleh menyebabkan kesihatan mereka menjadi lebih teruk, malah khusus untuk umat Islam pula untuk menjadikan Ramadan bulan terbaik mengamalkan gaya hidup sihat tanpa merokok.

"KKM dengan kerjasama badan profesional, pertubuhan bukan kerajaan dan agensi swasta menambah baik perkhidmatan berhenti merokok.

"Terkini laman web www.jomquit.com diperkukuhkan untuk memudahkan proses pendaftaran serta kebolehpapaian perkhidmatan rawatan berhenti merokok secara dalam talian," katanya.

Sementara itu, mengulas mengenai dapatan kajian tersebut, Aryana menjelaskan, daripada 5,889 pesakit Covid-19, seramai 791 pesakit adalah perokok iaitu bersamaan 13.5 peratus, manakala baki 5,098 pesakit bukan perokok.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN
 MUKA SURAT : 6
 RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Perokok berdepan komplikasi lebih teruk

PUTRAJAYA - Risiko kerosakan hati, buah pinggang dan sindrom gangguan pernafasan akut adalah antara komplikasi teruk yang dihadapi golongan perokok yang dijangkiti Covid-19, kata Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali.

Beliau berkata, data itu diperoleh melalui kajian Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) mengenai risiko komplikasi golongan perokok dijangkiti Covid-19 terhadap 5,889 kes Covid-19 yang dirawat di seluruh negara dari 1 Februari hingga 31 Mei 2020.

Daripada 5,889 pesakit itu, seramai 791 individu adalah perokok dengan 773 daripadanya merupakan perokok lelaki (97.7 peratus) manakala 18 lagi (2.3 peratus) adalah wanita dan 5,098 lagi bukan perokok dengan majoriti berumur 30 tahun ke atas.

"Perbandingan yang telah dibuat antara golongan perokok dan bukan perokok menunjukkan bahawa golongan perokok berisiko hampir dua kali ganda mendapat komplikasi teruk berbanding bukan perokok," katanya pada sidang media mengenai hasil dapatan kajian



DR NOOR AZMI

tersebut di sini, hari ini.

Ketua Sektor Kawalan Tembakau KKM dan Urusetia Pelan Tindakan Kawalan Tembakau Serantau (FCTC) Dr Nor Aryana Hassan ketika memperincikan hasil kajian itu berkata, daripada 791 perokok terbahit, mereka turut mempunyai sejarah penyakit kronik iaitu darah tinggi sebanyak 16.7 peratus, diabetes

(12.3 peratus), masalah jantung (5.2 peratus) dan paru-paru kronik 1.1 peratus.

Menurut Dr Nor Aryana, kajian juga menunjukkan 14.2 peratus perokok merupakan pesakit Covid-19 kategori tiga iaitu mempunyai jangkitan paru-paru namun tidak memerlukan bantuan pernafasan, 4.4 peratus ialah kategori empat yang mempunyai jangkitan paru-paru dengan keperluan bantuan pernafasan manakala 1.6 peratus pesakit lagi adalah kategori lima iaitu kritikal.

Terdahulu, Dr Noor Azmi melancarkan perkhidmatan berhenti merokok mQuit fasa tiga iaitu dengan menambah baik perkhidmatan dalam talian <https://jomquit.com/> sedia ada untuk memudahkan proses pendaftaran dan kebolehpasaran perkhidmatan tersebut. - *Bernama*

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES
 MUKA SURAT : 4
 RUANGAN : NEWS/NATION

VOLUNTARY BASIS

ASTRAZENECA VACCINE WON'T BE USED IN NIP, SAYS KHAIRY

Vaccine to be offered at specially designated vaccination centres in Selangor, KL and Sarawak

VEENA BABULAL
 KUALA LUMPUR
 news@nst.com.my

MALAYSIA will not use the AstraZeneca vaccine in the mainstream vaccination plan.

Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Khairy Jamaluddin said the government would instead administer AstraZeneca at specially designated vaccination centres (PPVs) soon, where the public can voluntarily opt for it.

