

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Penularan COVID-19

Kes menurun disebabkan PKP sejak 3 minggu lalu

Jumlah jangkitan harian dijangka mendatar selepas kes tertinggi 31 Januari lalu

Oleh Rafidah Mat Ruzki dan Noor Atiqah Sulaiman
bhnews@bhi.com.my

Putrajaya: Jumlah kes harian COVID-19 dijangka mendatar selepas ini apabila negara sudah melalui kemuncak kes tertinggi pada 31 Januari lalu dengan 5,298 kes.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr. Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata penurunan kes yang dilihat kini adalah disebabkan pelaksanaan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP) sejak tiga minggu lalu.

"Sebelum ini kita jangkaan jumlah kes akan kembali menurun selepas pelaksanaan PKP dalam

tempoh empat minggu. Minggu pertama untuk kita mengelak lonjakan kes baharu secara mendadak, memasuki minggu kedua kita tak nampak lagi perbezaan dan kes dilihat semakin meningkat.

"Kini kita sudah memasuki minggu ketiga dan kes COVID-19 semakin menurun. Baki seminggu itu kita akan lihat lagi penurunan kes COVID-19," katanya dalam sidang media, semalam.

Dr. Noor Hisham berkata pelaksanaan PKP kali ini untuk membantu kerajaan mengelakkan penularan jangkitan COVID-19 dalam kalangan komuniti.

"Apa yang penting kini bukanlah pelaksanaan PKP atau PKP Bersyarat tetapi kepatuhan rakyat Malaysia kepada prosedur operasi standard (SOP) yang ditetapkan. Jika rakyat mempunyai kepatuhan dan disiplin yang tinggi terhadap SOP, kita dapat elakkan penularan.

"Selepas setahun COVID-19 menular, ternyata virus itu akan mati dalam tempoh tujuh hari sekiranya ia tidak dapat menjang-



Selangor terus kekal mencatatkan kes harian tertinggi.

kiti individu lain," katanya.

Dr. Noor Hisham berkata, pihaknya bukan sahaja memantau nilai kebolehan jangkitan (RT) atau R-naught (R0), secara keseluruhan, tetapi turut melihat di setiap negeri.

"Di setiap negeri juga kita lihat terdapat penurunan RT laju. Sabah kini dengan 0.81 dan Kelantan 0.77.

"Kebanyakan kes di Kelantan berpunca daripada rentas negeri lalu terdapat 31 kluster dikesan dan 96 peratus daripadanya membabitkan warganegara.

"Terengganu turut menunjukkan penurunan nilai RT iaitu 0.86 serta Sarawak 1.0 dan diharapkan penularan kes di Sarawak ini dapat dikawal," katanya.

Berikutan nilai RT menunjuk-

kan perkembangan yang baik, Dr. Noor Hisham meminta supaya masyarakat kekal mematuhi SOP terutama ketika perayaan Tahun Baharu Cina kelak.

Sementara itu, Dr. Noor Hisham berkata, jumlah kes baharu COVID-19 menunjukkan penurunan semalam, apabila sebanyak 2,764 kes dilaporkan, menjadikan jumlah kumulatif 248,316 kes.

Selangor kekal mencatatkan kes harian tertinggi, 862 kes (31.2 peratus) dan daripada jumlah itu 663 atau 77.5 peratus daripada kluster sedia ada dan saringan kontak rapat di lapangan.

"Ini diikuti Johor 521 kes (18.3 peratus) dan Kuala Lumpur dengan 422 kes (15.3 peratus).

Hingga kini 50,841 kes aktif dan kebolehan jangkitan COVID-19 dan

daripada jumlah itu 269 kes sedang dirawat di Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU), manakala 127 daripadanya memerlukan alat bantuan pernafasan.

Terdapat 18 kes kematian dilaporkan semalam menjadikan jumlah kumulatif 909 bersamaan 0.37 peratus daripada jumlah keseluruhan kes.

Enam kes kematian dilaporkan di Selangor, masing-masing dua kes di Sabah, Sarawak dan Johor manakala satu di Kuala Lumpur yang membabitkan semua warganegara berusia antara 49 hingga 80 tahun.

Sementara itu, sebanyak 12 kluster dikesan semalam yang mana 11 daripadanya berpunca di tempat kerja dan satu dalam kalangan komuniti.

Kluster Pasai jangkiti 2,363 individu, kini generasi keenam

Putrajaya: Kluster Pasai yang sudah menjangkiti seramai 2,363 individu setakat ini, kini dikesan memasuki enam generasi berikutan kegagalan mematuhi prosedur operasi standard (SOP) ditetapkan.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr. Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata pihaknya dimaklumkan hingga kini, Kluster Pasai sudah merebak hingga ke 58 rumah panjang di Sarawak.

Penularan berlaku berikutan kes indeks yang pulang dari Johor untuk menghadiri pengebumian meniang bapanya, menyalin kuarantin wajib di rumah panjang yang kurang pengasingan.

"Adat pengebumian di rumah panjang adalah selama tiga hari berturut-turut membabitkan pengunjung yang ramai dari rumah panjang lain.

"Pematuhan kepada SOP juga (adalah) penting," katanya pada sidang media, semalam.

Dr. Noor Hisham berkata, apabila individu terbabit berkumpul di rumah panjang, apa yang berlaku adalah kurang pengasingan serta pematuhan kepada SOP.

Sementara itu, Jawatankuasa Pengurusan Bencana Negeri (JPBN) Sarawak dalam satu kenyataan menyebut sebanyak 111 jangkitan baharu COVID-19 direkodkan di Sarawak semalam,



menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan 5,871 kes dicatatkan di negeri itu. Dua kes kematian baharu dilaporkan menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan 55 kematian.

Menurut kenyataan itu, kes kematian ke-54 membabitkan seorang wanita berumur 66 tahun yang dimasukkan ke Hospital Sibub pada 30 Januari lalu sebelum

kesihatannya merosot dan disahkan meninggal dunia pada 1.14 tengah hari, kelmarin.

"Kes mempunyai komorbid penyakit darah tinggi dan kencing manis. Kes adalah daripada Kluster Pasai," menurut kenyataan itu.

Kematian ke-55 pula membabitkan seorang lelaki berumur 54 tahun yang dimasukkan ke Hospital Sibub pada 21 Januari setelah mengalami gejala demam, batuk dan selesema bermula 10 Januari.

Kenyataan itu menyebut mangsa yang mempunyai penyakit darah tinggi disahkan meninggal dunia pada 4.04 petang hari sama.

Terkini COVID-19 3,887 pulih, dibenarkan keluar hospital, semalam | **2,764** kes baharu disahkan, semalam | **909** jumlah kematian dicatat | **248,316** jumlah kes disahkan positif | **50,841** kes yang masih dirawat

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : NASIONAL



Perancang Kesihatan Coway Nik Khairunisa Nik Kamal (kiri) dan Dayang Nisah Mohamad Ibrahim (kanan) bersiap sedia untuk melakukan perkhidmatan pembasmian kuman di sebuah rumah di Kuala Lumpur, semalam.

Menteri boleh pendek tempoh kuarantin ikut Seksyen 29 Akta 342

Putrajaya: Mana-mana individu yang memenuhi syarat gelem-bung perjalanan yang ditetapkan, boleh memendekkan tempoh kuarantin kepada tiga hari untuk perjalanan ke luar negara.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr. Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata kebenaran itu boleh dipohon mengikut Seksyen 29 Akta Pencegahan dan Pengawalan Penyakit Berjangkit 1988 (Akta 342) kepada Menteri Kesihatan.

