

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

5 lagi sekolah di Negeri Sembilan diarah tutup

Seremban: Lima lagi sekolah di Negeri Sembilan diarah tutup dua hari mulai semalam akibat COVID-19, menjadikan 31 sekolah sudah diarahkan tutup ketika ini.

Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Bertindak Pelaburan, Perindustrian, Keusahawanan, Pendidikan dan Modal Insan negeri, Datuk Dr Mohamad Rafie Ab Malek, berkata arahan penutupan sekolah terbabit dikeluarkan selepas di dapati terdapat kes positif COVID-19 dalam kalangan guru dan muridnya.

"Ia membabitkan tiga sekolah di daerah ini, iaitu Sekolah Kebangsaan (SK) Bandar Sri Sendayan, Sekolah Jenis Kebangsaan Cina (SJKC) Sungai Salak dan SK Kompleks KLIA Nilai.

"Dua lagi sekolah ialah di Port Dickson iaitu SK Jimah Baru dan Sekolah Jenis Kebangsaan Tamil (SJKT) Tanah Merah.

"Sekolah ini ditutup selama dua hari bagi membolehkan Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah membuat penilaian risiko, pengesanan kontak rapat dan sekolah menjalankan proses disinfeksi," katanya dalam kenyataan, semalam.

Pertambahan itu menjadikan 31 sekolah sudah diarahkan tutup atas nasihat pejabat kesihatan daerah sejak 22 April lalu.

Penutupan sekolah boleh dilanjutkan melebihi tempoh dua hari berdasarkan saranan, nasihat dan penilaian risiko oleh PKD yang berkaitan.

Penularan COVID-19

3,332 kes baharu jangkitan

1,083 kes dikesan di Selangor, 15 kematian termasuk warga asing

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Putrajaya: Sebanyak 3,332 kes baharu COVID-19 dilaporkan semalam, dengan 1,083 kes dikesan di Selangor.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata jumlah kumulatif kes COVID-19 di negara kini sudah mencecah 404,925 kes.

Daripada jumlah kes di Selangor itu, katanya, sebanyak 741 kes (68.4 peratus) adalah daripada kluster sedia ada dan saringan kontak rapat kes positif COVID-19 di lapangan.

"Ini diikuti Sarawak dengan 522 kes (15.7 peratus) dan Kelantan (401 kes/12.0 peratus).

"Selain itu, 45 kes atau 1.4 peratus yang dilaporkan adalah berkaitan kluster dalam penjara dan Depoh Tahanan Imigresen (DTI) membabitkan Kluster DTI Lenggeng (43) dan Kluster Tembok Pengkalan Chepa (dua)," katanya dalam kenyataan di sini, semalam.

Pertambahan kes baharu itu



Petugas keselamatan, Rashid Ali membawa alat pembesar suara memberitahu orang awam supaya mematuhi SOP di bazar Ramadan Laman Niaga Komuniti, Bandar Baru Bangi, semalam. (Foto Aizuddin Saad/BH)

menjadikan jumlah kes aktif dengan kebolehhangkitan COVID-19 di negara ini sebanyak 28,093 kes, iaitu 309 kes dirawat di unit rawatan rapi (ICU) dengan 147 daripadanya memerlukan alat bantuan pernafasan.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, 15 kes kematian dilaporkan, membabitkan 14 warganegara dan seorang warga asing.

"Empat kes kematian masing-masing dilaporkan di Kelantan dan Kuala Lumpur, tiga di Selangor, dua di Sarawak serta masing-masing satu kes di Johor dan Sabah.

"Ia menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes kematian kepada 1,492 kes atau 0.37 peratus daripada jumlah keseluruhan kes," katanya.

Mengenai 12 kluster yang dikesan semalam, beliau berkata, empat adalah dalam kalangan komuniti, masing-masing tiga dari institusi pendidikan di bawah Kementerian Pendidikan (KPM) dan kluster tempat kerja serta dua kluster keagamaan.

"Kluster komuniti ini membabitkan majlis pengubumian, iaitu Kluster Bukit Rotan (Kuala Selangor, Sabak Bernam, Petaling,

Klang dan Port Dickson) yang menjangkiti 16 kes.

"Selain itu, ialah Kluster Sileng Dayak (Lundu dan Kuching) menjangkiti 72 kes; Kluster Kampung Pemanok (Machang) menjangkiti 27 kes serta Kluster Raub Jaya (Raub, Lipis dan Bentong) menjangkiti 54 kes," katanya.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, kluster pendidikan KPM dinamakan sebagai Kluster Tabuan Jaya di daerah Kuching, Serian dan Samarahan, Sarawak yang menjangkiti 22 kes.

"Kluster lain ialah Kluster Batu Lada (Kuala Krai dan Machang) menjangkiti 21 kes dan Kluster Jalan Abdul Rahman Andak (Johor Bahru) menjangkiti 12 kes.

"Kluster tempat kerja ialah Kluster Jalan Rp Tiga di Gombak dan Hulu Selangor yang menjangkiti 46 kes.

"Turut dikesan Kluster Jalan Tiga Belas-Tiga di Petaling yang menjangkiti 14 kes, Kluster Jalan Adika Raja (Hulu Perak dan Baling) menjangkiti 34 kes.

"Bagi kluster keagamaan, ia dikenali sebagai Kluster Kampung Parit Bunga (Tangkak) menjangkiti lapan kes serta Kluster Jalan Pokok Assam (Larut, Matang dan Selama) menjangkiti 14 kes," katanya.

Dr Noor Hisham turut memaklumkan, sehingga jam 12 tengah hari semalam, 1,943 kes sembuh dilaporkan menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan kes pulih sepenuhnya ialah 375,340 kes atau 92.7 peratus daripada jumlah keseluruhan kes.

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 7

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Penularan COVID-19

KKM jamin fasiliti masih cukup tampung pesakit

Peningkatan kes harian mendadak perlu segera ditangani elak kesan lebih buruk

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Kuala Lumpur: Kementerian Kesihatan memberi jaminan fasiliti yang ada masih mampu menampung jumlah pesakit COVID-19 biarpun berlaku peningkatan mendadak kes harian, terutama di Lembah Klang.

Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba, berkata kerajaan belum sampai peringkat terdesak dari segi tambahan penyediaan kemudahan biarpun hospital swasta kini memaklumkan kekurangan katil bagi pesakit COVID-19, namun peningkatan kes harian yang mendadak, jika tidak ditangani sebaiknya boleh memberi kesan kepada fasiliti perubatan.

"Hospital swasta tawarkan 1,200 katil di seluruh negara dan kita akui jumlah penggunaan menokok," terutama di Lembah Klang.

"Namun, fasiliti Kementerian masih mampu tampung peningkatan jumlah pesakit, kita belum sampai peringkat terdesak.

"Contohnya, Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan COVID-19 Berisiko Rendah (PKRC) di Taman Ekspo Pertanian Malaysia Serdang

(MAEPS) masih ada ruang," katanya ketika dihubungi, semalam mengulas laporan bahawa hospital swasta kini kekurangan katil bagi pesakit COVID-19 susulan peningkatan penularan jangkitan.

Presiden Persatuan Hospital Swasta Malaysia (APHM), Dr Kuljit Singh dilaporkan berkata, orang ramai perlu mengambil serius perkara itu dan membantu mengurangkan penularan wabak bagi mengelak penutupan hospital.

PKRC MAEPS 2.0 yang diaktifkan kembali akhir Disember lalu, mampu menampung lebih 9,000 pesakit, termasuk mereka dalam kategori 3 dan 4.

Hospital Sungai Buloh dan Hospital Kuala Lumpur juga masih mampu menempatkan pesakit COVID-19 bagi kategori 3, 4 dan 5, iaitu mereka yang bergejala dan kritikal.

Dr Adham berkata, KKM juga melaksanakan strategi Pusat Penilaian COVID-19 (CAC) di setiap Pusat Kesihatan Daerah (PKD) di Selangor dan Kuala Lumpur bagi membenarkan pesakit kategori 1 (tidak bergejala) dan 2 (bergejala ringan) untuk dikuarantin atau dirawat di rumah.

Mengenai peningkatan melebihi 3,000 kes, beliau berkata, masyarakat perlu mengambil iktibar situasi COVID-19 di India supaya tidak leka dengan terus patuh prosedur operasi standard (SOP) ditetapkan.

