

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Penularan COVID-19

Kes harian baharu kembali lempi 6,000

Putrajaya: Jangkitan baharu COVID-19 di negara ini kembali melepasi paras 6,000 apabila 6,243 kes direkodkan setakat jam 12 tengah hari semalam.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata ia menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan jangkitan virus berkenaan kini meningkat kepada 2,522,498 kes.

Sementara itu, 78 kematian baharu dilaporkan setakat kelmarin, menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan pesakit meninggal disebabkan wabak itu meningkat kepada 29,427 kes daripada 2,511,691 jangkitan positif di negara ini.

Menurut data COVIDNOW, 19 daripada 78 kematian adalah kes di luar hospital atau 'brought-in-dead' (BID) dengan korban tertinggi adalah di Kedah, mem-

babitkan 19 orang atau 24.4 peratus kes kematian baharu.

Kematian lain dilaporkan di Sarawak dengan 13 kes, Selangor (12), Kelantan (8), Sabah (8), Perak (7), Johor (5), Melaka (2), Terengganu (2), Negeri Sembilan (1) dan Kuala Lumpur (1). Tiada kematian baharu dilaporkan di Pahang, Perlis, Pulau Pinang, Labuan dan Putrajaya.

Sehingga tengah malam kelmarin, sebanyak 61,803 kes aktif COVID-19 dilaporkan, termasuk 274 atau 0.4 peratus ditempatkan di unit rawatan rapi (ICU), 268 (0.4 peratus) memerlukan alat bantuan pernafasan serta 5,500 dimasukkan ke hospital (8.9 peratus), manakala kes sembuh sebanyak 5,311 dengan keseluruhan kes pulih meningkat kepada 2,425,943 orang.

SOP berdasar penilaian KKM

Dari Muka 1

Semalam, jangkitan baharu COVID-19 di negara ini kembali melepasi paras 6,000 apabila sebanyak 6,243 kes dilaporkan, menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan individu di Malaysia yang dijangkiti virus berkenaan meningkat kepada 2,522,498 kes.

Ditanya sama ada kerajaan bercadang mengeluarkan pelan baharu berikutan ramai mula tidak menjaga prosedur operasi standard (SOP), Mastura berkata, SOP berkenaan akan diputuskan jawatankuasa dipengerusikan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob berdasarkan penilaian Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM).

Dalam proses peralihan ke fasa endemik, beliau berkata, ada beberapa indikator perlu dipenuhi sebelum usaha baharu diperkenalkan, iaitu kadar penggunaan katil keseluruhan mesti kurang daripada 30 peratus, penggunaan

katil wad rawatan rapi (ICU) kurang 10 peratus dan kemasukan ke Pusat Rawatan COVID-19 Berisiko Rendah (PKRC) kurang 30 peratus.

"Kapasiti makmal untuk menjalankan ujian pula perlulah melebihi 90 peratus, kadar positif dalam endemik mesti kurang lima peratus, jumlah petugas kesihatan dijangkiti COVID-19 mesti pada tahap minimum, iaitu kurang satu peratus dan kadar kes COVID-19 yang teruk dimasukkan ke wad perlu kurang daripada 0.5 peratus.

"Jumlah kematian purata tujuh hari pula disasarkan kurang daripada 0.8 peratus, dengan jumlah kematian harian kurang daripada 10 kes.

"Kes pula kurang 1,200 sehari dan vaksinasi perlu lebih 80 peratus daripada jumlah populasi keseluruhan," katanya.

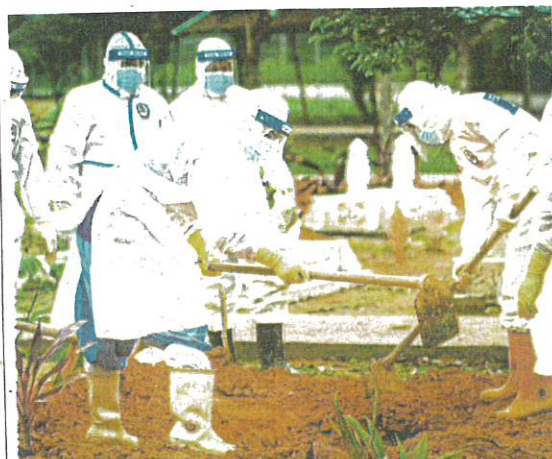
Menjawab soalan tambahan Lim Guan Eng (PH-Bagan) supaya Pelan Pemulihan Negara (PPN)

dirombak mengikut situasi semasa dan norma baharu kerana ia kini didakwa gagal, Mastura berkata, keutamaan melalui PPN adalah memastikan penularan dapat dikawal dan rakyat selamat.

"Sekiranya (PPN) ini dianggap gagal, Yang Berhormat sebagai Ahli Jawatankuasa Khas Pengerusan Pandemik boleh kemukakan kepada jawatankuasa itu bagi memikirkan jalan keluar lebih baik.

Pada masa ini, PPN melihat trend sedia ada, jika penularan mendadak, ada cara mengatasi, tidak perlu lagi perintah sekatan, sekadar Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Diperketatkan (PKPD)," katanya.

Mengenai dakwaan bahawa Pilihan Raya Negeri (PRN) Melaka sebagai tanda kegagalan PPN, beliau menegaskan, SOP yang ditetapkan adalah berdasarkan nasihat KKM dan menerusi empat peringkat kelulusan jawatankuasa.



78 kematian baharu dilaporkan setakat kelmarin, menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan pesakit meninggal meningkat kepada 29,427 kes. (Foto hiasan)

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 8
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Penularan COVID-19

Vaksin penggalak usia 40 tahun ke atas

Orang ramai akan
terima janji temu
melalui aplikasi
MySejahtera

Oleh Latifah Arifin
latifah@bh.com.my

Kuala Lumpur: Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) mengumumkan suntikan dos penggalak vaksin COVID-19 diperluaskan kepada individu berusia 40 tahun dan ke atas.

Menterinya, Khairy Jamaluddin berkata, orang ramai akan menerima janji temu melalui aplikasi MySejahtera bagi mendapatkan suntikan berkenaan.

Sebelum ini, penerima dos ketiga hanya meliputi petugas ba-

risan hadapan kesihatan, keselamatan dan pertahanan, selain pesakit kurang daya tahan imun, warga emas dan individu yang tinggal atau bekerja di pusat jagaan serta individu dengan komorbid.

"Sekarang ini, kita sudah mula Program Imunisasi COVID-19 Kebangsaan (PICK) 'booster' atau dos penggalak kepada penduduk di Malaysia dan mereka yang layak, iaitu berusia 40 tahun dan ke atas dan juga mereka yang mempunyai komorbiditi.

