

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 1
RUANGAN : MUKA HADAPAN

7 indikator penentu negara masuk fasa endemik

Oleh Ahmad Suhael Adnan
ahmad.suhael@bh.com.my

Kuala Lumpur: Kerajaan menetapkan tujuh indikator utama yang perlu dicapai sebelum Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) boleh mengisytiharkan Malaysia memasuki fasa endemik, sekali gus bersedia untuk hidup bersama virus COVID-19.

Indikator pertama adalah jumlah penggunaan katil hospital, penggunaan katil unit rawatan rapi (ICU) dan Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan COVID-19 Berisiko Rendah (PKRC); indikator kedua berkaitan kapasiti ujian di makmal dan ketiga, kadar kes positif COVID-19.

Indikator keempat, jumlah petugas KKM yang dijangkiti serta jumlah kemasukan pesakit COVID-19 ke wad; kelima, jumlah kematian harian dan purata kematian tujuh hari; keenam, kadar insiden kes harian dan terakhir, kadar vaksinasi populasi keseluruhan.

Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan II, Datuk Aaron Ago Dagang, berkata untuk menjangkau ke peringkat

endemik, kadar penggunaan katil keseluruhan ditetapkan kurang daripada 30 peratus, penggunaan katil ICU kurang 10 peratus dan jumlah PKRC disasarkan kurang 30 peratus.

"Kapasiti makmal untuk menjalankan ujian pula ditetapkan melebihi 90 peratus; kadar positif dalam fasa endemik pula disasarkan kurang lima peratus.

"Jumlah petugas kesihatan dijangkiti COVID-19 pula mesti di tahap minimum iaitu kurang satu peratus; dan kadar kes COVID-19 yang teruk masuk ke wad perlu kurang daripada 0.5 peratus.

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

Aaron berkata, purata kes positif ditetapkan untuk memasuki fasa endemik adalah kurang 1,200 sehari, manakala kadar vaksinasi perlu lebih 80 peratus daripada jumlah populasi keseluruhan," katanya pada sesi soal jawab lisan di Dewan Rakyat, semalam.

Nasional 4

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

WHO tentukan status endemik sesebuah negara

Dari Muka 1

Beliau menjawab soalan tambahan Datuk Salim Sharif (BN-Jempol) yang bertanyakan bila KKM akan mengisytiharkan Malaysia masuk ke fasa endemik dan sama ada rakyat Malaysia sudah bersedia untuk hidup bersama virus COVID-19.

Mengikut portal COVIDNOW KKM, kadar semasa penggunaan katil untuk pesakit COVID-19 adalah 65.8 peratus, ICU (59.3 peratus), PKRC (36.5 peratus), kadar vaksinasi lengkap keseluruhan penduduk (74.9 peratus), purata kematian bagi tempoh 2 minggu lalu (21 kematian bagi sejuta penduduk), manakala purata kes bagi tempoh 2 minggu lalu adalah 4,979 kes.

Menjawab soalan asal Dr Lee Boon Chye (PH-Gopeng) yang bertanyakan persediaan KKM menghadapi fasa endemik COVID-19, Aaron memaklumkan status endemik sesuatu negara hanya akan ditentukan Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO).

Bagaimanapun, katanya, tahap penularan COVID-19 pada fasa endemik peringkat negara boleh ditentukan kerajaan berdasarkan pencapaian nilai ambang ditetapkan dan disesuaikan dengan kapasiti sesuatu negara.

Beliau berkata, jumlah kes harian COVID-19 masih boleh meningkat, walaupun kadar vaksinasi melebihi 70 peratus dan dalam fasa endemik, namun lebih utama adalah jumlah kemasukan ke hospital dan kematian dapat dikurangkan.

"Tindakan kerajaan dan KKM ketika ini adalah terus mengekang penularan hingga ke tahap endemik, meningkatkan kesiapsiagaan menghadapi ancaman kemunculan varian baharu dan peningka-

tan kes serta meningkatkan pembabitan pelbagai pihak dan telus dalam perkongsian maklumat dengan masyarakat," katanya.

Aaron berkata, KKM juga menggariskan lima strategi utama untuk transisi kepada fasa endemik merangkumi tindak balas kesihatan awam dan vaksinasi, pengujian dan surveilans, pengurusan kes COVID-19, pemerkasaan komuniti dan kawalan sempadan.

Menerusi strategi itu, katanya, KKM akan meningkatkan usaha mengesan awal kes COVID-19 melalui ujian saringan, siasatan dan rawatan serta pengasingan kes, manakala kontak rapat dikenal pasti dengan lebih cepat bagi memutuskan rantaian jangkitan.

"Penjagaan kesihatan primer pula diperkukuh dengan memperluas penyampaian perkhidmatan secara maya atau hibrid kepada perkhidmatan lain seperti penyakit tidak berjangkit (NCD) serta kesihatan ibu dan anak (MCH).

"Sistem temu janji dalam talian juga diperluas dan Pusat Penilaian COVID-19 (CAC) maya bagi penilaian status kesihatan kes COVID-19 diteruskan dan diperluas ke negeri lain, selain pembabitan pengamal perubatan swasta dipertingkatkan dalam pengurusan COVID-19," katanya.

Sebelum ini, Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaludin dilaporkan berkata Malaysia dijangka memasuki fasa endemik bermula akhir Oktober selepas 80 peratus populasi dewasa ini lengkap menerima dua dos vaksin.

Khairy berkata, apabila tiba masanya satu norma baharu prosedur operasi standard (SOP) diperkenalkan untuk hidup secara sihat dan selamat, walaupun virus ini masih lagi berada dalam kalangan kita.

7 indikator masuk Fasa Endemik COVID-19

	Sasaran	Kadar semasa
Penggunaan katil		
1	• Keseluruhan	<30%
	• Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU)	<10%
	• Kemasukan PKRC	<30%
Saringan		
2	• Kapasiti makmal jalankan ujian	>90%
Kadar positif		
3		<5%
Petugas kesihatan dijangkiti dan Kadar masuk wad		
4		<1%
		<0.5%
Kes kematian		
5	• Purata dalam tujuh hari	<0.8%
	• Harian kes kematian	<10
Jangkitan baharu		
6	• Kes harian	<1,200 kes
Vaksinasi		
7	• Lebih 80% populasi keseluruhan	80%
		74.9%

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Jangkitan harian kekal bawah 5,000 kes

Kuala Lumpur: Kes jangkitan baharu COVID-19 terus menurun kepada 4,626 semalam berbanding 4,979 kes kelmarin.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata tambahan kes baharu berkenaan menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes di Malaysia setakat ini mencecah 2,476,268 kes.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, daripada jumlah kes harian direkodkan semalam, sebanyak 94 kes atau dua peratus adalah kategori 3, 4, dan 5, manakala 4,532 atau 98 peratus adalah kategori 1 dan 2.

"Bilangan pesakit yang menerima rawatan di unit rawatan rapi (ICU) kini seramai 569 orang, iaitu 503 disahkan COVID-19, 66 pula disyaki, kemungkinan dalam siasatan.

"Daripada jumlah itu, sera-

mai 301 individu memerlukan alat bantuan pernafasan mem-babitkan 220 disahkan COVID-19, manakala 88 disyaki, kemungkinan dalam siasatan," katanya dalam kenyataan semalam.

Selain itu, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, 5,299 kes sembuh direkodkan mengatasi kes baharu hari ini, menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan 2,380,060 kes iaitu 96.1 peratus daripada keseluruhan kes.

Beliau berkata, pihaknya turut mengenal pasti lima kluster baharu di mana pertambahan kluster baharu itu menjadikan keseluruhan 5,776 kluster sudah dilaporkan setakat ini, dengan 411 kluster masih aktif.

Katanya, maklumat terperinci dimuat naik ke laman web <http://covidnow.moh.gov.my> dengan data setiap hari dikemas kini selepas tengah malam.

3 pelan strategik pulih sektor pelancongan kesihatan

Kuala Lumpur: Tiga pendekatan strategik utama ditekankan dalam Pelan Tindakan Industri Pelancongan Kesihatan Malaysia (MHTC) 2021-2025 bagi memastikan negara kembali ke landasan sebagai destinasi pelancongan kesihatan terkemuka.

Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin, berkata tiga pendekatan berkenaan ialah ekosistem pelancongan kesihatan, jenama penjagaan kesihatan dan pasaran.

Katanya, pada 2019, negara menerima lebih 1.22 juta pelancong penjagaan kesihatan dengan perolehan hampir RM1.7 bilion, namun tahun lalu ia menurun se-

banyak hampir RM800 juta.

"Justeru, memandangkan kita sedang beralih kepada fasa endemik dan pemulihan negara, keutamaan ketika ini termasuk penyelenggaraan penjagaan dan keselamatan berkualiti tinggi selain bagi meningkatkan prestasi pengalaman pesakit.

"Kita juga perlu meningkatkan prestasi pendigitalan bagi meningkatkan keseluruhan pengalaman pesakit mendapatkan rawatan.

"Perkara ini sekali gus membolehkan penyedia penjagaan kesihatan menambah baik penyampaian perkhidmatan dalam menawarkan kualiti terbaik kepada

pesakit, terutama apabila Hab Kesuburan dan Kardiologi Asia serta Pusat Kecemerlangan Penjagaan Kanser ditawarkan di negara kita.

"Dengan pelan tindakan ini, diharapkan pesakit dapat menerima pengalaman pelancongan kesihatan Malaysia yang terbaik menjelang 2025," katanya ketika merasmikan Pelan Tindakan MHTC 2021-2025, semalam.

