

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

12,352 kes baharu babit Kategori Satu, Dua

Putrajaya: Sebanyak 98.5 peratus atau 12,352 kes daripada 12,541 jangkitan baharu dikesan semalam, adalah pesakit COVID-19 dalam Kategori Satu dan Dua, iaitu tidak mempunyai gejala atau hanya bergejala ringan.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata 6,504 kes atau 51.9 peratus dalam Kategori Satu yang tiada gejala, manakala 5,848 kes lagi atau 46.6 peratus dalam Kategori Dua bergejala ringan.

"Sementara itu, 0.7 peratus atau 86 pesakit yang dikesan hari

ini (semalam) berada dalam Kategori Tiga iaitu mempunyai jangkitan paru-paru, manakala bagi Kategori Empat, iaitu mempunyai jangkitan paru-paru dan memerlukan bantuan oksigen sebanyak 0.4 peratus atau 49 kes.

"Selebihnya, iaitu 54 pesakit lagi dalam Kategori Lima yang kini berada pada tahap kritikal dan memerlukan alat bantuan pernafasan," katanya dalam kenyataan semalam.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, kes penularan COVID-19 yang dilaporkan di negara ini menunjuk-

kan sedikit penurunan semalam, iaitu 12,541 kes dengan 115 kematian.

Beliau berkata, Selangor kekal menjadi negeri tertinggi melaporkan pertambahan kes harian dengan 5,512 kes baharu, diikuti Negeri Sembilan (1,619 kes); Kuala Lumpur (1,542); Johor (609); Melaka (575); Kedah (458); Sarawak (423); Pahang (382) dan Pulau Pinang (376).

"Selain itu, pertambahan kes baharu turut dilaporkan di Sabah dengan 326 kes; Perak (299); Kelantan (225); Terengganu (102);

Putrajaya (62); Labuan (24) dan Perlis (tujuh)," katanya.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, kes baharu hari ini (semalam) menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes COVID-19 meningkat kepada 893,323 kes. Sehingga kini, 114,053 kes masih aktif dengan kebole-hjangkitan COVID-19.

"Daripada jumlah itu, 896 kes kini dirawat di Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU) dengan 459 kes masih memerlukan alat bantuan pernafasan.

Mengenai kes kematian yang dilaporkan, ia menjadikan jum-

lah kumulatif kes kematian di negara ini meningkat kepada 6,728 kes," katanya.

Pada masa sama, setakat jam 12 tengah semalam, 6,742 kes sem-buh dilaporkan, menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan kes pulih sepenuhnya ialah 772,542 kes.

Sementara itu, sebanyak 37 kluster baharu COVID-19 dikenal pasti KKM semalam, dengan 19 membabitkan tempat kerja, komuniti (8), pusat tahanan (4) dan masing-masing tiga kluster kumpulan berisiko tinggi serta pen-didikan.

**Terkini
COVID-19**

6,742 Pulih, dibenar keluar hospital, semalam

12,541 Kes baharu disahkan, semalam

6,742 Jumlah kematian dicatat

893,323 jumlah kes disahkan positif

114,053 kes yang masih dirawat

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Negeri Fasa Dua tidak akan kembali ke Fasa Satu

Kuala Lumpur: Kerajaan memutuskan mana-mana negeri yang sudah memasuki Fasa Dua Pelan Pemulihan Negara (PPN), tidak akan kembali ke Fasa Satu, walaupun kembali berdepan peningkatan kes COVID-19.

Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba, berkata kerajaan sebaliknya membuat keputusan melaksanakan pendekatan bersasar terhadap negeri yang sudah berada dalam Fasa Dua PPN.

"Sekiranya angka jangkitan COVID-19 di negeri yang su-

dah beralih fasa adalah tinggi, hanya lokasi atau kawasan tertentu akan dikenakan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Diperketatkan (PKPD) dan bukannya seluruh negeri," katanya.

Sementara itu, mengulas pemantauan terhadap kesan sampingan atau susulan imunisasi (AEFI), Dr Adham berkata, sejak bermula Program Imunisasi COVID-19 Kebangsaan (PICK) sehingga 14 Julai lalu, sebanyak 11,656,905 dos vaksin COVID-19 diberikan dengan 19.0 respon sendiri bagi setiap 1,000

dos diterima melalui aplikasi MySejahtera bagi Kategori Kesan Biasa dan Minor.

Katanya, kesakitan pada tempat suntikan, sakit kepala dan keletihan, adalah antara kesan sampingan yang sering dialami penerima vaksin.

"Berdasarkan pelaporan sedia ada melalui sistem pemantauan AEFI Bahagian Regulatori Negara (NPR), sebanyak 1.12



Dr Adham Baba

laporan diterima bagi setiap 1,000 dos.

"Daripada pelaporan ini, hanya 0.06 bagi setiap 1,000 dos vaksin yang diklasifikasi sebagai serius yang memerlukan rawatan lanjut dan dimasukkan ke hospital," katanya.

Mengulas lanjut, katanya sebilangan besar kes itu hanya memerlukan kemasukan jangka pendek ke hospital dan sudah pun dikeluarkan se-

lepas pemerhatian dan rawatan yang sesuai diberikan.

Mengulas suntikan vaksin untuk pelajar Sijil Tinggi Persekolahan Malaysia (STPM) dan Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM), beliau berkata pelajar STPM yang berusia 18 tahun sudah dibenarkan menerima suntikan.

"KKM (Kementerian Kesihatan) masih menunggu ujian keradangan jantung atau *Myocarditis* dan *Pericarditis* sebelum membenarkan remaja bawah 17 tahun, termasuk calon SPM menerima vaksin COVID-19," katanya.

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 8

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Penularan COVID-19

Fasiliti DMZ HAT Tuanku Mizan serba lengkap

Kemudahan khas untuk rawat pesakit Kategori 3, 4 dan 5 COVID-19

Oleh Safeek Affendy Razali dan Mohd Amin Jalli
bhnews@bh.com.my

Kuala Lumpur: Andainya tiada sebarang pengumuman awal dibuat, pastinya ramai tidak menyangka bahawa Zon Pengurusan Bencana (DMZ) di Hospital Angkatan Tentera (HAT) Tuanku Mizan di sini, asalnya adalah ruang parkir bawah tanah hospital berkenaan.

Ini kerana kelengkapan rawatan dan perubatan disediakan di situ, sama lengkapnya seperti hospital lain yang menyediakan rawatan kepada pesakit Kategori 3, 4 dan 5 COVID-19, dalam usaha membantu Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) memerangi pandemik COVID-19.

Hanya kerana ketiadaan siling sama seperti hospital awam dengan nombor pada setiap tiang bangunan di ruang terbabit,

membuatkan ciri-cirinya sebagai kawasan parkir masih dikenali.

Namun meninjau secara dekat kemudahan disediakan di situ pasti mengagumkan pelawatnya, selain kelengkapan rawatan yang disediakan, dedikasi dan komitmen petugas membabitkan gabungan Angkatan Tentera Malaysia (ATM) dan KKM berada pada tahap tertinggi.

Pegawai Memerintah HAT Tuanku Mizan, Brig-Jen Datuk Dr Rosman Ab Rahman, berkata perkhidmatan DMZ itu tidak terhad kepada pesara dan anggota ATM sahaja, sebaliknya menerima kesemua pesakit awam khususnya sekitar Lembah Klang yang dirujuk ke situ.

"Kami menerima mana-mana pesakit COVID-19 yang dirujuk dari Pusat Penilaian COVID-19 (CAC) sekitar Lembah Klang, Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan COVID-19 (PKRC) Bersepadu 2.0 MAEPS di Serdang dan hospital berhampiran.

"Kami mempunyai lima pakar perubatan, masing-masing satu pakar bius dan pakar kecemasan serta sembilan pegawai perubatan, sambil dibantu 12 jururawat KKM serta 82 jururawat dan kakitangan sokongan ATM," katanya.

Dr Rosman berkata, kapasiti asal DMZ HAT Tuanku Mizan



Kakitangan perubatan menjalankan tugas di Zon Pengurusan Bencana, Hospital Angkatan Tentera Tuanku Mizan, Kuala Lumpur, semalam. (Foto Aswadi Alias/BH)



Kakitangan perubatan merawat pesakit di Zon Pengurusan Bencana, Hospital Angkatan Tentera Tuanku Mizan, semalam.

sebanyak 50 katil kini sudah ditambah kepada 150 katil lagi, khusus untuk pesakit yang memerlukan rawatan bekalan oksigen.

Ketika ini seramai 84 pesakit COVID-19 sedang dirawat di situ membabitkan enam pesakit di unit rawatan rapi (ICU), 48 pesakit Kategori 4, manakala 30 pesakit Kategori 3.

Sejak 9 Julai lalu, ATM menyediakan DMZ itu bagi menampung keperluan rawatan pesakit COVID-19 Kategori 4 dan 5 yang semakin meningkat di Lembah Klang.

Kemudahan itu menggunakan parkir bawah tanah HAT yang diwartakan sebagai DMZ kerana direka khas sejak awal pembinaan hospital berkenaan bagi menghadapi kes bencana kimia dan biologi.