"Mereka menerima janji temu melalui MySejahtera," kata Khairy menerusi video yang dimuat naik menerusi Twitter, semalam sambil meminta orang

ramai yang menerima janji temu menerusi MySejahtera untuk hadir pada tarikh dan masa ditetapkan.

"Apabila terima janji temu melalui MySejahtera, tolonglah hadir untuk mendapatkan dos penggalak anda. Ini akan meningkatkan perlindungan kita terhadap COVID-19," katanya.



Khairy Jamaluddin

Program pemberian dos penggalak yang bermula 13 Oktober lalu dilaksanakan bagi meningkatkan tahap imunisasi yang mungkin berkurangan dalam tempoh tertentu selepas mendapat dos lengkap. Ia bertujuan memastikan tempoh perlindungan yang optimum diperolehi penerima vaksin COVID-19.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO
 MUKA SURAT : 6
 RUANGAN : COVID-19

Oleh Mohd Roji Kawi
 am@hmetro.com.my

Kuching

Seramai 4,547 anggota Tentera Darat Malaysia (TDM), kakitangan awam Kementerian Pertahanan (Mindef) serta keluarga menerima dos penggalak vaksin Covid-19 di lima pusat pemberian vaksin (PPV) di Sarawak.

Daripada jumlah itu, 1,149 menerima dos tambahan pelalian itu di PPV Kem Muara Tuang, PPV Kem Pakit Sri Aman (299), PPV Kem Similajau di Bintulu (266), PPV Kem Oya, Sibul (2,078) dan PPV Kem Sri Miri (755).

Panglima 1 Divisyen Infantri Mejar Jeneral Datuk Dzulkafli Mustaffa berkata, program suntikan dos penggalak fasa pertama itu dilaksanakan secara pandu lalu di semua PPV tentera di Sarawak bermula semalam.

Beliau berkata, program berkenaan dijangka selesai sepenuhnya pada 16 November ini.

"Ketika ini kita melaksa-

4,547 terima dos penggalak

Warga TDM, keluarga serta kakitangan awam Mindef terima vaksin di lima PPV di Sarawak



Kita melaksanakan pemberian dos vaksin penggalak kepada anggota, kakitangan awam serta keluarga masing-masing yang berada di kem"

Dzulkafli

nakan pemberian dos vaksin penggalak kepada anggota, kakitangan awam serta keluarga masing-masing yang berada di kem.

"Bagi anggota terbabit da-

lam operasi terutama tugas di sempadan, pasukan Combat Medic Vaccination Team (CMVT) akan dihantar ke sana bagi melaksanakan program," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian ketika ditemui pada program suntikan dos penggalak vaksin Covid-19 pandu lalu di Kem Muara Tuang, Samarahan di sini, semalam.

Turut hadir menyaksikan program itu Panglima Medan Timur TDM Leftenan Jeneral Datuk Mardzuki Muhammad dan Panglima 3 Briged Brigediar Jeneral Mohd Kamil Abdul Latiff.

Program pemberian dos penggalak bermula 13 Ok-

tober lalu dilaksanakan bagi meningkatkan tahap imunitas yang mungkin menurun dalam tempoh tertentu selepas mendapat dos lengkap dan bertujuan memastikan tempoh perlindungan yang optima diperoleh penerima vaksin Covid-19.

Menurut Dzulkafli lagi, menerusi inisiatif Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan (Pick) pemberian dos penggalak kepada anggota di barisan hadapan terutama anggota TDM yang bertugas amat diperlukan terutamanya bagi anggota yang bertugas di persempadanan Sarawak dan Kalimantan Barat.

Mohon janji temu suntikan dipercepat

Georgetown: Bimbang peningkatan kes berlaku susulan pintu sempadan dibuka termasuk pembukaan semua sektor ekonomi, Pulau Pinang meminta janji temu suntikan dos penggalak Covid-19 di negeri itu disegerakan.

Ia berikutan pemberian dos penggalak di negeri berkenaan berlaku kelewapan apabila dibandingkan dengan negeri lain.

Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Kesihatan, Pertanian, Industri Asas Tani dan Pembangunan Luar Bandar Pulau Pinang Dr Norlela Ariefin berkata, mengikut data hanya lebih 16,000 suntikan dos penggalak diberi setakat Isnin lalu.

"Kita ada 41,000 petugas barisan hadapan serta 200,000 warga emas termasuk pesakit komorbid.

"Pada 15 Oktober lalu, saya ada memohon dalam

Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Pengurusan Pandemik supaya janji temu suntikan dos penggalak di negeri ini disegerakan kerana kadar pemberian perlahan berbanding negeri lain.

"Tambahan pula saya menerangkan mengenai dua kluster membabitkan rumah warga emas dan kilang yang amat merisaukan jika suntikan dos penggalak tidak dipercepatkan," katanya ketika berkongsi mengenai perkembangan pemberian dos penggalak menerusi WhatsApp bersama media di sini, malam kelmarin.

Sehubungan itu, beliau meminta Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) menyegerakan panggilan janji temu dos penggalak kepada petugas barisan hadapan, warga emas dan pesakit komorbid di negeri ini.

Kuala Lumpur: Sebanyak 95 peratus atau 22,228,388 individu bagi populasi dewasa di negara ini lengkap menerima dos vaksin Covid-19 setakat jam 11.59 malam kelmarin.

Menurut data Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) melalui laman Covidnow, 97.6 peratus atau 22,828,481 individu bagi populasi dewasa menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos vaksin.

Sementara itu, 75.5 peratus atau 24,642,379 individu di negara ini lengkap diberi

95 peratus lengkap terima suntikan

vaksin Covid-19.

Dalam pada itu, 116,642 dos suntikan vaksin diberi kelmarin melibatkan 30,700 dos lengkap, 7,877 menerima dos pertama dan 78,065 pula mendapat suntikan dos penggalak menjadikan jumlah kumulatif pemberian vaksin bagi Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan (Pick) kini meningkat

kepada 50,656,181.

Setakat kelmarin, 2,413,991 atau 76.7 peratus individu remaja berusia 12 hingga 17 tahun lengkap divaksin manakala 86.5 peratus atau 2,722,418 individu menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos vaksin.

Selain itu, jumlah kumulatif dos penggalak pula kini 644,664.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 7

RUANGAN : COVID-19

JANJI TEMU DOS PENGGALAK

40 peratus tak hadir

Kuala Lumpur

Kira-kira 40 peratus individu yang menerima janji temu untuk vaksinasi dos penggalak di bawah Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan (Pick) tidak hadir untuk menerima suntikan itu, kata Menteri Kesihatan Khairy Jamaluddin (*gambar*).

Beliau berkata, jumlah ke-masukan ke hospital akan meningkat jika bilangan mereka yang menerima dos

penggalak kekal rendah.