Yang turut hadir, Ketua Setiausaha (KSU) Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM), Datuk Mohd Shafiq Abdullah; Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah dan Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif MHTC, Mohd

Daud Mohd Arif.

Beliau berkata, negara kini juga berusaha mencapai tujuan berkenaan dengan kemunculan akan datang Hospital Pelancongan Perubatan Utama.

"Ini akan menjadi penanda aras untuk kecemerlangan perubatan dan perkhidmatan serta mengukuhkan pengiktirafan antarabangsa dalam bidang Pelancongan Perubatan.

"Selain itu, pembangunan program Kehidupan Persaraan Antarabangsa dengan kerjasama kerajaan adalah satu lagi penanda aras untuk mempamerkan Malaysia secara positif sebagai destinasi yang diiktiraf untuk pen-

jagaan kesihatan.

"Malah, negara kini juga sedang memfokuskan kepada perspektif perkhidmatan rawatan, kepakaran perubatan, peranti perubatan dan farmaseutikal bagi meyakinkan Malaysia sebagai sebuah negara yang dipercayai dan selamat, terutamanya dalam menarik pelaburan asing," katanya.

Justeru, beliau berharap, menerusi pelan tindakan dinyatakan itu, usaha semua sektor industri dan kerjasama rentas sempadan diperlukan untuk memastikan penyampaian penjagaan kesihatan yang lebih mampan di peringkat global.

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 18

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Sidang Dewan Rakyat

KKM sedia kaji syor beri remaja lelaki vaksin HPV

Pelaksanaan mampu bendung kes kanser serviks di Malaysia

Oleh Zamariah Abdul Mutalib, Mohd Ismail Ibrahim dan Aiman Sufian Aiman
bhnews@bh.com.my

Kuala Lumpur: Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) sedia mempertimbangkan cadangan memberikan vaksin papilomavirus manusia (HPV) kepada remaja lelaki berusia 13 tahun ke atas.

Ia berikutan golongan lelaki berisiko menjadi pembawa virus itu, yang menjadi antara punca berlakunya kanser serviks dalam kalangan wanita ketika ini.

Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan II, Datuk Aaron Ago Dagang, berkata buat masa ini, dasar KKM berhubung pemberian vaksin HPV kekal kepada remaja perempuan berusia 13 tahun ke atas.

"Saya ada suarakan persoalan ini kepada pegawai Kementerian, namun setakat ini dasar KKM bagi vaksinasi HPV masih untuk remaja perempuan berusia 13 tahun ke atas.

"Untuk remaja lelaki, kita belum buat dasar vaksinasi HPV kepada mereka, namun untuk tahun ke hadapan, kita mungkin akan melaksanakan dasar seperti itu," katanya pada sesi soal jawab lisan di Dewan Rakyat, semalam.

Beliau menjawab soal tam-



Aaron pada sesi soal jawab lisan di Dewan Rakyat.

(Foto ihsan RTM)

bahan Nurul Izzah Anwar (PH-Permatang Pauh) yang bertanya sama ada KKM akan memberikan vaksin HPV kepada golongan lelaki seawal usia 13 tahun seperti dilaksanakan di negara maju, bagi mengakhiri kes kanser serviks di Malaysia.

Ditanya sama ada KKM akan memutuskan segera supaya golongan lelaki turut diberikan vaksin itu selain wanita, Aaron berkata, Kementerian mengambil maklum desakan itu dan menga-

kui ia penting untuk negara. Menjawab soalan asal Nurul Izzah yang bertanyakan usaha Kementerian, mengawal selia program HPV yang turut dijalankan Lembaga Pembangunan Penduduk dan Keluarga Negara (LPPKN), Aaron berkata, KKM meluluskan saringan kanser serviks melalui kaedah ujian saringan HPV DNA secara berfasa-

pada 30 September 2019.

"KKM menyasarkan semua wanita rakyat Malaysia berusia 30 hingga 65 tahun yang pernah mengadakan hubungan seksual dan belum pernah melakukan ujian saringan HPV atau menjalani ujian pap smear dalam tempoh lebih tiga tahun, layak disaring di klinik kesihatan.

"Dasar ini berbeza daripada LPPKN, yang kumpulan sasarannya adalah wanita daripada golongan B40 dan M40, dan perkhidmatannya disampaikan melalui 49 Klinik Nur Sejahtera di bawah kelolaan LPPKN," katanya.

Mengulas lanjut, Aaron berkata, kajian terkini menunjukkan jangkitan virus HPV berisiko tinggi penyumbang kepada lebih 95 peratus penyebab kanser serviks, yang juga kanser ketiga tertinggi dalam kalangan wanita Malaysia.

Ahli Parlimen terima dos penggalak mulai hari ini

Kuala Lumpur: Semua Ahli Dewan Rakyat yang lengkap menerima dua dos vaksin, akan diberikan suntikan dos penggalak COVID-19, bermula hari ini.

Timbalan Yang Dipertua Dewan Rakyat, Datuk Mohd Rashid Hasnon, berkata Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) akan memberikan dos berkenaan bermula jam 9.30 pagi di Dewan Bankuet di Bangunan Parlimen.

"KKM sudah memulakan pemberian dos penggalak di seluruh negara bermula 13 Oktober lalu kepada individu yang mendapat dos lengkap vaksin bagi memastikan imuniti yang diterima selepas dos lengkap dapat dikekalkan untuk tempoh optimum, khususnya terhadap jangkitan varian Delta.

"Justeru, bagi melindungi Ahli Yang Berhormat, yang mampu-

nyai bertanggungjawab untuk kerap bersama rakyat dan berisiko mendapat jangkitan COVID-19, KKM akan memberikan dos penggalak bermula esok (hari ini) dan tarikh seterusnya akan ditetapkan kelak," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian demikian ketika menyampaikan makluman Yang Dipertua Dewan Rakyat selepas selesai sesi soal jawab lisan di Dewan Rakyat, semalam.

Selain itu, beliau turut memaklumkan, persidangan Dewan Rakyat pada Rabu ini akan berlangsung secara berterusan dari jam 10 pagi sehingga 2 petang sahaja.

"Ini bagi membolehkan Ahli Yang Berhormat pulang awal ke kawasan masing-masing bagi menyambut perayaan Deepavali pada Khamis ini," katanya.

Tiada kes individu meninggal akibat kesan vaksinasi COVID-19

Kuala Lumpur: Tiada individu disahkan meninggal dunia akibat kesan menerima vaksin COVID-19, sejak Program Imunisasi COVID-19 Kebangsaan (PICK) bermula pada 24 Februari hingga Rabu lalu.

Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan II, Datuk Aaron Ago Dagang, berkata ia berdasarkan penilaian kualiti dijalankan Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) terhadap impak pemberian vaksin COVID-19.

"Daripada jumlah kes serius yang diterima setakat ini, terdapat 519 laporan merekodkan kes kematian dalam kalangan penerima vaksin COVID-19.

"Namun, selepas penilaian kualiti dijalankan, tiada kes kematian dapat dikaitkan secara langsung dengan vaksin COVID-19 yang diberikan, setakat ini," katanya pada sesi soal jawab lisan di Dewan Rakyat, semalam.

Beliau menjawab soalan Datuk Seri Mohd Redzuan Md Yusof (PN-Alor Gajah) yang bertanyakan langkah keselamatan dijalankan KKM bagi memastikan vaksin diterima bersesuaian dengan penerima dan bentuk pampasan diterima penerima vaksin sekiranya ada kesan sampingan.

Aaron berkata, belum ada permohonan Bantuan Khas Kewangan Kesan Mudarat Vaksin COVID-19 diluluskan kepada penerima vaksin itu, yang mendakwa mengalami kesan sampingan serius atau kematian akibat pela-

lian berkenaan.

Katanya, KKM menerima 22,132 laporan kesan sampingan melalui sistem pelaporan sedia ada, bersamaan 0.45 laporan bagi setiap 1,000 dos diberikan.

Daripada jumlah itu, katanya, 1,483 laporan atau 0.03 bagi setiap 1,000 dos vaksin, dikategorikan sebagai serius, yang mana penerima vaksin menerima rawatan di hospital untuk pemantauan selama beberapa hari.

"Semua kes dikategorikan sebagai serius disiasat secara menyeluruh dan terperinci oleh fasiliti kesihatan, dan laporannya diserahkan kepada Jawatankuasa Farmakovigilans Khas Vaksin COVID-19 (JFKV) untuk penilaian kualiti atau hubungkait antara kesan sampingan dan vaksin yang diambil," katanya.

Mengulas lanjut, Aaron menjelaskan semua portfolio vaksin COVID-19 yang digunakan di Malaysia iaitu Pfizer, Sinovac, AstraZeneca dan CanSino, sudah melalui proses pemeriksaan yang terperinci bagi memastikan ia berkualiti, selamat dan berkesan sebelum boleh digunakan.

Beliau berkata, setiap kelompok vaksin perlu menjalani keperluan 'lot release', dengan pihak Pemegang Pendaftaran Produk (PRH) perlu mengemukakan dokumen mengandungi maklumat proses pengilangan dan ujian kawalan kualiti dijalankan ke atas kelompok vaksin itu.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : COVID-19

Kuala Lumpur

Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) akan mula memberikan dos penggalak vaksin Covid-19 kepada Ahli Parlimen bermula hari ini.

Timbalan Yang Dipertua Dewan Rakyat Datuk Mohd Rashid Hasnon (*gambar*) dalam pemakluman berkata, sesi pemberian dos penggalak bermula jam 9.30 pagi di dewan bankuet Parlimen.