"Kelekaan dan ketidakpatuhan masyarakat di sana membuatkan mereka berdepan situasi sangat getir; kes harian naik mendadak sehingga kapasiti atau beban di hospital dan pusat rawatan su-



Pesara kerajaan, Ismail Adam dan isteri, Samsiah Ahmad menerima suntikan dos pertama COVID-19 di Johor Bahru, semalam. (Foto BERNAMA)

dah sampai tahap tepu, selain kekurangan bekalan oksigen di sesetengah tempat di negara itu.

"Semua pihak ambil iktibar, jangan sampai situasi sama di negara ini, kita tidak boleh terus leka.

"Masyarakat juga diminta teliti trend jangkitan di negara ini, punca muncul wabak dan kurangkan pergerakan keluar kerana penting untuk kita menjaga diri," katanya.

Sementara itu, beliau berkata, pusat jagaan ambulatori swasta dan klinik pakar swasta akan berfungsi dalam pemberian vaksin COVID-19 menerusi fasa kedua dan ketiga Program Imunisasi COVID-19 Kebangsaan (PICK) selepas pengamal perubatan am swasta (GP) dan hospital swasta diberi peranan sebagai Pusat Pemberian Vaksin (PPV).

"Lebih banyak fasiliti kesihatan swasta akan terbahagi dalam menjayakan fasa kedua dan ketiga PICK. Pembabit hospital swasta mengambil kira cadangan mereka sendiri yang tidak mahu terkecuali mengemblem tenaga bagi memastikan sasaran sekurang-kurangnya 80 peratus penduduk Malaysia diberikan imunisasi COVID-19 dicapai segera.

"Oleh itu, kerajaan akan bekalkan vaksin secara percuma kepada hospital swasta bagi memaksimumkan akses pengalihan vaksin dengan lebih meluas kepada rakyat," katanya menambah, pusat jagaan ambulatori swasta dan klinik pakar swasta boleh mendaftar melalui Protect Health Corporation Sdn Bhd (ProtectHealth) di www.protecthealth.com.my, bermula semalam.

Pemohon perlu tempah tarikh suntik AstraZeneca

Kuala Lumpur: Pemohon sukarela yang mahu menerima vaksin AstraZeneca tidak perlu membuat pendaftaran baharu dalam aplikasi MySejahtera, berikutan vaksin terbahagi adalah melalui pusat pemberian vaksin (PPV) khas.

Menteri Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi, Khairy Jamaluddin, berkata vaksin berkenaan juga tidak dihadkan kepada mereka yang layak untuk menerima vaksin pada fasa dua Program Imunisasi COVID-19 Kebangsaan (PICK).

Katanya, vaksin AstraZeneca hanya diberikan kepada pemohon sukarela susulan pengumuman kerajaan yang dibuat kel-

marin, bahawa vaksin terbahagi tidak akan diguna pakai dalam PPV biasa.

"Ini bermakna pemohon sukarela tidak perlu membuat pendaftaran baharu dalam MySejahtera, tetapi mereka yang mahu menerima vaksin AstraZeneca, perlu membuat tempahan tarikh dan masa janji temu bagi keperluan urusan logistiknya.

"Pemohon sukarela itu adalah mereka yang sudah melihat segala fakta mengenai vaksin itu dan penilaian kesihatan ke atas mereka akan dibuat sebelum diberikan dos suntikan," katanya yang memberi maklum balas pertanyaan di twitter, semalam.

Rata-rata pengguna twitter mempersoalkan apa yang terjadi dengan pendaftaran terdahulu melalui aplikasi MySejahtera, berikutan Khairy pada sidang media Mingguan Badan Bertindak Imunisasi COVID-19 (CITF) kelmarin, memaklumkan vaksin AstraZeneca berlandaskan siapa cepat, dia dapat.

Kelmarin, Khairy yang juga menteri penyelaras program dilaporkan berkata, vaksin itu tidak dihadkan kepada mereka yang layak untuk menerima vaksin dalam fasa dua program imunisasi.

Semua 268,800 dos vaksin keluaran AstraZeneca diterima negara ini pada Sabtu lalu dan di-

jangka mula diberikan secara sukarela di Selangor dan Kuala Lumpur melalui PPV khas.

Khairy berkata, pihak Jawatankuasa Jaminan Akses Vaksin (JKJAV) membuat pertimbangan sedemikian, berikutan bilangan kes COVID-19 di Selangor dan Kuala Lumpur masih tinggi.

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

Sementara itu, seramai 1,409,215

individu sudah menerima vaksin COVID-19 melalui program imunisasi kebangsaan itu.

Jumlah itu termasuk 537,996 yang sudah melengkapkan dua dos vaksin sehingga kelmarin.

Melalui data dikongsi Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba, dalam Twitter, semalam, baki 871,219 pula selesai menerima dos pertama.

Selain itu, berdasarkan maklumat daripada JKJAV, pendaftaran vaksin COVID-19 setakat ini ialah 9,365,711 iaitu 38.60 peratus bagi populasi 18 tahun ke atas dengan 33,298 pendaftaran baharu direkodkan sehingga 11.59 malam kelmarin.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 7

RUANGAN :

RISIKO MASIH ADA

**Warga emas terima
suntikan vaksin Covid-19
perlu terus patuh SOP**

Putrajaya

Warga emas yang sudah menerima suntikan vaksin Covid-19 diingatkan untuk terus mematuhi prosedur operasi standard (SOP) memandangkan mereka masih berisiko untuk dijangkiti, kata Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

Beliau berkata, meskipun sudah divaksinasi, warga emas perlu menggunakan pelitup muka apabila keluar rumah serta mengamalkan penjarakan fizikal kerana vaksin berkenaan berkesan selepas dua minggu suntikan dos kedua.

"Mereka (warga emas) divaksinasi ini masih boleh dijangkiti. Oleh itu, disarankan untuk terus patuh kepada SOP dan elakkan 3S iaitu kawasan yang sesak, elakkan kawasan sempit dan elak sembang atau bertutur dengan jarak dekat," katanya.

Dr Noor Hisham sebelum

ini memaklumkan 40 petugas kesihatan dijangkiti Covid-19 selepas melengkapkan dos vaksinasi mereka dengan sembilan orang dilaporkan dijangkiti selepas lebih dua minggu menerima dos kedua sementara 31 lagi dijangkiti dalam tempoh kurang daripada dua minggu selepas inokulasi.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, mereka yang dijangkiti selepas divaksinasi hanya mengalami gejala ringan selain ia tidak membawa muarat dan mampu menyelamatkan nyawa.

"(Vaksin) memberi perlindungan dalaman manakala pematuhan SOP akan memberikan perlindungan luaran daripada dijangkiti Covid-19," katanya.

Fasa 2 Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan memberi keutamaan kepada warga emas, orang kurang upaya (OKU) dan golongan berisiko tinggi yang memiliki sejarah penyakit kronik bermula 19 April.

**“
Mereka (warga
emas) divaksinasi
ini masih boleh
dijangkiti
Dr Noor
Hisham**

Kes baharu Covid-19 kembali catat peningkatan

Kuala Lumpur: Kes baharu jangkitan Covid-19 di negara ini kembali mencatatkan peningkatan apabila sebanyak 3,332 kes dilaporkan Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) semalam.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, ini menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan penularan wabak itu bertambah kepada 404,925 kes dengan kebolehjangkitan 28,093 kes.

Menurutnya, daripada jumlah kes baharu itu, sembilan adalah kes import manakala 3,323 kes penularan tempatan.

Beliau turut memaklumkan sebanyak 1,943 kes sembuh direkodkan semalam menjadikan jumlah kumula-

tif kes sembuh 375,340 kes.

"Selangor melaporkan kes harian baharu tertinggi iaitu sebanyak 1,083 kes (32.5 peratus). Daripada jumlah ini, sebanyak 741 kes adalah daripada kluster dan saringan kontak rapat kes positif Covid-19 yang aktif dijalankan di lapangan.

"Ini diikuti oleh Sarawak sebanyak 522 kes (15.7 peratus) dan Kelantan sebanyak 401 kes (12.0 peratus).

"Sebanyak 45 kes yang dilaporkan pula adalah berkaitan kluster di penjara dan Depot Tahanan Imigresen (DTI) yang membabitkan Kluster DTI Lenggeng (43 kes) dan Kluster Tembok Pengkalan Chepa (2 kes)," katanya dalam kenyataan, semalam.

AKHBAR : KOSMO
 MUKA SURAT : 4
 RUANGAN : NEGARA

Kes melebihi 3,000 dua hari berturut

Oleh SITI A'ISYAH SUKAIMI

PUTRAJAYA – Negara kekal melaporkan kes harian melebihi 3,000 bagi dua hari berturut-turut dengan 3,332 kes semalam, menjadikan jumlah kes positif Covid-19 mencecah 404,925 kes.