"Seksyen 29 adalah pengecua-liaan tidak menggunakan Seksyen 15(1) tetapi kandungannya lebih kurang sama. Permohonan uru-san rasmi dibuat kepada Jemaah Menteri.

"Sebelum perjalanan kita akan lihat jadual dan jika jadual ketat dan ada doktor mengiringi per-jalanan, kita boleh pertimbang-kan tetapi ada syarat tidak mem-bahayakan," katanya pada sidang semalam.

Bagaimanapun, beliau berkata, perintah kuarantin itu boleh di-lanjutkan sekiranya negara yang dilawati berisiko tinggi.

Dr. Noor Hisham berkata, ang-gota delegasi yang mengikuti la-watan rasmi urusan negara di-berikan kelonggaran kuarantin wajib di rumah atau kediaman

masing-masing.

Beliau berkata, ketika Perdana Menteri Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin ke Jakarta baru-baru ini, beliau terlebih dahulu menjalani ujian, calitan RT-PCR pada 3 Fe-bruari sebelum berlepas.

Sebaik tiba di Jakarta pada 4 Februari, Perdana Menteri men-jalani satu lagi ujian calitan dan sekembalinya ke negara ini beliau menjalani perintah pengawasan di rumah (HSO).

"Pada 5 Februari, saya keluar-kan HSO untuk kuarantin di ru-mah dan memakai gelang. Ujian calitan dijalankan hari ini (se-malam) 9 Februari, iaitu hari ke-lima dan beliau akan melengkap-kan jadual kuarantin untuk tujuh hari," katanya.

Dr. Noor Hisham berkata, Pe-rintah Pengecualian diwartakan berkuat kuasa pada 9 Februari hingga 1 Ogos 2021 itu memberi pengecualian kepada Menteri Ka-binet yang kembali dari ma-na-mana lawatan rasmi keluar ne-gara daripada peruntukan Sek-syen 15(1), sebaliknya mereka akan menjalani perintah baki selama tiga hari atau menjalani penga-wasan sehingga boleh dilepaskan tanpa membahayakan orang lain.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO
 MUKA SURAT : 8
 RUANGAN : COVID-19

Kes dijangka catat 2 angka pertengahan Mei

Kuala Lumpur: Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) menjangkakan kes harian Covid-19 merekodkan dua angka pada pertengahan Mei ini.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, jumlah kes harian berjaya melepasi kemuncak kes tertinggi pada 31 Januari lalu

dengan 5,298 kes. "Penurunan kes yang dilihat kini disebabkan pelaksanaan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP) sejak tiga minggu lalu.

"Sebelum ini kita jangkakan jumlah kes kembali menurun selepas pelaksa-

naan PKP dalam tempoh empat minggu, kini kita memasuki minggu ketiga dan baki seminggu itu kita mungkin lihat penurunan lagi kes Covid-19," katanya pada sidang media perkembangan Covid-19, semalam.

Bellau berkata, kes di kebanyakan negeri juga dilihat terdapat penurunan nilai kebolehhajkitan (RT) atau R-naught, (R0) iaitu Sabah kini dengan 0.81 dan Kelantan 0.77.

"Kebanyakan kes di Kelantan berpunca daripada

kes rentas negeri iaitu terdapat 31 kluster di kesan dan 96 peratus daripadanya memabatkan warganegara.

"Terengganu turut menunjukkan penurunan nilai RT iaitu 0.86 serta Sarawak 1.0 dan diharapkan

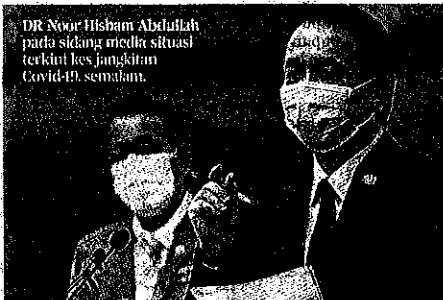
penurunan kes di Sarawak ini dapat dikawal," katanya.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, disebabkan nilai RT menunjukkan perkembangan baik, beliau meminta supaya masyarakat kekal mematuhi prosedur operasi standard (SOP) terutama ketika Tahun Baharu Cina kelak.

ISU SOP KUARANTIN JEMAAH MENTERI

Kuasa menteri buat pengecualian

Oleh Amir Abd Hamid dan Hafidzul Hilmi Mohd Noor
 am@hmetro.com.my



DR Noor Hisham Abdullah pada sidang media situasi terkini kes jangkitan Covid-19 semalam.

Kuala Lumpur

Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) semalam menjelaskan mengenai isu diperkatakan masyarakat berhubung dakwaan anggota Kabinet menjalani kuarantin tiga hari selepas pulang iawatan luar negara.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, ia perlu dijelaskan yang menggunakan Seksyen 29 Akta Pencegahan dan Pengawalan Penyakit Berjangkit 1988 (Akta 342), Perintah Pencegahan dan Pengawalan Penyakit Berjangkit (Pencegualan) 2021.

Bellau berkata, semalam sudah pun diwartakan iaitu menggunakan Seksyen 29 daripada Akta 342 memberi kuasa kepada Menteri Kesihatan untuk membuat pengecualian melalui perintah itu.

"Sebelum ini kita menggunakan Akta 342 Seksyen 15 (1) iaitu setiap individu pulang dari luar negara akan diberikan perintah pengecualian di rumah (HSO) dan dipakaikan gelang yang

akan dikuarantin tempohnya dahulu 14 hari, dipendekkan kepada 10 hari.

"Daripada 10 hari kita boleh pertimbangkan untuk tujuh hari melainkan kalau tiga hari sudah pun dijalankan ujian di negara berkenaan, sebelum mereka kembali ke Malaysia.

"Tetapi, Akta Seksyen 29 mengemukakan menggunakan Seksyen 15 (1). Kalau kita baca iaitu perintah pengecualian diwartakan berkuat kuasa pada 9 Februari lalu sehingga 1 Ogos depan," katanya dalam sidang media berhubung situasi semasa jangkitan virus Covid-19, semalam.

Bellau berkata, menurut warta itu, di mana pengecualian Jemaaah Menteri yang kembali dari ma-

na-mana lawatan rasmi ke luar negara daripada pemarkan Seksyen 15 Akta yang sama.

"Sebaliknya mereka akan menjalani perintah pemerintahan selama tiga hari atau menjalani pengawasan sehingga boleh dilepaskan tanpa membahayakan orang lain.

"Jadi (perkataan) atau itu mungkin tujuh hari, mungkin 14 hari atau mungkin dilanjutkan sampai 21 hari.

"Kita lihat sekiranya mereka kembali, kita menggunakan Seksyen 29, mereka kena patuh kepada laluan hijau timbal balik. Sebelum mereka bertolak, mengemukakan permohonan kepada Jemaaah Menteri dan Kabinet akan luluskan. Apabila Kabinet luluskan, kita

akan melihat jadual, prosedur operasi standard (SOP) dan juga urusan yang rasmi," katanya.

Berkenaan lawatan Perdana Menteri Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin bertemu Presiden Indonesia Joko Widodo di Jakarta, baru baru ini, katanya, ujian *Real-Time Reverse Transcription-Polymerase Chain Reaction* (RT-PCR) sudah dijalankan kepada pemimpin negara pada 3 Februari lalu sebelum berlepas.