"Bagi melindungi Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat yang mempunyai tanggungjawab untuk kerap bersama rakyat dan berisiko mendapat jangkitan Covid-19 maka KKM akan memberikan dos penggalak kepada Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat," katanya sambil menambah tarikh pemberian dos penggalak

DOS PENGALAK UNTUK AHLI PARLIMEN

KKM mula suntik hari ini

seterusnya akan ditetapkan gi hingga 2 petang.

Sementara itu, sempena sambutan Deepavali pada Khamis ini, Mohd Rashid berkata,

adalah dicadangkan supaya mesyuarat Dewan Rakyat pada Rabu bersidang berterusan dari 10 pa-

"Ini bagi membolehkan Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat pulang awal ke kawasan masing-masing menyambut perayaan ini," katanya.

Sehubungan itu, Timbalan Menteri di Jabatan Perdana Menteri (Parlimen dan Undang-Undang) Datuk

Mas Ermeyati Samsudin bangkit mencadangkan usul berhubung perkara itu mengikut Peraturan Mesyuarat 12 (1).

"Mengikut Peraturan Mesyuarat 12 (1), saya mohon mencadangkan mesyuarat pada hari Rabu, 3 November 2021 bersidang dari jam 10 pagi hingga 2 petang," katanya dan usul itu kemudian disokong Timbalan Menteri Dalam Negeri Datuk Seri Ismail Mohamed Said.



AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : COVID-19

22,361,734 populasi dewasa lengkap vaksin

Kuala Lumpur: Kadar populasi dewasa di negara ini yang lengkap menerima suntikan vaksin Covid-19 meningkat kepada 22,361,734 individu setakat jam 11.59 malam kelmarin berbanding 22,348,481 pada Sabtu.

Berdasarkan data Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia

(KKM) menerusi laman COVIDNOW, sejumlah 22,872,309 atau 97.7 peratus individu pula sudah menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos vaksin.

Selain itu, sebanyak 63,489 dos vaksin harian diberikan kelmarin memabitkan golongan dewasa dan remaja, menjadikan jumlah

kumulatif pemberian vaksin bagi Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan (Pick) kini meningkat kepada 50,076,170 dos.

Bagi golongan kanak-kanak dan remaja berusia 12 hingga 17 tahun, setakat kelmarin 2,091,464 individu atau 66.4 peratus melengkapkan suntikan vaksin ma-

nakala 83 peratus atau 2,612,742 individu menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos vaksin menerusi Pick Remaja yang bermula sejak 8 September lalu.

Dalam pada itu, sejumlah 16,244 dos penggalak vaksin Covid-19 diberikan semalam menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kini 307,653 dos.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 7

RUANGAN : COVID-19

Tiga vaksin dalam penghasilan

Oleh Suraya Roslan
suraya@hmetro.com.my

Malaysia turut perluas penyelidikan vaksin bagi rawat penyakit lain

Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia tidak akan hanya tertumpu kepada pembangunan vaksin Covid-19 semata-mata tetapi akan memperluaskan kepada penghasilan vaksin bagi penyakit lain.

Perdana Menteri Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob berkata, Pelan Hala Tuju Pembangunan Vaksin Negara (PPVN) yang dilancarkan semalam juga akan diperluaskan kepada vaksin bagi penyakit lain antaranya pembangunan vaksin untuk kanser kepala dan leher oleh Pusat Penyelidikan Kanser.

"Negara mempunyai saintis vaksin yang memiliki kepakaran dalam penyelidikan dan pembangunan (R&D) vaksin.

"Saya ucapkan terima kasih kepada saintis yang berada di depan saya ketika ini di atas segala penat lelah selama ini yang menjadi kelompok utama menghasilkan vaksin untuk manusia.

"Melalui pelbagai program yang dilaksanakan kerajaan, kita menjangkakan lebih ramai saintis vaksin dapat dilahirkan, ini sekali gus dapat menyokong pelbagai program dan perancangan ke-

rajaan bagi meningkatkan kemampuan membangunkan vaksin khusus manusia, bukan sahaja untuk kegunaan dalam negara malah untuk pasaran global," katanya ketika berucap melancarkan PPVN serta Institut Genom dan Vaksin Malaysia di Kajang, semalam.

Ismail Sabri berkata, antara usaha dilakukan termasuk menerusi syarikat Pharmacia menerusi proses pembotolan vaksin Covid-19 iaitu CoronaVac atau lebih dikenali sebagai Sinovac dan syarikat Solution Biologics bagi pembotolan vaksin Convidecia atau dikenali sebagai CanSino.

"Melalui kajian pelan pembangunan vaksin negara oleh Majlis Sains Negara, pelan ini dilaksanakan secara bersama oleh Mosti dan Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM).

"Melalui kajian ini, kerajaan bersetuju supaya Mosti memberi fokus terhadap pembangunan dan penyelidikan vaksin tempatan.

"Hasilnya, pada hari ini kita menyaksikan Institut Genom Malaysia (MGI) dinaik taraf kepada Institut Genom dan Vaksin Malaysia atau *Malaysia Genome & Va-*

ccine Institute (MGVI)," katanya.

Menurutnya, naik taraf MGVI ini bersesuaian dengan skop MGI yang memberi tumpuan kepada penyelidikan genom dan biologi molekular dalam usaha penghasilan vaksin.

"Saya yakin penubuhan MGVI ini dapat memberi kesan positif kepada negara daripada sudut ekonomi, sosial dan teknologi sekali gus menyumbang kepada kestabilan ekonomi kerana tiada kebergantungan kepada sumber bekalan dari luar.

"Melalui pelaksanaan PPVN dan penubuhan MGVI ini, modal insan berkemahiran tinggi dalam pelbagai bidang penyelidikan terutamanya yang berkaitan dengan kesihatan dan vaksin akan dapat dilahirkan.

"Lebih banyak peluang pekerjaan akan dapat diwujudkan untuk Keluarga Malaysia sekaligus membantu meningkatkan jumlah tenaga pekerja mahir dan meningkatkan taraf hidup serta kesihatan rakyat," katanya.

Menurutnya, walaupun pembangunan R&D dan penghasilan vaksin ini adalah pelaburan yang tinggi, tetapi ia berpotensi mem-

berikan pulangan jangka panjang buat Keluarga Malaysia melalui penjimatan kos merawat penyakit, selain membawa pelaburan syarikat multinasional ke Malaysia.

"Melalui pelaksanaan PPVN dan penubuhan MGVI, Malaysia juga mampu mencorak laluan dalam mengeluarkan produk vaksin sendiri yang berkualiti, berkesan dan selamat mengikut syarat yang ditetapkan oleh Bahagian Regulatori Farmasi Negara (NPRA), sekali gus menjadi hab pengeluar vaksin dan meningkatkan keyakinan terhadap penggunaan vaksin.

"Sebagai langkah awal ke arah itu, saya ingin kongsi pada hari ini, terdapat tiga projek yang bersedia untuk dilaksanakan melalui PPVN iaitu dua jenis vaksin Covid-19 menggunakan virus yang dilemahkan (*inactivated*) dan mRNA yang dibangunkan oleh Institut Penyelidikan Perubatan (IMR).

"Pembangunan vaksin ini akan tertumpu kepada *Variant of Concern (VOC)* Covid-19 yang terdapat di Malaysia dengan peruntukan yang disalurkan

kerajaan iaitu penyelidikan KKM dan Sukuk Prihatin (bantuan khas peruntukan penyelidikan Covid-19) berjumlah RM3.5 juta," katanya.

Katanya, selain itu, vaksin kolera yang dibangunkan hasil kerjasama antara Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) dan Universiti Institut Perubatan, Sains dan Teknologi Asia (AIMST) dengan pembiayaan menggunakan Dana Penyelidikan Strategik (SRF) sebanyak RM10.5 juta bertajuk *Development of Mucosal/Oral/Subunit Vaccines Against Cholera, Tuberculosis and Co-*

vid-19.

"Projek ketiga, Projek *Pre-clinical Evaluation of A Therapeutic Cancer Vaccine for The Treatment of Head and Neck Cancer* oleh Cancer Research Malaysia (CRM) berjumlah RM3 juta yang dibiayai oleh Mosti.

"Bagaimanapun, memandangkan tiada kemudahan ujian klinikal iaitu *first in human* di Malaysia lagi pada ketika ini, maka

CRM akan menjalankan ujian klinikal bermula Februari 2022 sehingga Mac 2023 di United Kingdom," katanya.

"Saya yakin penubuhan MGVI ini dapat beri kesan positif kepada negara"

Ismail Sabri



AKHBAR : KOSMO
MUKA SURAT : 2
RUANGAN : NEGARA



MIRA berhenti mengambil suntikan Vitamin C dan pemutih selepas tona kulit tangannya tidak menunjukkan perubahan.

Pesakit dilarang ambil makanan laut, kafein

Suntik undang sakit

Oleh NORLIDA AKMAR IDROS

ALOR SETAR - Terpengaruh dengan promosi dan terikut dengan tindakan rakan-rakan menjadi punca sesetengah individu terutamanya wanita mengambil suntikan Vitamin C dan bahan pemutih tanpa kawalan sedangkan ia mengundang bahaya kepada sistem tubuh tanpa disedari.

Tawaran suntikan secara drip banyak disediakan oleh kebanyakan pusat kecantikan dan spa kononnya ia mampu mencerahkan kulit seperti asid *tranexamic glutathione* yang didakwa diimport dari Korea, Jepun dan China.

Ia juga boleh dibeli secara mudah di pelbagai platform online termasuk Facebook dan Instagram.

