

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 7

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Penularan COVID-19

'Varian Omicron mungkin sudah lama dalam kitaran'

Virus mutasi tinggi tak dikesan kerana tumpuan kepada varian Delta

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Putrajaya: Varian baharu COVID-19, Omicron yang mula dilaporkan secara rasmi bulan lalu berkemungkinan sudah lama berada dalam kitaran penularan berdasarkan kepada jumlah mutasi yang tinggi dalam varian itu.

Menyifatkan mutasi tinggi itu sesuatu yang agak luar biasa, Saintis Virologi Institut Perubatan dan Pergigian Termaju (IPPT) Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Dr Muhammad Amir Yunus, berkata Omicron cuma tidak dikesan selama ini kerana tumpuan terhadap varian Delta yang lebih dominan.

Beliau berkata, ada juga pendapat mengatakan Omicron berkitar dalam kalangan populasi yang imunodefisiensi seperti pesakit HIV.

"Varian ini mungkin terlepas daripada pengawasan selama ini disebabkan oleh 'missed-diagnosis' dalam ujian reaksi rantai polimerase (PCR) memandangkan terdapat perubahan besar kepada jujukan sasaran dalam varian ini yang disasarkan oleh beberapa jenis ujian PCR.

"Bagaimanapun, fakta sama-

kin jelas Omicron amat berkesan dalam penularan dengan lebih pantas, cuma masa yang akan menentukan sama ada ia berupaya mengambil alih dominasi varian Delta," katanya kepada BH semalam.

Dr Muhammad Amir berkata, tidak mustahil Omicron akan mendahului dominasi jika ia berupaya untuk bertahan lebih lama dalam persekitaran pandemik serta mempunyai peluang atau rantai penularan yang lebih baik.

"Setakat ini data yang ada menunjukkan negara Afrika yang terkesan (Omicron) tiada kes-kes banjir pesakit di hospital, namun kadar kemasukan (hospital) perlu juga dilihat di negara lain.

"Kajian juga menunjukkan ada sedikit kemerosotan terhadap kadar keberkesanan perlindungan vaksin Comirnaty keluaran Pfizer-BioNTech terhadap Omicron, berbanding varian terdahulu," katanya memberi isyarat dos penggalak perlu dalam situasi pandemik ketika ini.

Ditanya mengenai pengurusan terbaik varian Omicron di negara ini, termasuk tindakan mengenakan sekatan terhadap negara tertentu, Dr Muhammad Amir berkata, ketika ini ada peningkatan dalam bilangan negara yang merekodkan kehadiran Omicron.

"Jika ia terus berlaku, sekatan masuk dan keluar tidak akan memberikan kesan yang besar kepada penghalangan penularan.

"Saya berpendapat pendekatan kesihatan awam lain seperti amalan prosedur operasi stan-

Fakta semakin jelas Omicron amat berkesan dalam penularan dengan lebih pantas, cuma masa yang akan menentukan sama ada ia berupaya mengambil alih dominasi varian Delta

Dr Muhammad Amir Yunus, Saintis Virologi Institut Perubatan dan Pergigian Termaju USM



dard (SOP) memakai pelitup muka, penjarakan sosial dan kebersihan masih lagi relevan dalam mengawal penularan," katanya.

Sebelum ini, Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO) mengesahkan varian Omicron dilihat berupaya mengatasi beberapa imuniti, namun vaksin masih menawarkan perlindungan terhadap penyakit teruk.

Ketua Pengarah WHO, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, dilaporkan berkata data dari Afrika menyatakan terdapat risiko jangkitan semula dengan Omicron, selain data menyatakan virus itu menyebabkan simptom yang kurang berbanding dengan Delta.

Kematian populasi tak divaksin 20 kali ganda lebih tinggi

Kuala Lumpur: Kematian akibat COVID-19 adalah 20 kali ganda lebih tinggi dalam kalangan populasi yang tidak divaksin, berbanding yang sudah divaksinasi, kata Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

Menerusi akaun Twitternya, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, trend kematian COVID-19 di negara ini terus menunjukkan penurunan dengan liputan vaksinasi yang meluas.

"Data kami (Kementerian Kesihatan) menunjukkan kematian dalam kalangan yang tidak divaksinasi dan sebahagiannya divaksinasi adalah 3,200 orang/kematian bagi setiap satu juta penduduk.