Angka kes aktif kebolehhjangan juga terus meningkat setiap hari dengan semalam sebanyak 28,093 kes, manakala sebanyak 1,943 kes sembuh dan jumlah kumulatif kes sembuh sepenuhnya daripada Covid-19 sebanyak 375,340 kes.

Terdapat 15 kematian dilaporkan di Kelantan, Kuala Lumpur, Selangor, Sarawak, Johor dan Sabah melibatkan enam lelaki dan sembilan wanita berusia antara 26 hingga 91 tahun, menjadikan sebanyak 1,492 kes kematian Covid-19.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr. Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, Selangor melaporkan kes tertinggi sebanyak 1,083 kes dengan 741 kes daripada kluster-kluster dan saringan kontak rapat, diikuti oleh Sarawak sebanyak 522 kes dan Kelantan sebanyak 401 kes.

"Sebanyak 83 kluster merekodkan pertambahan kes dengan 12 daripadanya kluster baharu melibatkan empat kluster komuniti, masing-masing tiga kluster institusi pendidikan Kement-



SEORANG warga emas Shelkh Mohamad Tahir, 90, menerima suntikan vaksin sempena Program Vaksinasi Fasa II untuk warga emas di Dewan Muafakat Johor Adda Heights, Johor Bahru. – RAJA JAAFAR ALI

rian Pendidikan (KPM) dan kluster tempat kerja serta dua kluster keagamaan.

"Kluster tersebut ialah Kluster Bukit Rotan (16 kes), Kluster Sileng Dayak (72 kes), Kluster Kampung Pemanok (27 kes), Kluster Raub Jaya (54 kes), Kluster Tabuan Jaya (22 kes), Kluster Batu Lada (21 kes), Kluster Jalan Abdul Rahman Andak (12 kes)," katanya dalam

satu kenyataan di sini semalam.

Beliau berkata, selebihnya ialah Kluster Jalan RP Tiga (46 kes), Kluster Jalan Tiga Belas - Tiga (14 kes), Kluster Jalan Adika Raja (34 kes), Kluster Kampung Parit Bunga (lapan kes) dan Kluster Jalan Pokok Assam (14 kes).

Ujarnya lagi, empat kluster tamat semalam iaitu Kluster Tapak Bina Jalan Usahawan, Kluster

Jalan Azlan, Kluster Banggol Chicha dan Kluster Jalan Sebelas, menjadikan sebanyak 1,260 kluster ditamatkan.

Sementara itu, Noor Hisham berkata, sehingga semalam sebanyak tiga Variant of Concern (VOC) SARS-CoV-2 dikenal pasti iaitu varian B.1.351, B.1.1.7 dan B.1.1.28 (P1).

Katanya, sebanyak 40 negara

COVID-19

Angka terkini kes Covid-19 di Malaysia sehingga semalam

Jumlah	
Kes baharu	3,332
Import:	9
Tempatan:	3,323
Pulih	1,943
Kematian	15
Masih dirawat	28,093
Jumlah kes sembuh	375,340
Jumlah Kematian	1,492
Jumlah kes keseluruhan	404,925

dikesan dengan kewujudan VOC SARS-CoV-2 meliputi negara-negara antaranya di Benua Amerika, Benua Eropah, Benua Timur Tengah, Benua Afrika dan Benua Asia.

Sehubungan itu, beliau berkata, Kementerian Kesihatan dengan kerjasama Institut Kesihatan Negara (NIH) akan sentiasa mengemaskini senarai negara dengan kewujudan VOC SARS-CoV-2 dan akan memaklumkan kepada umum dari semasa ke semasa.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 7

RUANGAN : VAKSIN UNTUK RAKYAT

Kes positif Covid-19 terus meningkat

Catat 3,332 kes baharu melibatkan 15 kematian

KUALA LUMPUR

Kes positif baharu Covid-19 terus melepasi angka 3,000 dengan 3,332 kes dilaporkan pada Khamis.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham



DR NOOR HISHAM

Abdullah berkata, daripada jumlah berkenaan dalam tempoh 24 jam lalu, Selangor merekodkan jumlah kes tertinggi iaitu sebanyak 1,083 kes diikuti Sarawak dengan 522 kes dan Kelantan 401 kes.

Ia kemudian diikuti Kuala Lumpur yang merekodkan 359 kes; Johor (207); Pulau Pinang (158); Sabah (131); Negeri Sembilan (111); Kedah (105); Pahang (92); Perak (91); Melaka (43); Terengganu (19); Putrajaya (sembilan) dan Perlis (satu).

Bagaimanapun, Labuan tidak merekodkan sebarang kes positif baharu Covid-19 dalam tempoh berkenaan.

Sementara itu, menerusi kenyataan rasmi mengenai perkembangan Covid-19 pada Khamis, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, jumlah kumulatif kes positif Covid-19 kini adalah 404,925.

Katanya, dalam tempoh 24 jam lepas juga, 1,943 kes sembuh dicatatkan menjadikan jumlah kumulatifnya 375,340 manakala kes aktif kini 28,093.

“Sejumlah 309 kes sedang menerima rawatan di unit rawatan rapi (ICU) dengan 147 daripadanya memerlukan bantuan alat pernafasan dan terdapat pertambahan 15 kematian menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan kes kematian akibat wabak itu kini 1,492,” katanya.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, 12 kluster baharu dikenal pasti me-

libatkan empat kluster komuniti, masing-masing tiga kluster institusi pendidikan Kementerian Pendidikan dan kluster tempat kerja serta dua kluster keagamaan.

Menurutnya, kluster komuniti masing-masing satu dilaporkan di Selangor (Kluster Bukit Rotan), Sarawak (Kluster Sileng Dayak), Kelantan (Kluster Kampung Pemanok) dan Pahang (Kluster Raub Jaya).

“Sementara tiga kluster institusi pendidikan dilaporkan masing-masing satu di Sarawak (Kluster Tabuan Jaya), Kelantan (Kluster Batu Lada) dan Johor (Kluster Jalan Abdul Rahman Andak) sementara tiga kluster tempat kerja dilaporkan dengan dua di Selangor iaitu Kluster Jalan RP Tiga dan Jalan Tiga

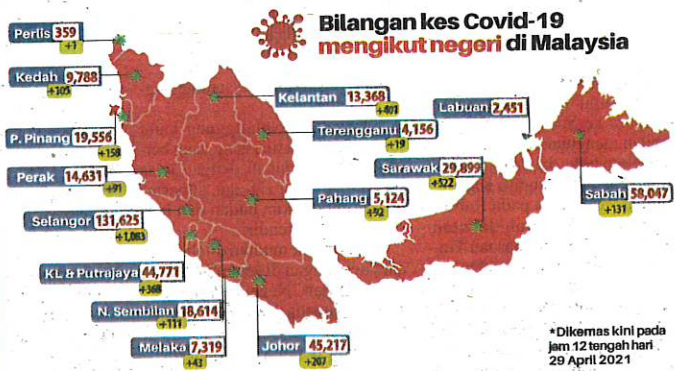
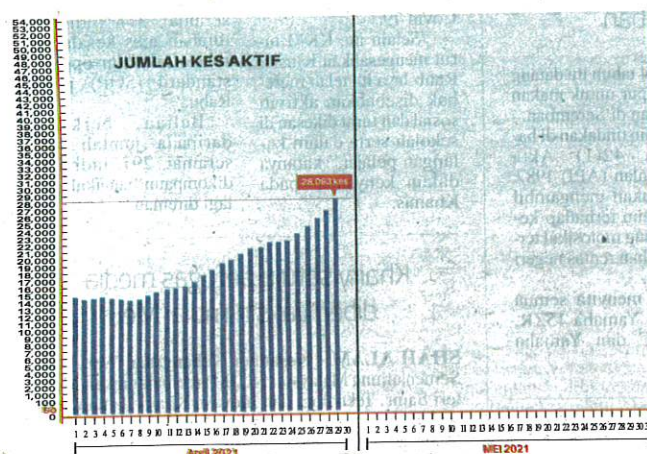
Belas-Tiga dan satu di Perak (Kluster Jalan Adika Raja).

“Kluster keagamaan pula dilapor masing-masing satu di Johor (Kluster Kampung Parit Bunga) dan Perak (Kluster Jalan Pokok Assam),” kata beliau lagi.