Ada pengusaha yang sanggup menipu pelanggan dengan mengatakan kononnya produk tersebut mendapat kelulusan Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) walhal ia tiada pengesahan mahupun jaminan keselamatan dan kesahihan keberkesanan mengenainya.

Prosedur suntikan biasanya dilakukan oleh jururawat dari pusat perubatan yang mengambil upah melakukan proses tersebut.

Difahamkan, ramai yang terjebak mengambil suntikan itu selepas terpengaruh dengan testimoni kononnya ia mampu mencerahkan kulit dan lembab



Saya ambil suntikan beberapa kali dalam tempoh setahun sebelum berhenti kerana kerap alami sakit kepala."

LIYANA AHMAD

hanya dengan sekali penggunaan selain mengurangkan masalah jerawat dan ekzema.

Seorang pekerja swasta yang dikenali sebagai Mira, 35, berkata, dia berhabis RM450 untuk tiga kali suntikan setiap dua minggu tetapi malang apabila tona kulitnya tidak cerah seperti diharapkan.

"Saya buat rawatan muka dan drip Vitamin C dan pemutih dari Korea yang dilakukan di rumah seorang pengusaha pusat kecantikan di Kangar, Perlis tahun lalu. Rawatan itu dapat permintaan tinggi dan sentiasa penuh setiap kali ada promosi," kata ibu kepada tiga anak itu.

Tambahnya, dia percaya kata-kata pengusaha itu selepas dimaklumkan bahan itu diimport dari Korea selain mendapat kelulusan KKM.

"Pengusaha kecantikan itu beritahu vitamin C tersebut diimport dari Korea dan lulus KKM.

Sebab itu saya percaya lagi pun ramai kawan yang buat," katanya.

Bagi kakitangan kerajaan, Liyana Ahmad, 45, dia membayar RM650 untuk pakej yang sama dengan prosedur dikendalikan seorang jururawat di sebuah pusat kecantikan.

"Harga bergantung kepada jenis produk dan bahan pemutih. Kami ada pantang iaitu tidak boleh ambil makanan laut dan minuman berkafein bagi mengelak kesan sampingan," katanya.

Tambahnya, ada pengusaha menawarkan khidmat di rumah kerana orang sentiasa ramai di pusat kecantikan dan spa yang sering dikunjungi pelanggan tetap.

"Saya ambil suntikan beberapa kali dalam tempoh setahun sebelum berhenti kerana kerap alami sakit kepala. Saya tak pasti ia kesan sampingan atau bukan kerana tidak mendapatkan nasihat doktor," katanya.

Sementara itu, peniaga dalam talian yang mahu dikenali sebagai Aziera Jamil, 32, berkata, dia pernah mengambil suntikan drip vitamin C sebanyak lima kali di Ampang, Kuala Lumpur pada harga RM750 yang dilakukan oleh jururawat swasta.

"Saya tidak tahu ia dilarang dan boleh mengakibatkan penyakit kronik. Saya berhenti suntik sebab tiada duit," katanya.

Boleh kena sindrom Stevens-Johnson

ALOR SETAR - Batu karang, masalah buah pinggang dan sindrom Stevens-Johnson antara penyakit yang boleh dihadapi oleh mereka yang mengambil suntikan Vitamin C dan bahan pemutih seperti *glutathione* dan asid *tranexamic* dalam dos berlebihan.

Sindrom Stevens-Johnson merupakan penyakit yang berpotensi untuk menjadi serius melibatkan sistem imun.

Pakar Perunding Dermatologi dan Estetik KPJ Perlis dan Klinik Pakar Kulit Wan di sini, Dr. Wan Syameen Afira Wan Ahmad Kamal berkata, penggunaan bahan tersebut boleh memberi kesan buruk dalam jangka masa panjang.

"Kementerian Kesihatan tidak pernah meluluskan penggunaan Vitamin C dan bahan pemutih untuk tujuan kosmetik."

"Pengambilan dalam dos tinggi boleh mengakibatkan penyakit batu karang dan masalah buah pinggang," katanya.

Tambahnya, asid *tranexamic* boleh menyebabkan pembekuan darah pada paru-paru, manakala *glutathione* mengundang sindrom Stevens-Johnson.

Menurut Dr. Wan Syameen Afira, ia berlaku disebabkan oleh alahan teruk akibat



DR. WAN SYAMEEN AFIRA

pengambilan ubat atau bahan tertentu.

"Sindrom itu menyebabkan kulit melepuh selain mengakibatkan masalah organ seperti bengkak hati, buah pinggang dan kematian," jelasnya.

Selain itu katanya, prosedur suntikan yang dilakukan individu tidak bertauliah mungkin mengakibatkan jangkitan kuman, manakala perkongsian jarum suntikan boleh menyebabkan Hepatitis B dan HIV.

Katanya, ramai bertanya sama ada kliniknya boleh membuat suntikan kerana mereka telah beli produk di laman sosial dan tidak tahu ia sebenarnya dilarang.



PELANGGAN perlu memastikan setiap produk kecantikan yang digunakan mesti mendapat kelulusan pihak berkuasa.

AKHBAR : KOSMO
MUKA SURAT : 4
RUANGAN : NEGARA

36 kes kematian direkod, tujuh kes *brought-in-death*

PUTRAJAYA – Kes kematian akibat Covid-19 di seluruh negara mencatatkan angka sebanyak 36 kes semalam, menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan sebanyak 28,912 kes. direkod sejak pandemik itu melanda negara.

Menurut laman web CovidNow, tiada kematian yang dicatatkan dalam tempoh 24 jam kelmarin.

"Pada masa sama, sebanyak tujuh kes meninggal dunia di luar hospital atau *brought-in-death* (BID), menjadikan kes BID sebanyak 5,846 kes," demikian maklumat pada laman web itu.

Kesemua kematian dilaporkan di Sarawak (12), Pulau Pinang (5), Terengganu (4), Kedah (3), Johor (2), Kelantan (2), Negeri Sembilan

(2), Sabah (2), Kuala Lumpur (2), Perak (1) dan Selangor (1) serta tiada kematian di Melaka, Pahang, Perlis, Labuan dan Putrajaya.

Terdapat 67,969 kes aktif melibatkan 52,720 kes dikuarantin di rumah, 8,735 kes di Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan Covid-19 (PKRC), 236 kes di Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU) tanpa bantuan perna-

fasan dan 326 kes di ICU dengan bantuan pernafasan.

Sementara itu, sebanyak 4,979 kes harian semalam disumbangkan oleh Selangor (1,128 kes), Sarawak (616 kes), Sabah (445 kes), Kedah (371 kes), Kelantan (370 kes), Johor (363 kes), Terengganu (277 kes), Pahang (256 kes), Pulau Pinang (255 kes), Melaka

(225 kes), Perak (224 kes), Kuala Lumpur (215 kes), Negeri Sembilan (175 kes), Putrajaya (33 kes), Perlis (16 kes) dan Labuan (16 kes).

Dalam pada itu, kes harian semalam mencatat 4,626 kes sekali gus kekal di bawah 5,000, menjadikan jumlah kes positif Covid-19 sebanyak 2,476,268 kes.

AKHBAR : KOSMO
 MUKA SURAT : 5
 RUANGAN : NEGARA

Tiada kes kematian akibat vaksinasi Covid-19 di Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR – Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) mengesahkan tiada individu meninggal dunia akibat kesan suntikan vaksin Covid-19 di negara ini.

Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan II, Datuk Aaron Ago Dagang berkata, ia berdasarkan penilaian kasualiti yang dilakukan KKM berhubung impak pemberian vaksin Covid-19.

Beliau turut memaklumkan, belum ada permohonan Bantuan Khas Kewangan Kesan Mudarat Vaksin Covid-19 diluluskan kepada mana-mana penerima vaksin setakat ini.

"Terdapat 519 laporan merekodkan kes kematian dalam kalangan penerima vaksin Covid-19.

"Selepas penilaian kasualiti dijalankan, tiada kes kematian dapat dikaitkan secara langsung dengan vaksin Covid-19," katanya pada persidangan Dewan Rakyat semalam.

Beliau menjawab soalan Datuk Seri Mohd. Redzuan Md. Yusof (PN-Alor Gajah) mengenai langkah memastikan vaksin diterima bersesuaian dengan penerima dan bentuk pampasan jika berlaku kesan sampingan.

Aaron menjelaskan, KKM menerima sebanyak 22,132 laporan kesan sampingan bersamaan 0.45 laporan bagi setiap 1,000 dos vaksin yang diberikan melalui sistem pelaporan sedia ada.

Menurut beliau, sebanyak



SEORANG pelajar Tahfiz Kampung Lindungan mendapat suntikan vaksin di Petaling baru-baru ini.

1,483 laporan atau 0.03 bagi setiap 1,000 dos vaksin dikategorikan sebagai serius dan penerima vaksin menerima rawatan di hospital.

Jelas beliau, semua kes dikategorikan sebagai serius disiasat secara terperinci oleh fasiliti kesihatan dan laporan diserahkan kepada Jawatankuasa Farmakovigilans Khas Vaksin Covid-19.

"Laporan itu bagi tujuan penilaian kasualiti atau hubung kait antara kesan sampingan dan vaksin yang diambil," katanya.

Sementara itu, katanya, KKM bersedia mempertimbangkan cadangan memberikan vaksin papilomavirus manusia (HPV) kepada remaja lelaki berusia 13 tahun ke atas.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : VAKSIN UNTUK RAKYAT

Usaha jadi hab pengeluar vaksin

Malaysia mampu mencorak laluan dalam mengeluarkan produk vaksin sendiri yang berkualiti

BANGI

Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob melancarkan Pelan Hala Tuju Pembangunan Vaksin Negara (PPVN) serta Institut Genom dan Vaksin Malaysia (MGVI) dalam usaha menjadikan negara sebagai antara hab pengeluar vaksin dan meningkatkan keyakinan terhadap penggunaan vaksin.