"Apabila sampai ke Jakarta, pada 4 Februari lalu ujian sekali lagi dijalankan dan kembali ke Malaysia. Pada 5 Februari lalu iaitu hari pertama, saya sudah pun keluar kebenaran HSO untuk kuarantin di rumah dan dipakaikan gelang.

"Ujian swab dijalankan pada hari ini iaitu pada hari kelima dan akan melengkapkan jadual kuarantin untuk tempoh tujuh hari. Jadi, tujuh tempoh tiga adalah 10 hari," katanya.

Bagi lawatan ke luar negara katanya, hanya untuk urusan yang rasmi dan jadual sudah pun dikemukakan.

"Kita akan melibat kepada aktiviti yang ringkas dan padat, tetapi tidak memabatkan orang ramai contohnya di tempat awam," katanya.

Kuala Lumpur: Kes baharu Covid-19 di negara semalam mencatatkan penurunan iaitu 2,764 kes dengan 33 kematian.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, jumlah keseluruhan kes positif Covid-19 di Malaysia meningkat kepada 248,316 kes dengan kebolehhajkitan pula sebanyak 51,241 kes.

Bellau berkata, Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) turut merekodkan bi-

Kes positif baharu catat penurunan semalam

langan kes sembuh Covid-19 sebanyak 3,887 kes menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes pulih adalah 196,566 kes.

"Daripada jumlah kes baharu berkenaan, terdapat enam kes import yang mendapat jangkitan dari luar negara manakala penularan dalam negara pula adalah 2,758 kes.

"Selangor melaporkan kes harian baharu tertinggi iaitu

sebanyak 862 kes (31.2 peratus). Daripada jumlah ini, sebanyak 668 kes (77.5 peratus) adalah daripada kluster dan saringan kontak rapat Covid-19 yang aktif dijalankan di lapangan. Ini diikuti Johor sebanyak 521 kes (18.8 peratus), dan Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur sebanyak 422 kes (15.3 peratus).

Sebanyak 51 kes (1.8 pe-

ratus) yang dilaporkan pula adalah berkaitan kluster di lokap, depot tahanan Imigrasi, dan penjara yang memabatkan Kluster Tembok Sungai Udang (27 kes), Kluster Tembok Renggam (9 kes), Kluster Tembok Pengkalan Chepa (8 kes), Kluster Penjara Jalan Harapan (4 kes) dan Kluster Tembok Bukit Besi (3 kes)," katanya pada sidang media perkembangan Covid-19, semalam.

Bellau turut memaklumkan bahawa terdapat pertambahan 12 kematian semalam, menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes kematian adalah sebanyak 909 kes atau 0.36 peratus.

"Selingga kini, terdapat 289 kes positif Covid-19 yang sedang dirawat di Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU), di mana 127 kes memerlukan bantu-

an pernafasan.

"KKM turut mengesan 12 kluster baharu iaitu Kluster Tapak Bina Perstarian Puteri, Kluster Kejuruteraan Subang Baru, Kluster Industri Mahkota, Kluster Senai City Lapan, Kluster Besi Cyber, Kluster Jalan Parit Mesjid, Kluster Jalan Cyber 14, Kluster Tapak Bina Jalan Pantal, Kluster Jalan Budiman, Kluster Dialisis Masjid Tanah, Kluster Httlu Jerocco dan Kluster Lengkok Emas," katanya.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 9

RUANGAN : COVID-19

SEKARELAWAN dalam kajian klinikal fasa 3 vaksin Covid-19 masih diterima.



Peluang jadi sukarelawan masih terbuka

Kuala Lumpur: Peluang untuk menjadi sukarelawan dalam kajian klinikal fasa 3 vaksin Covid-19 masih terbuka.

Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) dalam satu hantaran menerusi laman Twitter rasminya memaklumkan antara syarat yang diletakkan adalah pemohon perlu berusia 18 tahun ke atas dan sihat.

Mereka yang berminat dan mahukan maklumat lanjut boleh menghubungi antara sembilan hospital yang menjadi tapak kajian tersebut menerusi aplikasi WhatsApp iaitu Hospital Ampang, Selangor (016-7286617 dan Telegram); Hos-

pital Umum Sarawak, Sarawak (012-3108108); Hospital Pulau Pinang, Pulau Pinang (014-9453599) dan Hospital Seberang Jaya, Pulau Pinang (014-9065518).

Selain itu, pemohon juga boleh menghubungi Hospital Sultanah Bahiyah, Kedah (019-5544976); Hospital Raja Permaisuri Bainun, Perak (017-63311654); Hospital Taiping, Perak (019-5544976); Hospital Sungai Buloh, Selangor (011-10045343) dan Hospital Sultan Abdul Halim, Kedah (017-7931938, 017-7931987, 011-57069114). Borang yang perlu diisi

secara dalam talian ataupun secara terus menerusi WhatsApp dengan memberi pautan untuk maklumat lanjut.

Bagaimanapun, setakat ini tapak kajian di Hospital Ampang sudah mempunyai sukarelawan yang mencukupi namun pihak terbabit memberi pautan untuk mengisi borang secara dalam talian bagi membolehkan mereka yang berminat dalam percubaan vaksin pada masa hadapan.

Setakat ini tapak kajian di Hospital Ampang mempunyai sukarelawan yang mencukupi

Pada 27 Januari lalu, Menteri Kesihatan Da-

tuk Seri Dr Adham Baba dalam satu kenyataan berkata, kajian klinikal fasa 3 vaksin Covid-19 dimulakan pada hari berkenaan di sembilan hospital, membabitkan 3,000 sukarelawan.

Beliau berkata, kajian klinikal itu ditaja oleh Institut Biologi Perubatan Akademik Sains Perubatan China (IMBCAMS) dengan objektif untuk menilai keselamatan dan keberkesanan vaksin terhadap jangkitan Covid-19.

Sembilan hospital yang terbabit dalam percubaan klinikal itu adalah di bawah penyelarasan Institut Penyelidikan Klinikal (ICR), Bernama.

AKHBAR : KOSMO
MUKA SURAT : 4
RUANGAN : NEGARA

Penurunan ekoran pelaksanaan PKP selama tiga minggu

Kes dijangka mendatar minggu depan

Oleh SITI A'ISYAH SUKAIMI

PUTRAJAYA - Jumlah kes harian Covid-19 dijangka akan mendatar dan terkawal dengan kadar kebolehhajatan, R-naught (RO) terus menurun kepada 0.6.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr. Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, penurunan kes yang dilihat kini ekoran pelaksanaan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP) sejak tiga minggu lalu.

"Sebelum ini kita jangkakan jumlah kes kembali menurun selepas pelaksanaan PKP dalam tempoh empat minggu, kini kita telah masuk minggu ketiga.

"Baki seminggu itu kita mungkin lihat penurunan lagi kes Covid-19 dengan nilai RO 0.6," katanya pada sidang akhbar semalam.

Mengulas lanjut, Noor Hisham berkata, sebanyak 3,887 kes sembuh dilaporkan, mengatasi kes harian negara yang semakin mencatatkan penurunan kepada 2,764 kes semalam.

Selangor kekal mencatatkan kes baharu tertinggi sebanyak 862 kes dengan 668 kes daripada kluster-kluster dan saringan kontak rapat yang aktif dijalankan di lapangan, diikuti oleh Johor sebanyak 521 kes dan Kuala Lumpur sebanyak 422 kes.



THAQAFI SHAMSUDDIN dan isteri, Sarifa Ahmad Faisal menikmati hidangan dalam kereta di Restoran Padi House, Cyberjaya semalam.