AstraZeneca would be offered at the designated PPVs in Selangor, Kuala Lumpur and Sarawak on a first come, first served basis, he said after a Covid-19 Immunisation Task Force meeting here yesterday.

"For a start, the vaccine will be administered in these two states as a consideration to control the pandemic. We will carry out a pre-vaccination screening assessment at the designated PPVs for those who register, and once we find that they are eligible to receive the vaccine, they will be inoculated.

"Those with (elderly) parents do not have to worry as those receiving their appointments now will not be given the vaccine, but will get the Pfizer and Sinovac doses instead," he said at a joint press conference with Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba on the development of the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme (NIP).

Khairy said the move was made to allay people's fears and concerns about the vaccine, while ensuring the continuity of the NIP.

"Dr Adham and I have discussed (the vaccine) in detail. We do not want to waste this effective and safe vaccine. At the same time, we understand public concerns," Khairy said.

"The vaccine will not be administered at the regular PPVs, so those who have seen all the data on the vaccine can come forward

LINDUNG DIRI, LINDUNG SEMUA.

COVID-19 IMMUNISATION TASK FORCE



Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Khairy Jamaluddin (left) speaking at a joint press conference with Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba on the development of the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme in Putrajaya yesterday. PIC BY MOHD FADLI HAMZAH

to register voluntarily."

He said the appointment booking system would be open to anyone aged 18 and above and not only reserved for those in the second phase of the NIP.

The second dose of AstraZeneca would be given after 12 weeks so that more individuals could be vaccinated in these two states, he added.

"As a result of discussions with the Health director-general, the interval for AstraZeneca as agreed will be 12 weeks, which is recommended by the World Health Organisation.

"We expect an additional supply of AstraZeneca vaccines to arrive in May for us to administer the second dose."

Khairy stressed that the risk of blood clots from the AstraZeneca vaccine was reported to be four cases per million doses of vaccines (0.0004 per cent) compared with 16.5 per cent if they are infected by Covid-19, 0.8 per cent for smoking cigarettes, and 0.05 to 0.12 per cent for using birth control pills.

Putrajaya has assured Sarawak that its Covid-19 vaccination exercise would be completed before the state polls in August. Khairy also said he had offered the "red" state AstraZeneca to further speed up the process.

Meanwhile, Dr Adham said following the increase in Covid-19 cases in the country, hospitals in Kelantan had reached or exceeded bed capacity and this had

forced care to be stepped down for cases deemed less severe.

He said the Covid-19 bed occupancy rate at Sultan Ismail Petra Hospital in Kuala Krai was at 111 per cent. This was followed by Tanah Merah Hospital (100 per cent), Tumpat Hospital (95 per cent), Machang Hospital (96 per cent) and Kuala Krai Lama Hospital (82 per cent).

"As such, the Covid-19 cases that we are treating in these hospitals are either at Stage Four or Five. For Stage Three cases, we will step down care to low-risk quarantine and treatment centres (PKRC)," Dr Adham said.

Stage One is for a patient who is asymptomatic, while Stage Two is when a person has mild symptoms of Covid-19.

Stage Three is classified as moderate and takes place when the patient develops pneumonia. Severe Covid-19 infection is at Stages Four and Five.

At Stage Four, the patient will require supplemental oxygen, while Stage Five is when the patient is in a critical condition with multiorgan involvement of the Covid-19 infection.

"For Stages One and Two, we will treat (the patients) at home through the Covid-19 Assessment Centre (CAC)," Dr Adham said.

CAC's role is to assess Covid-19-positive patients to see if they are suitable to be quarantined at home. CAC staff will monitor the patients who are quarantined at home using the Home Assess-

ment Tool.

The Health Ministry was forced to take the same measures in Kuala Lumpur and Selangor at the height of the third wave at the end of last year and January this year.

Dr Adham said Kelantan had enforced the Movement Control Order and most of the social sector had been closed, except for essential services.