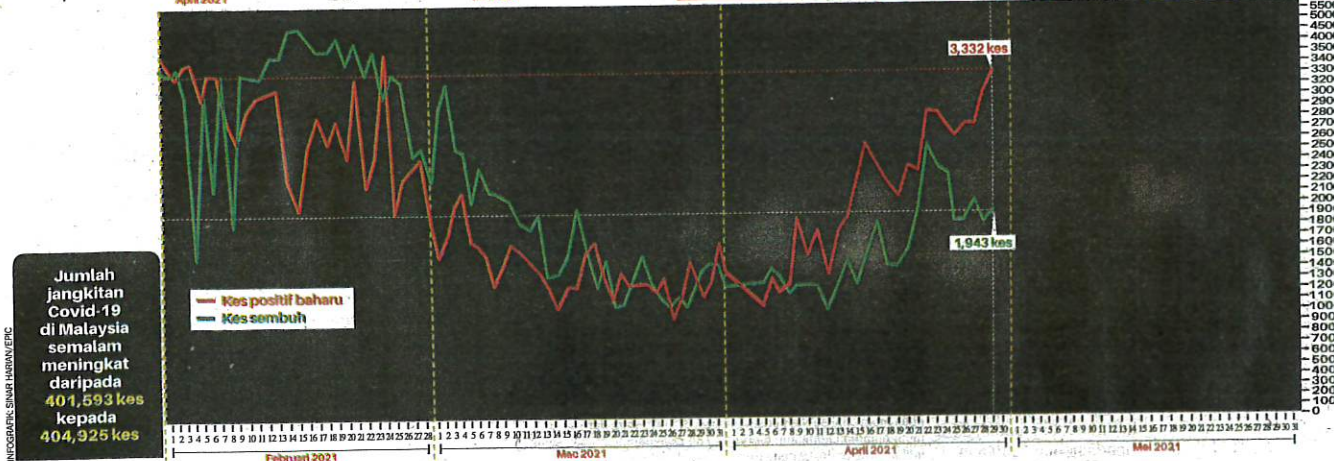
Tambah beliau, selain kluster baharu, sebanyak 83 kluster mencatat peningkatan kes dengan pertambahan kes baharu paling tinggi pada Khamis adalah Kluster DTI Lenggeng (43), Kluster Raub Jaya (38) dan Kluster Jalan Adika Raja (33).

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, empat kluster tamat pada Khamis menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan kluster yang ditamatkan ialah 1,260 kluster manakala jumlah kluster aktif ialah 378. - Bernama

SITUASI TERKINI KES COVID-19 DI MALAYSIA



JUMLAH KES BAHARU DAN SEMBUH DILAPORKAN SETIAP HARI					
JUMLAH KESELURUHAN	PULIH	ICU	KEMATIAN	KES BAHARU	SUDAH DIVAKSIN
404,925	375,340	309	1,492	+3,332	1,409,215



Jumlah jangkitan Covid-19 di Malaysia semalam meningkat daripada 401,593 kes kepada 404,925 kes

INFOGRAFIK: SINAR HARIAN/BERIC

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 9

RUANGAN : VAKSIN UNTUK RAKYAT

Boleh kemuka rayuan kepada KKM

KOTA BHARU – Polis menyarankan peniaga atau pemilik premis yang dikenakan kompaun RM50,000 sebelum ini membuat rayuan kepada Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) untuk mendapatkan kadar pengurangan kompaun.

Ketua Polis Kelantan, Datuk Shafien Mamat berkata, merujuk kepada kompaun tiga peniaga yang tular di negeri ini, pihak KKM telah memaklumkan kesemua pemilik premis itu akan dipertimbangkan kadar pengurangan kompaun.

“Satu perbincangan telah diadakan membabitkan polis dan KKM negeri ini pada Rabu dan Kementerian Kesihatan mempunyai bidang kuasa untuk menawarkan kadar pengurangan kompaun,” katanya dalam satu kenyataan di sini pada Khamis.

Kenyataan itu merujuk kepada kompaun RM50,000 yang dikenakan kepada tiga peniaga di negeri ini.

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA

MUKA SURAT : 1

RUANGAN :

Hospital kritikal

Katil, ICU
penuh rawat
pesakit Covid-19

Oleh MAISARAH SHEIKH
RAHIM, JUANI MUNIR ABU
BAKAR, ZAAIN ZIN dan ROSLIZA
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PUTRAJAYA: Penggunaan katil bagi merawat pesakit Covid-19 di hospital kerajaan kritikal apabila sudah mencapai 80 hingga 100 peratus terutama di negeri-negeri yang berlaku peningkatan mendadak kes positif.

Kapasiti guna katil, wad dan unit rawatan rapi (ICU) di hospital-hospital swasta di Lembah Klang juga sudah 100 peratus.

Mendedahkan kepada *Utusan Malaysia*, Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr. Adham Baba berkata, beberapa hospital awam di Selangor, Wilayah Persekutuan, Kelantan dan Johor selain Sarawak mencapai tahap maksimum walaupun purata keseluruhan penggunaan katil di 72 hospital merawat wabak kini meliputi 54 peratus manakala rawatan di Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan Covid-19 (PKRC) pula 43 peratus.

Bersambung di muka 2

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA

MUKA SURAT : 2

RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI

Hospital kritikal

Dari muka 1

Dr. Adham berkata, lebih membimbangkan apabila kadar penggunaan katil (BOR) bagi pesakit di hospital-hospital serta enam PKRC di Kelantan hampir penuh akibat peningkatan mendadak kes itu dalam tempoh 14 hari lalu.

BOR terkini di hospital dan enam PKRC sedia ada di negeri itu sudah mencapai 80 peratus dan ke atas malah ada beberapa lokasi yang sudah mencecah lebih 100 peratus.

Bagaimanapun, Dr. Adham berkata, pengurusan fasiliti kesihatan awam merawat pesakit Covid-19 berjalan lancar dan pihaknya terus menyusun strategi terbaik bagi menempatkan pesakit supaya tidak berlaku sehingga tahap berbahaya.

Justeru, beliau meminta orang ramai memberi kerjasama terutama tidak melakukan perjumpaan besar atau berkumpul beramai-ramai bagi mengelakkan Covid-19 terus menular.

Dr. Adham memberitahu, larangan rentas negeri ketika ini, terutama untuk pulang ke kampung menyambut Aidilfitri bukan dibuat suka-suka bagi menyekat pergerakan rakyat.

"Petugas kesihatan terbeban sekarang ini, mereka pun nak balik raya juga. Namun sebagai agensi utama dalam menangani kes pandemik ini walaupun berada dalam

keadaan tertekan, kita laksanakan yang terbaik bagi memastikan kesihatan rakyat dapat dipenuhi.

"Kita belum menang dalam mengatasi wabak kerana kebimbangan ketika ini ialah kehadiran varian baharu. Jangan sampai peristiwa di India berlaku di negara ini kerana akibat perkumpulan dan perjumpaan besar menjadi punca kemerosotan tinggi sehingga mencecutkan krisis di negara itu," kata beliau di sini semalam.

Dr. Adham berkata, pada masa ini, dua hospital di Selangor mencapai lebih 80 peratus iaitu di Hospital Tengku Ampuan Rahimah Klang dan Hospital Sungai Buloh manakala di Pusat Perubatan Universiti Malaya, Kuala Lumpur (85 peratus) dan Hospital Permai, Jo-

hor (82 peratus).

Selain itu, kata beliau, di Kelantan, Hospital Raja Perempuan Zainab II (90 peratus); Hospital Sultan Ismail Petra (89 peratus), Hospital Tumpat (100 peratus); Hospital Machang (88 peratus) dan Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia (HUSM) (100 peratus).

Begitu juga di Sarawak, beliau memberitahu, ia melebihi tahap penggunaan 100 peratus, namun Kementerian Kesihatan membuat pertambahan katil seperti di Hospital Bintulu, Hospital Sarikei (109 peratus); Hospital Kapit (lebih 100 peratus).

Menurutnya, pengurusan rawatan Covid-19 di Lembah Klang turut mendapat kerjasama hospital swasta iaitu melalui penubuhan Pusat Kawalan Bersepadu Covid-19 di Maepes, Serdang selain mempunyai 23,366 katil di PKRC seluruh negara untuk merawat pesakit tahap 1, 2 dan 3.

"Walaupun hospital swasta mendakwa hampir penuh, kita mencadangkan kes-kes bukan Covid-19 dihantar ke hospital swasta untuk mengurangkan tekanan sektor awam.

"Pesakit Covid-19 pada tahap 4 dan 5 apabila sudah pulih ke tahap di bawah 3, akan dipindahkan ke PKRC yang mana masih ada ruang dan pada masa ini tahap penggunaannya sebanyak 10,042 katil," katanya.