"Bagi individu yang lengkap

vaksinasi adalah 160 orang/kematian bagi satu juta penduduk dan kematian bagi mereka yang mendapat dos penggalak adalah empat orang/kematian bagi setiap satu juta penduduk," katanya.

Beliau berkata, berdasarkan data Kematian COVID-19 Kebangsaan dari 1 Januari hingga Sabtu lalu, jumlah kematian tertinggi direkodkan pada 11 September dengan 592 kes.

"Jumlah kematian tertinggi bagi kematian di luar hospital (BID) pula adalah pada 13 September dengan 176 kes. Data itu berdasarkan jumlah laporan kematian yang diterima setiap hari," katanya.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, pada tahun ini sejumlah 24,014 individu meninggal dunia di hospital dan 6,046 kes BID. BERNAMA



Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah

Jangkitan baharu naik kepada 5,446

Putrajaya: Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) melaporkan sebanyak 5,446 kes jangkitan baharu COVID-19, semalam.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah yang berkongsi ringkasan kes itu, berkata perkembangan terbahit menyumbang kepada jumlah keseluruhan 2,678,465 kes wabak berkenaan setakat jam 12 tengah hari semalam.

"Jumlah jangkitan terbaru itu menunjukkan peningkatan, ber-

banding 5,020 kes yang dilaporkan setakat jam 12 tengah hari semalam (kelmarin)," katanya.

Sementara itu, KKM melaporkan 28 kematian akibat COVID-19 setakat tengah malam kelmarin, termasuk empat membabitkan kes kematian di luar fasiliti kesihatan (BID).

Laman sesawang COVIDNOW menunjukkan, setakat ini jumlah kematian akibat COVID-19 sudah mencecah 30,746 kes dengan 6,220 adalah kes BID.

Pada masa sama, laman sesawang GitHub KKM menunjukkan kes kematian tertinggi kelmarin dicatatkan di Selangor, termasuk satu kes BID.

Ia disusuli lima kes di Sabah, termasuk dua BID, tiga kes di Johor, dua kes masing-masing di Kedah, Negeri Sembilan, Perak, Pahang dan Pulau Pinang, termasuk satu kes BID serta masing-masing satu kes di Kelantan, Melaka, Terengganu dan Kuala Lumpur.



Sumtikan vaksin mampu mengurangkan gejala yang lebih teruk akibat jangkitan pandemik. (Foto hiasan)

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO
MUKA SURAT : 4
RUANGAN : COVID-19

Tak vaksin: Kematian 20 kali ganda tinggi

Kuala Lumpur: Kematian akibat Covid-19 adalah 20 kali ganda lebih tinggi dalam kalangan populasi yang tidak divaksin berbanding populasi yang sudah divaksinasi, kata Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

Menerusi akaun Twitter-nya Dr Noor Hisham berkata, trend kematian Covid-19 di Malaysia terus menunjukkan penurunan dengan liputan vaksinasi yang meluas.

"Data kami (Kementerian Kesihatan) menunjukkan kematian dalam kalangan yang tidak divaksinasi dan sebahagiannya divaksinasi adalah 3,200 orang/kematian bagi setiap satu juta penduduk. Bagi individu yang lengkap divaksin adalah 160 orang/kematian bagi satu juta penduduk dan

kematian bagi mereka yang sudah mendapat dos penggalak adalah empat orang/kematian bagi setiap satu juta penduduk," katanya.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, berdasarkan data Kematian Covid-19 Kebangsaan dari 1 Januari hingga 4 Disember 2021, jumlah kematian tertinggi diumumkan pada 11 September dengan 592 kes.

Jumlah kematian tertinggi bagi BID iaitu kematian yang dilaporkan berlaku di luar hospital adalah pada 13 September dengan 176 kes.

Katanya, data itu berdasarkan jumlah laporan kematian yang diterima setiap hari.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, setakat ini bagi 2021 sejumlah 24,014 individu meninggal dunia di hospital dan 6,046 kes BID.

Jumlah kumulatif dos penggalak 3,281,238

Kuala Lumpur: Sebanyak 97.2 peratus atau 22,746,838 individu bagi populasi dewasa di negara ini sudah lengkap menerima suntikan vaksin Covid-19, setakat jam 11.59 malam kelmarin.