Beliau berkata, melalui pelaksanaan PPVN dan penubuhan MGVI, Malaysia mampu mencorak laluan dalam mengeluarkan produk vaksin sendiri yang berkualiti, berkesan dan selamat mengikut syarat ditetapkan Bahagian Regulatori Farmasi Negara (NPRA).

"Walaupun pembangunan R&D dan penghasilan vaksin ini merupakan suatu pelaburan yang tinggi, tetapi ia ber-

potensi memberikan pulangan jangka panjang buat Keluarga Malaysia melalui penjimatan kos merawat penyakit selain membawa pelaburan syarikat multinasional ke Malaysia.

"Melalui pelaksanaan PPVN dan penubuhan MGVI ini, modal insan berkemahiran tinggi dalam pelbagai bidang penyelidikan terutamanya yang berkaitan dengan kesihatan dan vaksin akan dapat dilahirkan," katanya pada majlis pelancaran PPVN dan MGVI di Institut Genom Malaysia (MGI) di sini pada Isnin.

Turut hadir, Menteri Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi (MOSTI) Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba dan Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar.

Beliau berkata, PPVN tidak akan tertumpu hanya pada vaksin Covid-19 semata-mata, tetapi ia diperluaskan juga kepada vaksin bagi penyakit lain antaranya pembangunan vaksin untuk kanser kepala dan leher oleh Pusat Penyelidikan Kanser.

Perdana Menteri berkata, terdapat tiga projek bersedia untuk dilaksanakan melalui PPVN iaitu

pertama melibatkan projek penghasilan dua jenis vaksin Covid-19 menggunakan virus yang dilemahkan (inactivated) dan mRNA yang



Ismail Sabri (kanan) melawat ruang pameran selepas Majlis Pelancaran Pelan Hala Tuju Pembangunan Vaksin Negara dan Institut Genom dan Vaksin Malaysia di Institut Genom Malaysia pada Isnin.

dibangunkan Institut Penyelidikan Perubatan (IMR).

Jelasnya, bagi tujuan itu jumlah disalurkan oleh kerajaan melibatkan peruntukan penyelidikan Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) dan SUKUK Prihatin (bantuan khas peruntukan penyelidikan Covid-19) yang berjumlah RM3.5 juta.

Projek kedua, kata beliau adalah vaksin kolera yang dibangunkan hasil kerjasama antara Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) dan Universiti Institut Perubatan, Sains dan Teknologi Asia (AIMST), dengan MOSTI turut membiayai projek itu menggunakan Dana Penyelidikan

Strategik (SRF) sebanyak RM10.5 juta bagi "Pembangunan Vaksin Mukosa/Oral/Subunit Terhadap Kolera, Tuberkulosis dan Covid-19".

"Sementara itu, yang ketiga melibatkan projek Penilaian Praktikal Vaksin Kanser Terapeutik untuk Rawatan Kanser Kepala dan Leher oleh Cancer Research Malaysia (CRM) berjumlah RM3 juta yang dibiayai oleh Kementerian Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi.

"Bagaimanapun, memandang tiada kemudahan ujian klinikal iaitu yang pertama terhadap manusia di Malaysia lagi pada ketika ini, maka CRM

akan menjalankan ujian klinikal bermula Februari 2022 sehingga Mac 2023 di United Kingdom," katanya.

Mengenai MGVI, beliau berkata penaiktarafan MGI bersesuaian dengan skop institut itu yang memberi tumpuan kepada penyelidikan genom dan biologi molekular dalam usaha penghasilan vaksin.

"Saya yakin, penubuhan MGVI ini dapat memberi kesan positif kepada negara daripada sudut ekonomi, sosial dan teknologi sekali gus menyumbang kepada kestabilan ekonomi," katanya.

Ismail Sabri berkata, kerajaan komited memacu R&D bagi menghasilkan teknologi baharu dengan memastikan 50 peratus daripada dana penyelidikan kerajaan disediakan untuk pembangunan eksperimental (aktiviti prapengkomersialan) khususnya bagi inovasi yang berpotensi tinggi untuk dikomersialkan.

Melalui pelbagai program yang dilaksanakan kerajaan, beliau berkata negara menjangkakan lebih ramai saintis vaksin dapat dilahirkan sekali gus menyokong perancangan kerajaan meningkatkan kemampuan membangunkan vaksin khusus manusia, bukan sahaja untuk kegunaan dalam negara malah pasaran global. - Bernama

**MEDEPANI KRISIS
COVID-19:
APA TINDAKAN
KITA?**

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 9

RUANGAN : PERSIDANGAN PARLIMEN KE-14 TAHUN 2021

Tiada kematian disebabkan vaksin

KUALA LUMPUR - Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) mengesahkan tiada kes kematian dikaitkan secara langsung dengan vaksin Covid-19 walaupun terdapat 519 laporan kes kematian dalam kalangan penerima vaksin di negara ini.

Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan II, Datuk Aaron Ago Dagang berkata, ia bersandarkan data Jawatankuasa Farmakovigilans Khas Vaksin Covid-19 untuk penilaian kausaliti kesan sampingan dan vaksin diambil.

Katanya, sejak bermula Program Imunisasi Covid-19 (PICK) sehingga 27 Oktober lalu, sebanyak 966,690 respons sendiri mengenai kesan sampingan ambilan vaksin diterima melalui aplikasi MySejahtera.

"Sebanyak 1,483 laporan dikategorikan sebagai serius di mana penerima vaksin menerima rawatan di hospital untuk pemantauan dan rawatan lanjut.

"Daripada jumlah kes serius setakat ini, terdapat 519 laporan merekodkan kes kematian dalam kalangan penerima vaksin Covid-19," katanya dalam sesi pertanyaan jawab lisan di Dewan Rakyat pada Isnin.

Beliau menjawab pertanyaan **Datuk Seri Mohd Redzuan Md Yusof (Bersatu-Alor Gajah)** yang ingin tahu langkah bagi memastikan vaksin diterima sesuai dengan kondisi badan penerima.

MP terima dos penggalak
mulai Selasa

KUALA LUMPUR - Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) akan memberikan dos penggalak vaksin Covid-19 kepada ahli Parlimen mulai Selasa.

Timbalan Yang Dipertua Dewan Rakyat, Datuk Mohd Rashid Hasnon berkata, pemberian dos penggalak itu bermula jam 9.30 pagi di Dewan Banquet, Bangunan Parlimen.

Jelasnya, pemberian dos penggalak itu bertujuan memastikan imuniti yang diperoleh selepas menerima dos lengkap dapat dikekalkan untuk tempoh yang optimum khususnya terhadap jangkitan varian Delta.

"Bagi melindungi ahli Yang Berhormat yang mempunyai tanggungjawab untuk kerap bersama rakyat dan berisiko mendapat jangkitan Covid-19," katanya di Dewan Rakyat pada Isnin.

46,550 banduan positif Covid-19, 103 lagi meninggal dunia

KUALA LUMPUR - Seramai 46,550 banduan di penjara seluruh Malaysia disahkan positif Covid-19 sejak 29 Ogos 2020 hingga 12 Oktober tahun ini.

Timbalan Menteri Dalam Negeri II, Jonathan Yasin berkata, daripada

jumlah itu, seramai 599 orang banduan atau 1.3 peratus dikategorikan di bawah kes masih aktif dan seramai 45,848 orang atau 98.5 peratus telah sembuh.

Menurut beliau, rekod menunjukkan seramai 103 orang bandu-

an atau 0.2 peratus meninggal dunia bagi tempoh tersebut, namun jumlah semasa disahkan positif pada 13 Oktober lalu susut kepada 60 orang.

"Seramai 187,822 banduan menjalani saringan Covid-19," katanya dalam sesi pertanyaan bagi jawab lisan di Dewan Rakyat pada Isnin.

Beliau menjawab pertanyaan **Gobind Singh Deo (PH-Puchong)** berhubung jumlah kes Covid-19 dalam penjara Malaysia.

Ditanya status program vaksin di penjara Malaysia, Jonathan berkata, sehingga 8 Oktober lalu, seramai 60,012 banduan menerima vaksin dos pertama, dos kedua dan dos tunggal.

Katanya, seramai 31,691 orang menerima dos pertama, 11,140 orang telah lengkap dua dos dan jumlah banduan yang menerima dos tunggal adalah seramai 17,181 orang.

Mengikut rekod, seramai 103 orang banduan meninggal dunia akibat jangkitan Covid-19 antara Ogos 2020 hingga Oktober lalu.



AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 11

RUANGAN : VAKSIN UNTUK RAKYAT

22,361,734 populasi dewasa lengkap divaksin

FOTO:BERNAMA



Sejumlah 22,872,309 individu telah menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos vaksin Covid-19.

KUALA LUMPUR - Kadar populasi dewasa di negara ini yang lengkap menerima suntikan vaksin Covid-19 meningkat kepada 22,361,734 individu setakat jam 11.59 malam Ahad, berbanding 22,348,481 pada Sabtu.

Berdasarkan data Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) menerusi laman CovidNow, sejumlah 22,872,309 atau 97.7 peratus individu pula telah menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos vaksin.

Selain itu, sebanyak 63,489 dos vaksin harian diberikan pada Ahad melibatkan golongan dewasa dan remaja, menjadikan jumlah kumulatif pemberi-

an vaksin bagi Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan (PICK) kini meningkat kepada 50,076,170 dos.