Ketua Pengarah Perkhidmatan Kesihatan ATM, Lt Jen Datuk Dr Zulkeffeli Mat Jusoh, berkata konsep zon berkenaan sesuai dilaksanakan di semua HAT seluruh negara terutamanya dalam menangani pandemik dan bencana.

"Hari ini kita dapat lihat sendiri konsep yang sudah sekian

lama dirancang, dapat digunakan untuk perawatan COVID-19 di negara kita, terutamanya bagi menangani peningkatan kes khususnya membabitkan Kuala Lumpur dan Selangor.

"Pada mulanya kapasiti pesakit di sini adalah sebanyak 50 katil untuk tahap empat dan lima tetapi sekarang kita kembangkan kepada 150 katil," katanya kepada media selepas meninjau pengoperasian DMZ di HAT Tuanku Mizan pagi semalam.

Sementara itu, ruang parkir Hospital Tuanku Jaafar (HTJ) di Seremban juga, akan ditukarkan menjadi hospital hibrid bagi mengendalikan rawatan pesakit COVID-19 di Negeri Sembilan, yang semakin meningkat.

Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Bertindak Kesihatan, Alam Sekitar, Koperasi dan Kepenggunaan Negeri Sembilan, S Veerapan, berkata langkah diambil susulan keseimbangan kerajaan negeri terhadap penggunaan wad ICU HTJ yang kini beroperasi dalam kapasiti penuh.

"Kita terpaksa membuka hospital hibrid ini di tempat letak kereta sebagai langkah menampung peningkatan kes pesakit COVID-19. KKM sudah meluluskan permohonan membukanya yang dijangka beroperasi dalam masa terdekat," katanya.

AKHBAR : KOSMO
 MUKA SURAT : 4
 RUANGAN : NEGARA

12,541 kes direkodkan semalam

PUTRAJAYA - Angka kes harian negara menurun sedikit berbanding kelmarin dengan 12,541 kes termasuk 16 daripadanya kes import.

Ia sekali gus menjadikan jumlah kes kumulatif positif Covid-19 sebanyak 893,323 kes.

Kes aktif dengan kebolehhajngkitan Covid-19 pula terus meningkat kepada 114,053 kes termasuk 896 kes positif sedang dirawat di Unit Rawatan Rapi, manakala 459 kes memerlukan bantuan pernafasan.

Antara penyumbang kes harian semalam adalah daripada 37 kluster baharu dan berdasarkan pecahan mengikut negeri, Selangor merekodkan angka tertinggi sebanyak 5,512 kes, diikuti oleh Negeri Sembilan sebanyak 1,619 kes dan Kuala Lumpur sebanyak 1,542 kes.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr. Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, terdapat 115 kes kematian Covid-19 dilaporkan termasuk 11 warga asing melibatkan 69 lelaki dan 46 wanita.

Katanya, terdapat 24 kes meninggal dunia di luar hospital atau *brought-in-dead* (BID).

COVID-19

Angka terkini kes Covid-19 di Malaysia sehingga semalam

	Jumlah
Kes baharu	12,541
Import:	16
Tempatan:	12,525
Pulih	6,742
Kematian	115
Masih dirawat	114,053
Jumlah kes sembuh	772,542
Jumlah Kematian	6,728
Jumlah kes keseluruhan	893,323

"Dalam masa sama, daripada jumlah kes harian yang dilaporkan, sebanyak 6,504 kes (51.9 peratus) adalah daripada kategori satu tidak bergejala dan 5,848 kes (46.6 peratus) kategori dua bergejala ringan.

"Sebanyak 86 kes pula (0.7 peratus) kategori tiga radang pa-

ru-paru, 49 kes (0.4 peratus) kategori empat radang paru-paru dan memerlukan bantuan oksigen serta 54 kes (0.4 peratus) kategori lima kritikal dan memerlukan bantuan pernafasan atau ventilator," katanya dalam satu kenyataan akhbar di sini semalam.

Beliau berkata, kluster baharu dilaporkan semalam membabitkan 19 kluster tempat kerja, lapan kluster komuniti, empat kluster pusat tahanan serta masing-masing tiga kluster kumpulan berisiko tinggi dan pendidikan.

Tambah beliau, kadar kebolehhajngkitan kelmarin mendapati, nilai RT Malaysia adalah sebanyak 1.20 dengan Putrajaya merekodkan nilai RT tertinggi 1.32.

"Negeri-negeri lain yang mencatatkan RT melebihi 1.0 adalah Terengganu (nilai RT 1.27), Kedah (nilai RT 1.23), Selangor (nilai RT 1.20), Pulau Pinang (nilai RT 1.20), Negeri Sembilan (nilai RT 1.17), Kuala Lumpur (nilai RT 1.15), Melaka (nilai RT 1.14), Pahang (nilai RT 1.12),

Johor (nilai RT 1.10), Kelantan (nilai RT 1.10), Perak (nilai RT 1.10) dan Sabah (nilai RT 1.09)," katanya.

AKHBAR : KOSMO
MUKA SURAT : 6
RUANGAN : NEGARA

Hospital kini tidak cukup tempat simpanan

'Mohon sumbangan kontena isi mayat'

Oleh WARTAWAN KOSMO!

PUTRAJAYA – Berat mata memandang, berat lagi dugaan yang terpaksa ditempuh petugas kesihatan di Hospital Selangor apabila bahagian forensik hospital tersebut didakwa tidak lagi mampu menampung jumlah mayat ketika ini.

Menurut satu sumber dalam hospital berkenaan, jumlah kematian yang meningkat setiap hari termasuk yang meninggal dunia bukan akibat Covid-19 menyebabkan kini tiada ruang untuk meletakkan mayat.

Sehubungan itu, pihak hospital memerlukan sumbangan daripada pertubuhan bukan kerajaan (NGO) untuk membantu menyediakan kontena bagi meletakkan mayat berkenaan sebelum dikebumikan.

"Sudah tiada tempat dah (le-

tak mayat). Pagi ini (semalam), kita menerima 47 mayat dengan 16 daripadanya bukan Covid-19 dan ditempatkan di dalam peti ais buat masa ini.

"Selain itu, 24 lagi mayat positif Covid-19 disimpan di dalam kontena, peti mayat dan bilik bedah siasat," dakwanya kepada *Kosmo!* di sini semalam.

Lebih menyedihkan, sumber hospital itu mendakwa, peti mayat yang penuh menyebabkan mereka terpaksa meletakkan sebilangan mayat di atas meja bilik bedah siasat termasuk atas lantai berlapikkan kayu palet.

Bahkan dakwanya, mereka perlu mencari pelbagai alternatif segera termasuk meletakkan dua mayat di dalam satu peti mayat yang sama.

"Mayat ini adalah dalam kategori yang menunggu keputusan (saringan Covid-19)," ujarnya.

Dalam pada itu, sumber itu mendakwa, atas inisiatif sendiri, pihaknya telah memohon bantuan wakil rakyat di kawasan tersebut, namun tiada maklum balas diterima setakat ini.

"Kami memohon kontena baharu seperti yang diterima oleh Hospital Tengku Ampuan Rahimah, Klang. Keadaan sesak di sini ditambah kekurangan kakitangan.

"Difahamkan kontena baharu akan sampai pada bulan Disember berikutan tiada peruntukan. Bagaimanapun, kalau ada sumbangan daripada mana-mana pihak, mungkin pengurusan mayat menjadi lebih teratur," katanya.

Sementara itu, Kementerian Kesihatan memberitahu, Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri (JKN) Selangor akan mengeluarkan kenyataan berhubung isu berkenaan.



WARGA emas yang belum menerima janji temu vaksinasi boleh ke PPV di Lembah Klang bermula hari ini. – GAMBAR HIASAN

Vaksinasi walk-in warga emas bermula hari ini

PUTRAJAYA – Sistem vaksinasi secara tanpa janji temu (*walk-in*) kepada penduduk warga emas di Lembah Klang akan dimulakan hari ini, kata Menteri Penyelaras Imunisasi Covid-19, Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar.

Beliau berkata, warga emas sama ada yang telah atau belum berdaftar tetapi belum menerima janji temu akan dibenarkan untuk *walk-in* ke mana-mana pusat pemberian vaksinasi (PPV) di Lembah Klang.

Bagaimanapun katanya, bagi warga emas yang telah menerima janji temu, mereka diminta hadir ke PPV mengikut tarikh janji temu yang telah diberikan.

"Warga emas yang hadir secara *walk-in* akan dibenarkan masuk ke PPV menggunakan laluan khas," katanya dalam sidang akhbar bersama Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr. Adham Baba di sini semalam.

Katanya, bagi warga emas yang belum pernah mendaftar sama ada melalui MySejahtera atau laman web, pendaftaran akan dilaksanakan di PPV.

Khairy memberitahu, bagi

warga emas yang tidak memiliki aplikasi MySejahtera, petugas akan mendapatkan maklumat waris atau penjaga untuk dihubungi bagi peringatan vaksinasi dos kedua.

"Kesemua janji temu yang telah diberikan sehingga kini adalah bertarikh sebelum 1 Ogos ini," jelasnya.