Terdapat 13 kematian dilaporkan di Selangor, Sabah, Sarawak, Johor dan Kuala Lumpur, memabatkan lapan lelaki dan lima wanita berusia antara 49 hingga 80 tahun menjadikan sebanyak 909 kes kematian Covid-19 di Malaysia.

Menurutnya, terdapat 12 kluster baharu dikenal pasti dengan 11 daripadanya berkaitan tempat kerja memabatkan Selangor, Johor, Kuala Lumpur, Sabah dan Negeri Sembilan.

Jelasnya, satu kluster memabatkan kumpulan berisiko tinggi iaitu Kluster Dialisis Masjid Tanah di Ajor Gajah, Melaka Tengah dan Jasir di Melaka serta Rembau di Negeri Sembilan.

Dalam perkembangan berasingan, Noor Hisham berkata, hanya menteri yang memenuhi syarat ketat serta kriteria ditetapkan akan dipertimbangkan untuk menjalani kuarantin tiga hari selepas pulang dari luar negara.

COVID-19

Angka terkini kes Covid-19 di Malaysia sehingga semalam

	Jumlah
Kes baharu	2,764
Import	6
Tempatan	2,758
Sembuh	3,887
Kematian	13
Masih dirawat	50,841
Jumlah kes sembuh	196,566
Jumlah kematian	909
Jumlah kes keseluruhan	248,316

Jelasnya, sekiranya syarat dan kriteria itu tidak dapat dipenuhi, menteri tersebut perlu menjalani prosedur kuarantin biasa selama 10 hari.

"Sebelum bertolak, mereka perlu mengemukakan permohonan kepada Jemaah Menteri dan apabila kabinet memutuskan, kita perlu melihat kepada prosedur operasi standard (SOP) dan perkara ini (ke luar negara) memabatkan urusan rasmi sahaja.

"Kita juga akan melihat kepada aktiviti ringkas, padat tetapi tidak memabatkan ramai orang misalnya di tempat awam," jelasnya.

Bellau berkata, paling penting ialah perlu menggunakan pesawat persendirian, manakala pesawat komersial tidak diberi pertimbangan.

Ujarnya, selain pesawat, mereka juga perlu diiringi oleh doktor selain perjalanan tersebut hanya untuk sehari malah perlu menjalani ujian saringan tiga hari sebelum bertolak.

"Justeru, kita akan membuat penilaian risiko mengikut yang telah ditetapkan dan sekiranya ia tidak dipenuhi, perlu menjalani kuarantin biasa selama 10 hari," katanya.

Terdahulu, media melaporkan, menteri yang kembali dari lawatan luar negara diberi pengecualian bagi menjalani pemerhatian hanya selama tiga hari atau pengawasan sehingga boleh dilepaskan tanpa memabatkan orang ramai.

Pengecualian tersebut berkuat kuasa mulai 9 Februari hingga 1 Ogos depan seperti dalam dokumen perintah berjudul "Pencegahan dan Pengawasan Penyakit Berjangkit (Pencegahan) 2021".

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19

Kluster Pasai jangkiti 6 generasi

Mula dikenali di Sibul, jadi penyumbang terbesar kes positif Covid-19 di Sarawak

kes pertama dilaporkan 9 Januari lalu. Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr. Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, penularan Covid-19 turut membabitkan 581 rumah panjang.

petugas kesihatan fikirannya zon hijau maka jangkitan telah berlaku, katanya. Beliau berkata, nilai kitaran ambang bagi Kluster Pasai adalah tinggi sekali gus menunjukkan kadar kebolehan kitaran sudah berkurangan.



DR NOOR HISHAM

tinggal dunia. Sepatutnya dia dikarantina di hotel tetapi menjalannya di rumah panjang katanya.

Dari pada jumlah tersebut enam adalah kes import melibatkan tiga warga negara dan tiga warga asing manakala sebanyak 2,758 kes adalah penularan tempatan.

Ole TUAN BUCHARAH TUAN MUHAMMAD ATMAN MUHAMMAD ATMAN PUTRAJAYA

Setakat ini, Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) telah mengesan 2,773 kes positif hasil 25,500 salingan. Katanya pada sidang akhbar pada

Strategi KKM awala lagi untuk melindungi orang ramai dengan memastikan mereka berada di pedalaman seperti rumah panjang dan orang asli.

DR NOOR HISHAM

Kluster Pasai yang mula dikenali di Sibul telah menjadi penyumbang terbesar kes positif Covid-19 di Sarawak

Menurutnya, sebanyak 19 kes kematian turut dilaporkan dalam tempoh sama menjadi. Dalam pada itu, Dr. Noor Hisham berkata, jumlah kes Covid-19 di negara ini sebanyak 909 kes (100 peratus).

Kluster Pasai yang melibatkan beberapa negara di Sarawak kini sudah merebak kepada enam generasi yang dijangkiti Covid-19 sejak

Menurutnya, kluster berkecenderungan turut menjangkiti 46 petugas kesihatan di kawasan yang terjejas. Mereka (pesakit) datang ke fasiliti kesihatan untuk mendapatkan rawatan teras mengakhiri

Menurutnya, kluster berkecenderungan turut menjangkiti 46 petugas kesihatan di kawasan yang terjejas. Mereka (pesakit) datang ke fasiliti kesihatan untuk mendapatkan rawatan teras mengakhiri

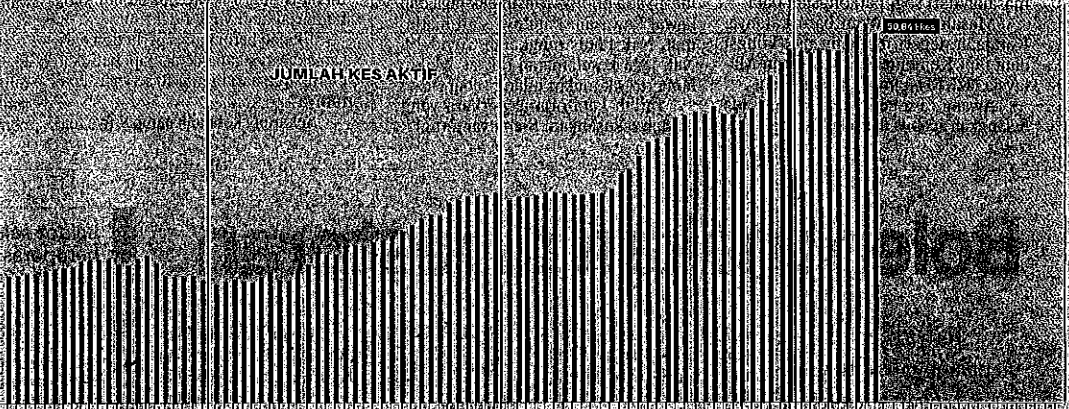
DR NOOR HISHAM

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SITUASI TERKINI KES COVID-19 DI MALAYSIA