ADHAM
BABA

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI

Wad hospital swasta penuh

Oleh **JUANI MUNIR ABU BAKAR**
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PETALING JAYA: Peningkatan pesakit Covid-19 dalam tempoh dua minggu sejak kebelakangan ini menyebabkan kapasiti penggunaan katil, wad dan unit rawatan rapi (ICU) hospital swasta sekitar Lembah Klang penuh 100 peratus.

Bercakap kepada *Utusan Malaysia*, Presiden Persatuan Hospital Swasta Malaysia, Dr. Kuljit Singh berkata, situasi tersebut menyebabkan hospital swasta kini tidak mampu menerima pesakit Covid-19 sekali gus memerlukan perhatian serius semua pihak termasuk kerajaan.

Justeru, beliau mencadangkan agar fasiliti kerajaan ditambah untuk menampung peningkatan pesakit Covid-19 yang kemungkinan bertambah pada masa terdekat.

"Dengan melihat keadaan ini,

semua katil, wad Covid-19 dan ICU hospital swasta sudah tidak mampu menerima lagi pesakit kerana semua telah penuh 100 peratus.

"Paling bimbang ditakuti adalah kekangan memberi rawatan susulan katil dan bantuan oksigen yang terhad kepada orang ramai," katanya.

Sebelum ini, sebanyak 95 hospital swasta yang mempunyai kepakaran dan keupayaan menyatakan persetujuan dengan Kementerian Kesihatan untuk merawat pesakit Covid-19 dengan menawarkan 1,286 katil, selain 65 katil di Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU) berserta 54 alat bantuan pernafasan.

Kes harian Covid-19 di seluruh negara semalam mencecah 3,332 iaitu melepasi angka 2,000 sejak 15 April lalu.

Sehubungan itu, Dr. Kuljit mencadangkan kepada kerajaan agar kapasiti hospital awam un-



DR. KULJIT SINGH

tuk rawatan Covid-19 ditambah untuk menampung pesakit Covid-19 memandangkan mereka mempunyai ramai tenaga kerja dan banyak kelengkapan berbanding hospital swasta.

Kata beliau, pihaknya bersedia menerima pesakit bukan Covid-19 daripada hospital kera-

jaan dan memberi ruang kepada mereka menambah jumlah katil bagi pesakit wabak itu.

"Kita mencadangkan pesakit bukan Covid-19 yang menjalani rawatan di hospital kerajaan dihantar mendapatkan rawatan di fasiliti swasta dengan segala kos rawatan ditanggung kerajaan.

"Keadaan ini secara langsung dapat mengurangkan beban ditanggung hospital kerajaan dan kemudian mereka boleh memberi tumpuan kepada pesakit Covid-19," katanya.

Dr. Kuljit menambah, orang ramai perlu mengambil serius perkara itu dan membantu mengurangkan penularan wabak Covid-19 bagi mengelakkan kesesakan di hospital.

"Kalau tiada urusan, sila duduk di rumah masing-masing, elakkan menghadiri tempat sesak dan menyertai aktiviti sosial," katanya.

* AstraZeneca selamat, perokok lebih berisiko alami darah beku

PETALING JAYA: Perokok tegar dan wanita yang mengambil pil perancang lebih berisiko mengalami darah beku dan berdepan kematian berbanding kejadian yang membabitkan penerima vaksin AstraZeneca.

Justeru kes kematian akibat suntikan vaksin AstraZeneca setakat ini boleh disifatkan sebagai kes terencil.

Pengamal perubatan keluarga, Pusat Perubatan Universiti Malaya (UM), Dr. Woweham Sindh berkata, orang ramai tidak perlu bimbang menerima vaksin itu kerana hanya 0.0004 peratus atau satu daripada sejuta penerima berisiko mengalami darah beku setakat ini.

Menurut beliau, ia jauh berbeza dengan 1,200 kes daripada sejuta wanita yang mengambil pil perancang dan 1,763 daripada sejuta perokok berisiko alami darah beku.

"Semua pihak perlu menilai keselamatan vaksin ini dengan melihat kepada peratusan faktor risiko dan bukannya semata-mata berfokus kepada kes darah beku seperti di beberapa negara luar.

"Kita juga tidak boleh membuat kesimpulan setiap kali ada yang mati disebabkan suntikan AstraZeneca, maka vaksin itu dikatakan sebagai berbahaya. Kena rujuk berapa kerap kes itu berlaku," kata



BEBERAPA kes kematian akibat darah beku selepas mengambil vaksin AstraZeneca menimbulkan kebimbangan kalangan orang ramai namun pakar kesihatan berpendapat ia kes terencil.

beliau ketika dihubungi *Utusan Malaysia* di sini semalam.

Kelmarin, Menteri Penyelaras Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan (PICK), Khairy Jamaludin berkata, sebanyak 268,600 dos vaksin AstraZeneca akan diberikan secara terbuka kepada orang ramai dan sukarela atas terma 'siapa cepat dia dapat'.

Kenyataan itu sekali gus menimbulkan persepsi dalam kalangan orang ramai bahawa AstraZeneca kurang efektif dan tiada nilai.

Senada dengan Woweham, pegawai perubatan, Datuk Dr.

Kuljit Singh berkata, semua jenis vaksin Covid-19 termasuklah AstraZeneca akan memberi kesan sampingan namun orang ramai tidak perlu bimbang kerana ia telah dijamin selamat.

Menurut beliau, apa yang perlu sekarang kerajaan menggunakan penyampaian lebih jelas berhubung pemberian vaksin AstraZeneca bagi mengelakkan kekeliruan terhadap orang ramai sehingga menggagalkan matlamat Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan (PICK).

Menurut beliau, pengambilan

vaksin AstraZeneca yang didakwa berbahaya dan berisiko menyebabkan gumpalan darah adalah tanggapan salah kerana tidak mungkin Bahagian Regulatori Farmasi Negara (NPRA) meluluskan vaksin tersebut jika benar mengancam keselamatan dan nyawa orang awam.

"Vaksin tidak berbahaya kerana kesan sampingan yang wujud hanya membabitkan peratusan kecil. Cuma, cara maklumat disampaikan itu mungkin kurang jelas sehingga orang berfikir vaksin tidak selamat," ujarnya.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 2

RUANGAN : NEWS/NATION

KLANG VALLEY SITUATION

'MOST HAVE REACHED FULL COVID-19 CAPACITY'

No more room in private hospitals, public urged to take shortage of beds seriously

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MOST private hospitals, especially those in the Klang Valley, have reached their capacity for Covid-19 patients.

Association of Private Hospitals Malaysia president Datuk Dr Kuljit Singh said most private hospitals could no longer accept Covid-19 patients.

"Over the past two weeks, they have recorded a steep acceleration in beds occupied within designated wards and ICU (Intensive Care Unit) beds. Even ICU beds are filled up."

He said the situation reached a point where most private hospitals, particularly those in the Klang Valley, were no longer able to accept Covid-19 patients.

He said the situation was grim as government facilities in the Klang Valley and possibly in Johor were filling up fast.

"Our hope is the public will take this shortage of beds in hospitals seriously and be responsible in making sure the spread is curtailed and all preventive standard operating procedures are adhered to."

"The biggest fear would be if we face a healthcare shutdown because of non-availability of beds

and oxygen treatment."

He reiterated his call to the government to decant non-Covid-19 patients to private facilities to give public hospitals space to handle those with Covid-19 infections.

Dr Kuljit said it should be done at the cost that was agreed on last year and that treatment for these patients should be fully funded by the government.

The Emergency Ordinance was put into effect in January during the height of the previous spike in infections to allow the authorities to take over private healthcare resources and reduce the burden on public healthcare.

But private hospitals were hesitant about the move as the question of who would bear the cost of treatment still lingered.

Rejecting patients risked a fine of RM5 million or jail time for the operators of private facilities, and few insurers were willing to offer Covid-19 treatment coverage.

This situation was resolved when the government said private facilities could treat Covid-19 patients who could afford to pay for the medical costs themselves.

Meanwhile, Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba said healthcare facilities in the Klang Valley could still cope with the rise in Covid-19 cases.

He said the government had not reached a point yet where it had to rely on private hospitals, which were also stretched for resources.

He acknowledged that a steep rise in Covid-19 cases could affect healthcare facilities.

"Private hospitals offer 1,200 beds nationwide and we admit that the use is increasing, especially in the Klang Valley.



Datuk Dr Kuljit Singh



Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba

"But our facilities can still cope with the increase in patients. We have not reached a point of desperation as low-risk quarantine centres, such as the Malaysia Agro Exposition Park Serdang (MAEPS), still has space."