Dalam pada itu, Khairy memberitahu, lebih 2.6 juta individu dewasa di Kuala Lumpur dan Selangor akan menerima sekurang-kurangnya suntikan dos pertama vaksin Covid-19 menjelang 1 Ogos depan.

Katanya, agihan vaksin itu akan dilaksanakan menerusi program dikenali sebagai Operasi Lonjakan Kapasiti, satu inisiatif bagi membendung penularan jangkitan Covid-19 di Lembah Klang ketika ini.

"Seramai 6.1 juta individu berusia 18 tahun direkodkan di Kuala Lumpur dan Selangor.

"Malah, sehingga semalam, seramai 3.5 juta daripada mereka sudah menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos dan baki 2.6 juta lagi belum menerima suntikan," katanya.



GAMBAR menunjukkan mayat diletakkan di atas meja bilik bedah siasat ekoran kekurangan kapasiti penyimpanan di Hospital Selangor.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN
 MUKA SURAT : 2
 RUANGAN : VAKSIN UNTUK RAKYAT

Situasi terburuk dua bulan lagi

Rakyat Malaysia perlu bersedia mendepani 24,000 kes baharu Covid-19 sehari menjelang September nanti

Oleh LIZA MOKHTAR

SHAH ALAM

Rakyat perlu bersedia secara psikologi untuk berdepan dengan jumlah kes Covid-19 yang dijangka meningkat sehingga 24,000 kes sehari menjelang September nanti.

Ahli ekonomi, Nungsari Ahmad Radhi berkata, rakyat juga perlu mematuhi prosedur operasi standard (SOP) yang tinggi dan membantu semampu yang boleh seandainya badai Covid-19 terus melanda.

"Kenyataan Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah yang meramalkan Malaysia akan mencapai tahap kemuncak penularan Covid-19 pada pertengahan September dengan 24,000 kes positif sehari tidak boleh dipandang remeh.

"Kebimbangan penularan meluas Covid-19 tidak boleh lagi dielakkan dan peningkatan jumlah kes dianggarkan sehingga 25,000 kes pada September kelak pasti memberi kesan kepada psikologi rakyat," ujar Nungsari kepada *Sinar Harian*.

Beliau berkata, persediaan psikologi amat perlu dalam mendepani krisis kesihatan itu berikutan ia bukan sahaja memberi kesan kepada nyawa, kelangsungan hidup malah mental rakyat.

"Isu psikologi dan mental perlu dipandang serius berikutan ramai yang semakin tertekan melihatkan situasi pandemik yang amat membimbangkan.

"Seharusnya kerajaan memainkan pera-

MENDEPANI KRISIS COVID-19: APA TINDAKAN KITA?

Persediaan psikologi amat perlu dalam mendepani Krisis Covid-19 berikutan ia bukan sahaja memberi kesan kepada nyawa, kelangsungan hidup malah mental rakyat.



nan aktif memastikan rakyat dapat mendepani situasi pandemik ini dengan lebih baik," ujar beliau.

Sehubungan itu, katanya, bagi 'menenangkan' rakyat yang selama ini akur patuh SOP, kerajaan wajar segera bertindak apabila trend nisbah jangkitan meningkat sejak beberapa bulan lalu.

"Trend nisbah kadar kebolehjangkitan (RT) meningkat dan melebihi 1.0 (bermakna jangkitan akan berganda) sudah jelas sejak beberapa bulan lalu. Kenapa dibiarkan tanpa langkah yang betul-betul dapat mengawal jangkitan?"

"Sekarang jelas, virus sudah merebak luas. Jadi, kita tidak boleh mengelak lagi, kita cuma boleh mengurangkan kesan jangkitan yang tinggi itu," katanya.

Namun begitu harapan masih ada apabila kenyataan Dr Noor Hisham turut menyebut sekiranya kita boleh melaksanakan 150,000 dos sehari untuk dos kedua dengan 80 peratus keberkesanan vaksinasi, pada Oktober kes harian positif Covid-19 akan turun di bawah 1,000 kes.

"Justeru, proses pemberian vaksin ha-



NUNGSARI

rus dipercepatkan, perbanyakkan tempat pemberian vaksin, permudahkan proses mendaftar dan sebagainya," katanya yang turut mengakui kerajaan sepatutnya lebih bersedia berdepan pandemik itu seperti mendapatkan vaksin lebih awal untuk diberikan kepada rakyat.

Disebabkan tempoh mencapai 80 peratus itu memakan masa hingga akhir Oktober, Nungsari berpendapat, kerajaan harus melanjutkan dan menambah bantuan isi rumah yang terjejas serta perniagaan yang kian tenat sehingga hujung tahun ini.

"Sambung dan perbanyakkan geran kepada peniaga kecil dan bantuan tunai kepada isi rumah hingga hujung tahun," katanya.

Beliau turut mencadangkan penyumbangan subsidi gaji kepada institusi perniagaan sehingga hujung tahun bagi mengelak pemberhentian pekerja.

Tegasnya, kerajaan harus bertindak agresif memastikan rakyat kembali bangkit meneruskan kehidupan selepas pandemik maut ini dapat dikawal.

Malaysia diramal capai 24,000 kes positif

PUTRAJAYA - Malaysia diramal mencapai tahap kemuncak penularan Covid-19 pada pertengahan September dengan 24,000 kes positif sehari.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, berdasarkan unjuran, kadar kebolehjangkitan (RT) ketika ini adalah 1.2.

"Keberkesanan vaksin berada pada 75 peratus sekiranya kapasiti pemberian dos kedua 100,000 sehari dan 80 peratus penduduk divaksinasi," katanya.

Namun beliau berkata, kes harian positif Covid-19 dijangka menurun di

bawah 1,000 kes setiap hari pada Oktober.

Katanya, berdasarkan unjuran yang dibentangkan Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia, kes terus meningkat sehingga 17,000 sehari pada pertengahan Ogos.

"Jika kita laksanakan 150,000 dos sehari untuk dos kedua dengan 80 peratus keberkesanan vaksinasi, pada Oktober kes harian Covid-19 akan turun di bawah 1,000," katanya.

Peningkatan kes Covid-19 direkodkan selama tiga hari berturut-turut sejak Selasa dengan kes tertinggi 13,215 dilaporkan pada Khamis.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : VAKSIN UNTUK RAKYAT

Vaksin Sinovac bukan dihentikan

Pharmaniaga sahkan syarikat itu telah memenuhi kontrak pembekalan 12 juta dos

Oleh TUAN BUQHAIIRAH
TUAN MUHAMAD ADNAN

SHAH ALAM

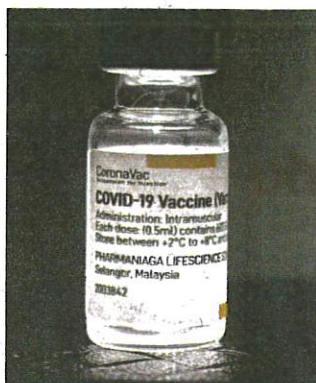
Bekalan vaksin Sinovac bukan ditamatkan atau dihentikan, sebaliknya Pharmaniaga Berhad (Pharmaniaga) telah memenuhi kontrak pembekalan 12 juta dos secara *fill and finish*.

Menerusi kenyataannya, Pharmaniaga memaklumkan syarikatnya perlu membekalkan vaksin tersebut dalam tempoh tujuh bulan iaitu antara Mei sehingga November.

"Apabila kes jangkitan Covid-19 naik secara mendadak daripada Mac 2021, Pharmaniaga membuat langkah proaktif untuk memenuhi keperluan negara dengan menyegerakan pembekalan vaksin Covid-19 Sinovac," katanya pada Jumaat.

Syarikat itu kemudian membuat pemesanan vaksin import siap untuk diagihkan seiringan dengan agihan vaksin jenis *fill and finish*.

"Dengan usaha tersebut, Pharmaniaga berjaya membekalkan sebanyak 12 juta dos dan kelompok dos terakhir akan di-



Pharmaniaga memaklumkan syarikatnya perlu membekalkan vaksin tersebut dalam tempoh tujuh bulan iaitu antara Mei sehingga November.

bekalkan pada 21 Julai iaitu 4.5 bulan lebih awal daripada jadual kontrak asal," katanya.

Pembekalan 12 juta dos ini melibatkan enam juta dos bagi suntikan pertama dan enam juta dos kedua.

"Memandangkan jumlah suntikan dos pertama di kesemua negeri sudah hampir mencecah enam juta, arahan telah diberikan untuk memberhentikan pemberian dos pertama dan menumpukan kepada pemberian dos kedua.

"Ia bagi mengelakkan kes tiada stok untuk dos kedua sekiranya dos pertama diberi lebih daripada enam juta dos," menurut syarikat itu.

Justeru jelas kenyataan tersebut, syarikat itu berasa bangga kerana menjadi syarikat pertama yang membekalkan kesemua keperluan kerajaan jauh lebih awal daripada jadual kontrak bagi membantu meningkatkan kesejahteraan rakyat.

"Pharmaniaga mengucapkan terima kasih kepada kerajaan atas kepercayaan yang diberikan," katanya.

Pada Khamis, Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba mengesahkan pihaknya menghentikan agihan vaksin Sinovac ke semua pusat pemberian vaksin (PPV) di Kelantan dan menggantikannya dengan vaksin Pfizer.