Berdasarkan data Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) melalui laman COVIDNOW, sejumlah 98.6 peratus atau 23,067,954 individu bagi populasi dewasa pula sudah menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos vaksin.

Sementara itu 90.1 peratus atau 2,836,326 individu bagi populasi remaja berusia 12 hingga 17 tahun sudah menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos vaksin Covid-19.

rangnya satu dos vaksin Covid-19 manakala 86.7 peratus atau 2,729,900 individu golongan itu lengkap vaksinasi.

Dalam pada itu, 125,838 dos suntikan vaksin diberikan kelmarin membabitkan 6,322 suntikan dos lengkap, 4,572 dos pertama dan 114,944 pula suntikan dos penggalak, menjadikan jumlah kumulatif pemberian vaksin bagi Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan (Pick) kini meningkat kepada 54,470,578 dos.

Selain itu, jumlah kumulatif dos penggalak kini sebanyak 3,281,238. - Bernama

AKHBAR : KOSMO
MUKA SURAT : 13
RUANGAN : NEGARA

137 guru, pelajar dijangkiti Covid-19

MELAKA – Jumlah kes positif Kluster Pulau Gadong yang berpunca daripada pelaksanaan Pilihan Raya Negeri (PRN) pada 20 November lalu meningkat daripada 41 kepada 137 orang pelajar dan guru semalam.

Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Kesihatan dan Anti Dadah negeri, Dr. Muhamad Akmal Saleh berkata, jumlah itu diperolehi hasil saringan 224 pelajar dan guru.

Jelasnya, seramai 137 telah disahkan positif, manakala baki 87 negatif, namun telah menjalani tempoh kuarantin sejak 25 November lalu.

"Hari ini kita telah dapat jumlah secara penuh pelajar dan



PENULARAN Kluster Pulau Gedong tercetus selepas pelaksanaan PRN Melaka pada bulan lalu. – GAMBAR HIASAN

guru yang telah disaring iaitu seramai 224 orang.

"Daripada jumlah itu seramai 137 disahkan positif dan 87 negatif. Mereka yang negatif juga telah menjalani tempoh kuarantin bermula 25 November lalu," katanya ketika ditemui di Wisma Persekutuan, Ayer Keroh di sini semalam.

Mengulas lanjut, beliau berkata, risiko penularan wabak itu bagaimanapun adalah rendah memandangkan kesemua pelajar dan guru madrasah terbabit berada dalam radius kawasan berkenaan.

"Alhamdulillah, saya telah pergi ke madrasah berkenaan

dan mereka semua berada dalam keadaan sihat di bawah kategori 1 dan 2," katanya.

Tambahnya, ada segelintir menjalani tempoh kuarantin di Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan Covid-19 Berisiko Rendah (PKRC) Pusat Dagangan Antarabangsa Melaka (MITC) Ayer Keroh dan telah dibenarkan pulang.

Kosmo! pada 6 Disember lalu melaporkan Melaka merekodkan satu kluster baharu berpunca daripada PRN Melaka apabila indeks kes merupakan seorang tenaga pengajar di dua buah madrasah terlibat sebagai jentera parti politik.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 13
RUANGAN : VAKSIN UNTUK RAKYAT

Trend kematian akibat Covid-19 terus menunjukkan penurunan dengan liputan vaksinasi yang meluas

KUALA LUMPUR



DR NOOR HISHAM

MEDEPANI KRISIS
COVID-19:
APA TINDAKAN
KITA?

Kematian pesakit tidak divaksin 20 kali ganda lebih tinggi

Kematian akibat Covid-19 adalah 20 kali ganda lebih tinggi dalam kalangan populasi yang tidak divaksin berbanding populasi yang telah divaksinasi, kata Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr. Noor Hisham Abdullah.

Menerusi akaun Twitternya, Dr. Noor Hisham berkata, trend kematian Covid-19 di Malaysia terus menunjukkan penurunan dengan liputan vaksinasi yang meluas.

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kematian bagi satu juta penduduk dan kematian bagi mereka yang telah mendapat dos penggalak adalah empat orang/kematian bagi setiap satu juta penduduk," kata beliau.

Dr. Noor Hisham berkata, berdasarkan data Kematian Covid-19 Kebangsaan dari 1 Januari hingga 4 Disember 2021, jumlah kematian tertinggi diumumkan pada 11 September dengan 592 kes.