Dr Adham said the MAEPS 2.0 low-risk quarantine centre was reactivated in December and had a 9,000-bed capacity, including for Covid-19 patients under Category 3 or 4.

He said Sungai Buloh Hospital and Kuala Lumpur Hospital could still take Category 3 and 5 patients, including those who are symptomatic as well as critical.

"We are also implementing the Covid-19 Assessment Centre strategy in every Selangor and Kuala Lumpur district health office, where we allow patients within Category 1 (non-symptomatic) and 2 (mildly symptomatic) to undergo home quarantine and be treated in their residences."

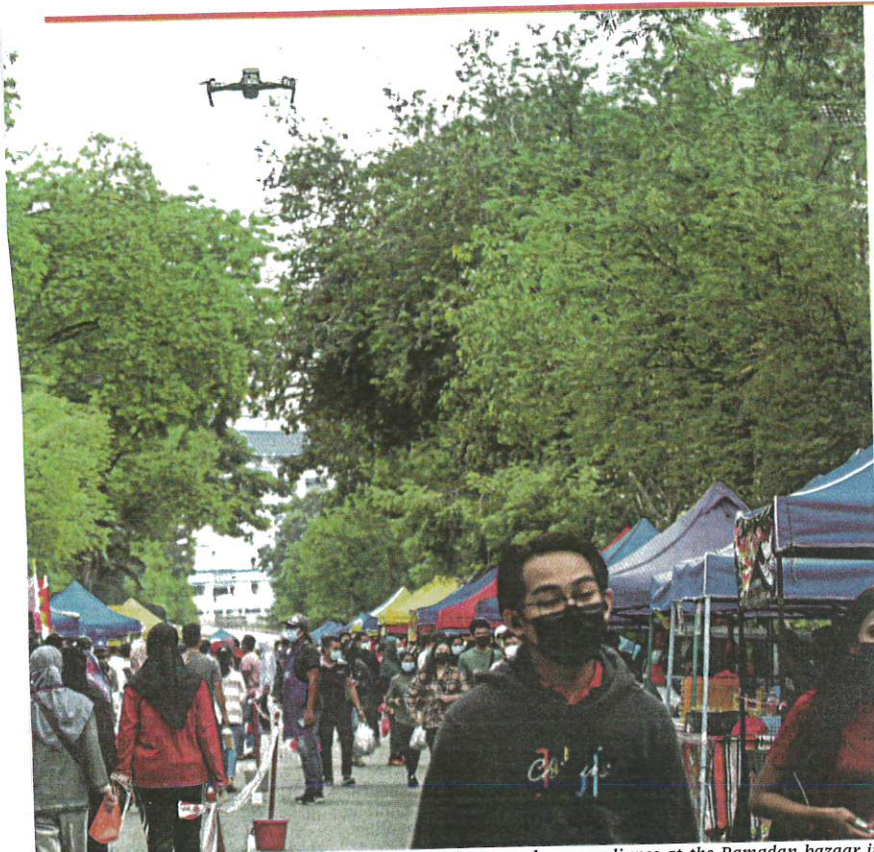
On Covid-19 cases breaching the 3,000 mark, he said the public should take a page from the situation in India and ensure they continue to be vigilant in standard operating procedure compliance.

"The complacency and non-compliance of people there (India) led to a very critical situation. Every day, there is a steep increase in cases until the hospital capacity or burden on facilities has reached a boiling point. There is also a dearth in oxygen supplies in a

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : NEWS/NATION



Police using a drone to monitor standard operating procedure compliance at the Ramadan bazaar in SS6/1, Kelana Jaya, yesterday. PIC BY AZIAH AZMEE

number of places in the country.

"Everyone needs to take lessons from this. We can't afford to face the same situation here. We can't continue to be complacent.

"We call on the public to study the infection trend in the country and why the outbreak appeared in the first place while reducing their movements as it is important for us to look after ourselves."

On another matter, Dr Adham said private specialist clinics and ambulatory care centres could now participate in Phase 2 and 3 of the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme.

He said facilities keen on participating could register via ProtectHealth Corp Sdn Bhd's website at protecthealth.com.my.

The decision to involve these facilities followed the approval of the involvement of private hospitals in the vaccination programme on April 12.

Dr Adham said the government decided to include private hospitals as vaccination centres after private hospitals volunteered to help the government achieve the goal of inoculating 80 per cent of the population as soon as possible.

"The government will give vaccine doses to private hospitals for free to maximise distribution and access to the vaccine for the people."

Penang to make 'unpopular' decisions to keep people safe

GEORGE TOWN: The Penang government is expected to make several "unpopular" decisions soon, including restricting mass movements, to fight Covid-19.

With the state recording 158 active Covid-19 cases yesterday, Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow said several important decisions would have to be made soon to strike a balance between the people's health and preserving the state's economic sectors.

He said based on the current situation of the pandemic, decisions would also need to be made regarding other sectors, including sports, and social aspects.

"As stated before, although the decisions may not be popular and may restrict mass movements, they need to be taken to ensure the people of Penang are safe."

Chow did not elaborate on the specifics of the decisions.

He said although Penang's R-naught reading was 0.99, among

the lowest in the country, the state still needed to practise extreme caution by strictly complying with the standard operating procedures.

"Up to yesterday (Wednesday), we have 15 active clusters. Of that, eight are manufacturing clusters, three are education clusters, two are social clusters, one is a detention centre cluster and one other cluster.

"For the education clusters, we hope the state Education Department and state Health Department will work closely to identify all the close contacts as well as tighten control while doing some 'gatekeeping' at all education institutions in the state.

"As for the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme, we hope vaccination for economic frontliners can be expedited to prevent the spread of the virus.

"We also want to ensure that Covid-19 cases do not continue to spiral in the manufacturing sector."

Selangor records 1,083 out of 3,332 new infections

KUALA LUMPUR: Selangor continues to register the highest number of daily new Covid-19 cases at 1,083 infections, or 32.5 per cent of the national total, yesterday.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said Malaysia recorded 3,332 new cases yesterday, an increase from the 3,142 cases reported on Wednesday.

He said this raised the total number of Covid-19 infections in the country to 404,925, with 28,093 active cases.

He said Sarawak registered the second-highest number of new infections at 522 cases (15.7 per cent), followed by Kelantan (401), Kuala Lumpur (359) and Johor (207).

Other states that recorded three-digit rise in infections are Penang (158 cases), Sabah (131), Negri Sembilan (111) and Kedah (105).

"Pahang logged 92 new cases, Perak (91), Melaka (43), Terengganu (19), Putrajaya (nine) and Perlis (one).

"Labuan had no new cases," he said yesterday.

Of the new infections, Dr Noor Hisham said, nine were imported, involving one Malaysian and eight foreigners, while the remaining 3,323 cases were local transmissions involving 3,099 Malaysians and 224 foreigners.

He said 15 new fatalities were reported, involving 14 Malaysians and one foreigner, bringing the Covid-19 death toll to 1,492 (0.37 per cent).

"The new deaths were reported in Kuala Lumpur (four), Kelantan (four), Selangor (three), Sarawak (two), Johor (one) and Sabah (one).

"The youngest victim was a 26-year-old woman, a foreigner who died at Tawau Hospital in Sabah. She had no history of chronic illnesses.

"The remaining victims were aged 46 to 91.

"The two oldest victims, aged 91, were a woman in Sarawak who had a history of high blood pressure and stroke and a man in Selangor who had high blood pressure and heart disease."

Dr Noor Hisham said 309 Covid-19 patients were being treated in the Intensive Care Units (ICU), with 147 on ventilator support.

The number of patients admitted to ICUs has been on the rise since the country began recording more than 2,000 new infections a day from April 15.

In that period, 212 patients were

admitted to ICUs, with 82 placed on ventilators.

Dr Noor Hisham said 1,943 more patients have recovered, bringing the cumulative recoveries to 375,340 (92.7 per cent).

He said 12 new Covid-19 clusters were reported in six states yesterday — Selangor, Sarawak, Kelantan, Pahang, Johor and Perak. He said three clusters were linked to education institutes under the Education Ministry and three were workplace related.

He said the education clusters were detected in Sarawak (Tabuan Jaya cluster), Kelantan (Batu Lada cluster) and Johor (Jalan Abdul Rahman Andak cluster).

"The Tabuan Jaya cluster involves Kuching, Serian and Samarahan districts in Sarawak.

"The index case for this cluster was reported positive on April 17 after symptomatic screening.

"This cluster involves students of a school in Tabuan Jaya.

"Up to April 29 (yesterday), 252 people had been screened, with 22 testing positive.