Langkah itu diputuskan kerana negara telah menerima banyak bekalan dos Comirnaty untuk memenuhi keperluan 22.2 juta penduduk.

'Jangan ragu-ragu guna Sinovac'

SHAH ALAM - Orang ramai tidak perlu bimbang dan ragu mengenai keberkesanan vaksin buatan syarikat biofarmaseutikal dari China, Sinovac terhadap varian Delta.

Presiden Persatuan Farmasi Malaysia, Amrahi Buang berkata, kesemua vaksin Covid-19 termasuk Sinovac berkesan terhadap varian Delta setakat informasi yang terkini.

"Semua vaksin Covid-19 yang digunakan di negara ini setakat hari ini berkesan. Saya mohon orang ramai jangan sebar maklumat yang tidak tepat.

"Semua portfolio vaksin termasuk Sinopharm dan Johnson & Johnson yang baru diberikan pendaftaran bersyarat juga berkesan untuk digunakan," katanya kepada *Sinar Harian*.

Beliau mengulas mengenai keresahan rakyat Malaysia berhubung status vaksin Sinovac susulan dakwaan kerajaan tidak lagi menggunakan vaksin itu dan digantikan dengan vaksin Pfizer-BioNTech.

Amrahi berkata, ia bukan isu Sinovac berkesan atau tidak, sebaliknya bekalan baharu vaksin Pfizer telah sampai dan perlu digunakan,

Kerajaan beli 3 juta dos Sinovac lagi untuk simpanan

PUTRAJAYA - Kerajaan akan menambah pembelian tiga juta dos vaksin Covid-19 keluaran Sinovac untuk dijadikan stok simpanan.

Menteri Penyelaras Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan (PICK), Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar berkata, Sinovac akan digunakan kepada mereka yang alah terhadap vaksin lain.

"Tempahan itu akan selesai dihantar Pharmaniaga akhir bulan ini atau awal Ogos," katanya pada Jumaat.

Beliau turut menjelaskan tiada isu berbangkit berhubung bekalan Sinovac diganti dengan vaksin keluaran Pfizer.

"Bekalan Sinovac yang dikatakan digantikan disebabkan kita sudah habis bekalan bagi vaksin berkenaan," katanya.

Menurutnya, kesemua tempahan iaitu 12 juta dos Sinovac akan selesai dibekalkan pada hujung bulan ini.

Sementara itu, Khairy berkata, warga emas sekitar Lembah Klang yang belum menerima tarikh janji temu vaksinasi dibenar *walk-in* ke mana-mana pusat pemberian vaksin (PPV) bermula Sabtu.

Jelasnya, garis panduan akan disediakan di pusat PPV, selain warga emas dibenarkan masuk ke PPV menggunakan laluan khas.



AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN
 MUKA SURAT : 5
 RUANGAN : VAKSIN UNTUK RAKYAT

Kes positif turun kepada 12,541

Menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan positif kepada 893,323 kes, Selangor kekal catat kes tertinggi

Oleh **TUAN BUQHAIRAH TUAN MUHAMAD ADNAN**

PUTRAJAYA

Kes harian positif Covid-19 merekodkan sedikit penurunan dengan 12,541 kes dilaporkan pada Jumaat.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, jumlah itu terdiri daripada 6,504 kes kategori satu, 5,848 kategori dua iaitu bergejala.

"Sebanyak 86 kes mempunyai radang paru-paru (kategori tiga), 49 kes dikesan mempunyai radang paru-paru dan memerlukan bantuan pernafasan (kategori empat) manakala 54 yang lain adalah kritikal (kategori lima)," katanya dalam kenyataan pada Jumaat.

Menurutnya, Selangor kekal negeri tertinggi melaporkan kes harian baharu iaitu 5,512 jangkitan.

Negeri Sembilan pula me-

rekodkan 1,619 kes, Kuala Lumpur (1,542), Melaka (575), Kedah (458), Sarawak (423), Pahang (328), Pulau Pinang (376), Sabah (326), Perak (299), Kelantan (225), Terengganu (102), Putrajaya (62), Labuan (24) dan Perlis (tujuh).

"Pertambahan itu menjadikan jumlah keseluruhannya sebanyak 893,323 kes," katanya.

Beliau berkata, sebanyak 114,053 jumlah kes aktif direkodkan di seluruh negara termasuk 896 pesakit berada di unit rawatan rapi (ICU).



DR NOOR HISHAM

"Sebanyak 459 kes memerlukan bantuan pernafasan," katanya.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, Kementerian Kesihatan turut merekodkan 115 kematian membabitkan 104 rakyat tempatan dan 11 warga asing.

"Pertambahan kes kematian itu menjadikan jumlah keseluruhannya, 6,728 kes," katanya.

Sementara itu, sebanyak 6,742 kes telah sembuh sekaligus menjadikan jumlah kumulatifnya, 772,542 kes.

Pada perkembangan sama,

KKM turut merekodkan 37 kluster baharu membabitkan 19 kluster tempat kerja dan lapan kluster komuniti.

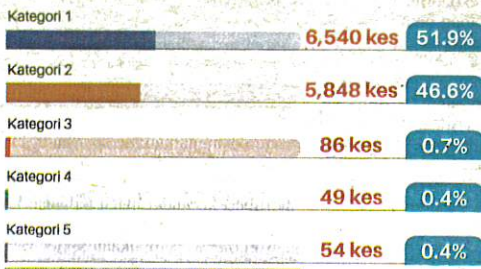
Turut dikesan masing-masing tiga kluster pusat tahanan dan kluster kumpulan berisiko tinggi serta kluster pendidikan lain.

Justeru, orang ramai termasuk individu yang telah menerima vaksin Covid-19 agar terus mematuhi saranan serta nasihat-nasihat kesihatan yang sering ditekankan.

"Elakkan kawasan sesak, sempit dan sembang dengan jarak dekat dan amalkan cuci tangan, pakai pelitup muka dan patuhi prosedur operasi standard (SOP)," katanya.

SITUASI TERKINI KES COVID-19 DI MALAYSIA

KES BAHARU MENGIKUT KATEGORI



Kategori 1
Tanpa gejala

Kategori 2
Gejala ringan

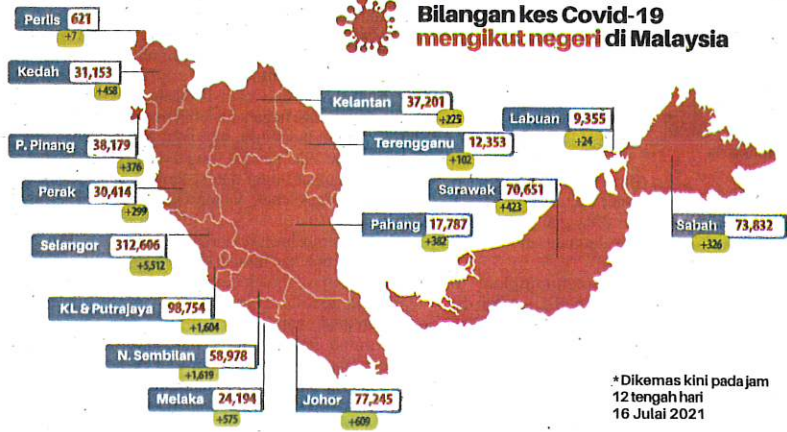
Kategori 3
Jangkitan paru-paru

Kategori 4
Jangkitan paru-paru memerlukan oksigen

Kategori 5
Ada jangkitan paru-paru dan memerlukan alat bantuan pernafasan

Sumber: CPKC Kebangsaan & Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia

Bilangan kes Covid-19 mengikut negeri di Malaysia



* Dikemas kini pada jam 12 tengah hari 16 Julai 2021

JUMLAH KES BAHARU DAN SEMBUH DILAPORKAN SETIAP HARI

JUMLAH KESELURUHAN:	893,323	PULIH:	772,542	ICU:	896	KEMATIAN:	6,728	KES BAHARU:	12,541	SUDAH DIVAKSIN:	13,107,716
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AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA

MUKA SURAT : MUKA DEPAN

RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI

Kes Covid-19 akan turun, vaksinasi meningkat

Lonjakan sementara

Oleh **OMAR ZIN, ZAREEN HUMAIRAH SEJAHAN** dan **SUBKHI SUDARJI**
utusannews@mediamulla.com.my

PETALING JAYA: Jangkitan Covid-19 yang melonjak hingga mencecah lebih 13,000 kes kelmarin hanya bersifat sementara, malah dijangka menurun tidak lama lagi.

Pakar-pakar kesihatan awam berpendapat peningkatannya dipengaruhi langkah kerajaan mengadakan saringan besar-besaran terutama di Selangor dan Kuala Lumpur.

Malah, Perintah Kawalan Diperketatkan (PKPD) di 34 mukim dalam Selangor tidak disambung lagi, dan tamat mulai semalam.

Bercakap kepada *Utusan Malaysia*, pakar kesihatan awam, Datuk Dr. Kuljit Singh berkata, lonjakan kes ketika ini bersifat sementara berikutan adanya ujian calitan yang dilakukan secara massa.