"Jika pengambilan dos penggalak adalah rendah, khususnya dalam kalangan warga emas dan mereka yang mempunyai komorbiditi, jumlah kemasukan

ke hospital akan meningkat.

Ini sudah pasti," katanya menerusi ciapan di Twitter, semalam.

Sehubungan itu, beliau menggesa mereka yang menerima janji temu agar

pergi mendapatkan suntikan dos penggalak itu bagi menguatkan imuniti dan perlindungan mereka terhadap Covid-19.

Pemberian dos penggalak bermula pada 13 Oktober lalu di seluruh negara untuk individu yang mendapat dos lengkap vaksin Covid-19 bagi memastikan imuniti yang diterima selepas dos lengkap dapat dikekalkan bagi tempoh optimum khususnya terhadap jangkitan varian Delta.



Jangkitan baharu naik kepada 6,243

Kuala Lumpur: Jumlah kes baharu koronavirus terus meningkat dengan 6,243 kes dilapor semalam berbanding 5,403 kes kelmarin.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, data terbaharu itu menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes di Malaysia setakat ini mencecah 2,522,498 kes.

Beliau berkata, 5,068 kes sembuh dicatat semalam menjadikan jumlah kumulatif 2,430,122 kes atau 96.34 peratus.

"Daripada 6,243 kes dilaporkan, 24 kes import membabitkan 18 warganegara dan enam bukan warganegara.

"Kes penularan tempatan pula sebanyak 6,219 kes iaitu 5,881 warganegara (94.6

peratus) dan 338 bukan warganegara (5.4 peratus)," katanya.

Beliau berkata, kes yang memerlukan rawatan di unit rawatan rapi adalah sebanyak 543 kes iaitu 504 kes disahkan Covid-19, 39 kes disyaki, kemungkinan dan kes dalam siasatan.

Menurutnya, kes memerlukan bantuan pernafasan sebanyak 279 kes membabitkan 196 kes disahkan Covid-19, 83 kes disyaki, kemungkinan dan kes dalam siasatan.

"Sebanyak 106 kes (1.7 peratus) kategori 3, 4, dan 5 manakala 6,137 kes (98.3 peratus) lagi terdiri daripada kategori 1 dan 2.

"Tujuh kluster baharu dicatatkan menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan 5,824 kluster," katanya.

Beri dos penggalak di klinik Parlimen

Kuala Lumpur: Pemberian dos penggalak vaksin Covid-19 kepada Ahli Parlimen yang belum menerimanya akan diadakan di klinik Parlimen, di sini, hari ini.

Timbalan Yang Dipertua Dewan Rakyat Datuk Mohd Rashid Hasnon berkata, pemberian vaksin itu akan bermula jam 9 pagi hingga 1 tengah hari.

"Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat boleh menghubungi klinik Parlimen untuk mendapatkan maklumat lanjut

dan membuat janji temu bagi penerimaan dos penggalak itu," katanya dalam pemakluman sebelum sesi soal jawab di Dewan Rakyat.

Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) menjalankan pemberian dos penggalak kepada Ahli Parlimen pada 2 November lalu.

Pemberian dos penggalak bermula di seluruh negara pada 13 Oktober lalu untuk individu yang mendapat dos lengkap vaksin.

AKHBAR : KOSMO
MUKA SURAT : 3
RUANGAN : NEGARA

Melibatkan pelbagai jenis produk tidak berdaftar yang dijual di 666 premis **KKM rampas ubat kuat RM5.8 juta**

Oleh SITI A'ISYAH SUKAIMI

PUTRAJAYA – Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) menggempur sebanyak 666 premis menjual ubat kuat tidak berdaftar di seluruh negara melibatkan rampasan berjumlah RM5,818,963 dalam tempoh tiga tahun sejak 2019.

Pengarah Kanan Perkhidmatan Farmasi, Norhaliza A. Halim berkata, dalam tempoh sama, pihaknya turut menyerbu 187 premis menjual suntikan vitamin C dengan nilai rampasan berjumlah RM278,202.

Menurut beliau, sejak 2019 sehingga bulan ini, Bahagian Penguatkuasaan Farmasi KKM menerima 362 aduan daripada orang ramai berhubung penjualan ubat kuat dan suntikan vitamin C.

"Bagi mengekang penjualan produk tidak berdaftar termasuk ubat kuat dan suntikan vitamin C, pihak KKM giat menjalankan pemeriksaan dan operasi serbuan secara berterusan terutama di lokasi panas yang dikenali pasti di seluruh negara.

"Pihak kami turut meningkatkan pemantauan ke atas ubat-



TISU Magic atau tisu basah boleh memudaratkan pengguna sekiranya digunakan secara kerap dan dalam tempoh jangka panjang.

ubat tidak berdaftar termasuk ubat kuat dan suntikan vitamin C yang dijual secara dalam talian," katanya dalam kenyataan di sini semalam.

Beliau mengulas mengenai laporan muka depan *Kosmo!* selama tiga hari berturut-turut bertajuk *Tisu Magic Ganti Ubat Kuat Seks* pada 1 November lalu diikuti *Duit Habis Kulit Tak Putih* (2 November) dan *Jenuh Mengadu, Tapi Tiada Tindakan* (3 November).

Kosmo! dalam laporannya mendedahkan mengenai penjualan ubat kuat dikenali sebagai Tisu Magic di kedai runcit dalam kalangan lelaki yang mahu 'beraksi' lebih hebat ketika mengadakan hubungan intim bersama pasangan.

Namun, pakar kesihatan memaklumkan penggunaan Tisu Magic secara kerap dan dalam

tempoh jangka panjang boleh memudaratkan pengguna termasuk risiko mati pucuk.

Mengulas lanjut, Norhaliza memberitahu, sebanyak 19,862 iklan produk dalam talian diarah untuk diturunkan sejak tahun lalu sehingga bulan ini.

Selain itu, langkah sama turut dibuat ke atas pentadbir platform supaya menurunkan kandungan melibatkan 1,665 pautan di media sosial dan platform e-dagang luar negara.

"Sebanyak 257 laman sawang juga dimajukan kepada Suruhanjaya Komunikasi dan Multimedia Malaysia untuk tindakan sekatan," katanya.

Beliau mengingatkan orang ramai agar mendapatkan nasihat doktor kerana pengambilan ubat kuat tanpa pengawasan boleh meningkatkan tekanan darah dan denyutan jantung.

Keadaan itu seterusnya meningkatkan risiko serangan jantung dan strok terutama mereka yang mempunyai penyakit darah tinggi, kencing manis serta masalah buah pinggang.

Mengenai suntikan vitamin c, beliau menambah, produk



KERATAN Kosmo! 1 November 2021.

itu tidak didaftarkan oleh Pihak Berkuasa Kawalan Dadah dan melanggar Peraturan 7(1)(a) Peraturan-Peraturan Kawalan Dadah dan Kosmetik 1984.