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Beliau berkata, setakat ini bagi tahun 2021 sejumlah 24,014 individu meninggal dunia di hospital dan 6,046 kes BID. - Bernama



FOTO: BERNAMA

Kematian akibat Covid-19 adalah 20 kali ganda lebih tinggi dalam kalangan populasi yang tidak divaksin berbanding populasi yang telah divaksinasi.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES
MUKA SURAT : 2
RUANGAN : NEWS / STORY OF THE DAY

COVID-19 VACCINE

'ANTIBODIES 25 TIMES MORE WITH BOOSTER'

Death rate drops by 90pc among those who got third shot, says Health D-G

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A THIRD dose of the Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine triggers a 25-fold jump in antibody levels against the Omicron variant, said Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

The results, he said, were based on laboratory studies of the blood of 20 people three weeks after receiving two doses of the vaccine and one month after receiving three doses of the vaccine.

This development came on the back of reports on Wednesday on the announcement by BioNTech and Pfizer, which said a three-shot course of their vaccine could neutralise the new variant in a laboratory test.

The German and United States companies said two doses of the vaccine resulted in significantly lower neutralising antibodies, but could still be protective against severe disease, signalling that booster shots could be key to protection against Omicron.

Dr Noor Hisham also cited another research, in which the fatality rate dropped by 90 per cent among those who received three doses of the vaccine.

"Research has shown deaths fell by 90 per cent among those who received boosters or third doses (compared with those who have not) for more than 840,000 people aged 50 and above," he posted on Twitter yesterday.

The research concluded that participants who received booster shots at least five months after the second Pfizer vaccine had 90 per cent lower mortality rates than participants who did not receive a booster.

Dr Noor Hisham reminded people to wear face masks correctly and turn up for their booster shot appointments to protect themselves against Omicron.

He said the two most effective

tools in fighting Covid-19, including variants of concern (VOCs), were wearing a face mask correctly and getting a booster dose.

He also shared infographics showing that risks of catching Covid-19 were 225 times lower for people who followed the SOP.

The infographics, provided by the Max Planck Institute for Dynamics and Self-Organisation, stated that the risk of infection is 90 per cent if two people without face masks are sitting 3m away from each other for "a few minutes", but the risk is 0.4 per cent if the two wear well-fitting FFP2 masks, even if they are sitting 1.5m away after "an hour".

The risk of infection is 30 per cent if both individuals are wearing surgical masks and are sitting 1.5m away for an hour.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has reported that Omicron is present in 57 countries.

The first Omicron case in Malaysia was detected on Dec 2 involving a 19-year-old South African student who arrived on Nov 19, a week before the WHO declared the strain a VOC.

In another Twitter post, Dr Noor Hisham said Covid-19 deaths were 20 times higher among those unvaccinated, adding that deaths in Malaysia continued to show a downward pattern following wide vaccination coverage.

"Our (Health Ministry) data showed deaths among non-vaccinated and partially vaccinated people is 3,200 person/mortality per one million population."

"Among the fully vaccinated, breakthrough death is only 160 person/mortality per one million population. For the boosted population (individuals who have received the booster dose), death is four person/mortality per one million population."

He said based on the National Covid-19 Mortality data from Jan 1 to Dec 4, the highest mortality number was on Sept 11 at 592 cases.

The highest announced brought-in-dead number was on Sept 13 at 176 cases. The data was based on the number of mortality reports received daily, he said.

He said 24,014 people died in hospitals and 6,046 were brought-in-dead cases.

Covid cases stay above 5,000 mark

KUALA LUMPUR: Although the country's Covid-19 infectivity rate, Rt, dropped slightly to 0.98 on Wednesday, new daily cases continue to hover above the 5,000 mark for a second consecutive day yesterday, with 5,446 new infections recorded.

On Wednesday, 5,020 cases were reported.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said this brought the cumulative cases to 2,678,465.

Perlis recorded the highest Rt value at 1.07, followed by Negri Sembilan (1.02), Penang (1.02) and Pahang (1.01).

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : NATION / NEWS

The country's Rt value was at 0.99 on Tuesday and Monday.

Up to Wednesday, the hospital bed utilisation rate dropped to 67.7 per cent, two per cent less compared with the past week, with an average of 1,056 daily hospital admissions in seven days.

However, admissions saw an increase in Putrajaya (10 per cent), Perlis (18 per cent) as well as in Negri Sembilan and Terengganu (both 21 per cent).