"The Batu Lada cluster involves individuals in Kuala Krai and Machang. The index case was reported positive on April 22 following symptomatic screening.

"This cluster involves students of a school in Jalan Batu Lada. Up to April 29 (yesterday), 191 people have been screened, with 21 testing positive.

"The Jalan Abdul Rahman Andak cluster involves students and staff of a school in Johor Baru. The index case tested positive on April 26 following symptomatic screening.

"Up to April 29 (yesterday), 279 people have been screened, with 12 testing positive."

Dr Noor Hisham said the workplace clusters were reported in Selangor (Jalan RP Tiga and Jalan Tiga Belas-Tiga clusters) and in Hulu Perak and Baling, Kedah (Jalan Adika Raja cluster).

Four of the 12 new clusters, he said, were community clusters reported in Selangor (Bukit Rotan cluster), Sarawak (Sileng Dayak cluster), Kelantan (Kampung Pemanok cluster) and Pahang (Raub Jaya cluster).

Two religious clusters were identified in Johor (Kampung Parit Bunga cluster) and Perak (Jalan Pokok Asam cluster).

Dr Noor Hisham said 1,260 clusters have ended and 378 were still active.



Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NEWS/NATION

VACCINE REGISTRATION

'NO NEED TO RE-REGISTER IF OPTING FOR ASTRAZENECA JABS'



Khairy Jamaluddin

New registration through MySejahtera not necessary as a separate booking system will be announced soon, says Khairy

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THOSE who voluntarily opt for the AstraZeneca vaccine do not need to register again through the MySejahtera application as the jabs will be administered at a

special vaccination centre.

Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Khairy Jamaluddin said the vaccine would be available to those who did not meet the criteria for phase 2 of the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme, which gave priority to senior citizens, those with medical conditions that

made them susceptible to Covid-19 and persons with disabilities.

Khairy said the vaccine would not be administered at the normal vaccination centres.

"This means new registration is not required through MySejahtera, but those who want the AstraZeneca vaccine need to book an appointment.

"The volunteers must comprehend vaccination facts and a health assessment will be conducted on them before they are inoculated," Khairy said in reply to a question on Twitter.

In another tweet, Khairy said

the booking system would be announced soon.

People on social media questioned the status of their earlier registration after Khairy, at a weekly Covid-19 Task Force press conference on Wednesday, said the AstraZeneca vaccine would not be administered through the main national vaccination programme as there was much public anxiety over its safety.

However, the jab would be available to those who wanted them, and an alternative queue would be created for this.

Last Saturday, the country re-

ceived 268,800 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine.

Khairy said the Special Committee for Ensuring Access to Covid-19 Supply made the decision as Covid-19 infections remained high in Selangor and Kuala Lumpur.

He said that after discussions with Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, the two-dose regimen would be given 12 weeks apart, in line with World Health Organisation recommendations and practised in Britain.

POST-JAB ADVICE

*Follow S.O.P even after vaccination, urges Noor Hisham

PUTRAJAYA: Senior citizens who have been vaccinated against Covid-19 are reminded to continue observing standard operating procedures (SOP), as they can still be infected with the virus, said Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

He said they should continue to wear face masks and practise physical distancing when going out because the vaccine would be effective only two weeks after the second dose was administered.

"They (vaccinated senior citizens) can still be infected. As such, it is suggested that they continue to abide by the SOP and avoid the 3C practices, of being in crowded places, confined spaces and close conversation," he told Bernama yesterday.

Dr Noor Hisham had earlier said that 40 healthcare workers had contracted Covid-19 after completing their immunisation, with nine getting infected more than two weeks after vaccination and 31 within two weeks of their inoculation.

He said, however, those infected after being vaccinated showed only mild symptoms that were not harmful or life threatening.

"(Vaccine) gives internal protection while SOP compliance offers external protection against Covid-19 infection," he added.

Phase 2 of the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme began on April 19, giving priority to senior citizens, persons with disabilities and people with chronic diseases. **Bernama**

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : NATION

RM50,000 compounds of three traders to be reduced

KOTA BARU: The burger seller, colek seller and sundry shop owner who were each slapped with a RM50,000 compound for violating the movement control order may be able to breathe a sigh of relief as their fines will be reduced.

Kelantan police chief Deputy Comm Datuk Shafien Mamat said the decision was reached after dis-

cussions between police and the Kelantan Health Department on Wednesday, although he did not reveal the new figure.

Kelantan police would take action according to guidelines on compound discounts set under Act 342, or the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Act 1988, he said. He said the state Health

Department had the power to offer a reduced rate for the compound as outlined in the guidelines.

"Referring to the compounds dated April 26, 2021, which were issued to a burger seller, a colek seller and a sundry shop owner, the Health Department has informed them that the amount of the compound would be reconsidered as per

the guidelines," he said yesterday.

DCP Shafien said other individuals and premises who were issued compounds previously were advised to appeal to the Kelantan Health Department for reductions.

Colek seller Mohd Azizi Mohd Nor, 42, said he wanted the issue to be settled as soon as possible. (Colek is a snack similar to rojak).

"What I can say is that I can only afford to pay RM1,000.

"A sum of RM50,000 or RM10,000 is far from what I can afford.

"What I'm worried about now is going to jail, though my offence isn't a criminal one," he said, adding that he had yet to resume trading after the compound issue went viral a few days ago. — Bernama

Adham: Learn from India's crisis

M'sians urged to take rising cases seriously, as hospitals report nearing capacity

By **FATIMAH ZAINAL**
and **ASHLEY TANG**
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PETALING JAYA: Malaysians must take the rise in Covid-19 cases seriously to avoid a similar crisis as the one unfolding in India, says Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba.

His call comes as certain states and private hospitals are reportedly running out of capacity to house and treat Covid-19 patients, although the overall occupancy rates of hospitals in the country as a whole was still at just over half.

"In January, (India) said that it looked like it was nearing the end of the pandemic, so people gathered in crowds, went here and there, and as a result, it is facing a storm.

"We must learn from them, especially with the existence of a new Covid-19 variant here, we feel that every Malaysian must be more careful and evaluate how the situation in India has worsened.

"If there is no need to be out, gather or have non-important meetings, then it is better to avoid doing so at this time because there are so many sporadic cases happening in the community," said Dr Adham when contacted yesterday.

Malaysia has been logging over 3,000 new infections daily over the past few days.

This has led to an occupancy rate of 54% of beds at the 72 Covid-19 public hospitals nationwide.

However, in states with high case numbers like Kelantan, Sarawak, Selangor and Kuala Lumpur, hospitals are either at full or above 80% capacity.

"In Selangor, Hospital Sungai Buloh, Hospital Tengku Ampuan Rahimah Klang and Hospital Serdang are at 80% capacity and it



Space issue: A file photo of Serdang Hospital, which is now at 80% capacity.

is something we are worried about.

"In Kuala Lumpur, Universiti Malaya Medical Centre has also reached 80% capacity.

"Johor is also worrying as the Permai Hospital Sports Complex is at 80% capacity and so is Hospital Sultanah Nora Ismail, where 61 beds out of 78 are filled," he said.

He added that the government decided to extend the interstate travel ban as there were many clusters and sporadic cases resulting from such movements.

In states with a high number of Covid-19 cases, Dr Adham said the Ministry is coping by adding the capacity for low-risk quarantine

and treatment centres (PKRCs), to which Level 1, 2 and 3 patients are diverted, while Level 4 and 5 patients or more severe cases are sent to hospitals.

In Kelantan, the number of Covid-19 beds in Hospital Tumpat had to be increased from 84 to 87, while Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia is full and Hospital Machang has filled 21 of its 24 beds.

In Sarawak, Hospital Bintulu increased the number of Covid-19 beds from 102 to 147 while in Kapit and Sarikei, hospitals were already at capacity.

However, there were also hospitals with zero or below 50% Covid-

19 bed occupancy, such as in Sabah, he said.

"Hospital beds are not nearly or at capacity in every state, but only in states with a high number of cases.

"Hospitals are only for Level 4 and 5 patients but so far it is still within control," he added.

Meanwhile for the PKRCs, out of 23,366 beds nationwide, only 43% were filled as at yesterday.

"We are also planning to add 600 more beds at the PKRC in Sungai Buloh," said Dr Adham.

Meanwhile, the Malaysia Agro Exposition Park Serdang (MAEPS) has 9,000 beds and can accommodate patients from nearby states like Perak, Melaka and Negri Sembilan.

Level 1 patients or those who were asymptomatic and suitable for home quarantine were already allowed to do so by the Covid-19 Assessment Centre (CAC).