"Individu yang didapati bersalah boleh didenda sehingga RM25,000 atau penjara bagi kesalahan pertama, manakala bagi syarikat pula boleh didenda sehingga RM50,000 untuk kesalahan pertama.

Orang ramai digalakkan mengemukakan aduan mengenai penjualan produk-produk farmaseutikal tidak berdaftar atau kosmetik tidak bernotifikasi melalui portal Sistem Pengurusan Aduan Awam (SisPAA) di alamat <https://moh.spab.gov.my> selain mana-mana Cawangan Penguatkuasaan Farmasi berdekatan.

AKHBAR : KOSMO
MUKA SURAT : 4
RUANGAN : NEGARA

40 peratus tidak hadir janji temu dos penggalak – Khairy

PETALING JAYA – Kira-kira 40 peratus individu yang mendapat janji temu dos penggalak melalui Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan (PICK) tidak hadir bagi menerima suntikan dos penggalak tersebut.

Perkara itu dimaklumkan oleh Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar melalui satu hantaran di Twitter semalam.

Beliau berkata, sekiranya pengambilan dos penggalak berada di tahap rendah, bilangan kemasukan ke hospital dikhawatirkan akan meningkat.

"Kira-kira 40 peratus orang yang mendapat janji temu dos penggalak tidak muncul untuk terima suntikan.

"Sekiranya pengambilan dos penggalak adalah rendah, terutamanya dalam kalangan warga emas dan mereka yang mempunyai komorbiditi, bilangan kemasukan ke hospital akan me-



DOS penggalak pada peringkat awal diberikan kepada petugas barisan hadapan dan warga emas berumur 60 tahun ke atas. – GAMBAR HIASAN

ningkat," tulis beliau.

Khairy Jamaluddin turut menasihatkan agar individu yang telah mendapat tarikh janji temu untuk hadir menerima suntikan.

Terdahulu, pemberian dos penggalak bermula di seluruh negara 13 Oktober lalu bagi memastikan imuniti yang diterima selepas dos lengkap.

Kes kematian Covid-19 tinggi di Kedah, Sarawak

PUTRAJAYA – Kedah merekodkan angka kematian tertinggi dengan 19 kes daripada 78 kes kematian Covid-19, menjadikan jumlah kes kematian di Malaysia sebanyak 29,427 kes.

Menurut data pada laman web CovidNow, tiada kes kematian dilaporkan sepanjang tempoh 24 jam semalam.

"Terdapat 19 kes meninggal dunia di luar hospital atau brought-in-death (BID) dengan jumlah kes BID di seluruh negara sebanyak 5,951 kes," katanya semalam.

Negeri lain mencatatkan kematian ialah Sarawak (13), Selangor (12), Kelantan (8), Sabah (8), Perak (7), Johor (5), Melaka (2), Terengganu (2), Negeri Sembilan (1) dan Kuala Lumpur (1) serta tiada kematian di Pahang, Perlis, Pulau Pinang, Labuan dan Putrajaya.

Sebanyak 61,803 kes aktif

melibatkan 48,058 kes dikuarantin di rumah, 7,703 kes di Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan Covid-19 (PKRC), 5,500 kes di hospital, 274 kes di Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU) tanpa bantuan pernafasan dan 268 kes di ICU dengan bantuan pernafasan.

Daripada 5,403 kes harian semalam disumbangkan oleh Selangor (1,080 kes), Kelantan (792 kes), Sabah (545 kes), Sarawak (416 kes), Kuala Lumpur (413 kes), Kedah (412 kes), Johor (385 kes), Pahang (258 kes), Terengganu (246 kes), Pulau Pinang (245 kes), Melaka (200 kes), Perak (161 kes), Negeri Sembilan (160 kes), Putrajaya (48 kes), Perlis (35 kes) dan Labuan (7 kes).

Manakala kes harian Covid-19 terus meningkat semalam sejak empat hari lalu dengan 6,243 kes berbanding 5,403 kelmarin.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 32
RUANGAN : SINAR NEGERI

Kadar pemberian vaksin dos penggalak Covid-19 di Pulau Pinang perlahan

GEORGETOWN - Kadar pemberian vaksin dos penggalak Covid-19 bagi Pulau Pinang didapati perlahan berbanding negeri lain.

Sehingga Selasa, Pulau Pinang berada di tangga ke-13 di bawah Pahang apabila hanya mencatatkan sebanyak 1,419 untuk dos harian dan 16,686 bagi jumlah keseluruhan dos berbanding 20,705 di Sarawak dan 9,586 di Selangor.

Exco Kesihatan, Pertanian dan Industri Asas Tani dan Pembangunan Luar Bandar negeri, Dr Norlela Ariffin berkata, kadar yang perlahan itu amat membimbangkan kerana kemungkinan kes Covid-19 di Pulau Pinang akan meningkat semula.

"Saya mendapati kadar pemberian dos penggalak di negeri ini amat perlahan apabila daripada 41,000 petugas barisan hadapan, hanya 16,000 menerima dos berkenaan.

"Saya bimbang untuk petugas barisan hadapan dan warga emas yang tinggal di pusat-pusat jagaan. Mereka adalah kumpulan yang terdedah dengan risiko jangkitan.

"Kita memohon agar Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) menyegerakan pemberian dos penggalak kepada petugas baris-



Sehingga Selasa, sebanyak 245 kes baharu Covid-19 dilaporkan di Pulau Pinang.

an hadapan dan warga emas di negeri ini," katanya dalam satu kenyataan pada Rabu.

Norlela berkata, beliau dan semua wakil rakyat Pulau Pinang berusaha agar kes Covid-19 di negeri itu tidak meningkat semula seperti yang dicatatkan pada Ogos dan September lalu.

"Kita tidak mahu kes Covid-19 di Pulau Pinang meningkat semula seperti yang berlaku pada Ogos dan September lalu apabila keberkesanan vaksin mula menurun selepas enam bulan dos kedua.

"Sehingga kini, seramai 2.9 juta individu telah melengkapkan suntikan dos vaksin Covid-19 dan negeri

ini telah memasuki Fasa Empat Pelan Pemulihan Negara (PPN) pada Isnin lalu.

"Sehingga semalam (Selasa), sebanyak 245 kes baharu dilaporkan dengan kadar kes aktif pada masa ini adalah 1,944 kes," ujar beliau.

Norlela memberitahu, beliau telah membawa perkara itu ke Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Pengurusan Pandemik pada 15 Oktober lalu agar pemberian dos penggalak dipercepatkan di Pulau Pinang.