On Dec 8, a hospital bed utilisation rate of 85.1 per cent was recorded in Terengganu, followed by Melaka (79.9 per cent), Kedah (78.8 per cent).

Currently, 58.4 per cent of the country's intensive care unit (ICU) beds are used, with Putrajaya having the highest utilisation rate at 85 per cent, followed by Kuala Lumpur (79.8 per cent) and Kelantan (74.1 per cent).

Another 28 Covid-19 deaths were reported on Wednesday, including four brought-in-dead (BID) cases.

A total of six deaths were

recorded in Selangor, five in Sabah, three in Johor, two each in Kedah, Negri Sembilan, Pahang, Perak, Penang, and one each in Kelantan, Melaka, Terengganu and Kuala Lumpur.

The BID cases were recorded in Sabah (two), Penang and Selangor (one each).

The Health Ministry also identified 12 clusters, including six workplace clusters, four education clusters, and two community clusters in eight states.

There are 60,878 Covid-19 patients in the country; 81.5 per cent (49,644 patients) were observing quarantine at home, 9.8 per cent (5,996) at Covid-19 quarantine and treatment centres, 7.9 per cent (4,810) are hospitalised, and 0.7 per cent (428) are in ICUs, with 237 receiving breathing aid.

Yesterday, 125,838 doses of Covid-19 vaccines were administered, and 114,944 were boosters.

About 78 per cent (25,476,738 individuals) of the total population have been fully vaccinated, and 20.7 per cent are unvaccinated.

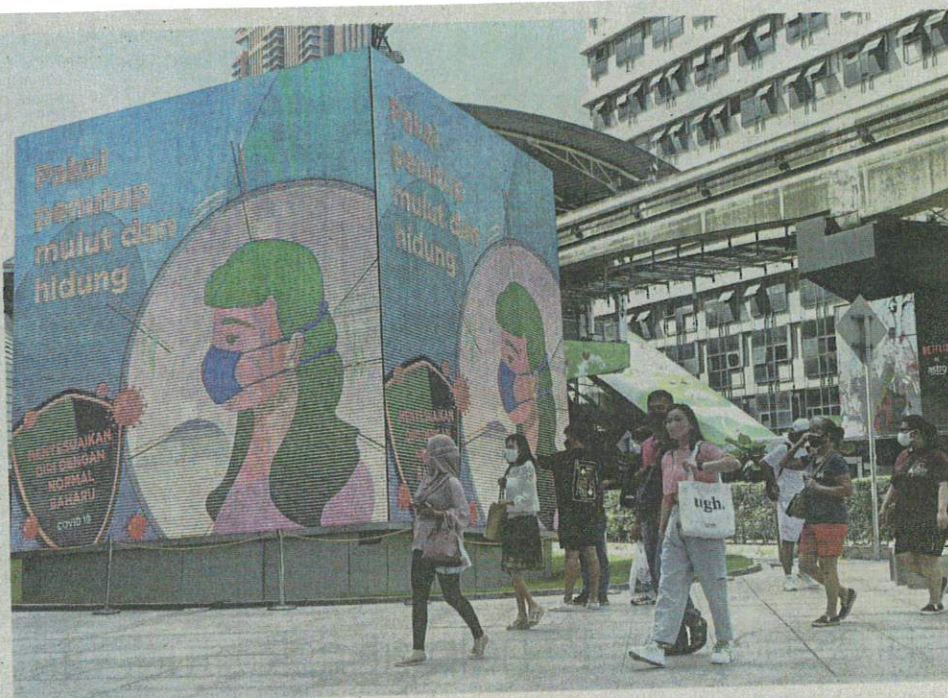
AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : NATION

Remember the rules

People walking past an electronic box reminding everyone to wear face masks in public areas in Bukit Bintang, Kuala Lumpur. — FAIHAN GHANI/The Star



5,446 new cases, 98.4% fall under Categories 1 and 2

PETALING JAYA: Of the 5,446 new infections, 5,358 or 98.4% fall under Categories 1 and 2 with mild or asymptomatic symptoms, according to Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

The Health director-general said the remaining 1.6% or 88 cases were those in Categories 3, 4 and 5 which required treatment in hospitals.

In his daily Covid-19 statement, Dr Noor Hisham noted that there were a total of 5,427 recoveries yesterday.

