

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 14

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Penularan COVID-19

Program vaksinasi lancar, berjalan seperti biasa

Urusan, operasi semua jentera perkhidmatan kesihatan tidak terjejas

Oleh Rafidah Mat Ruzki dan Audrey Dermawan
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Putrajaya: Program vaksinasi bagi memerangi pandemik COVID-19 berjalan seperti biasa walaupun pentadbiran negara kini diterajui Perdana Menteri sementara tanpa Jemaah Menteri.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata urusan dan operasi jentera perkhidmatan kesihatan tidak terjejas, sebaliknya tetap lancar seperti sebelum ini bagi memastikan kesihatan dan keselamatan rakyat terus terpelihara.

Beliau berkata, pelaksanaan Program Imunisasi COVID-19 Kebangsaan (PICK) yang diselenggarakan Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) serta Kementerian Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi (MOSTI) juga berjalan seperti biasa.

"Selain itu, tanggjawab penyelaras program vaksinasi juga masih lagi berada bawah MOSTI bersama-sama KKM dan segala program dirancang berja-



Orang ramai hadir untuk menerima vaksin di Gurney Paragon Mall, Georgetown, semalam. (Foto Mikail Ong/BH)

lan seperti biasa," katanya kepada *BH*, semalam.

Pembubaran kerajaan Perikatan Nasional (PN) kelmarin susulan peletakan jawatan Perdana Menteri, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin menimbulkan persoalan sama ada ia menjejaskan pentadbiran kerajaan, termasuk pengurusan wabak COVID-19 di negara ini serta pemberian vaksin dalam usaha mencapai imuniti kelompok secepat mungkin.

Penyelaras tindakan bersepadu pelbagai kementerian dan badan kerajaan bagi PICK ketika ini dilaksanakan Pasukan Petugas Khas Imunisasi COVID-19 (CITF) yang sebelum ini diketuai Menteri Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi, Khairy Jamaluddin.

Selain Khairy, CITF juga di-

selia dua Pengarah Bersama, iaitu Timbalan Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan (Kesihatan Awam), Datuk Dr Chong Chee Keong dan Timbalan Panglima Tentera Darat, Datuk Mohammad Ab Rahman, manakala Majlis Keselamatan Negara (MKN), MOSTI dan KKM bertindak sebagai urus setia.

Bagaimanapun, awal Julai lalu, Timbalan Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan (Penyelidikan Dan Sokongan Teknikal), Datuk Dr Hishamshah Mohd Ibrahim, menggantikan tempat Dr Chong di CITF selepas beliau dipertanggungjawabkan menerajui Pasukan Bertindak Khas Kesihatan Awam Lembah Klang (GKVSTF).

Di Georgetown, Ketua Menteri Pulau Pinang, Chan Kon

Yeow, berkata kerajaan negeri akan terus memberi kerjasama kepada semua pihak berkaitan bagi memastikan kelancaran pemberian vaksin seperti dirancang menerusi program itu.

"Ia sejajar usaha bagi mencapai imuniti kelompok bagi memerangi pandemik COVID-19 dapat dicapai seperti ditetapkan. Berdasarkan laporan hari ini (semalam), kita mendaftarkan 29,600 dos vaksin dan kita yakin Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri akan mengatur semula operasi pusat pemberian vaksin (PPV) supaya mencapai peringkat optimum.

"Kita juga dijangka menerima 300,000 vaksin COVID-19 minggu hadapan," katanya ketika melawat Program Vaksinasi Industri Peruncitan (RiVAC) di Gurney Paragon Mall, semalam.

47.2 peratus dewasa lengkap dua dos

Kuala Lumpur: Seramai 11,060,317 individu atau 47.2 peratus populasi dewasa sudah melengkapkan pelanjan COVID-19 setakat kelmarin, manakala 17,252,314 atau 73.7 peratus pula sudah menerima suntikan dos pertama.

Jawatankuasa Khas Jaminan Akses Bekalan Vaksin COVID-19 (JKJAV), memaklumkan ia menjadikan jumlah kumulatif pemberian vaksin menerusi Program Imunisasi COVID-19 Kebangsaan (PICK) sebanyak 28,312,631 dos.

Kelmarin, vaksinasi harian mencatatkan 501,776 dos dengan 175,874 individu mendapat dos

pertama dan 325,902 menerima dos kedua.

Labuan mencatatkan populasi dewasa tertinggi menerima vaksin dengan 61,188 orang atau 89.2 peratus sudah menerima dua dos, manakala 68,029 atau 99.3 sudah menerima dos pertama.

Sarawak merekodkan 1,664,749 orang atau 81.5 peratus populasi dewasa lengkap vaksinasi dan 1,822,036 orang atau 89.2 peratus menerima dos pertama, manakala Lembah Klang (Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya dan Selangor) mencatatkan 4,246,315 orang atau 68.9 peratus menerima dos lengkap dan 4,246,315 atau 105.6 peratus mendapat dos pertama.

Angka di Lembah Klang melebihi 100 peratus kerana statistik kependudukan daripada Jabatan Perangkaan Malaysia tidak mengambil kira perubahan populasi sejak banci akhir, penduduk tanpa dokumen serta vaksinasi kepada penduduk tanpa dokumen dan bukan pemas-tautin.