"Apa yang lebih membimbangkan, sempadan negeri telah dibuka, malah Pilihan Raya Negeri (PRN) Melaka juga sedang diadakan," ujar beliau.

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA

MUKA SURAT : 1

RUANGAN : MUKA HADAPAN

Agihan doktor tidak seragam

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PETALING JAYA: Kerajaan perlu memikirkan sebaik-baiknya keperluan doktor di negara ini berikutan pengagihan mereka ke setiap negeri yang dikatakan tidak seragam.

Meskipun seorang doktor di negara ini boleh dianggap mencukupi apabila nisbahnya bersamaan 454 orang untuk seorang doktor seperti yang dilaporkan Ogos tahun lalu, agihan penempatan itu menimbulkan permasalahan.

Presiden Persatuan Perubatan Malaysia (MMA), Dr. Koh Kar Chai berkata, nisbah tersebut boleh dianggap sudah baik untuk negara ini kerana menyamai nisbah yang diperuntukkan Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO) iaitu seorang doktor untuk 500 orang.

"Namun berlaku keadaan jumlah doktor yang sepatutnya di kawasan tertentu tidak mencukupi, tetapi ada pula kawasan lain yang terlebih bilangannya," katanya ketika dihubungi *Utusan Malaysia*, semalam.

Semalam, akhbar ini melaporkan, Gerakan Hartal Doktor Kontrak mempersoalkan langkah kerajaan yang baru mahu membuat unjuran jumlah doktor kontrak yang perlu diserap ke perkhidmatan tetap sedangkan isu berkenaan sudah berlarutan sejak lima tahun lalu.

Bersambung di muka 2

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

Agihan doktor tidak seragam

Dari muka 1

Ini berikutan Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin berkata, tiada jaminan untuk menyerap semua doktor kontrak ke perkhidmatan tetap, namun kerajaan akan meletakkan unjuran jumlah yang diperlukan.

Khairy berkata, unjuran tersebut sedang disediakan oleh Kementerian Kesihatan sebelum dikemukakan kepada Jabatan Perkhidmatan Awam (JPA) dan Kementerian Kewangan.

Menurut Kar Chal, pihaknya tidak menolak keperluan menambah perjawatan doktor namun ia perlu dilihat secara lebih mendalam.

"Ikutkan WHO memang cukup dan jika ditambah itu juga memerlukan kos-kos tambahan lain, tetapi jika ada kebolehan menambah, itu lebih baik," katanya.

Tambah beliau, MMA sememangnya amat berharap segala yang diminta oleh doktor kontrak dapat direalisasikan oleh Kementerian Kesihatan dan pihaknya tidak akan terus berhenti berbingcang bersama kementerian itu.

"Apa yang penting buat masa ini adalah kami melihat yang Menteri Kesihatan sedang berusaha, jadi kita tunggu sahaja dahulu," jelasnya.

Dalam pada itu, Gerakan Har tal Doktor Kontrak masih mengharapkan perubahan dalam Bajet 2022 bagi menjawab persoalan dan penantian mereka berhubung pelantikan secara tetap dalam kerajaan melalui sistem yang lebih telus.

Jurucakapnya, Dr. Muhammad Yassin berkata, ini berikutan pihaknya melihat wujud kemungkinan positif apabila nasib



DOKTOR kontrak masih mengharapkan Bajet 2022 dapat membela nasib mereka. - UTUSAN/SHAHJEHAN MAAMIN.

mereka turut dibangkitkan oleh beberapa ahli Parlimen dalam sidang Dewan Rakyat.

"Kita akan lihat perubahan dan tunggu perbincangan Bajet 2022 tamat, selepas itu baru kita buat keputusan untuk tindakan selanjutnya," ujar beliau.

Dalam pembentangan Bajet 2022 pada 29 Oktober lalu, kerajaan bersetuju meluluskan penajaan program kepakaran dengan peruntukan sejumlah RM100 juta yang bakal memberi manfaat kepada 3,000 pegawai perubatan dan perigian lantikan kontrak.

Kerajaan juga bersetuju menyambung pelantikan secara kontrak lebih 10,000 pegawai perubatan perubatan, perigian dan farmasi selepas tempoh khidmat wajib selama dua tahun.

Bagaimanapun, pengumuman

itu belum menjawab persoalan dan penantian semua doktor kontrak mengenai pelantikan mereka secara tetap dalam kerajaan melalui sistem yang lebih telus seperti dilaporkan sebelum ini.

Menurut Dr. Muhammad Yassin, gerakan itu belum mempunyai cadangan untuk melancarkan sebarang mogok buat masa ini kerana memahami keputusan Kementerian Kesihatan yang mengatakan doktor sudah terlalu banyak sebelum ini.

"Jadi, kita fikir akan cuba membuat forum untuk beri idea kepada doktor muda mengenai peluang pekerjaan di luar Kementerian Kesihatan.

"Kita juga akan cuba membuat banyak perbincangan dengan Khairy dan berdialog dengan beliau," ujarnya.

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA
MUKA SURAT : 10
RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI

Kes positif Covid-19 meningkat melebihi 6,000 kes

PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia mencatatkan peningkatan kes positif Covid-19 melebihi 1,000 sekali gus melepasi 6,000 kes iaitu 6,243 kes.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr. Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, peningkatan kes positif itu menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes sebanyak 2,522,498 kes.

Semalam, katanya, negara merekodkan peningkatan kes positif Covid-19 iaitu 5,403 kes berbanding sehari sebelumnya, 4,543 kes sekali gus mengatasi 5,311 kes sembuh.

Sementara itu, dalam perkembangan berkaitan kematian, Malaysia semalam, mencatatkan peningkatan jumlah kematian yang dilaporkan iaitu 78 kes berbanding kelmarin, 58 kes.

Rekod terbabit adalah setakat pukul 6 petang, semalam berdasarkan maklumat dikemas kini melalui laman web, <https://covidnow.moh.gov.my>, menjadikan keseluruhan kes terkini sebanyak 29,427 kes.

Bagi kes kematian yang dibawa ke hospital (BID), sebanyak 19 daripada 78 kes dengan jumlah keseluruhan sebanyak 5,951 kes.

Sebanyak 542 kes memerlukan rawatan di Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU) manakala 268 pesakit memerlukan Alat Bantuan Pernafasan (ABP) manakala pesakit yang perlu ditempatkan di wad adalah seramai 1,311 orang.

Utusan Online semalam turut melaporkan Noor Hisham berkata, tempat kerja terus mencatatkan jumlah terban-nyak iaitu empat daripada lima kluster Covid-19, diikuti satu kluster pendidikan tinggi.

Dalam perkembangan lain, Sekolah Kebangsaan Cyberjaya ditutup berikutan terdapat kes positif yang dilaporkan melibatkan warga sekolah tersebut.