"This is under strict monitoring by the district health office and only if their situation is found to be suitable, otherwise, we will take them to the PKRC," said Dr Adham.

Public hospitals have also been outsourcing certain non-Covid-19 patients with light medical issues or elective cases to private hospitals to free up beds in public facilities, he added.

Association of Private Hospitals Malaysia president Datuk Dr Kuljit Singh said private hospitals have reached their capacity for Covid-19 patients.

Dr Kuljit had asked the Ministry to decant non-Covid-19 patients to their hospitals in order to give public hospitals space to handle Covid-19 cases.

On Jan 11, during the peak of the previous surge in infections, the Emergency Ordinance was imple-

mented, allowing the government to take over private healthcare resources.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the Ministry will continue to refer non-Covid-19 cases to private hospitals to free up beds in public facilities.

"We have sent more than 3,000 cases with 48 non-Covid-19 illnesses to private hospitals to create more beds to treat Covid-19 patients.

"When cases are increasing, we will first stop elective surgery to increase the beds but continue emergency and non-emergency cases.

"We will certainly refer non-Covid-19 cases to private hospitals like we did before," he said.

Dr Kuljit said private hospitals had provided beds and expertise based on their individual capacity and capability.

However, due to the spike in Covid-19 cases over the last 14 days, all beds designated for the disease in private hospitals are occupied, including isolated intensive care unit (ICU) beds.

"Most private hospitals are not able to accept any more Covid-19 patients, particularly in the Klang Valley.

"Private hospitals are constrained on the number of beds and ICU facilities that can accommodate Covid-19 patients as well as the availability of specialists and nurses," he said in a statement yesterday.

Dr Kuljit added that even beds in private facilities in the Klang Valley and Johor were filling up fast.

"The biggest fear would be if we face a healthcare shutdown because of non-availability of beds and oxygen treatment," he said.

'Sarawak General Hospital still has room for patients'

By **MUGUNTAN VANAR**
and **SHARON LING**
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KUCHING: The Sarawak General Hospital (SGH) and quarantine centre here still has room for Covid-19 patients despite rising admissions over the past month, says Datuk Seri Dr Sim Kui Hian.

The state Local Government and Housing Minister said the average bed occupancy in SGH's Covid ward was about 74% in epidemic week 16 from April 19 to 25, which saw an average of 69 admissions per day.

In the same period, occupancy of ventilated beds in critical care for Covid-19 and high-risk severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) cases and patients under investigation (PUI) averaged 81% while the low-

risk quarantine and treatment centre had 79% average occupancy.

"This means there is still room for optimal care for such cases," he said when contacted.

Dr Sim, who oversees public health, noted that SGH recorded a significant increase in Covid-19 cases during the past month, including a steep surge from 250 cases to 481 cases two weeks ago.

He urged the public to keep adhering to the standard operating procedures (SOPs) in order to break the chain of infection.

In Kota Kinabalu, efforts are being made to ease congestion at hospitals and quarantine centres reaching full capacity in Sabah's east coast amid the rising number of Covid-19 cases.

The state health department took

action to resolve the problem of the three nearby full quarantine centres and hospital beds being fully used, said Sabah Covid-19 spokesman Datuk Seri Masidi Manjun.

"Things are looking up, but we are not out of the woods yet," he said when contacted.

State health authorities had to reopen the army field hospital and the low-risk quarantine centre two weeks ago.

The field hospital and quarantine centre were closed for some time before the sudden spike in cases in Tawau.

Masidi said specialists from Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Kota Kinabalu as well as doctors and nurses from other districts were being deployed to Tawau to assist the hospital.

"State health authorities can no longer depend on staff from outside Sabah, as other states are struggling too," he explained.

The low-risk quarantine centre had to be reopened to take in those not needing hospital care, as health authorities did not want them kept under home quarantine because of concerns over compliance with rules, he added.

There has been growing concern over rising cases in Sabah's east coast district that borders Indonesia's Kalimantan.

Two days ago, local leader Datuk Nizam Abu Bakar Titingan sounded the alarm that medical facilities were being overstretched.

Nizam, who is state Assistant Finance Minister and Apas assemblyman, said the district hospital

was full and the three quarantine centres with capacities of about 600 people each were nearly full ever since positive cases began to climb from April 3.

Tawau Health Department officer G. Navindran urged people in the district to observe the standard operating procedure (SOP) and said he felt that many people were not taking the threat seriously.

He also noted that those who had come into direct contact with positive patients or who experienced symptoms were coming in very late for their swab tests.

Tawau district as well as neighbouring Lahad Datu and Sandakan are under the movement control order, while the rest of Sabah went under the conditional MCO yesterday.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 8

RUANGAN : NATION

Covid-19: Current situation																													
(As at 7pm April 29, 2021)																													
Malaysia																													
New cases																													
Total cases																													
Total deaths																													
Total recovered																													
<table border="0" style="width:100%; text-align:center;"> <tr> <td style="width:10%;"></td> <td style="width:10%;">3,332</td> <td style="width:10%;">404,925</td> <td style="width:10%;">1,492(+15)</td> <td style="width:10%;">375,340(+1,943)</td> <td colspan="10"></td> </tr> </table>																3,332	404,925	1,492(+15)	375,340(+1,943)										
	3,332	404,925	1,492(+15)	375,340(+1,943)																									
Perlis	Kedah	Penang	Perak	Selangor	Kelantan	Terengganu	Pahang	N. Sembilan	Melaka	Johor	Sabah	Sarawak	FT K. Lumpur	FT Putrajaya	FT Labuan														
+1	+105	+158	+91	+1,083	+401	+19	+92	+111	+43	+207	+131	+522	+359	+9	0														
Asean+		Indonesia	Philippines	Japan	Myanmar	S. Korea	China	Thailand	Singapore	Cambodia	Vietnam	Laos	Brunei																
Confirmed cases		1,662,868	1,028,738	575,563	142,790	121,351	90,642	63,570	61,121	11,761	2,865	672	224																
Deaths		45,334	17,145	10,055	3,209	1,825	4,636	188	30	88	35	0	3																
Recovered		1,517,432	942,239	512,069	131,955	110,787	85,682	35,394	60,718	4,698	2,516	50	215																
Global Top 10		US	India	Brazil	France	Russia	Turkey	UK	Italy	Spain	Germany																		
Confirmed cases		32,983,695	18,376,524	14,523,807	5,565,852	4,796,557	4,751,026	4,411,797	3,994,894	3,504,799	3,351,474																		
Deaths		588,337	204,832	398,343	103,918	109,731	39,398	127,480	120,256	77,943	83,018																		
Recovered		25,584,747	15,086,878	13,091,714	4,470,275	4,419,540	4,212,461	4,206,327	3,431,867	3,192,970	2,975,200																		

Covid-19 cases continue to surge

Selangor records 1,083 infected while country suffers another 15 deaths

By TARRENCE TAN
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PETALING JAYA: New Covid-19 cases continue to spike with 3,332 recorded nationwide and with Selangor recording the most with 1,083.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, in a statement, said the new cases in Selangor included 36 from existing clusters, 705 from close contact screening and a further 342 from

other testing.

Sarawak recorded 522 new cases, with 48 from existing clusters, 404 from close contacts screening and 70 others from other testing.

Dr Noor Hisham said Kelantan recorded 401 cases, with 99 from existing clusters, 233 from close contact screening and 69 from other testing.

Meanwhile, Kuala Lumpur recorded 359 cases, said Dr Noor Hisham, with 205 from close contacts screening along with nine

import cases, a further 141 from various testing and four from active clusters.

As of yesterday, Dr Noor Hisham said there were 28,093 active cases and 1,943 recoveries recorded – bringing the cumulative number of recoveries to 375,340 since the start of the outbreak last year.

He added there were 15 deaths, involving 14 locals and one foreigner, bringing the death toll to 1,492.

At the same time, Dr Noor Hisham said 309 cases are still being treated

in intensive care, with 147 cases requiring ventilator support.

Meanwhile, Dr Noor Hisham also said 12 new Covid-19 clusters were recorded, bringing the total number of active clusters to 378.

“A total of 83 clusters recorded an increase in new cases,” he added.

On Jan 7, the daily Covid-19 figures breached the 3,000 mark for the first time where 3,027 new cases were recorded.

The number of cases remained high early in the year, with over

3,000 Covid-19 cases for eight days in a row beginning Jan 14 and hitting a record 5,725 cases on Jan 29.

On March 29, the number of daily Covid-19 cases dipped below 1,000 with 941 cases, but it has since shown a steady increase in the following days, with 3,142 cases recorded on April 28.

Watch the video
TheStarTV.com