Beliau yang juga Presiden Persatuan

Hospital Swasta Malaysia menjelaskan, berikutan tindakan itu ramai pesakit Covid-19 dan pembawa virus dapat dikenal pasti lebih awal.

"Kita juga tahu kadar vaksinasi dalam negara sedang dipertingkatkan dan sehingga hari ini, jumlah vaksin yang dikeluarkan melebihi 400,000 dos termasuk 155,351 individu yang telah melengkapkan dos kedua," katanya.

Malah, Kementerian Wilayah Persekutuan turut menjangkakan kes Covid-19 di wilayah itu menyusut minggu depan hingga akhir bulan ini berikutan keadaan terkawal dan pencapaian peratusan suntikan vaksin yang tinggi.

Menterinya, Tan. Sri Annuar Musa berkata, jumlah kes positif Covid-19 di Kuala Lumpur dan Putrajaya menunjukkan aliran penurunan sehingga semalam dengan 1,552 kes direkodkan berbanding 1,598 kes Rabu lalu.

Bersambung di muka 2

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA
 MUKA SURAT : 2
 RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI



PEKERJA sektor perkilangan menunggu giliran mendapatkan vaksin di pusat pemberian vaksin dalam Program Imunisasi Industri Covid-19 kerjasama awam swasta di Sendayan, Seremban. - UTUSAN/MOHD. SHAHJEHAN MAAMIN.

Lonjakan sementara

Dari muka 1

Katanya, kementerian akan terus memperhebatkan program vaksinasi secara besar-besaran agar Wilayah Persekutuan dapat mencapai imuniti kelompok seawal mungkin.

Sementara itu, jumlah pemberian vaksin Covid-19 harian terus mencatatkan peningkatan dengan 460,158 dos suntikan menjadikan ia jumlah tertinggi setakat ini.

Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr. Adham Baba memberitahu, menerusi perkongsian infografik data pemberian vaksin Covid-19 di Twitter, beliau memaklumkan daripada jumlah itu, 304,807 individu menerima dos pertama dan 155,351 lagi melengkapkan dos kedua.

Perkembangan itu menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan pemberian vaksin menerusi Program Imunisasi Covid-19

Kebangsaan yang dilaksanakan sejak 24 Februari adalah sebanyak 13,107,716 dos.

Seorang lagi pakar kesihatan, Profesor Dr. Noran Naqiah Mohd. Hairi berkata, orang ramai tidak seharusnya bersikap sambil lewa dengan pematuan prosedur operasi standard (SOP) walaupun telah divaksin.

"Selepas mengambil vaksin, orang ramai masih perlu pastikan SOP dipatuhi dengan serius. Kebanyakan kes dalam komuniti kini juga adalah penularan sporadik, malah sekiranya adanya varian baharu seperti varian Delta," katanya.

Pakar ekonomi pula berpandangan kerajaan wajar membuka semula ekonomi seawal bulan hadapan tetapi dengan cara selamat.

Pensyarah ekonomi Universiti Sunway, Dr. Yeah Kim Leng berkata, bilangan kes Covid-19 tidak seharusnya menjadi

ukuran untuk terus menutup ekonomi, sebaliknya perlu mengambil kira tahap vaksinasi di satu-satu kawasan.

"Peningkatan kadar vaksinasi di negara ini sepatutnya dijadikan ukuran kerana ia akan menurunkan bilangan kes Covid-19, kesesakan di hospital tidak lama lagi, sekaligus membolehkan transisi kepada membuka semula aktiviti ekonomi," katanya.

Prof. Madya Dr. Ahmed Razman Abdul Latiff dari Putra Business School (PBS) pula berkata, ekonomi hanya boleh dibuka semula bulan depan jika kadar penggunaan katil di unit rawatan rapi (ICU) dan kadar kematian menurun.

"Walaupun unjuran ekonomi akan diturunkan, masih ada ruang ekonomi kembali pulih untuk separuh tahun kedua tahun ini jika sektor ekonomi kembali dibuka," katanya.

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



A firefighter sanitising the IDCC vaccination centre in Shah Alam on Thursday. BERNAMA PIC

OPERATION SURGE CAPACITY

ADULTS IN KL, SELANGOR TO GET JABS BY AUG 1

CITF making arrangements to boost supplies and capacity, says Khairy

THARANYA ARUMUGAM
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THE government has launched a new initiative dubbed "Operation Surge Capacity" for Kuala Lumpur and Selangor to accelerate the vaccination drive amid the spike in Covid-19 cases in the Klang Valley.

Covid-19 National Immunisation Programme (NIP) Coordinating Minister Khairy Jamaluddin said under this operation, the government would ensure that every adult resident of Selangor and Kuala Lumpur aged 18 and above will receive at least one dose of the Covid-19 vaccine by Aug 1.

"This is a new initiative that we have worked out as agreed by the National Security Council on Thursday and discussed this morning (yesterday) with the Covid-19 Immunisation Task Force (CITF), along with the Selangor menteri besar and the federal territories minister.

"Following the drastic increase in fresh Covid-19 infections, especially of late in the Klang Valley, CITF is making arrangements to boost the supplies and vaccination capacity, particularly in Kuala Lumpur and Selangor, which have become the epicentre of the outbreak in the country.

"Operation Surge Capacity is an extraordinary effort that we will implement with the target of administering the first vaccine dose to the remaining adult population in Selangor and Kuala Lumpur from July 26 to Aug 1.

"The second dose is expected to be completed by the end of August according to the set period," he said in a joint virtual press conference with Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba yesterday.

Khairy said 6.1 million people comprising the adult population in Kuala Lumpur and Selangor were targeted to receive at least one dose of the Covid-19 vaccine by Aug 1.

"Up to July 15, 3.5 million of them have received their first dose. Another 1.3 million people are targeted to receive the first dose up until July 25 and the remaining 1.3 million are targeted to receive the first dose until Aug 1."

He said to achieve the goal, the government would have to increase the vaccine supplies and capacity in Selangor and Kuala Lumpur to better manage the outbreak. The two states would see a boost from the existing 180,000 doses per day to 272,000 doses per day from July 26 to Aug 1 (of which 181,000 are for the first dose and 91,000 for the second dose), he said.

"For the same purpose, we are also making adjustments to the delivery of vaccine supplies to the states to match the capacity to be increased. Vaccination capacity at all vaccination centres (PPVs), including those under ProtectHealth will be increased."

Khairy, who is also science, technology and innovation minister, said to ensure the success of the operation, all adults aged 18 and above in the Klang Valley should register themselves for the Covid-19 vaccine.

He said 11 per cent of the population aged 18 and above in the Klang Valley had yet to register.

"Efforts to intensify the vaccination in Selangor and Kuala Lumpur are similar to when we launched a mission for Labuan previously to control the spread there.

"To date, the Federal Territory of Labuan has successfully vaccinated 85.3 per cent of its adult population. Its infectious rate, or Rt value, until yesterday (Thursday) is the second lowest in the country, above only Perlis, which is 0.84, with only 26 cases recorded.

"We hope the same model and results can be adapted and achieved in Selangor and Kuala Lumpur," he added.

For eligible adults who may not be in the government's system — undocumented migrants or people without valid documents — Khairy said the government has decided to open up all PPVs in Kuala Lumpur and Selangor to allow walk-ins effective Aug 1.

"Once the operation ends on Aug 1, these individuals can walk in for their jabs. This is to ensure we cover all those eligible for the vaccine in these two states."

Khairy also announced that all registered and unregistered senior citizens (aged 60 and above) who have not received an appointment can walk-in to any PPVs in the Klang Valley for their Covid-19 jabs starting today.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NEWS/NATION

SELANGOR HIGHEST CONTRIBUTOR

'MOSTLY ASYMPTOMATIC, MILD CASES'

98.5pc out of 12,541 new cases yesterday are Categories 1 and 2 patients, says Dr Noor Hisham

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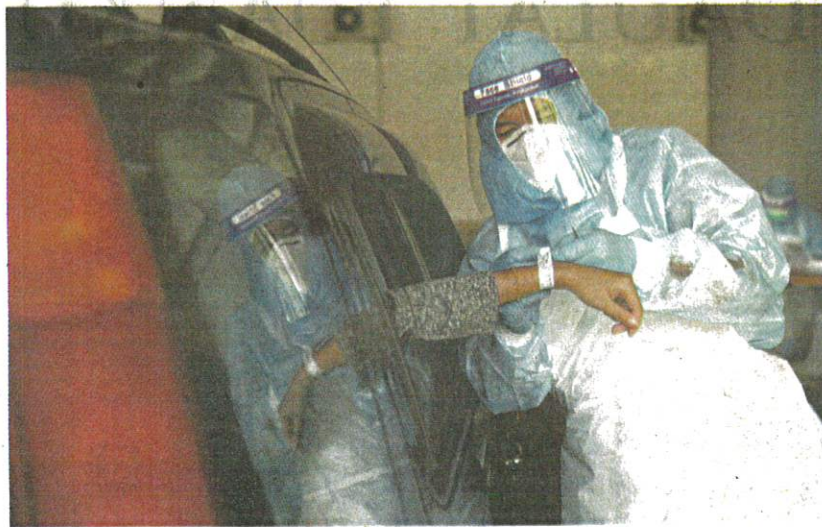
MOST new Covid-19 infections recorded yesterday were Category 1 and 2 patients who showed no common symptoms or mild symptoms.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said out of the 12,541 new cases reported yesterday, 98.5 per cent, or 12,352 cases, were from the two categories.