Bagi golongan kanak-kanak dan remaja berusia 12 hingga 17 tahun, setakat Ahad 2,091,464 individu atau 66.4 peratus telah melengkapkan suntikan vaksin manakala 83 peratus atau 2,612,742 individu menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos vaksin menerusi PICK Remaja yang bermula sejak 8 September.

Dalam pada itu, sejumlah 16,244 dos penggalak vaksin Covid-19 diberikan pada Ahad menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kini 307,653 dos. - *Bernama*

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA

MUKA SURAT : 8

RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI

Tiada kes meninggal akibat vaksin Covid-19

KUALA LUMPUR: Tiada individu yang meninggal dunia akibat kesan daripada menerima vaksin Covid-19 sejak Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan (PICK) bermula pada 24 Februari hingga Rabu lalu.

Memaklumkan perkara itu, Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan II, Datuk Aaron Ago Dagang berkata, rekod tersebut adalah berdasarkan penilaian kasualiti yang dijalankan oleh Kementerian Kesihatan terhadap impak pemberian vaksin Covid-19.

“Daripada jumlah kes serius yang diterima setakat ini, terdapat 519 laporan merekodkan kes kematian dalam kalangan penerima vaksin Covid-19.

“Namun begitu, selepas penilaian kasualiti dijalankan, tiada kes kematian dapat dikaitkan secara langsung dengan vaksin Covid-19 yang diberikan setakat ini,” katanya di Dewan Rakyat, semalam.

Terdahulu, Datuk Seri Mohd Redzuan Md Yusof (PN-Alor Gajah) meminta kerajaan menjelaskan langkah keselamatan bagi memastikan vaksin diterima bersesuaian dengan penerima dan bentuk pampasan sekiranya terdapat kesan sampingan.

Mengulas lanjut, Aaron berkata, setakat ini belum ada permohonan Bantuan Khas Kewangan Kesan Mudarat Vaksin Covid-19 yang diluluskan kepada penerima vaksin itu.

“Kementerian menerima 22,132 laporan kesan sampingan melalui sistem pelaporan sedia ada, bersamaan 0.45 laporan bagi setiap 1,000 dos vaksin yang diberikan.

“Daripada jumlah itu, katanya, 1,483 laporan atau 0.03 bagi setiap 1,000 dos vaksin, dikategorikan sebagai serius, yang mana penerima vaksin menerima rawatan di hospital untuk pemantauan dan rawatan lanjut selama beberapa hari,” ujarnya.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NEWS / NATION

74.9pc OF TOTAL POPULATION FULLY VACCINATED

COVID-19 CASES CONTINUE TO DROP

4,626 infections mark second day of below 5,000, with fatalities showing a decline as well

TEOH PEI YING
KUALA LUMPUR
news@nst.com.my

MALAYSIA'S downward trend of Covid-19 cases continued yesterday, with 4,626 new infections recorded over the last 24 hours.

This marked the second consecutive day that cases had remained below the 5,000 mark following 4,979 cases recorded on Sunday.

The new infections brought cumulative cases in the country to 2,476,268.

The number of Covid-19 fatalities also continued to experience a decline, with 36 deaths, including seven brought-in-dead (B.I.D.) cases, reported yesterday.

Based on data shared on the Health Ministry's CovidNow portal, cumulative Covid-19 deaths in Malaysia stood at 28,912.

On Oct 30, 44 deaths were re-



A customer checking the price of a Covid-19 self-test kit at a supermarket in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.
PIC BY ASWADI ALIAS

ported, including four B.I.D. cases.

Sarawak remained the state with the highest number of new fatalities at 12, followed by Penang with five deaths and Terengganu with four.

This was followed by Kedah with three deaths, Johor, Kelantan, Negri Sembilan, Sabah, Kuala Lumpur with two each as well as Perak and Selangor with one each.

No new deaths were recorded in other states.

On deaths which took place over the past two weeks, 49.6 per cent of the victims were fully vaccinated, 43.3 per cent were unvaccinated while the remaining 7.1 per cent were partially vaccinated.

In terms of age group, the majority, or 76.5 per cent, were aged 60 and above, 23.1 per cent aged

18 to 59, 0.3 per cent aged 12 to 17 and 0.1 per cent aged 11 and below.

In the past two weeks, 21 Covid-19 deaths were reported per million people, with the current fatality rate standing at 1.1 per cent.

The average deaths for the past two weeks reduced by 13 per cent at 676 while the average hospital bed utilisation and positivity rate for the past seven days reduced

by nine and three per cent, respectively.

Nationwide, hospital beds use were at a 65.8 per cent utilisation rate, quarantine centres at 36.5 per cent, intensive care units (ICU) at 59.3 per cent and ventilators at 39.6 per cent.

Terengganu had the highest hospital bed utilisation rate at 84.5 per cent, followed by Kelantan at 79.1 per cent and Melaka at 78.6 per cent.

Sarawak had the highest ICU utilisation rate at 77.3 per cent, followed by Kelantan and Perak at 73.1 per cent and Kuala Lumpur at 72.5 per cent.

For ventilator utilisation, 56.3 per cent of the ventilators in Perak were in use, followed by Sarawak at 54.6 per cent and Kelantan at 53.7 per cent.

On vaccination, 74.9 per cent (24,453,198 individuals) of the total population have completed both doses of the Covid-19 vaccine, consisting of 22,361,734 adults and 2,091,464 adolescents.

Meanwhile, nearly 98 per cent of the adult population in the country have received their first dose of the Covid-19 vaccination, while 95.5 per cent of them have been fully inoculated.

Overall, 22.5 per cent of the total population remain unvaccinated.

HEALTHCARE TRAVEL INDUSTRY

Blueprint launched to boost medical tourism revival

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysia Healthcare Travel Industry Blueprint 2021-2025 that was unveiled yesterday aims to boost the revival of medical tourism as the country moves towards the Covid-19 endemic phase.

Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin described the blueprint, formulated by the Malaysia Healthcare Travel Council (MHTC), as unique and future-facing to establish Malaysia as a leading travel destination and provide a clear guide to the country's healthcare value chain and industry.

The blueprint, he said, covered five different approaches and is anchored on three strategic pillars — healthcare travel ecosystem, Malaysia healthcare brand and market strategic initiatives.

Khairy said healthcare had evolved greatly since the start of the pandemic to focus on a more patient-centric approach and en-

suring development in the two key areas of care and patient experience.

To ensure Malaysia made headway in unison, he said, the blueprint had been crafted with the aspiration of providing a healthcare experience that exemplifies the best of medical and service excellence throughout the end-to-end patient journey.

"As we transition into endemicity, our key priorities include the maintenance of high-quality care and safety above all else. We need to up the ante by embracing digitalisation of the entire patient journey experience.

"With this blueprint, Malaysia has begun forging a new frontier to redefine the patient experience through a unified and collaborative approach to digitalisation. This will allow healthcare providers to improve upon service delivery and reinforce our patients' peace of mind.

"This is especially in Malaysia's niche offerings, such as the Fertility and Cardiology Hubs of Asia and the Cancer Care Centre of Excellence.

"With this blueprint, we aspire to provide the best Malaysian Healthcare Travel Experience by 2025. I believe this is within our grasp," he said during the virtual launch yesterday.

Present were Health Director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, ministry secretary-general Datuk Mohd Shafiq Abdullah and MHTC chief executive officer Mohd Daud Mohd Arif.

Among the key strategies of the blueprint, which spans the recovery (2021-2022) and rebuilding phases (2023-2025), include improving the quality of medical

care, to be a world leading destination that provides affordable medical offerings to healthcare travellers, to elevate offerings in hospitality alongside its position as a safe and trusted destination for medical and leisure offerings.

Khairy added that Malaysia was en route to establishing destination landmarks as testaments to the country's strength in healthcare delivery, such as the upcoming flagship medical tourism hospitals.

The development of the International Retirement Living programme in partnership with the government, said Khairy, was yet another landmark that would showcase Malaysia positively as a destination recognised for healthcare.



Khairy Jamaluddin

"Malaysia is preparing its healthcare sector to take on a more robust shape from the perspective of treatment services, medical expertise, medical devices and pharmaceuticals, showcasing the country's testament as a trusted and safe country particularly in attracting foreign investments.

"For every plan and aspiration articulated today (yesterday), we must bear in mind that the end goal is to build a sustainable future for the healthcare system. Like how a collective effort is being undertaken to transition Malaysia into endemicity, an all-of-industry effort is equally needed to execute this blueprint with excellence.

"I urge for better cross-border healthcare collaboration and encourage nations to cooperate more efficiently for more sustainable healthcare delivery globally," said Khairy.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES
 MUKA SURAT : 6
 RUANGAN : NEWS / PARLIAMENT

6

NEWS / Parliament

IN BRIEF

MPs to be given
booster shots

FULLY vaccinated members of parliament will be given their Covid-19 booster shots starting today. Dewan Rakyat Deputy Speaker Datuk Mohd Rashid Hasnon yesterday said the booster shots could protect lawmakers who were exposed to many constituents while on the ground. "As announced by the Health Ministry, the booster shot is to optimise Covid-19 protection. Booster shots will be administered in the Parliament banquet hall tomorrow (today) at 9.30am," he said.

REPORTS BY Arfa Yunus and Hana Naz Harun

CAUSALITY ASSESSMENT DONE

'NO DEATHS
LINKED TO
VACCINE'

519 deaths among the fully vaccinated not directly linked to vaccine, says deputy minister

KUALA LUMPUR

THE Health Ministry said there is no evidence to link any deaths directly to the Covid-19 vaccine.