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA
MUKA SURAT : 14
RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI

KKM, MKN perlu hati-hati beri kelonggaran kepada warga asing

Teruskan perintah kuarantin

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PETALING JAYA: Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) dan Majlis Keselamatan Negara (MKN) harus kekal berhati-hati sebelum memutuskan pelonggaran perintah kuarantin bagi mana-mana pihak yang masuk ke tanah air dari luar negara.

Ini memandangkan setiap individu yang lengkap vaksinasi masih berisiko dijangkiti pandemik Covid-19 malah boleh menjadi pembawa kepada individu lain.

Bercakap kepada *Utusan Malaysia*, pakar Kluster Kesihatan Masyarakat, Prof. Dr. Osman Ali berkata, perintah kuarantin harus diteruskan namun boleh dipendekkan.

"Kita tahu mereka yang ingin keluar dan masuk negara haruslah daripada mereka yang telah lengkap divaksinasi tetapi itu tidak membolehkan mereka ini terus bebas bercampur dengan masyarakat kerana masih boleh menjadi pembawa.

"Walaupun ujian calit Covid-19 dilakukan, tidak semua yang dapat dikenal pasti di peringkat awal. Sebaiknya adalah kuarantin wajib perlu dilakukan namun kerajaan boleh pendek-



KKM dan MKN harus kekal berhati-hati sebelum memutuskan pelonggaran perintah kuarantin bagi mana-mana pihak terutama warga asing yang masuk ke tanah air dari luar negara.

kan tempoh kuarantin.

"Ada negara lain yang mewajibkan kuarantin selama tiga hari dan setiap pelawat negara perlu membuat ujian calit bagi memastikan mereka selamat untuk bercampur dengan orang ramai dan kembali menjalankan kehidupan harian," katanya.

Terdahulu, individu yang sudah melengkapkan vaksinasi Covid-19 diputuskan boleh

berulang-alik antara Malaysia dan Singapura menerusi perjalanan udara tanpa perlu menjalani kuarantin bermula 29 November ini.

Kebenaran menerusi skim Laluan Bagi Orang Sudah Divaksinasi (VTL) itu diumumkan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob dan rakan sejawatannya, Lee Hsien Loong, dalam satu kenyataan bersama.

Dalam nada sama, Pakar Kesihatan Komuniti Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Prof. Dr. Sharifa Ezat Wan Puteh berkata, langkah berjaga-jaga harus diambil memandangkan virus itu mempunyai pelbagai varian.

"Jika mereka yang masuk ke Malaysia tidak kira dari mana sahaja, mereka berpotensi untuk membawa wabak itu tanpa kita sedar," tegasnya.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES
 MUKA SURAT : 2
 RUANGAN : NEWS / NATION

ALLEGED QUEUE-JUMPING

FURORE OVER BOOSTER JAB ELIGIBILITY

Claims of people getting doses before elderly, frontliners, those with comorbidities

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CONFUSION has arisen over the selection of those eligible for Covid-19 vaccine booster doses, as there have been allegations that people who have received the additional jab included those not in the priority group.

The Health Ministry had said booster shots would be prioritised for people in high-risk groups, including those aged over 60, people of all ages with comorbidities and frontliners.

However, there have been allegations of people in none of these categories sharing on social media their booster dose appointments, sparking a furore.

A reader, whose husband has comorbidities and works as an e-hailing driver, said getting any information about the booster shot had been difficult.

"I really want to know how my husband can register for the booster dose.

"I tried calling the vaccine hotline to ask about it and I was transferred to the Selangor Health Department.

"I was then told that the MySejahtera app would be upgraded

to allow people to check their status (for booster shots).

"However, nothing came out of it. At the same time, I see people posting on Facebook that they are getting the booster shot," she said.

Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin in a statement on Oct 21 said booster shots would be administered by private health practitioners under the coordination of ProtectHealth Corporation Sdn Bhd.

The government has also expanded the booster dose programme to people who have completed their Sinovac vaccination for at least three months. They would be given the Cominarty vaccine developed by Pfizer-BioNTech.

Another reader said a family friend got a booster shot at a private healthcare centre even without a MySejahtera appointment.

"It's quite confusing.

"The government has announced the criteria for individuals eligible to receive the booster dose.

"Then, how did some people, who do not fulfil the criteria, get it first?

"I thought we are supposed to wait for our turn since priority is given to high-risk groups," she said.

A similar furore was reported earlier this year, when people not in the priority category received the vaccine before most health workers during the early days of the Covid-19 National Immunisation Programme.

Khairy yesterday said booster shots were being administered to eligible individuals who are 40 years old above, as well as those with comorbidities.

In a video on Facebook, he said eligible individuals would receive their appointments for the jabs on MySejahtera.

"When you receive an appointment through MySejahtera, please come and get the booster shot. This (the booster dose) will enhance your defence against Covid-19 infection," he said.

In a tweet, Khairy said around 40 per cent of those who got a vaccine booster appointment did not show up.

He said the number of hospitalisations would increase if few people took their third dose.

"If booster take-up is low, especially among the elderly and those with comorbidities, hospitalisation numbers will go up. This is for sure."

He urged those who had received their appointments to keep them, as it would build protection against Covid-19.

Booster doses have been administered in Malaysia since Oct 13 to maintain immunity levels against Covid-19 among people in high-risk groups.



A person getting vaccinated in George Town, Penang, on Tuesday.
 PIC BY DANIAL SAAD

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES
MUKA SURAT : 3
RUANGAN : STORY OF THE DAY / NEWS

Midweek high of 6,243 cases yesterday

KUALA LUMPUR: Daily Covid-19 cases in Malaysia rose to 6,243 up to noon yesterday, compared with Tuesday's 5,403.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said this brought the case tally to 2,522,498.

Covid-19 cases have been on the rise in the past few days, with 4,543 reported on Monday and 4,343 on Sunday.

Data on the Health Ministry's CovidNow portal and Github account showed 78 deaths reported on Tuesday (including 19 brought in dead), up from the 58 logged on Monday. The country's Covid-19 death toll is now 29,427.

Of Tuesday's deaths, Kedah recorded the most at 19, followed by Sarawak (13), Selangor (12), Kelantan and Sabah (eight each), Perak (seven), Johor (five), Melaka and Terengganu (two each), and Negri Sembilan and Kuala Lumpur (one each).

Of the 19 brought-in-dead cases, five each were reported in Kelan-

tan and Sarawak, four in Sabah, two in Selangor, and one each in Johor, Kedah and Melaka.

In the past 14 days, deaths per million people has gone down from 18 to 17. The fatality rate is now at 0.9 per cent.