Dikemas kini pada am 12 tengah hari, 10 Februari 2021



Bilangan kes Covid-19 mengikut negeri di Malaysia

Perlis 184

Kedah 1,361

P. Pinang 9,229

Perak 1,964

Selangor 8,044

KL & Putrajaya 14,571

N. Sembilan 12,507

Melaka 1,344

Johor 27,531

Kelantan 1,779

Labuan 724

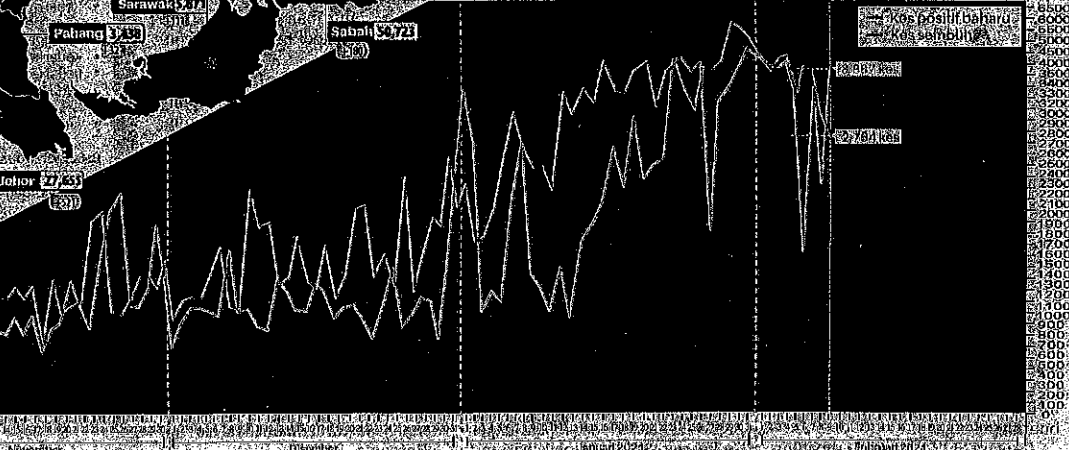
Terengganu 2,537

Sarawak 1,477

Pahang 3,139

Sabah 50,721

JUMLAH KES BAHARU DAN SEMBUH DILAPORKAN SETIAP HARI			
JUMLAH KESELURUHAN:	PULIH:	ICU:	KEMATIAN:
248,316	196,566	289	909



Jumlah jangkitan Covid-19 di Malaysia semalam meningkat daripada 245,552 kes kepada 249,316 kes

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA

MUKA SURAT : 1

RUANGAN : -

Lebih 200 ulama putuskan
hukum vaksinasi Covid-19

Vaksin harus

Oleh MAISARAH
SHEIKH RAHIM

maisarah.rahim@mediamulla.com.my

PUTRAJAYA: Sekurang-kurangnya 200 ulama dan profesional "memutuskan" kehárusan terima vaksin Covid-19 demi mencegah jangkitan dan pemuláran wabak itu atas kepentingan menjaga nyawa dan kesihatan manusia.

Bercakap kepada *Utusan Malaysia*, Mufti Pahang, Datuk Seri Dr. Abdul Rahman Osman

berkata, beberapa peringkat perbicaraan dilaksanakan sebelum membuat keputusan itu bermula dengan Jabatan Kemajuan Islam Malaysia (Jakim) membuat kertas berkaitan vaksin tersebut bersama Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) dan disertai beberapa tokoh lain. Menuntut beliau, keputusan tersebut kemudian dibawa ke Jawatankuasa Panel Syariah Jakim.

Bersambung di muka 2

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA

MUKA SURAT : 2

RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI

Vaksin harus

Dari muka 1

Beliau membenarkan, selepas kertas berkenaan diluluskan di peringkat jawatankuasa itu, ia dibawa ke Jawatankuasa Muzakarah Majlis Kebangsaan Bagi Hal Ehwal Ugama Islam yang dihadiri para mufti dan ahli jawatankuasa yang dilantik Majlis Raja-Raja.

"Selepas itu, persetujuan bersama dicapai di peringkat Jawatankuasa Fatwa negeri-negeri yang dianggotai 10 hingga 15 orang yang mengeluarkan fatwa di setiap negeri yang sepakat menyatakan vaksin tersebut harus dan boleh digunakan.

"Sekitar 200 orang Jawatankuasa Fatwa di negeri-negeri membuat keputusan dan menetapkan keyakinan vaksin tersebut sumbernya halal serta tidak ada unsur-unsur daripada sumber binatang dan sebagainya," katanya semalam.

Mesyuarat Khas Jawatankuasa Muzakarah Majlis Kebangsaan Bagi Hal Ehwal Ugama Islam yang bersidang pada 3 Disember tahun lalu mengambil ketetapan bahawa hukum penggunaan vaksin Covid-19 adalah haram dan ia wajib diambil oleh golongan ditetapkan kerajaan.

Menurut Abdul Rahman, keputusan jawatankuasa itu juga dibuat selepas menerima pakai perakuan kesejamatan vaksin oleh pihak berautoriti KKM yang merupakan pihak berkuasa tertinggi dalam hal ehwal kesihatan negara.



RAMAI ulama dan profesional memutuskan hukum terima vaksin Covid-19 harus demi mencegah jangkitan.



DR. ABUL RAHMAN

Katanya, walaupun wujud keraguan kajian vaksin memerlukan jangka masa panjang, namun pihak berkuasa agama mengambil mudarat yang lebih ringan kerana jika menunggu masa lebih lama, lebih ramai

orang dijangkiti wabak kerana tidak mendapat vaksin.

Selain itu, katanya, keputusan turut bersandarkan kepada penerimaan kebanyakan ulama dunia antaranya Universiti Al-Azhar dan Kesatuan Ulama Sedunia yang memperakukan dan telah menerima suntikan vaksin itu.

"Justeru, ia diputuskan banyak pihak dan berkeyakinan penuh atas keputusan yang dibuat KKM bergantung kepada 'Allah' atau sebab yang memutuskan hukum itu.

"Sebagai contoh, fatwa rokok atas sebab kumpulan pakar perubatan menyatakan ia boleh memudaratkan kesihatan tubuh, maka hukumnya diputuskan haram kerana pandangan ulama turut bersandarkan kepada pakar kesihatan jika ia berkaitan kesihatan," katanya.

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI

Vaksin Covid-19 selamatkan negara, dunia

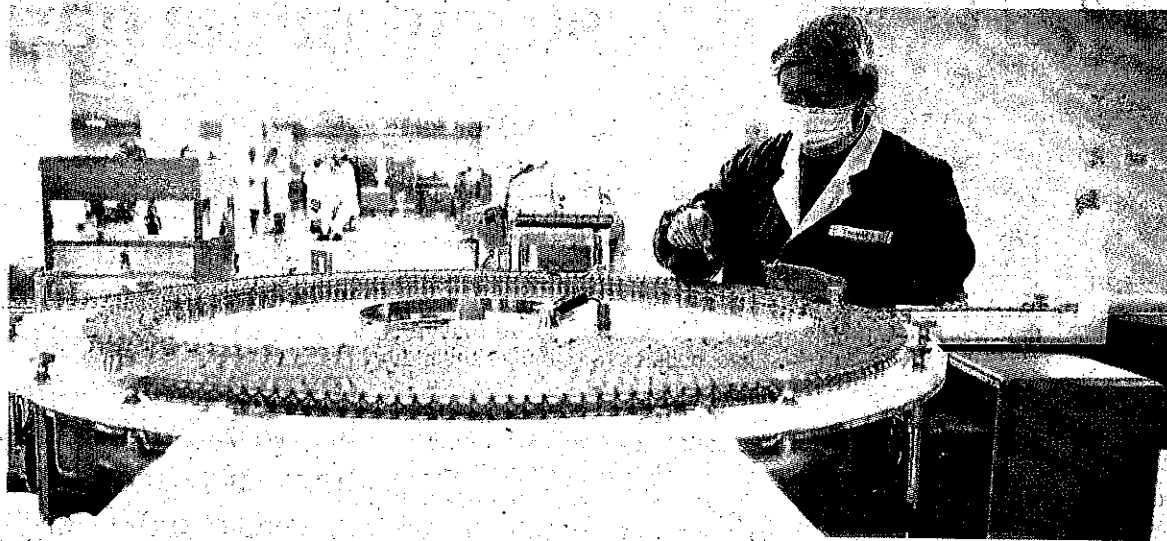
PETALING JAYA: Malaysia mampu mengecapi kejayaan dalam membendung wabak Covid-19 melalui program vaksinasi.