In the past two weeks, Kelantan continuously reported three-digit Covid-19 cases daily.

On Tuesday, Kelantan reported 484 new daily infections. It also reported around 460 cases a day over the past week.

On whether the government was planning to reinstate MCO 3.0 as the number of cases over the past week was higher than when the MCO was announced in January, Dr Adham said the government would continue taking targeted approach to curb the spread of the virus rather than implementing a blanket MCO.

He also reiterated that the daily data and analysis report on Covid-19 issued by the ministry were valid and accurate, and verified at all levels of the ministry.

"The Covid-19 data in Malaysia is handled in accordance with stipulated procedures to ensure its accuracy and validity," he said in response to allegations that the data on Covid-19 in the country was fabricated.

On the procedures involved in



gathering data on Covid-19 cases, he said all the test results conducted at government health clinics, hospitals or private health service facilities would be uploaded to the Public Health Laboratory Information System (Simka).

The system was monitored by the ministry through the district health offices, the state Health Departments and the National Public Health Laboratory to ensure appropriate action was taken, he added.

In a Bernama report, he said the district health offices were responsible for investigating, managing the admission of patients to hospitals and low-risk quarantine treatment centres or those treated at home based on risk assessments, conducting screening on close contacts and issuing quarantine orders.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : NEWS/NATION



A frontliner guiding vaccine recipients at a vaccination centre at Dewan Kelab Kilat Pangsapuri Tenaga Nasional Bhd in Kapar, Klang, on Tuesday. PIC BY FAIZ ANUAR

'Interstate travel most likely in Q3, Q4'

KUALA LUMPUR: The government will consider lifting the interstate travel ban in the third and fourth quarters of the year when a sizeable percentage of the population has been vaccinated.

Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Khairy Jamaluddin said the Covid-19 Vaccine Supplies Access Guarantee Special Committee had yet to discuss the matter.

He was responding to a question on when those who had completed their vaccination would be allowed to travel.

The question was first directed at Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba, who said that as of

now, there would be no interstate travel allowed as per the National Security Council's ruling, which will be effective until May 17 pending a review.

"This (banning of interstate travel) should be retained until we achieve 80 per cent herd immunity," Dr Adham said.

On the announcement by the United States' Centres for Disease Control and Prevention that a person who has been vaccinated in the US could remove their face mask when they are in public or outdoors if the area is not crowded, Khairy said the advisory did not apply to Malaysia.

"That is because the US has vac-

inated 40 per cent of its population.

"We have to be careful in evaluating the data.

"We will need to look not just at the vaccination rates because vaccines are not 100 per cent effective in curbing transmissions."

He said the Health Ministry would review the data before briefing the Covid-19 Vaccine Supplies Access Guarantee Special Committee and subsequently make recommendations to the National Security Council with regard to face masks and other concessions during the pandemic. **By Veena Babulal**

1,500 media practitioners to be vaccinated next month

PUTRAJAYA: A total of 1,500 media practitioners registered with the National Union of Journalists (NUJ) as well as journalists' associations in Sabah and Sarawak will be vaccinated starting next month.

Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Khairy Jamaluddin, who is also the coordinating minister of the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme, said this was confirmed after his ministry received a list of media practitioners' names.

"We have received a list of about 1,500 media practitioners from the NUJ, as well as the journalists' associations in

Sarawak and Sabah.

"We would like to announce that we will begin vaccinating media practitioners in May," he said at a joint press conference with Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba here yesterday.

Khairy had said the government agreed to include media practitioners in the priority list to receive the Covid-19 vaccine, subject to adequate supply of the vaccine.

Malaysia is in the second phase of the Covid-19 vaccination programme, which is meant for the elderly, the disabled and those with comorbidities.

Experts back walk-in appointments for AstraZeneca vaccination

KUALA LUMPUR: Allowing walk-in appointments for the AstraZeneca jab can accelerate the country's vaccination rate, an epidemiologist said yesterday.