"There are 6,504 Category 1 patients, or 51.9 per cent, who did not display any Covid-19 symptoms and 5,848 cases, or 46.6 per cent, in Category 2 who showed mild symptoms.

"Eighty-six patients, or 0.7 per cent, in Category 3 had pneumonia and 49 patients, or 0.4 per cent, in Category 4 had pneumonia and needed oxygen therapy.

"There are 54 patients, or 0.4 per cent, in Category 5 who are in critical condition and require breathing assistance."



A health frontline worker fastens a wristband on a person at a drive-through Covid-19 screening at Terminal Sentral Kuantan in Kuantan yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

He said 141,523 Covid-19 tests were conducted in the country up to Thursday, involving 65,822 reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction and 75,701 Antigen Rapid Test Kit tests.

"Selangor carried out 52,889 tests, while Kuala Lumpur conducted 18,369 tests.

"We are capable of conducting

more tests by including more private laboratories. This is best for Covid-19 targeted screening."

Selangor contributed the highest number of cases yesterday at 5,512, followed by Negri Sembilan and Kuala Lumpur with 1,619 and 1,542 cases, respectively.

Ten states reported a three-digit rise in cases — 609 in Johor, 575

in Melaka, 458 in Kedah, 423 in Sarawak, 382 in Pahang, 376 in Penang, 326 in Sabah, 299 in Perak, 225 in Kelantan and 102 in Terengganu.

Putrajaya and Labuan recorded 62 and 24 new cases, respectively.

Perlis saw seven new cases, up from three cases on Thursday.

Dr Noor Hisham said the coun-

try recorded 6,742 recoveries at 115 deaths yesterday.

"A total of 91 patients died in hospitals, while 24 were brought in dead. A total of 87 patients had underlying health conditions.

"Of the fatalities, 69 were male and 46 were female."

Yesterday's fatalities pushed the cumulative Covid-19 death toll to 6,728, or 0.75 per cent of total cases.

Meanwhile, the Health Ministry has formally registered the Covid-19 outbreak among volunteers and healthcare workers at the Shah Alam Ideal Convention Centre (IDCC) as a cluster.

Dr Noor Hisham said up to Wednesday, 104 new infections had been linked to the cluster named the Jalan Pahat 15 cluster.

"Up to noon on Wednesday, 40 people have been tested. A total of 104 people tested positive, 100 Malaysians, while 259 tested negative.

"We are awaiting test results for 100 people," he said, adding that targeted testing was conducted on July 10 after tests on symptomatic workers came back positive.

He said the authorities were investigating the source of the cluster at the IDCC, which is a vaccination centre.

The outbreak, first announced on Tuesday, involved 204 out of 453 workers at the vaccination centre.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NEWS/NATION

FOR USE DURING DISASTERS

Sinopharm, J&J vaccines get conditional approval

KUALA LUMPUR: The Drug Control Authority (DCA) has approved the conditional registration of Sinopharm and Johnson & Johnson Covid-19 vaccines for use during disasters.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the approval for conditional registration was made during the DCA's 361st meeting yesterday.

"The Covilo Suspension for Injection Covid-19 Vaccine (Vero Cell), Inactivated, was developed by China National Biotec Group Co Ltd, Sinopharm, which is also known as the Sinopharm Covid-19 vaccine," he said yesterday.

"The vaccine was manufactured

by Beijing Institute of Biological Products Co Ltd, China, and Duopharma (M) Sdn Bhd is the registration holder in Malaysia.

"The second vaccine, Janssen Covid-19 Vaccine Suspension for Injection, was manufactured by Janssen Pharmaceutica NV, Belgium, and the registration holder in Malaysia is Johnson & Johnson Sdn Bhd."

He said the conditional registration approval required information on the quality, safety and effectiveness of the vaccine product to be monitored and evaluated based on the latest data from time to time.

This, he said, was to ensure that

the comparison of benefit over risk for the vaccine products remained positive.

"The Health Ministry will always improve the level of public health in combating the spread of Covid-19 through the procurement of vaccine supplies that have been evaluated in terms of quality, safety and effectiveness by the National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Division and approved by the DCA.

"The government is committed to ensuring that the Malaysian adult population achieves herd immunity in line with the targets of the Covid-19 National Immunisation Programme."

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 8

RUANGAN : NEWS/NATION

THOSE FULLY VACCINATED

'RELEASE DATA ON COVID-19 INFECTIONS'

Data will help scientific community to gauge the effectiveness of the various vaccines

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THE scientific community is urging the government to release data on Covid-19 infections among the fully vaccinated.

This, they believe, can help them gauge the effectiveness of various vaccines as well as map a better vaccination and response plan.

Their call comes on the heels of a recent Covid-19 outbreak involving 204 out of 453 medical personnel and volunteers based at the Ideal Convention Centre vaccination centre (PPV) in Shah Alam.

The incident forced the PPV to close down for a day on July 13.

Former Health deputy director-general Datuk Dr Christopher Lee said this was worrying as nearly 88 per cent of the workers in question were already vaccinated.

"To allay any anxiety, it would be good to see how many staff were fully vaccinated, what vaccination was given and the infection control measures (taken



Datuk Dr Christopher Lee

on-site," he posted in a tweet.

Epidemiologist Datuk Dr Awang Bulgiba Awang Mahmud said there was insufficient data available to gauge the impact of the Malaysian vaccination drive.

He said data on Covid-19 infections, especially those which break through vaccination shields, were crucial to assess the impact of the inoculation drive amid emerging variants.

"I urge the Health Ministry to release this alongside the data on (antibody profiles) of those who are unvaccinated.

"I'm worried that some of the vaccines in our portfolio might not be as effective against the Beta and Delta virus variants," he said.

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba, on June 30, had said that only 0.8 per cent, or 1,834 of 243,309 health workers who had mostly received Pfizer

vaccines, were infected post-vaccination. He also reported that most of them had only mild symptoms or no signs of illness.

However, the impact of the Covid-19 Delta variant on Indonesia and Thailand has led to growing concern.

Active Covid-19 cases in Thailand have crossed the 100,000-mark after several days of 9,000 new daily infections.

The spread of Covid-19 and double-variant infections on vaccinated healthcare workers, among others, have also prompted Thai authorities to make the unprecedented call of mixing vaccines despite the World Health Organisation's caution.

Dr Awang Bulgiba, who chairs the Independent Covid-19 Vaccination Advisory Committee, said while the Health Ministry's genomic surveillance found that Beta was the predominant variant in Malaysia, accounting for 195 of the 293 infections involving variants of concern (VOC) as of July 13, the Delta, which ranked second with 67 cases, could not be dismissed.

He said the variant had a track record of rapidly displacing other virus strains based on the UK's experience.

He said Malaysia's limited capacity at genomic sequencing could also mean that the variant had already displaced the Beta variant and was driving the jump in community infections.

"To make matters worse, the recent emergence of the Lambda variant is also troubling."



Datuk Dr Awang Bulgiba Awang Mahmud

He said Malaysia needed a Voluntary Vaccination Registry where it could study antibody levels, break through infection rates, mix and match vaccines, B- and T-cell immunity as well as rare adverse reactions to inoculations.

He said the registry would entail having blood samples extracted and analysed from participating volunteers pre- and post-vaccination.

The process would be repeated periodically over some years to determine antibody levels of the volunteers, who would also be medically examined by officers operating the registry.

The facility, he said, could either be run by the government, or universities, or even a hybrid of the entities.

Dr Awang Bulgiba said that mixing and matching vaccines or

boosters could be done via the registry. He said current clinical studies have been limited to AstraZeneca, Pfizer, Moderna and Novavax.

He said vaccines such as Sinovac, CanSino and Johnson and Johnson that were also in Malaysia's portfolio warranted similar research.

His statement comes on the back of the findings by Thailand's Thammasat University that antibody levels in people fully vaccinated with the Sinovac vaccine declined by half every 40 days.

Those who received a second dose more than 60 days after their first dose had on average lower levels of antibodies than those who got the second dose in less than 60 days.

It also said that vaccine potency within 60 days of the second dose was between 60 per cent and 70 per cent against the original strain.

The potency against the original strain, however, declined to around 50 per cent in those receiving the second shot, for over 60 days.

However, no data was available on the potency of two doses of the Sinovac vaccine against variants, especially on the Alpha and Delta strains.

The *Bangkok Post* in its report said that the overall level of artificial immunity was likely to drop in older people.

It added that those aged over 40 showed lower antibody levels than those of younger people.

'You can still be infected after full vaccination'

KUALA LUMPUR: Some 3,106 healthcare workers have been infected even after full vaccination between Feb 24 and July 14 this year.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said 245,932 healthcare workers had been inoculated to date and only 1.26 per cent of them had contracted the virus so far.