Ini menyorot kepada pengalaman dan kejayaan negara dalam membendung beberapa penyakit berbahaya yang pernah melanda negara seperti virus influenza A (H1N1), virus Nipah dan Sindrom Pernafasan Akut Teruk (SARS) walaupun bukan dalam skala besar.

Pakar perubatan kesihatan awam, Jabatan Perubatan Tentera Hospital Tuanku Mizan, **Kolonel Dr. Mohd. Arshil Moideen** berkata, hanya dengan penggunaan vaksin dapat membendung penularan Covid-19 yang setakat ini sudah merekodkan 248,316 keseluruhan kes dan 909 kematian di negara ini.

Kata beliau, suntikan vaksin kepada sekurang-kurangnya 65 peratus populasi negara ini sudah cukup untuk mengawal penularan wabak berkenaan.

“Cara paling utama sekarang ini hanyalah vaksin kerana mustahil kita membasmi wabak Covid-19 tanpa langkah pencegahan melaluinya sebab jangkitan sudah merebak di seluruh dunia,” katanya ketika dihubungi *Utusan Malaysia* di sini semalam.



SEORANG petugas makmal membuat ujian ke atas vaksin Sinovac di Beijing tahun lalu. - AFP

Malaysia dijadualkan menerima 12.8 juta dos vaksin Pfizer bermula akhir Februari ini dan telah memperoleh kelulusan bersyarat daripada Bahagian Regulatori Farmasi Negara (NPRA) Kementerian Kesihatan.

Pakar Mikrobiologi Klinikal, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), **Prof. Zamberi Sekawi** berkata, pengambilan vaksin terbukti berkesan menyingkap negara luar seperti Afrika yang berdepan dengan serangan virus Ebola.

Ini termasuklah kecekapan

kerajaan Malaysia dengan memberikan suntikan vaksin polio dinamakan vaksin polio oral hidup (OPV) dan polio tidak aktif berurutan (IPV) sebanyak empat dos bersama vaksin difteria, pertussis, tetanus dan *Haemophilus influenzae type b* (Hib) kepada kanak-kanak yang berumur 2, 3, 5 dan 18 bulan.

“Kita mesti menerima hakikat bahawa vaksin memang berkesan. Di negara luar juga terdapat laporan kes jangkitan sudah menurun selepas pelaksanaan program vaksinasi. Bagi

mereka yang enggan menerimanya, kena faham bahawa kita buat keputusan mestilah berdasarkan fakta dan bukti empirikal bukan hanya cakap-cakap sahaja,” kata Zamberi.

Pakar kesihatan sebuah hospital swasta, **Datuk Dr. Kuljit Singh** secara peribadi akan membawa semua ahli keluarganya mengambil suntikan vaksin Covid-19.

“Kita kena menggalakkan lebih ramai lagi mengambil suntikan vaksin dengan cara mendidik mereka,” katanya.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : STORY OF THE DAY/NEWS

Daily cases will drop to 2-digits by May, says Health Ministry

KUALA LUMPUR: The Health Ministry has maintained its projection that daily Covid-19 cases will eventually be reduced to two digits by the middle or end of May.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr. Noor Hisham Abdullah said the ministry was optimistic that it could significantly reduce the pandemic curve by next month or in April following the re-implementation of the Movement Control Order (MCO 2.0), which was extended to Feb 18.

"During our initial projection, we expected the number of daily cases to peak between 2,700 and 2,800. This was not the case after the country registered 5,298 new infections on Jan 31.

"However, with the implementation of MCO 2.0, we have since seen a reduction in cases. The ministry is upbeat that we can reduce the daily cases or curb transmissions within the community, provided that people continue to comply with the standard operating procedures (SOP) and continue to stay at home if there are no important matters that require them to do otherwise," Dr Noor Hisham said.

He said had MCO 2.0 been implemented only for two weeks, Malaysia would only be able to effectively bring the numbers down by September.

He said the Covid-19 infectivity rate (Rt) had shown improvements in the past nine days.

The Rt, he said, dropped to 0.91 after 3,100 new infections were detected by the ministry up to Monday.

"The ministry believes that the

Rt will be even less than the day before (Monday) after 2,764 new infections were detected up to noon today (yesterday).

"We hope we can reduce the Rt from 1.2 to 0.6 in the coming weeks," he said.

He said Selangor continued to register the highest number of daily Covid-19 cases for 13 consecutive days, although the number of new infections in the past 24 hours in the state had dropped below the 1,000-case mark.

With a total of 862 new cases, the number accounted for one-third of the 2,764 cases reported to the Health Ministry up to noon yesterday.

The cumulative cases in the country stood at 248,316 with 60,841 active cases.

Johor, he said, registered the second highest number of cases at 521, followed by Kuala Lumpur and Melaka at 422 cases and 203 cases, respectively. Other states which recorded three-digit new infections were Sabah (180), Penang (119 cases), and Sarawak (111).

Thirteen new Covid-19 fatalities were reported to the CHHS Preparedness and Response Centre (CPRC) yesterday, raising the overall death toll to 909.

With 3,887 Covid-19 patients discharged from the hospitals yesterday, there were more recoveries than new infections in the country, bringing the cumulative recoveries to 196,566.

"A total of 289 patients are being treated at the Intensive Care Units, with 127 requiring breathing assistance," he said.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NEWS/NATION

Health D-G: 3-day quarantine for ministers not a blanket procedure

PUTRAJAYA: The three-day quarantine and surveillance period for ministers returning from official visits abroad as provided for under Section 29 of the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases (Exemption) Order 2021 is not a blanket procedure.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr. Noor Hisham Abdullah said the length of the period would depend on the risk evaluation conducted by the Health Ministry before a minister departs for the trip.

Explaining the procedure involved under Section 29, Dr. Noor Hisham said, prior to the trip abroad, a minister is first required to apply for an exemption order from the cabinet for approval.

"Once approval is obtained, we

(the ministry) will conduct a risk evaluation by scrutinising the activities involved during the official visit.

"The (full scope of the) activities must be briefed. The activities must also not involve large crowds or take place in public places.

"The most important thing is that the mode of transportation for the official visit must be via a private aircraft.

"Official trips where commercial flights are used would not be considered (to be granted the exemption order)," he said during a press conference on the Covid-19 situation in the country here yesterday.

He also elaborated on the wordings used to explain the conditions of the exemption order.

"The condition states that cabinet ministers who return from official visits abroad will only have to undergo three days of observation or surveillance until they are discharged.

"I would like to emphasise the wording of the provision. In which a minister who returns from an official visit abroad could be placed under surveillance for a period of seven days or 14 days and have the surveillance period extended to 21 days (until the ministry is satisfied that the minister would not pose any danger to the public after being discharged).

"The three-day period would only be granted after a risk evaluation and once the ministry is satisfied with the (travel) bubble related to the official visit."

Section 29 of the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases (Exemption) Order 2021 exempts ministers from Section 15 of the same order. Section 15 requires individuals who are allowed to enter the country or returning from abroad to be placed under a 10-day mandatory quarantine period upon arrival.