The cumulative Covid-19 infections now stand at 2,678,465 while the number of recoveries are at 2,586,822.

A total of 419 patients were admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU) yesterday of which 324 were diagnosed as confirmed Covid-19 cases while 95 were suspected cases.

Ventilator support was required for 232 ICU cases.

Dr Noor Hisham also said the national infectivity rate was at 0.98 with four states registering above 1.0.

The four states are Perlis (1.07), Penang and Negri Sembilan (1.02) and Pahang (1.01).

A total of 17 new Covid-19 clusters were detected, bringing the number of active clusters to 254 nationwide.

With the approaching year-end holiday season, Dr Noor Hisham reminded Malaysians, including those who were fully vaccinated, to adhere to the standard operating procedures.

He said detailed data about Covid-19 would be uploaded on the ministry's CovidNow portal at midnight daily.

'Fatality rate 20 times higher among the unvaxxed'

KUALA LUMPUR: Death from Covid-19 is 20 times higher among the unvaccinated population compared to the vaccinated ones, said Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

Dr Noor Hisham posted on Twitter that the Covid-19 death trend in Malaysia continued to show a downward pattern due to the wide vaccination coverage.

"Our (Health Ministry) data showed that deaths among the non-vaccinated and partially vaccinated is 3,200 person/mortality per one million population.

"Among the fully vaccinated, breakthrough death is only 160 person/mortality per one million population.

"In the boosted population (individuals who have received the booster dose), death is four person/mortality per one million population," he said.

Dr Noor Hisham said based on the National Covid-19 Mortality data from Jan 1 to Dec 4 this year, the highest announced total mortality was on Sept 11 with 592 cases, Bernama reported.

The highest announced brought-in-dead was on Sept 13 with 176 cases.

The data was based on the number of mortality reports received daily, Dr Noor Hisham said.

He said so far this year, a total of 24,014 people died in hospitals and 6,046 were brought-in-dead cases.

Meanwhile, in Kota Kinabalu, Bernama reported that the Sabah state assembly was told that only 3% or 687 Sabah civil servants had yet to be vaccinated against Covid-19 based on health factors and other reasons.

Assistant Minister to the Chief Minister Datuk Abidin Madingkir said 19,584 or 97% of state civil servants had been vaccinated, including civil servants in the Sabah Local Authorities and Statutory Bodies.

He said the state government required all state civil servants to complete Covid-19 immunisation to create a safe workplace environment and ensure that service delivery and productivity of the state civil

service were at an optimal level.

"After Nov 1, 2021, all state government officers must complete the Covid-19 immunisation doses. Officers who fail to comply with this directive may face disciplinary action or termination of service in accordance with the Sabah State Public Officers Regulations 2008.

"Officers not eligible for Covid-19 immunisation must get confirmation from a medical officer and inform the Head of Department," he said in reply to a question from Datuk Ewon Benedick (Upko-Kadamaian), who had asked about the number of state civil servants yet to be vaccinated and the policy on civil servants who did not want to receive the vaccines.

AKHBAR : THE SUN ON FRIDAY

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS

Only 3% of civil servants in Sabah still unvaccinated

KOTA KINABALU: Only 3%, or 687, of Sabah civil servants have yet to be vaccinated against Covid-19 based on health factors and other reasons, the state assembly here was told yesterday.

Assistant minister to the Chief Minister, Datuk Abidin Madingkir, said 19,584 (97%) of state civil servants have been vaccinated, including civil servants in local authorities and statutory bodies.

He said the state government required all civil servants to complete Covid-19 immunisation to create a safe workplace environment and ensure service delivery and productivity of the state civil service were at an optimal level.

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Public Officers Regulations 2008.

"Officers not eligible for Covid-19 immunisation must get confirmation from a medical officer and inform the head of department (HoD)," he said in reply to a question from Datuk Ewon Benedick (Upko-Kadamaian), who asked on the number of state civil servants yet to be vaccinated and the policy on civil servants who did not want to receive Covid-19 vaccines.

Abidin said to implement the policy, the HoD could consider appropriate methods to manage any officer who did not want to be immunised but not for health reasons.

"These include instructing officers to perform periodic Covid-19 detection tests, work-from-home, counselling sessions for a period of time, using available qualifying leave and unpaid leave and finally, termination of service," he said.

- Bernama