Most of the individuals, he said, were placed under Category Two since they were diagnosed with mild symptoms (2,088 cases), followed by Category One patients who were asymptomatic (1,012 cases).

Category Three patients suffer from lung inflammation and Cat-

egory Four patients require oxygen support, while Category Five patients must be admitted to Intensive Care Unit (ICU) for treatment.

"Only three cases (0.1 per cent) are in Category Three and three cases in Category Four (0.1 per cent) and none in Category Five.

"Yes, you can still be infected after full vaccination but with lesser severity, lesser hospitalisation and lower deaths.

"Trust the vaccine and trust the data. Vaccine saves lives and once fully vaccinated, we can live side by side with Covid-19," he posted on Facebook yesterday.

» See also Page 27



Healthcare workers filling syringes with Covid-19 vaccines during an inoculation drive at the Sungai Bertek Health Clinic in Klang. PIC BY FAIZ ANUAR

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NATION

Surging ahead to Aug 1

Aim to have all KL, Selangor adults vaccinated by then

By MAZWIN NIK ANIS
and JOSEPH KAOS Jr
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PUTRAJAYA: The Covid-19 Immunisation Task Force (CITF) has embarked on an ambitious plan to vaccinate every adult in Kuala Lumpur and Selangor by Aug 1.

Codenamed "Operation Surge Capacity", the mission will see over 6.1 million residents aged 18 and above in the two states having received at least one vaccine dose by that date.

National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme coordinating minister Khairy Jamaluddin said for the operation to succeed, the government will have to increase its vaccination supply and capacity in Klang Valley.

"Right now, the capacity to vaccinate in Kuala Lumpur and Selangor is 180,000 doses a day. This will increase to 272,000 doses a day.

"Between July 26 and Aug 1, all PPV (vaccination centres) will be able to administer 272,000 doses a day.

"This initiative has received the approval of the National Security Council, and CITF has discussed its implementation with the Selangor Menteri Besar and the Federal Territories Minister.

"The operation is to address the rising Covid-19 case figures in Klang Valley," said Khairy at the weekly CITF joint press conference with



Clean-up crew: Workers disinfecting the IDCC PPV in Seksyen 15 Shah Alam. — Bernama

Health Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba.

As of July 15, about 3.5 million adults in Kuala Lumpur and Selangor have received their first vaccine doses.

"We are expecting 1.3 million more adults to get their first doses from now until July 25, and the remaining 1.3 million to receive their jabs between July 25 to August

1," said Khairy as he urged all adults to register for the national Covid-19 vaccination programme if they have not done so.

"To date, there are still 11% of those aged 18 and above in the Klang Valley who have not registered," said Khairy.

Upon the completion of Operation Surge Capacity, Khairy said all PPV in Kuala Lumpur and Selangor will

allow walk-ins.

"This is so that we can 'mop up' anybody that has not received their first dose in Kuala Lumpur and Selangor.

"Some people may not have been captured by the Statistics Department's data, while there are those who are undocumented," said Khairy.

More good news is in store for senior citizens in Selangor and Kuala Lumpur, who can now walk into any PPV in the Klang Valley to be vaccinated beginning today.

However, he stressed that this initiative is only for those who still do not have a vaccination appointment date.

"Those who have already received their appointment dates are advised to stick to their appointments. Do not walk in," he said.

Senior citizens participating in the walk-in initiative will be given special lanes at the PPV.

"For senior citizens who have not registered with MySejahtera, their registration will be done at the PPV," he said.

"If need be, the PPV workers will obtain contact details of their family members or guardians so they can be reminded to get their second dose."

Watch the video
TheStarTV.com



Leeway for those fully-vaccinated to be announced soon

By MAZWIN NIK ANIS
and JOSEPH KAOS Jr
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PUTRAJAYA: The relaxation of restrictions for those who have been fully vaccinated will be announced soon, says Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba.

He said the ministry had presented some of the proposed "freedoms" to be enjoyed by those who had been given two doses of the vaccine during a National Recovery Plan (NRP) meeting chaired by the Prime Minister.

"An announcement on this will be made soon," he said at a joint virtual press conference with National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme coordinating minister Khairy Jamaluddin yesterday.

On Thursday, the Prime Minister said the government was looking into relaxing restrictions for those fully vaccinated, including allowing them to travel or dine-in at restaurants.

Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said he had asked for the relaxation to be considered as part of the NRP as the country gradually adjusted towards returning to normal life.

On another matter, Dr Adham said targeted lockdowns would be implemented in areas of the states that had transitioned to Phase Two instead of moving these back into Phase One should there be an increase in Covid-19 cases.

"Restrictions will be enforced in affected areas and localities but we are confident that we can contain the infection with the increase in vaccination," he said.

Dr Adham was responding to a question on whether Phase Two states like Penang and Pahang would move back to Phase One after their seven-day average daily

case incidence rate recently surpassed 12.2 cases per 100,000 population.

Between July 9 and 15, the seven-day average daily cases in Pahang were 17.14 cases per 100,000 population while in Penang, it was 14.01 cases per 100,000 population.

The minister also said there had been no reports of blood clot involving the AstraZeneca vaccine so far.

"We have received 1.12 notifications on adverse events following immunisation out of 1,000 doses given but there is no confirmed

report of blood clot involving AstraZeneca," he said.

Dr Adham said for epidemic week 27, 157 new clusters reported nationwide, 62% of which or 98 involved workplaces.

Health authorities reported there were 42 new community clusters, seven clusters among high groups, another seven in detention centres and three in education institution-related clusters.

A total of 239 localities placed under enhanced MCO July 4 to 10, including 103 in Selangor (41), Kuala Lumpur Sarawak (16) and Johor (14).

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : NATION

Stuck indoors and losing sleep

Change in circadian rhythm sparked by increased use of electronics

By **CLARISSA CHUNG**
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PETALING JAYA: Sleep problems are on the rise in the country as prolonged periods staying indoors and increased gadget use disrupt sleep patterns, say health experts. What is more worrying is that young children are also not spared from this health condition.

Assoc Prof Dr Rusdi Abd Rashid, who is Sleep Disorder Society Malaysia (SDSM) chairman, said sleep problems have become a huge health issue for many Malaysians, including children.

"Sleep disorders have affected people of all ages, including adolescents who are in their early secondary school years.

"I believe this age group is the

most affected, and they have been staying at home for many months.

"One problem is that their sleep is affected due to changes in their circadian rhythm," he said, referring to the body's internal clock.

He pointed out that a major contributing factor to the sleep problems was the excessive use of electronic gadgets and online platforms.

"These children have told us their parents are using the computer to work from home, so they have to share the computer with other siblings for their lessons.

"Online learning has become a burden in such a situation, and they find it difficult to cope with online lessons for long hours," he said.

He added that the use of such gadgets right before sleeping at

night could stimulate the mind and interfere with one's sleep cycle.

"The light from a cellphone or laptop screen prevents the release of melatonin, which is the hormone responsible for inducing sleep.

"Sleep deprivation can lead to disrupted body homeostasis," he said, referring to the self-regulating process by which a body maintains a stable condition.

He also warned that sleep deprivation could also contribute to a host of other health problems, such as mental illness.

SDSM treasurer Dr Raymond Tan also agreed that there were more patients coming in with sleep problems.

He added that with people spending most of their time in their homes, many people are experienc-

ing disrupted sleep patterns.

"They don't get enough exercise or sunlight, and they may have developed more sedentary habits like watching TV.

"Exercise is very important because it helps to regulate our sleep patterns and promote better sleep.

"People are also not getting enough exposure to sunlight, which is really important to regulate our circadian rhythm.

"People should try as much as possible to exercise, at least around their house compound, and to get exposed to more sunlight," he said.

Another problem, he added, was "Zoom fatigue", referring to the tiredness felt from being on video conferences for too long.

"Even though you are meeting

somebody online, the non-verbal body gestures and facial cues are still important. When there aren't any, it is more tiring when you talk to people online," he said.

Dr Tan added that anxiety and stress could also be affecting Malaysians' sleep, adding that there is an uptick of people suffering from depression and suicidal thoughts.

Those suffering from problems can reach out to Mental Health Psychosocial Support Service (03-2935 9935 or 014-322 3392); Talian Kasih (15999 or WhatsApp 019-261 5999); Jakim's Family, Social and Community care centre (WhatsApp 0111-959 8214); and Befrienders Kuala Lumpur (03-7627 2929). See www.befrienders.org.my for full list of numbers and operating hours.



Lightening the mood: KKM Pahang frontliners making funny poses at the drive-through testing site in Kuantan. — Bernama

Daily cases at 12,541 but not many had serious symptoms

By **ASHLEY TANG**
and **CLARISSA CHUNG**
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PETALING JAYA: Nearly all of the latest 12,541 Covid-19 cases were asymptomatic or had mild symptoms, said the Health Ministry.

In his daily update on the 24-hour span yesterday, Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said 6,504 (or 51.9%) of the cases had no symptoms and belonged to Category 1.

There were another 5,848 (46.6%) of new cases that were classified as Category 2, which meant they had mild symptoms.

This meant that 98.5% of new cases yesterday did not have serious symptoms.

However, there were 86 new Category 3 patients (0.7%) and 49 new Category 4 patients (0.4%).