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Adham Baba, in exercising the powers conferred to him by Section 29, signed the federal gazette which took effect yesterday.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) yesterday strongly denied claims made by Umno Supreme Council member Datuk Dr. Mohd Puad Zarkashi that the three-day quarantine order was gazetted for ministers returning from official trips abroad

solely because the prime minister did not want to be quarantined after his official visit to Indonesia.

In a statement, the PMO said Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin was handed the Home Surveillance Order and was given an observation wristband to wear as soon as he arrived from Jakarta on Feb. 5.

The statement said Muhyiddin was now undergoing quarantine at home.

"The slander hurled by Datuk Mohd Puad Zarkashi is malicious and aimed at tarnishing the good name of the prime minister," the statement read.

The PMO said legal action would be taken against Puad if he failed to make a public apology over the matter.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 2

RUANGAN : NATION

Three-day rule 'not a blanket ruling'

Adham: Ministers' fast track quarantine only for investment purposes

By ZAKIAH KOYA
zakiah@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: The decision to create a fast-track quarantine process for Cabinet ministers is specifically to address the country's investment woes, says Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba.

He explains that the exemption order, which will allow for a shortened period of three days of observation for ministers returning from official overseas visits, comes with many conditions and is not as simple as it seems.

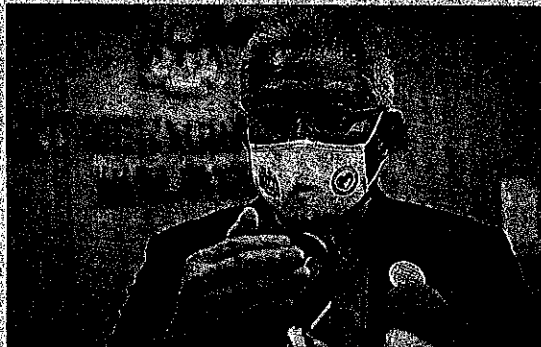
At present, Malaysian returnees from overseas are required to observe a 10-day mandatory self-quarantine.

He said that according to the guidelines on the exemption order which would be released soon, ministers visiting abroad would overall spend a total of seven days in isolation upon their return.

Dr Adham, speaking to *The Star*, said the exemption order only caters to Cabinet ministers needing to go abroad for investment purposes right now due to the necessity to create a "bubble" to allow them to travel.

He said there was an urgent need for such a leeway to bring in investments, as the economy was losing more than RM600mil a day due to the current travel restrictions.

"According to the guidelines on



Clearing the air: Dr Adham said that the exemption order comes with many conditions and is not as simple as it seems. — Bernama

the exemption order, prior to departure from Malaysia, ministers will have to take a swab test and if tested negative, they will be free to travel.

After touchdown, they need to take another swab test and follow the host country's laws," he said.

Before returning to Malaysia, they will also need to take a swab test and upon a negative result, they have to isolate themselves for three days there.

"Upon touchdown in Malaysia, they will take another swab and if found negative, they will be isolated for another three days for observa-

tion," he added.

However, Dr Adham said the ministers will not be released from isolation immediately after the three days.

"Only if the health authorities are completely certain that the minister is not a threat to the health of the community, then they will be allowed to be released from isolation."

"If there is even the slightest indication that they may be a carrier or suffering from symptoms, then they will be placed under further observation until the health authorities are completely satisfied before

releasing them," he said.

"The itinerary of official visits by ministers will also be monitored strictly before we ever allow them to travel."

It is not easy for ministers to just go anywhere and mix with just anyone during official visits with such a strict itinerary in place. There will be further checks when they return," Dr Adham added.

He said the exemption order was made after much discussions with health authorities and the Cabinet using the powers accorded to him as the Health Minister under Act 342 (Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Act 1988).

Once the guidelines are put in place and tested, this SOP may be opened to business groups.

"We will start with Cabinet ministers for now and if we feel that business groups — be they local or foreign — want to fly in or out, we will discuss applying the same method," said Dr Adham.

He is of the view that the public backlash on the three-day quarantine is due to a lack of official explanation and presumptions.

Malaysians took to social media to express discontent over the new rule allowing Cabinet ministers returning from official overseas visits to undergo a three-day observation period instead of 10 days, with accusations of double standards.

On Monday, the government

issued the new ministerial order that was to be enforced yesterday (10th Aug).

Under the new order published in the government gazette under the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Act (Act 342), Cabinet ministers returning from any overseas official visits are now exempted from Section 15 of the Act.

Instead, they will undergo observation for three days or surveillance until they are discharged without danger to the public.

"Read carefully. We included the word 'or' to ensure it will not be a blanket ruling for all ministers to fly in and out, and get off after three days," said Dr Adham.

Appealing for calm and stating that there was no double standard, he said the Health Ministry would not jeopardise the people's health by simply making exemptions.

"We are quite sure we will soon flatten the Covid-19 curve and we will succeed," he said.

However, the economy needs to recover and we need certain exemptions to encourage investors who are shying away from the country due to the many restrictions.



Ministers must fulfil conditions
See page 5

Ministers' 'travel bubble' isn't the first of its kind

PETALING JAYA: The "travel bubble" created by the exemption order to enable ministers who go abroad for investment purposes to only be quarantined for three days is not the first of its kind as Malaysia had already practised local travel bubbles, says Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba.

The bubble strictly determines where and whom the ministers can travel with, restrictions such as not breaking off from the itinerary or

wandering off on their own.

Dr Adham added that countries like Indonesia and the United Arab Emirates, which are trading partners of Malaysia, did not have quarantine periods for those returning from abroad.

Singapore follows the requirements for quarantine from time to time for those returning from abroad," he said when contacted yesterday.

He also said that Malaysia was

quite strict in its enforcement of the mandatory quarantine compared to many other countries.

Foreign investors intending to come here are also reluctant due to our strict period of lengthy quarantine of up to 10 days.

"This is why I needed to find a way to work around the quarantine period for those entering the country so that ministers would not have to spend so much of time in quarantine upon their return from abroad,"

said Dr Adham.

Last December, in an effort to revive the domestic tourism industry, the government created travel bubbles for those intending to travel from one green zone to another.

Tourism, Arts and Culture Datuk Seri Nancy Shukri said then that the ministry had also explored the possibility of having a travel bubble arrangements with other green zone countries.

she also said the ministry held consultations with several government agencies and tourism industry players to identify mechanisms to reopen cross-border tourism activities safely and systematically.

The travel itineraries will first be approved by the authorities involved, and travel arrangements will be made by licensed travel agency companies. She said in winding up the debate on the 2021 supply bill at the committee stage.