Associate Professor Dr Malina Osman proposed that the government set up a National Vaccine Registration Office for individuals to choose their date of appointment to prevent overcrowding at vaccination centres.

"Many people are looking forward to be vaccinated, but they have to wait for the schedule. Those who wish to defer can do so. Our mission now should be to get as many people as possible to be vaccinated," she told the *New Straits Times*.

Dr Malina was commenting on Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah's tweet on April 27 on considering a walk-in appointment system for the AstraZeneca vaccine.

Yesterday, Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Khairy Jamaluddin said the AstraZeneca vaccine would only be administered through voluntary registration and was not part of the mainstream National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme.

The decision came amid growing concerns among the public about the vaccine as it had been associated with blood clots.

However, Dr Malina said, most of the facts regarding the adverse effects of vaccines were exagger-

ated, based on inaccurate interpretations of the scientific data.

"Complications did occur but with very small probability (one in 100,000). On the other hand, we saved thousands of people from getting admitted to hospitals and prevented almost 800 deaths."

Epidemiologist Professor Datuk Dr Awang Bulgiba Awang Mahmud said allowing the public to voluntarily get the AstraZeneca jab would allow experts to better understand the nature of the vaccine.

"This voluntary group that will be vaccinated should be monitored for any sign and symptom of coagulation, and their data should be analysed by experts.

"If the study finds the risk of coagulation is low, it will assure the public that vaccine-induced immune thrombotic thrombocytopenia is rare and does not pose any problem.

"Besides that, Malaysia has expressed an interest to use the Johnson and Johnson vaccine, which is similar to the AstraZeneca vaccine in that it uses an adenovirus (but a different type) as a vector too.

"The experience of using the AstraZeneca vaccine may prove valuable in deciding whether we should go ahead with the purchase of the J&J vaccine." **By Dhe-segaan Bala Krishnan and Veena Babulal**



Associate Professor Dr Malina Osman

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NEWS/NATION

3,142 infections take total caseload past 400,000

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's Covid-19 figures breached two grim thresholds yesterday as the country grapples with a fresh surge in cases.

Up to noon yesterday, 3,142 cases were recorded, taking the country's caseload past 400,000 to 401,593.

Yesterday was also the first day since Feb 24 that Malaysia recorded more than 3,000 cases, following an upward trend of more than 2,000 infections a day for the past two weeks.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said 26,719 patients were undergoing treatment.

He said 3,129 of yesterday's cases were local transmissions,

while imported cases involved four Malaysians and nine foreigners.

Selangor was the state that recorded the highest number of new infections at 1,019. Out of that number, 819 cases (80.2 per cent) were from clusters and close-contact screening.

"Kelantan is in second place with 523 new cases, followed by Kuala Lumpur with 440 cases," he said in a statement yesterday.

Dr Noor Hisham said only five cases reported yesterday were linked to prisons and Immigration detention centres — three cases from the Pagar Sri Lalang cluster and two from the Pengkalan Chepa cluster.

Other states recording three-

digit cases were Kuala Lumpur (440), Sarawak (416), Johor (194) and Kedah (120).

This was followed by Penang (98), Sabah (87), Perak (69), Negri Sembilan (61), Melaka (42), Terengganu (40), Pahang (15), Putrajaya (13), Labuan (4) and Perlis (1).

Dr Noor Hisham said 15 people died of Covid-19 related complications yesterday.

"There were six deaths in Sarawak, two in Kelantan, and one each in Johor, Selangor, Sabah, Penang, Perak, Negri Sembilan and Pahang."

"All were Malaysians." He said 306 patients were in intensive care, with 138 of them needing ventilators.

The Health Ministry also identified 12 new Covid-19 clusters, including four from education institutions.

Two of the education clusters were linked to Education Ministry institutions — Melugu in Sarawak and Madai in Sabah — together logging 43 cases so far.

The other two education clusters are Layar Hujung in Kuala Muda, Kedah, with 23 cases, and Jalan Gombak Dua in Selangor with 19 cases.