Category 3 patients are those who have pneumonia while Category 4 patients suffer from pneumonia and require oxygen therapy.

Dr Noor Hisham also said that

there were 54 new Covid-19 patients under Category 5, which meant they were in critical condition and required assisted ventilation.

The states with the highest number of infections were Selangor (5,512), Negri Sembilan (1,619) and Kuala Lumpur (1,542).

Malaysia had also set a new unwanted record yesterday, with 37 new Covid-19 clusters.

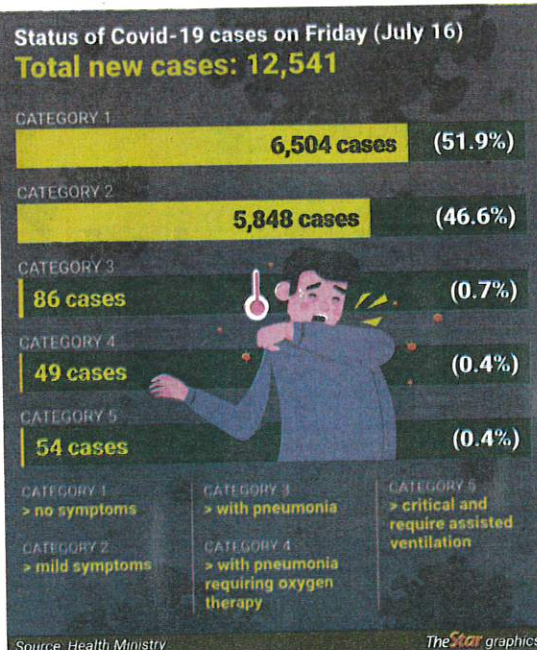
"The last record high number of clusters was 30 on July 9," said Dr Noor Hisham.

Out of the 37 new clusters, 19 were detected at the workplace while eight were linked to community transmission.

"Another four were detected at detention centres, three were linked to high-risk groups, and the remaining three were linked to educational centres," he added.

The state with the highest number of new clusters was Johor (eight), followed by Selangor (five), Penang (four).

Another 115 deaths due to Covid-19 have been recorded, bringing the



Another record number of jobs given

KUALA LUMPUR: The number of daily vaccine doses administered continued to increase to 460,158 jobs, making it the highest so far, says Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba.

Based on an infographic shared on his Twitter, the Health Minister said 304,807 people received the first dose on Thursday and another 155,351 were given their second dose.

This brings the total number of vaccine doses administered under the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme, implemented since last Feb 24, to 13,107,716 doses.

A total of 8,949,099 people have received their first dose while 4,155,617 have been fully inoculated. — Bernama

death toll to 6,728.

Some 87 fatalities had comorbidities, and 24 of them were brought in dead.

In the meantime, the country's Rt value, which is the infectivity rate, is now at 1.2.

The state or territory with the highest Rt value is Putrajaya at 1.32, followed by Terengganu (1.27) and Kedah (1.23).

Meanwhile, as the Covid-19 Immunisation Task Force launched "Operation Surge Capacity", health experts gave the government initiative the thumbs up.

Medical Practitioners Coalition Association of Malaysia president Dr Raj Kumar Maharajah said it was a good thing to get the vulnerable groups inoculated so that Selangor and Kuala Lumpur could transition into the second phase of the National Recovery Plan soon.

"The general practitioners are ready to help the government achieve this target," he said in reac-

tion to the initiative.

"Operation Surge Capacity" aims to vaccinate 6.1 million adults in Kuala Lumpur and Selangor with at least one dose of the Covid-19 vaccine by Aug 1.

For the operation to succeed, National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme coordinating minister Khairy Jamaluddin said yesterday that the daily vaccination capacity in Kuala Lumpur and Selangor would be increased from the current 180,000 to 272,000.

He expects 2.6 million to receive their first dose by Aug 1.

Universiti Putra Malaysia medical epidemiologist Assoc Prof Dr Malina Osman, too, lauded the move.

"I welcome and feel grateful for this drastic action as this would further expedite the vaccination exercise in Selangor and KL and hence allow the (vaccination) coverage to be achieved faster in both areas," she said.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NATION

Key ways to fight Delta variant

Experts urge multiple measures in tandem with ramped-up inoculation

By **ASHLEY TANG**
and **CLARISSA CHUNG**
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PETALING JAYA: Stringent surveillance on public health measures and increased vaccinations are needed to fight the Covid-19 Delta variant, say health experts.

Universiti Putra Malaysia medical epidemiologist Assoc Prof Dr Malina Osman said the high transmissibility of the Delta variant was responsible for the rising new cases documented in the past week.

"As the new cases increase, the number of those in critical condition and who need proper treatment has also increased.

"Once the critical cases are high, the number of deaths is also high as both indicators are correlated statistically," she said in an interview yesterday.

With the identification of the Delta variant in most states, she said there should be more stringent surveillance on standard operating procedure compliance in all economic sectors which had been allowed to operate.

Meanwhile, she advised mem-



bers of the public to take extra precautions when outdoors.

"Apart from putting on double masks, the use of eye and face shields is also recommended, particularly in a confined space for more than 15 minutes or in crowded areas.

"They are also advised to stay at home," she said, adding that they should be out only for urgent matters, and more so during Hari Raya Haji next Tuesday.

"This is to avoid any potential increase in cases, like what we had in the recent post-Hari Raya Aidilfitri.

"If we don't implement strict measures, it is possible that new waves of infection may occur," she said.

On Thursday, Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the Delta variant

could infect someone in "just five seconds", adding that the infectivity level of the virus was much higher too.

To prevent the Delta variant from spreading nationwide, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia epidemiologist Assoc Prof Dr Azmi Mohd Tamil said the best place to look at how it was being controlled was Labuan, where the transmission of the Delta variant in the country was first discovered.

Noting that Covid-19 immunisation was crucial, Dr Azmi said the ministry had ramped up vaccinations in Labuan that helped tone down the transmission of the virus there.

"We have to continue our efforts to vaccinate the public and InshaAllah, we will prevail," he said.

Dr Noor Hisham had said that to manage the variant in Labuan, more public health measures as well as a ramped-up vaccination drive was conducted.

He added that over 50% of the adult population in Labuan had already been vaccinated with at least one dose.

With such measures, he said Labuan only recorded 26 new cases a day compared to 1,340 cases a week during the height of the infection.

He said such measures could also be applied to the Klang Valley where the Covid-19 infection rate is currently high.

Dr Azmi advised Malaysians to stay home and avoid all possible contact with others, especially those with part-time helpers.

"If you have to go out, wear two layers of surgical masks over your nose and mouth and cover your eyes, either with a face shield or protective goggles," he said.

The World Health Organisation has listed the Alpha (UK), Beta (South Africa), Gamma (Brazil) and Delta (India) as the variants of concern (VOC), while the variants of interest (VOI) are Eta (multiple countries), Iota (US), Kappa (India) and Lambda (Peru).

With Hari Raya Haji just around the corner, Dr Azmi said the strictest possible measures were already in place under the enhanced movement control order.

"Yet the number of cases kept

rising to dizzying heights. Most probably, it is less effective because the new variants are more transmissible.

"I believe we have done the best in terms of those measures. Even those who are in prison and can't move anywhere have also been infected.

"There are limits to what we can achieve with such lockdowns. You can stop it in some places, but it is getting through elsewhere," he said, while emphasising that quick vaccinations remained the best way.

"New strategies need to be implemented fast to achieve this. This is our best exit strategy," said Dr Azmi.

He also said that vaccination had proven to be effective in reducing the hospitalisation rate and preventing deaths among medical personnel in Malaysia.

"Of the 245,932 medical personnel vaccinated, only 3,106 (1.26%) were infected with Covid-19 despite being exposed on a daily basis.

"Only six out of the 3,106 (0.2%) required admission, and none were intubated or died. That is excellent news indeed," he said.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 7

RUANGAN : NATION

Two more vaccines to be added to Malaysia's arsenal

PETALING JAYA: Malaysia's arsenal against Covid-19 has got a boost after Sinopharm and Johnson & Johnson vaccines were granted conditional approval for use in the national immunisation programme.

The Health Ministry said the Drug Control Authority (DCA) made the decision at a meeting yesterday.

"This conditional registration approval requires information on the quality, safety and effectiveness of the vaccine product to be monitored and evaluated based on the latest data from time to time.

"It is to ensure that the benefits outweigh the risks for the vaccines," it said in a statement.

The ministry said it strove to combat the pandemic by ensuring an adequate supply of vaccines that had been evaluated for quality, safety and effectiveness by the National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Division and approved by the DCA.

"The government is committed to ensuring that the Malaysian adult

population achieves herd immunity in line with the target of the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme.

"The meeting has also given conditional approval to Johnson & Johnson's vaccines that are manufactured by Janssen Pharmaceutica NV in Belgium.

"This follows the Johnson &

Johnson vaccines procured from the Covax facility which has been given conditional approval earlier on June 15," it said.

The immunisation programme now has a total of six vaccines within its portfolio: Pfizer-BioNTech, AstraZeneca, Sinovac, Cansino, Sinopharm and Johnson & Johnson.