Deputy Health Minister Datuk Aaron Ago Dagang said since the start of the Covid-19 National Immunisation Programme (NIP) up to Oct 27, 22,132 reports of adverse effects had been reported, or 0.45

reports for every 1,000 doses administered.

He said from this total, 1,483 reports were categorised as serious, or 0.03 reports for every 1,000 doses given, where those who had been vaccinated were hospitalised for treatment or monitoring.

"From the total number of serious cases, there were 519 deaths reported involving those who have been vaccinated.

"However, after a causality assessment, none of the deaths can be directly linked to the Covid-19 vaccine," he told the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.



Deputy Health Minister Datuk Aaron Ago Dagang speaking in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday. PIC COURTESY OF RADIO TELEVISYEN MALAYSIA

He was responding to a question from Datuk Seri Mohd Redzuan Md Yusof (Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia-Alor Gajah), who had asked the minister to state safety measures by the Health Ministry to ensure the compatibility of the Covid-19 vaccines and recipients, and the form of compensation received by those who experienced side effects after vaccination.

Dagang said all cases categorised as serious would be thoroughly investigated by the health authorities.

The investigation report, he added, would be submitted to the Covid-19 Vaccine Special Pharmacovigilance Committee (JFK) for assessment of the causalities.

On compensation, he said the government, on March 17, agreed for the Special Financial Assistance on Adverse Effects of Covid-19 Vaccine to pay out not more than RM50,000 for

Malaysians with serious side effects after being vaccinated and who required long-term hospitalisation.

He added that a payout of not more than RM500,000 would be given in the event of permanent disability or death under the NIP.

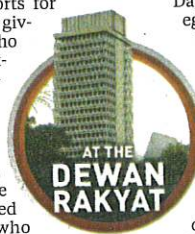
He said the government had agreed for the payment to be made using existing funds under the National Disaster Relief Trust Fund under the National Disaster Management Agency (Nadma).

"Up to Oct 29, 74 applications for the Special Financial Assistance on Adverse Effects of Covid-19 Vaccine have been received.

"Of this, 58 applications are being considered by JFK, while nine are in consideration under the Special Financial Assistance Steering Committee."

He added that five applications were rejected as they were not categorised as serious cases, while two were rejected for having no links to vaccination.

"Up to Oct 29, no applications have been approved," he added.



AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 8

RUANGAN : NEWS / POLITICS

Health Ministry will not amend S.O.P governing state election

KUALA LUMPUR: The government will not be amending the standard operating procedures (SOP) on Covid-19, especially those governing the Melaka state election, despite several quarters urging it to do so.

Deputy Health Minister II Datuk Aaron Ago Dagang said all quarters, particularly politicians and members of political parties, have to adhere to the SOP laid out to minimise the risk of Covid-19 transmission.

"On the SOP for the Melaka election, we have already decided on a policy and strategy to contain infection."

"The government cannot amend the SOP in place just because some quarters are demanding it."

"When the government decides on the SOP, we cannot say that some things (which go against the SOP) can instead be done," he told the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

The deputy minister was responding to a question from Dr Lee Boon Chye (Pakatan Harapan-Gopeng) who had asked about the rigidity of the SOP for the Melaka election when the state was already in Phase Four of

the National Recovery Plan (NRP).

The Health Ministry had previously stated that all activities, gatherings and social events related to the Melaka election, including the launch of election machinery, would be forbidden from Oct 25 to Nov 27.

Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin had said that the decision was final even though the Election Commission would be announcing the SOP soon.

Two political parties, namely Parti Ikatan Demokratik Malaysia (MUDA) and Barisan Nasional (BN) were subsequently issued with compounds for breaching the SOP.

MUDA was hit with a RM4,000 compound on Oct 27 for disobeying police instructions and continuing its press conference at the Stadthuys building in Melaka.

BN, meanwhile, was fined RM10,000 for breaking the SOP by launching its state election machinery at the World Trade Centre Kuala Lumpur on the same date.

 **The government cannot amend the SOP in place just because some quarters are demanding it.**

DATUK AARON AGO DAGANG
Deputy Health Minister II

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 2

RUANGAN : NATION

Penang takes top position in medical tourism revenue

By LO TERN CHERN
andylo@thestar.com.my

GEORGE TOWN: Penang tops the charts in healthcare travel revenue, raking in RM750mil from 500,000 patients who flew to the state in 2019, according to Malaysia Healthcare Travel Industry Blueprint 2021-2025.

There are only 18 private hospitals in Penang, while Selangor has 54 and Kuala Lumpur has 44.

Selangor and Kuala Lumpur made RM280mil and RM340mil respectively in healthcare travel revenue in 2019.

Penang is recognised in the Malaysia Healthcare Travel Industry Blueprint as being the "most established state in healthcare travel", and there are sound reasons for it.

Cardiothoracic (heart and lung) surgeon Dr HY Lam, whose Indo-

nesian patients make up about 20% of all his patients, said that for Indonesians in Sumatra, for example, coming to Penang for treatment was cheaper than going to Jakarta.

"Among reasons many Indonesians come here is the scarcity of cardiothoracic services in their country. Such services in Indonesia are usually only found in Jakarta."

"Travelling to Penang is cheaper and nearer, and even the living expenses in Penang is cheaper," he said.

He added that patients and their caregivers sometimes had to live in Penang for an extended period because of complex treatments.

Dr Lam was pleased with news of the blueprint.

He said there were many Indonesian patients in urgent need of surgery and they could not enter

Malaysia for follow-up surgeries because of the border closure.

"Some patients in Indonesia are in dire straits."

"With our strong reputation and abundance of facilities, their trust in us is high," he said.

He said the blueprint spelt out clear guidelines for a healthcare travel reset after the Covid-19 pandemic, and this will allow doctors to save more lives.

According to the blueprint, more than 1.22 million healthcare travellers brought close to RM1.7bil in revenue for Malaysia between 2015 and 2019.

In 2019, Indonesians comprised the highest numbers at 65.8%, followed by healthcare travellers from China (5.1%), India (3.1%), the United Kingdom (2%), Japan (2%) and other countries such as Australia, Singapore, the Philippines, the United

States and Bangladesh.

The blueprint reveals that 45% of healthcare travellers come for health screening, 10% seek gastroenterology treatment, 7% seek cancer therapies, another 7% for obstetrics and gynaecology treatments while the remaining fly in because of infectious diseases, cardiology and orthopaedic surgery, among numerous other reasons.

Association of Private Hospitals Malaysia board member Ronald Koh said the private healthcare community is looking forward to resuming the promotion of its services in Indonesia but recovery will be an uphill task.

"We hope international borders will reopen in the first quarter of next year and we will need to return to Indonesia to promote ourselves."

"Following the long closure, some patients might have gotten comfort-

able with local providers, so we hope to attract them again."

"Hopefully, the Malaysia Healthcare Travel Council and Immigration Department will work with us for the re-entry of healthcare travellers," he said.

For the moment, Koh said private hospitals are conducting tele-consultations with foreign patients.

"We courier any prescribed medications to them, and test results are sent to us for analysis, but physical examinations are not possible," he said.

He disclosed that all private hospitals in Penang are involved in medical tourism.

"Medical tourism accounts for between 10% and 50% of our total revenue," he said, adding that travellers sought every conceivable form of medical treatment offered here.

Target to be the best in health travel

Blueprint to establish Malaysia as key destination by 2025 takes flight

By ASHLEY TANG
ashleytang@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: A blueprint to enhance and strengthen the current healthcare travel ecosystem has been launched with the aim of establishing Malaysia as the best healthcare travel destination by 2025.

The Malaysia Healthcare Travel Industry Blueprint 2021 to 2025, Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin said, had been crafted with the aspiration of providing the best of medical and service excellence throughout the entire patient journey.

"This blueprint is unique and future-facing as it aims to further establish Malaysia as a leading travel destination and provide a clear guide to our healthcare value chain and industry."

"The blueprint will cover five different approaches and is anchored

on three strategic pillars, which are healthcare travel ecosystem, Malaysia healthcare brand, and the markets," he said at the virtual launch of the blueprint yesterday.

The blueprint championed by the Malaysia Healthcare Travel Council (MHTC) is to guide industry stakeholders in providing the best Malaysia healthcare travel experience by 2025.

The key strategies outlined in the blueprint include improving the quality of medical care, digitising the patient journey, continuing efforts to be a world-leading destination that provides affordable medical services to healthcare travellers, and elevating Malaysia's offerings in hospitality alongside its position as a safe and trusted destination for both medical and leisure offerings.

Khairy pointed out that more than 1.22 million healthcare travellers

chose Malaysia as its destination in 2019, adding that travel healthcare revenue then garnered close to RM1.7bil.

However, he said the pandemic severely affected this sector as there was a decline in revenue to almost RM800mil in 2020.

"As we transition into endemicity, our key priorities include the maintenance of high-quality care and safety above all else."

"We need to up the ante by embracing digitalisation of the entire patient journey experience."

"With the Healthcare Travel Industry Blueprint, Malaysia has begun forging a new frontier to redefine the patient experience through a unified and collaborative approach to digitalisation."

"This will allow healthcare providers to improve service delivery and reinforce our patients' peace of

mind, especially in Malaysia's niche offerings such as the Fertility and Cardiology Hubs of Asia and the Cancer Care Centre of Excellence."

"With this blueprint, we aspire to provide the best Malaysian healthcare travel experience by 2025. I believe this is within our grasp," he added.