On Tuesday, Selangor recorded the most cases at 1,080, followed by Kelantan (792), Sabah (545), Sarawak (416), Kuala Lumpur (413), Kedah (412), Johor (385), Pahang (258), Terengganu (246), Penang (245), Melaka (200), Perak (161), Negri Sembilan (160), Putrajaya (48), Perlis (35) and Labuan (seven).

A total of 5,311 people recovered that day.

On Sunday, 4,343 Covid-19 tests were positive from the 104,754 conducted, giving a test positivity rate of 4.4 per cent. The World Health Organisation advises that positivity rates of below five per cent indicate enough tests are being done to detect most of the cases in the community. Up to Tuesday, 61,803 people were being treat-

ed or isolated for Covid-19.

Of the number, 77.8 per cent (48,058) were in home quarantine, 12.5 per cent (7,703) were at Covid-19 quarantine and treatment centres (PKRC), and 0.8 per cent (542) were in intensive care units (ICUs) in hospitals. A total of 268 are on ventilators.

Facility utilisation rates are now 67.8 per cent for hospital beds, 34.9 per cent for PKRCs, 59.1 per cent for ICUs and 40.6 per cent for ventilators.

On Tuesday, 116,642 vaccine doses were administered, with 78,065 of them being booster shots, 7,877 first doses and 30,700 second doses. So far, 78.3 per cent of people in Malaysia (25,550,899) have received at least one dose of a vaccine, while 75.5 per cent (24,642,369 people) have been fully vaccinated.

Ninety-five per cent of adults (22,228,388 people) and 76.7 per cent of adolescents (2,413,991 people), aged 12 to 17, are fully vaccinated. **Report by Teoh Pei Ying**

Experts urge parents to ensure kids get both doses of vaccine

KUALA LUMPUR: Teenagers who have received the first Covid-19 vaccine dose must get the second jab as a single dose is not sufficient to protect them against the coronavirus and its variants, especially the highly infectious Delta variant, experts said.

Consultant paediatrician Datuk Dr Amar-Singh HSS said one dose would not offer the maximum protection against the virus, but two doses would offer protection of up to 90 per cent.

He said it was understandable that parents were worried about their children suffering side effects, especially when there were reports of boys facing increased risk of myocarditis, or inflammation of the heart muscle, after the second dose, while there was a growing probability in girls.

"I think that is why people are behaving this way. People are more well-read about Covid-19 than any other subject at this time. But they should not take it for granted and live with the ideology that they will never get infected."

"Being infected with Covid-19 is worse. We are looking at something between 40 and 60 per cent of protection for one dose and up to 80 and 90 per cent with the second dose. That is a big difference."

"When we open schools, it is highly likely the Delta variant will spread. That is what we see happening in other countries."



(From left) Datuk Dr Amar-Singh HSS, Dr Anthony James Mansul and Datuk Dr Zainal Ariffin Omar

Norway and the United States saw a massive spike and the United Kingdom is experiencing that now, and it is all because of school-related spread.

"Parents need to be prepared, you cannot hide your child away forever. Unvaccinated, you may get away with nothing or get a nasty infection, while some children will die. Already more than 100 children in Malaysia have died, and about 40 per cent of them are teenagers," he told the *New Straits Times*.

Dr Amar said it was crucial that teenagers be made aware of the benefits of the Covid-19 vaccine and the risks they faced if they were not vaccinated.

Parents, he said, must discuss the matter with their children.

Anyone over the age of 12 should have the good sense to get vaccinated, he said.

"We should involve them in any discussion about vaccination. Ultimately, it is still going to be par-

ents who make the decision."

Dr Amar said Covid-19 vaccination data should be accessible to the public.

He cited the case of a 15-year-old boy who died a day after receiving the second dose at the SMK Gunung Rapat vaccination centre in Perak on Oct 23.

The student had reportedly become unconscious the next morning after experiencing breathing difficulty. He died at 10.40am at a private hospital and an autopsy found there was spontaneous bronchospasm.

Dr Amar said sharing such data would give the public clarity.

"If it is vaccine-related (death), then we should admit it. We should never hide it. But they must be aware as schools are reopening."

He said data showed that one in 100 of those who got infected with the Delta variant at schools would end up in hospital, while the death rate was probably one

in 4,000.

Consultant paediatrician Dr Anthony James Mansul said while he empathised with parents' dilemma on vaccination due to reports of side effects, one had little choice but to get the shot as all sectors were reopening.

He said the pandemic was not showing signs of disappearing.

He hoped parents would consider this factor, and also of the rapid rise of infections among children and teenagers abroad.

Dr Anthony, who practises at a private hospital here, said many did not realise there were fewer treatment options for children with Covid-19.

"Children have a tendency to develop multi-system inflammatory syndrome (MIS-C), which is quite unique to them. If I am not mistaken, they are starting to see some cases in Kuala Lumpur."

"Yes, vaccination can cause myocarditis, but it is mild and self-limiting. However, if you are infected with Covid-19, the risk of getting myocarditis is higher, especially in children, and can be devastating."

"Remember, it is not only myocarditis, but also the MIS-C, and that is what worries everyone because it can damage a child's entire body."

"If we were to compare that to someone who has been vaccinated, the risk of getting any side effect from vaccination is quite

low. The risk of getting myocarditis, post-vaccine, is quite rare."

"In the United States, it was quoted as 50 per million cases and most of them were mild, self-limiting. When you balance children's suffering from Covid-19 versus complications from the vaccine, it makes sense for the government to have proper vaccination for children."

Dr Anthony said it was important to get two doses as the unimmunised could infect others, especially the elderly with waning immunity.

"This new group of Covid-19 spreaders can transmit the virus to the elderly, which would result in a new cycle," he said.

Public Health Physicians Association president Datuk Dr Zainal Ariffin Omar said parents had to ensure their children were vaccinated.

"Parents should care for their children and make an effort to ensure that they receive the shots before the government makes it mandatory. Allowing them to miss the second appointment should not happen as it is inadequate to shield them from the virus."

"The Education Ministry, schools and parent-teacher associations must intensify vaccination efforts, too. One way is to set up more vaccination centres," he said, adding that the issue of parents refusing to get their children vaccinated should be addressed.

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 6
RUANGAN : NATION

Fully vaxxed adults hit 95% mark

KUALA LUMPUR: Over 22.2 million of Malaysia's adult population or 95% have completed their Covid-19 vaccination.

According to Health Ministry data on its CovidNow portal, 97.6% of the adult population or 22.8 million people have received at least one dose of the vaccine.

A total of 116,642 doses of vaccine were administered on Tuesday, with 30,700 having completed two doses, 7,877 for first dose and 78,065 booster doses, bringing the total number of doses administered under the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme to 50,656,181.

As for teenagers aged 12 to 17, a total of 2,413,991 or 76.7% have completed their vaccination, while 86.5% or 2,722,418 have received at least the first dose.