AKHBAR : THE STAR
 MUKA SURAT : 5
 RUANGAN : NATION

Covid-19: Current situation
 (As at 7pm Feb 9, 2021)

Malaysia **New cases 2,764** **Total cases 248,316** **Total deaths 909 (+13)** **Total recovered 196,566 (+3,887)**

State	New cases	State	New cases	State	New cases	State	New cases	State	New cases	State	New cases	State	New cases	State	New cases
Perlis	0	Kedah	+59	Penang	+119	Perak	+40	Selangor	+862	Kelantan	+62	Terengganu	+34	Pahang	+32
N.Sembilan	+99	Melaka	+203	Johor	+521	Sabah	+180	Sarawak	+111	K.Lumpur	+422	Putrajaya	+10	Labuan	10

Region	Confirmed cases	Deaths	Recovered
Asean+	16,747,777	119,273	14,997,641
Indonesia	540,227.0	11,296	499,764
Philippines	404,990	6,395	365,238
Japan	141,427	3,177	127,975
Myanmar	89,720	2,636	80,077
China	81,487	1,482	69,484
S. Korea	597,32	2,790	594,53
Singapore	29,746	79	18,366
Thailand	2,050	0	1,477
Vietnam	476	0	457
Cambodia	18	0	16
Brunei	45	0	41
Laos	10	0	10

Global Top 10	Confirmed cases	Deaths	Recovered
US	10,847,790	155,195	10,546,905
India	2,503,011	39,248	2,447,645
Brazil	3,998,216	77,598	3,493,886
Russia	1,077,718	19,048	1,058,670
UK	1,341,365	42,323	1,233,993
France	1,244,707	91,560	1,133,523
Spain	2,644,707	176,859	2,467,848
Italy	2,296,326	62,597	2,233,729
Turkey	2,258,326	62,597	2,195,729
Germany	62,597	1,000	61,597

More volunteers needed for vaccine clinical trial

KUALA LUMPUR: The Health Ministry (MOH) is looking for more volunteers to take part in Phase 3 of the Covid-19 vaccine clinical trial.

The MOH in a Twitter post said among the prescribed conditions are that applicants must be over 18 years old and healthy.

Those interested to volunteer or seeking further information can contact the Clinical

Research Centre (CRC) in nine hospitals via WhatsApp.

These include Hospital Ampang, Selangor (016-728-6617, also Telegram); Sarawak General Hospital (012-310-8108); Penang Hospital (014-9453399) and Hospital Seberang Jaya, Penang (014-908-5318); Hospital Sultanah Bahiyah, Kedah (019-554-34976); Hospital Sultan Abdul Halim, Kedah (017-793-

1938, 017-793-1987, 011-5766-9114); Hospital Raja Permaisuri Bainun, Perak (011-6331-1654); Hospital Taiping, Perak (019-8346373); and Hospital Sungai Buloh, Selangor (011-1004-5343).

The usual response when checked by Bernama is applicants are asked to fill up a form directly on WhatsApp or another platform while providing a link for further

details, before they take further action and contact the applicants.

However, the CRC in Hospital Ampang already has enough volunteers but they still provided a registration link for those interested to take part in any future vaccine trial.

Malaysia's Covid-19 vaccine clinical trial began on Jan 27 in nine hospitals involving some 3,000 volunteers.

Drastic drop to 2,764

Daily cases see lowest figure since implementation of MCO 2.0

By JOSEPH KAOS Jr and JO TIMBUONG
 newsdesk@thestar.com.my

PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia's daily Covid-19 cases have dropped to 2,764, the lowest figure since the implementation of the second movement control order.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr. Noor Hisham Abdullah said the number of positive cases in the country might continue to show a downward trend heading towards Feb 18, when the MCO is scheduled to end.

Since the implementation of MCO 2.0, it was expected that cases will not show a reduction in its first few weeks. However, the restriction of movement will help avoid any exponential surge of cases.

We saw how on Jan 31 the country recorded the highest number of daily cases at 5,298. However, a week after that, the cases went down and stabilised into a plateau.

So, we are hoping by Feb 18 when the MCO is scheduled to end, we will see the number of cases heading towards a downward trend, he said at the ministry's press conference yesterday.

Dr. Noor Hisham said the ministry was aiming for the Covid-19 infectivity rate (R0) to go down from 1.2 to 0.6.

If we can reach an R0 of 0.6 or less, it means that daily cases can be halved. For example, if there are 4,000 cases, the following day will go down to 2,000, and then 1,000, 500 and so forth.

This target can be reached, we can flatten the curve and we might be able to reach two-digit cases by the middle or end of May, he said.

However, Dr. Noor Hisham said reducing daily case figures would depend largely on the public's compliance with Covid-19 SOP.

This requires the full support of the public. If everyone can comply with the SOP and stay at home if there are no urgent matters, we



Time for updates: Dr. Noor Hisham arriving for a press conference on the latest Covid-19 situation at the Ministry of Health in Putrajaya.

can reduce the daily cases and stop the transmission of cases in the community, he said.

With Chinese New Year coming in, Dr. Noor Hisham called on Malaysians not to be complacent and to always practice fundamental Covid-19 preventive measures.

The last time Malaysia's Covid-19 daily cases were below the 3,000 mark was on Jan 13, on the first day of MCO 2.0, when there were 2,985 cases.

Since Feb 6, cases have gone downwards from 3,847 (Feb 6), 3,731 (Feb 7) to 3,100 (Feb 8).



Ministers must fulfil conditions, says Noor Hisham

PETALING JAYA: Cabinet ministers returning from official trips abroad will only observe three-day quarantine if they fulfil certain conditions, says Health director-general Tan Sri Dr. Noor Hisham Abdullah.

Before they depart, they need to submit an application to the cabinet, and once that is approved, we will look at their official business in their schedule as well as standard operating procedures, he said.

A risk assessment would be conducted once the application and a minister's travel itinerary is submitted.

Additionally, he said ministers need to travel in a private jet.

Travelling on commercial flights would make them ineligible for the three-day quarantine period.

Dr. Noor Hisham added that the schedule must also be short, tight and not involve many people in public places.

If they don't meet any of these criteria then they are subjected to the 10-day quarantine rule, he said.

Dr. Noor Hisham said this in response to a Federal Gazette signed by Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Adham Baba which states that cabinet ministers who are returning from any official overseas visit will be observed by three days of a under-supervised monitoring, can be released without quarantine in the public.

The ruling takes effect from Tuesday (9 Feb).

Dr. Noor Hisham also stressed on the part of the Federal Gazette, which suggests ministers could be put under observation until they are no longer deemed a threat to public health.

The 'or' part is crucial because they may be under observation for seven, 14 or even 21 days, he said.

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More volunteers sought to test out vaccine

KUALA LUMPUR: The Health Ministry is looking for more volunteers to take part in the third phase of the Covid-19 vaccine clinical trial.

The ministry posted on Twitter yesterday that among the requirements are that a volunteer must be aged over 18 and in good health.

Those interested to volunteer or are seeking more information can contact the Clinical Research Centre (CRC) or any of the nine designated hospitals via WhatsApp.

The hospitals are Ampang Hospital (016-7286 617, on WhatsApp and Telegram) and Sungai Buloh Hospital in Selangor (011-1004 5343), Sarawak General Hospital (012-3108 108), Penang Hospital (014-9453 599) and Seberang Jaya Hospital in Penang (014-9065 518), Sultanah Bahiyah Hospital (019-5544 976) and Sultan Abdul Halim Hospital in Kedah (017-7931 938, 017-7931 987, 011-57669 114), Raja Permaisuri Bainun Hospital

(011-63311 654) and Taiping Hospital in Perak (019-8546 373).

A check by Bernama found that those who had contacted these hospitals through WhatsApp were given a form to fill. There is also a link for further details.

According to the news agency, the CRC in Ampang has already reached its targeted number of volunteers but there is a link for interested parties to register for future trials.

Malaysia's Covid-19 vaccine clinical trials began on Jan 27, involving some 3,000 volunteers.

The third phase, sponsored by China's Institute of Medical Biology Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, is being carried out with the objective of assessing the safety and effectiveness of the vaccine against Covid-19 infection. The clinical trials at participating hospitals are being coordinated by the Health Ministry's Institute of Clinical Research.