Dr Noor Hisham said community transmission clusters were detected in Ulu Strass (Sarawak), Jalan Maharajalela (Perak), Taman Wira (Johor) and Pintu Air Relau (Kedah).

Eighty-four cases have been de-

tected from these four clusters, so far.

Two workplace clusters — Jalan Rimbunan in Kuala Lumpur and Jalan Bakariah in Muar, Johor — were reported yesterday.

Jalan Sekinchan is a high-risk group cluster that involved staff and residents of a nursing home in Klang, Selangor.

"Out of 38 people screened, 23 tested positive," said Dr Noor Hisham.

The Lebuah Gampus cluster in Klang, Selangor, is linked to a religious premises. The index case was detected on April 19 after a symptomatic screening.

So far, 61 people tested positive out of 123 screened, he said.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : NATION

No longer in the mainstream

AstraZeneca vaccine is for those who voluntarily want it

By JOSEPH KAOS Jr
joekaosjr@thestar.com.my

PUTRAJAYA: The AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine will only be given to people who voluntarily want to receive it, says Khairy Jamaluddin.

The coordinating minister for the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme said although Malaysia's health experts had concluded that the vaccine is safe and effective, the government remains wary of hesitancy among the public.

"We do not want to waste a vaccine that is proven to be safe and effective. But at the same time, we understand there are certain concerns among the public on the AstraZeneca vaccine, that even science and facts cannot allay.

"So we have agreed on a proactive measure, which is not to use AstraZeneca in the mainstream immunisation programme.

"Instead, we will open special PPVs (vaccination dispensing centres) and the public will be offered the AstraZeneca vaccine to those who voluntarily want it," said Khairy at a joint press conference with Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba here.

Khairy said the special PPVs to receive the AstraZeneca vaccine would be opened in Kuala Lumpur and Selangor first, where Covid-19 infection figures were high.

"This will also accelerate our Covid-19 immunisation plan," he said.

The Science, Technology and Innovation Minister said a booking



Plan of action: Khairy (left) and Dr Adham updating the media on developments in the nationwide immunisation programme. — Bernama

system would be opened soon and those willing to take the AstraZeneca vaccine could register for it on a first-come, first-served basis.

He added that the vaccine would be opened to the general public, and not just those eligible for the current second phase of the national immunisation programme, which is for the elderly, the disabled and those with comorbidities.

Malaysia currently has a supply of about 268,600 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine – the first batch which arrived from South Korea last week.

The country is scheduled to receive about 6.4 million doses of

the AstraZeneca vaccine for the use of 3.2 million people.

Concerns surrounding AstraZeneca came about after several cases of blood clotting among recipients in some countries.

Khairy said the stance of the Health Ministry is that the benefits of the AstraZeneca vaccine far outweighs the risks.

"The chances of one getting blood clotting from Covid-19 is 16.5%, 0.18% from smoking and 0.05% from birth control pills.

"The risk of getting a blood clot from the AstraZeneca vaccine is four cases in one million, which is 0.0004%.

"The probability of one getting a blood clot from the AstraZeneca vaccine is much lower than getting it from a Covid-19 infection, smoking or taking birth control pills," said Khairy.

There would be a pre-vaccination screening where individuals about to receive their jabs would be checked by doctors and given advice about the risk they face.

Recipients must also sign a consent form.

"People are quite comfortable with Pfizer and Sinovac vaccines, compared to AstraZeneca.

"The principle we want to apply here is that Covid-19 vaccination recipients are making informed decisions," said Khairy.

Meanwhile, Khairy said journalists in the country would receive their Covid-19 vaccine shots in May.

"Dr Adham and I have received a list of about 1,500 media practitioners from NUJ (National Union of Journalists) as well as journalist associations in Sarawak and Sabah.

"We are delighted to announce that we will begin vaccinating media practitioners in May," he said.

Khairy had previously said journalists would be included in the priority list of receiving Covid-19 jabs, but it was subject to supply.

Watch the video
TheStarTV.com