A total of 644,664 booster doses had also been administered. — Bernama

40% no-show for booster shots, says KJ

KUALA LUMPUR: Around 40% of people getting their vaccine booster appointment dates under the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme are not showing up for the jab, says Khairy Jamaluddin.

The Health Minister said the number of hospitalisations would increase if the number of booster take-ups remains low.

"If booster take-up is low, especially among the elderly and those with comorbidities, hospitalisation numbers will go up. This is for sure," he tweeted.

Hence, Khairy urged those who had received their appointment dates to go and take the jab as it would strengthen their immunity and protection against the disease.

Booster dose began nationwide on Oct 13 for fully vaccinated individuals to ensure that the immunity received after completing their doses could be maintained for an optimal period, especially against Delta variants. — Bernama

2,712 long Covid patients referred to rehab centre

PETALING JAYA: A total of 2,712 long Covid patients were referred to the rehabilitation centre in Hospital Sungai Buloh from November last year to September, but over 60% of them continued to have persistent symptoms.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said during this period, 2,712 long Covid patients were referred to the Covid-19 Rehabilitation Outpatient Specialised Services (CROSS) within four to 12 weeks after infection.

Of this, 984 cases or 36.3% recovered completely from their symptoms, 1,715 cases or 63.2% continued to have symptoms, while 13 or 0.05% died.

"Checks on their medical records showed that other comorbidities factors such as cancer, kidney failure, heart attack, blood infection and lung infection also contributed to these deaths."

Long Covid is when former Covid-19 patients still show signs and symptoms after recovering.

Dr Noor Hisham said based on their records, about 97.5% or 2,324 of the patients who underwent the evaluation after 12 weeks were those in Categories Four and Five.

Of the numbers, 914 or 39.4% of them recovered fully while the others continued to have multiple symptoms.

Five of the most common symptoms were fatigue (71.8%), breathing difficulty (61.9%), coughing (13.6%), pain (13.2%), and sleeping problems (11%).

Based on the analysis, after 12 weeks, 61.1% did not experience loss of function, 25.6% experienced a little difficulty in functioning, 3.7% experienced a clear difficulty in functioning but did not require help, while 0.7% experienced severe difficulty in functioning and needed help.

He said those experiencing long Covid should seek assessments and treatments from the nearest health facility.

Dr Noor Hisham said 31 public

hospitals, four university hospitals and six private healthcare facilities were involved in the treatments.

In the same statement, Dr Noor Hisham said Malaysia recorded 6,243 new cases of Covid-19 yesterday, bringing the cumulative number of cases since the pandemic began to 2,522,498.

"Out of the 6,243 new cases, 106 or 1.7% are in Categories Three, Four and Five while 6,137 cases or 98.3% are in Categories One and Two," he said.

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 8
RUANGAN : NATION

Booster shots for MPs to resume today

THE administration of Covid-19 booster shots to MPs in Dewan Rakyat will resume today.

Deputy Speaker Datuk Mohd Rashid Hasnon said that the booster shots would be administered to MPs who have yet to get theirs.

"The Health Ministry started giving booster shots to MPs on Nov 2.

"As a continuation of this, booster shots will be administered to MPs who have yet to receive theirs

on Thursday (today) at the Parliament House clinic between 9am and 1pm," he said just before the start of proceedings in the Dewan Rakyat.

On Oct 13, the Health Ministry began a nationwide exercise to administer vaccination boosters to ensure optimal immunity for those who already completed their earlier vaccination process.

The move is to provide better protection against emerging

Covid-19 variants such as the Delta variant.

Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wee Ka Siong noted that all MPs are required to undergo an RTK-Antigen (RTK-Ag) test for Covid-19 every Monday and Wednesday to ensure their safety and health.

In a Facebook post, he said that the tests were conducted before MPs were allowed to enter Dewan Rakyat.

He added that the tests were also mandatory for accompanying officers and parliamentary personnel.

"If the RTK-Ag results are negative, then a sticker will be given to show that the health screening has been carried out," he said.

Dr Wee thanked frontliner officers and staff for going out of their way to do their duty and providing the best service to the people.

AKHBAR : THE SUN ON THURSDAY
MUKA SURAT : 4
RUANGAN : NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS

Recovered coronavirus patients face new threat

► Those in Category Three to Five likely to develop 'organising pneumonia' that results in persistent cough, says expert

KUALA LUMPUR: Covid-19 patients who have recovered are unfortunately not altogether out of the woods.

Those whose infection has reached Category Three, Four or Five are likely to end up with another infection known as "organising pneumonia", according to consultant respiratory physician Dr Nurul Yaqeen Mohd Esa.

She said evidence of the new infection is indicated by white patches in the lungs.

According to an entry in the Mayo Clinic website, organising pneumonia is a rare lung condition that results in persistent cough.

Depending on how bad the infection is, the patient may also experience shortness of breath with exertion, and low-grade fever. Generally, he would feel unwell.

Nurul Yaqeen, who is with Sunway Medical Centre Velocity, said Covid-19 patients with Category One or Two infections will no longer develop pneumonia symptoms once they recover.

"For patients in these two categories, only the nose, throat and

upper respiratory tract are affected by the infection," she told Bernama.

But for patients in Category Three to Five, the infection would have spread to the lungs, resulting in lung infection or pneumonia, which is indicated by white patches in the X-Ray, she said.

Even if these patients recover, the infection would have left scars in the lungs, leading to a condition called organising pneumonia, she added.

Nurul Yaqeen gave the example of scars that remain visible on the skin even after a wound has healed.

"In this case, the scars are in the lungs."

Nurul Yaqeen said even after patients have recovered from the Covid-19 infection, they would still have to seek treatment for inflammation in the lungs.

She added that organising pneumonia does not affect only those who had Covid-19.

Apart from viral or fungal infection, possible causes include exposure to drugs or medications such as cocaine and some antibiotics, transplant of bone marrow, lung or

kidney and certain types of chemotherapy, according to the Mayo Clinic website.

Nurul Yaqeen said even before the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, she would encourage those with a high risk of developing organising pneumonia to go for influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations as most types of pneumonia are caused by pneumococcal bacteria and influenza virus.

For better results, individuals are advised to take two types of pneumococcal vaccine, she added.

Malaysian Muslim Doctors Organisation committee member Dr Zubaidi Ahmad said pneumonia should not be taken lightly.

Statistics from the Causes of Death, Malaysia 2019 Report showed that pneumonia was the second highest cause of death in the country.

It accounted for 11.8%, or a total of 13,851 cases that year.

World Pneumonia Day is observed annually on Nov 12 to raise awareness on the life-threatening disease, as nations across the globe grapple with the pandemic.