Khairy said the nation is also en route to establishing destination landmarks such as the upcoming Flagship Medical Tourism Hospitals as well as the development of the International Retirement Living programme.

"Malaysia is preparing its healthcare sector to take on a more robust shape, from the perspective of treatment services, medical expertise, medical devices and pharmaceuticals, showcasing Malaysia as a trusted and safe country particularly in attracting foreign

investments," he said.

He also urged for better cross-border healthcare collaboration and encouraged nations to cooperate more efficiently for a more sustainable healthcare delivery globally.

The launch was also attended by MHTC chief executive officer Mohd Daud Mohd Arif, Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah and Health secretary-general Datuk Mohd Shafiq Abdullah.

Mohd Daud said that as the country transitions into the endemic phase of Covid-19, the healthcare travel blueprint will be strategically rolled out over the next five years in two phases.

"We will now be moving forward with a solid plan for industry recovery. This is important as healthcare has been identified as a key economic driver for Malaysia under the export services sector," he said.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NATION

More than 22.3 million M'sian adults fully vaxxed

KUALA LUMPUR: A total of 22,361,734 individuals or 95.5% of the adult population in the country have completed their Covid-19 vaccination.

Based on the Health Ministry's data on the CovidNow portal, 22,872,309 individuals or 97.7% have received at least one dose of the vaccine.

In addition, 63,489 doses were dispensed on Sunday involving adults and adolescents, bringing the total number of doses administered under the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme (PICK) to 50,076,170.

As for teenagers aged between 12 and 17, a total of 2,091,464 individuals or 66.4% have completed their vaccination while 83% (or 2,612,742 individuals) have been given at least one dose of the vaccine under PICK for Adolescents which was launched on Sept 8.

A total of 16,244 booster doses were given on Sunday, bringing the cumulative total so far to 307,653 doses. — Bernama

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 7

RUANGAN : NATION

103 Covid-19 deaths reported among prisoners

A TOTAL of 103 prisoners have died due to Covid-19 complications from Aug 29 last year to Oct 12 this year, says Datuk Aaron Ago Dagang.

The Deputy Health Minister said that during this period, 46,550 prisoners contracted Covid-19 with 45,848 individuals having recovered from the disease.

"There are 599 active cases and as of Oct 13, those confirmed positive have dropped to 60 prisoners."

"To date, a total of 187,822 prisoners have been screened for Covid-19," he said in his reply to Gobind Singh Deo (PH-Puchong), who asked for a status report on the number of Covid-19 cases, as well as

the vaccination rate in prisons.

Aaron said 31,691 prisoners have received one dose of the vaccine while another 11,140 have been fully vaccinated.

The number of prisoners who have received the single-dose Covid-19 vaccine stood at 17,181.

"The Home Ministry through the Prisons Department has taken a proactive step by implementing the Covid-19 vaccination programme to inmates."

"It will be continued and improved on, from time to time, under the National Covid-19 Vaccination Programme," he said.

On another issue, Aaron said the

government is contemplating offering the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination to teenage boys aged 13 years and above.

The deputy minister said that at the moment, it was only offered to adolescent girls aged 13 years and above.

He said this after Nurul Izzah Anwar (PH-Permatang Pau) asked whether the ministry would extend the offer to teenage boys to eliminate cervical cancer in the future.

"I think the deputy minister can make sure that teenage boys can also take the vaccine."

"We can make sure that by 2030, the matter can be fully addressed to

reduce the burden of the national healthcare system," she said.

Aaron said when the procurement of the HPV vaccine is received next year, teenage girls who missed their vaccination this year would be given the jab through the school healthcare system, as previously done.

He said the vaccination was delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Watch the video
TheStarTV.com



'Indicators must be met before entering endemic phase'

MALAYSIA needs to record fewer than 1,200 cases of Covid-19 a day, and less than 10 deaths a day from the disease for seven consecutive days, before it can enter the endemic phase, said Deputy Health Minister Datuk Aaron Ago Dagang.

The endemic status also requires normal hospital bed usage to be capped at 30% for Covid-19, while the utilisation of Covid-19 ICU beds cannot be more than 10%.

Low-risk quarantine and treatment centres should also stop operating by then.

"There are seven indicators, and among them, is having a positivity rate of less than 5% in Covid-19 screenings," said Aaron during question time yesterday.

"Transmission rates involving hospital workers must also be kept at less than 1%," he said, adding that the final indicator is achieving a population vaccination rate – of not merely adults – at 80%.

Earlier, Aaron said the endemic phase of a country will be determined by the World Health Organisation and the government based on present Covid-19 figures.

There were 4,626 new infections recorded in the country yesterday.

AKHBAR : THE SUN ON TUESDAY

MUKA SURAT : 2

RUANGAN : NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS

ALISHA NUR MOHD NOOR AT THE DEWAN RAKYAT

No reason to **fear** Covid-19 vaccine: Health Ministry

KUALA LUMPUR: As far as the Health Ministry is concerned, the Covid-19 vaccine is safe.

"There has not been a single fatality linked to the vaccine (since the inoculation drive was launched early this year)," said Deputy Health Minister II Datuk Aaron Ago Dagang.

He said while a total of 519 people have reportedly died after receiving the vaccine, a subsequent evaluation of each case showed that none of the deaths was caused by the vaccine.

He said there has not been any confirmation that anyone has died as a result of the effects of receiving the vaccine.

The National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme kicked off on Feb 24 and to date, more than 90% of the adult population have been fully vaccinated.

The programme has since been extended to teenagers, and younger

► 'There has not been a single fatality linked to inoculations since the drive was launched early this year'

children are expected to start getting the vaccine soon.

Aaron Ago was responding to a question by Datuk Seri Mohd Redzuan Md Yusof (PN-Alor Gajah), who enquired about safety measures introduced by the ministry to ensure that the vaccine is compatible with recipients.

On a related matter, the deputy minister said the government has yet to grant special financial aid to anyone who has reportedly experienced severe vaccine side effects, although several applications are under consideration.

He said as of Oct 27, the ministry had received a total of 22,132 reports of adverse side effects.

However, he said only 1,483 cases have been categorised as "serious". In these cases, the recipients had to be hospitalised for monitoring and treatment for several days.

Aaron Ago said as of Oct 29, the ministry has received 74 applications for special financial aid for vaccine recipients who have experienced severe side effects.

"Of those, 58 applications have been taken under consideration, another nine have come under the

'main consideration for special financial assistance' category and five more cases have been rejected because their reactions could not be categorised as 'adverse side effects'.

He added the remaining two applications for aid were rejected outright because there was no proof of a direct correlation with the vaccine.

In March, the ministry announced that those who experienced serious side effects after receiving the vaccine and needed long-term medical treatment, would be given a RM50,000 compensation each.

Those who have been permanently disabled as a result of being vaccinated will receive a RM500,000 payout.

Families of those who have died as a result of receiving the vaccine will get a similar amount in compensation.

Lawmakers to get booster jabs from today

ALL members of Parliament (MP) will get their Covid-19 vaccine booster shots from today, Deputy Speaker Datuk Mohd Rashid Hasnon said yesterday.

The vaccination process will begin at 9.30am at the Parliament building.

Rashid said according to instructions he received from the Health Ministry, only MP who have received the second dose of the vaccine will be given the booster shots.

He said priority is being given to MP because they often have to go down to the ground to meet their electorate, putting them at risk of getting infected.

The vaccination programme at the banquet hall will continue on a later date for those who are not able to get the shots today.

The ministry began administering the booster dose of the Covid vaccine on Oct 13.

All Malaysians who have received the second dose of the vaccine qualify for the third shot.

According to notes prepared by the ministry, and read out by Rashid in the House, the booster shot is to ensure that the immunity acquired after completion of the vaccination programme is maintained for an optimal period of time, especially against the more virulent Delta variant.

The House later voted to adjourn the sitting for tomorrow to enable MP to return to their respective constituencies in time for the Deepavali celebration, which falls on Thursday.

Rashid said the Dewan Rakyat session will adjourn at 2pm, earlier than usual.

Govt mulls cervical cancer shots for boys

BOYS may soon be receiving a vaccine traditionally given to teenage girls to prevent cervical cancer.

Deputy Health Minister II Datuk Aaron Ago Dagang said the government is looking at introducing the human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccine to boys next year.

"But for now, the Health Ministry's policy is that only girls aged 13 and above will receive the HPV shots," he told Nurul Izzah Anwar (PH-Permatang Pauh).

The HPV shot is now given under an annual vaccination programme for girls aged 13 and 14.

Nurul Izzah wanted to know if the ministry would have boys take the vaccine as well based on

findings by the World Health Organisation that in many developed countries, boys risk becoming carriers of the virus that causes cervical cancer.

It is understood that HPV is the most common sexually transmitted infection and while it is usually harmless, some strains can lead to cancer or genital warts.

Nurul Izzah also pointed out that given the Covid-19 pandemic, HPV vaccines have not been administered since last year.

She wanted to know if there were plans to ensure that students who have missed the vaccination will be given the shots in the near future.

In response, Aaron Ago said teenage girls who have missed their HPV vaccine shots since last

year will be getting it by next year through school health programmes, as done previously.

"However, the ministry is still assessing the tenders for the supply of the HPV vaccine."

"According to the National Cancer Registry, cervical cancer remains one of the top three cancers among women."

Aaron Ago said the HPV virus is the main contributor to cervical cancer, accounting for 95% of all cases. Under a programme that has been in place since Sept 30, 2019, screening for cervical cancer through DNA is being carried out in stages.

The National Population and Family Development Board is helping to manage the programme.