Negeri Sembilan mencatatkan 525,078 orang atau 64.5 peratus menerima dua dos dan 689,753 lagi menerima dos pertama, manakala Perlis pula merekodkan 100,003 atau 55.2 peratus penduduk dewasa mendapat dua dos dan 133,148 lagi atau 73.5 peratus menerima dos pertama.

Setakat kelmarin juga, Melaka mencatatkan 40.5 peratus atau 274,679 populasi dewasa menerima dua dos, diikuti Pulau Pinang (521,268/38.1 peratus), Terengganu (293,319/36.3 peratus), Perak (674,718/36.2 peratus), Pahang (393,669/33.5 peratus) dan Kedah (489,987/31.8 peratus).

Kelantan merekodkan 369,533 individu atau 29.9 peratus populasi sudah menerima dua dos, Johor (794,195/29.3 peratus) dan Sabah (651,616/ 23.6 peratus). PICK dilancarkan pada 24 Februari lalu bagi memberikan vaksinasi untuk membanding pandemik COVID-19 di seluruh negara.

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 16

RUANGAN : NASIONAL



Seramai 248,874 petugas kesihatan di negara ini sudah mendapat vaksinasi lengkap.

(Foto hiasan)

Penularan COVID-19

7,599 petugas kesihatan dijangkiti

17 kes kategori tiga hingga lima direkod hasil saringan berkala

Oleh Mahani Ishak
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Kuala Lumpur: Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) merekodkan 7,599 atau 3.05 peratus petugas kesihatan dijangkiti COVID-19 hasil saringan berkala.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata daripada jumlah itu ha-

nya 17 kes atau 0.22 peratus berada di kategori tiga hingga lima.

"Jangkitan COVID-19 ke atas petugas KKM yang lengkap vaksinasi boleh berlaku, tetapi dengan kadar jangkitan yang tidak teruk, iaitu 3.05 peratus.

"Kebanyakan yang dijangkiti (petugas kesihatan) tidak bergejala atau menunjukkan gejala ringan," katanya menerusi hantaran Facebook semalam.

Menerusi data yang disertakan Dr Noor Hisham, 248,874 petugas kesihatan di negara ini sudah mendapat vaksinasi lengkap, selain terdapat dua kes kematian membabitkan kategori lima.

Seramai 5,135 atau 67.6 peratus daripada 7,599 petugas kesihatan lengkap divaksinasi yang dijang-

kuti virus itu berada dalam kategori dua, iaitu mengalami gejala ringan.

Pada masa sama, 32.2 peratus petugas kesihatan yang dijangkiti berada dalam kategori satu membabitkan 2,447 orang, manakala kategori tiga (mengalami radang paru-paru), kategori empat (memerlukan bantuan oksigen) dan kategori lima (dirawat di unit rawatan rapi) masing-masing mencatatkan 10, empat dan tiga kes.

Beliau berkata, pemberian vaksin berfungsi mengurangkan keparahan dan kematian akibat jangkitan kerana tiada vaksin yang berkesan 100 peratus.

"(Ia) bukan sifarkan keparahan dan kematian," katanya.

Kes catat penurunan 2 hari berturut-turut

Putrajaya: Kes COVID-19 di negara ini mencatatkan penurunan dua hari berturut-turut dengan 19,631 kes baharu dilaporkan semalam dan 305 kes atau 1.6 peratus berada dalam kategori tiga hingga lima, iaitu mempunyai radang paru-paru, memerlukan bantuan oksigen dan kritikal.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata sebanyak 19,326 kes yang dilaporkan semalam pula dalam kategori satu dan dua, iaitu tidak mempunyai gejala serta bergejala ringan.

Katanya, ia sekali gus menjadikan jumlah terkumpul kes COVID-19 sebanyak 1,444,270 kes.

Beliau berkata, hanya Labuan tidak mencatatkan pertambahan kes, manakala Selangor kekal menjadi negeri tertinggi melaporkan kes baharu, iaitu 5,753 kes.

"Turut mencatatkan kes baharu ialah Sabah dengan 2,103 kes, Kedah (1,863), Kuala Lumpur (1,765), Johor (1,309), Pulau Pinang (1,275), Kelantan (1,268) dan Perak (1,101), Sarawak (835), Pahang (670), Melaka (623), Terengganu (498), Negeri Sembilan (490), Putrajaya (41) dan Perlis (37). Setakat ini, 252,147 kes aktif dengan kebolehjangkitan COVID-19 di negara ini," katanya menerusi kenyataan semalam.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, daripada jumlah kes harian itu, hanya 1,054 kes sedang dirawat di unit rawatan rapi (ICU) de-

ngan 525 kes masih memerlukan alat bantuan pernafasan.

Secara keseluruhan, katanya, 16,638 kes atau 84.75 peratus kes yang dilaporkan semalam tiada atau tidak lengkap vaksinasi.

Mengenai 293 kes kematian dilaporkan semalam, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, 251 kes membabitkan warganegara serta 42 kes lagi adalah warga asing dan terdapat 44 kes dilaporkan sebelum tiba di hospital (BID) yang menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan kematian di negara ini ialah 13,077 kes.

"Selangor kekal menjadi negeri tertinggi mencatatkan kes kematian, iaitu hari ini (semalam) 90 kes dilaporkan, Kuala Lumpur (47), Johor (42), Pahang (21), masing-masing 19 kes di Melaka dan Perak, Sabah (15), masing-masing sembilan kes di Negeri Sembilan serta Kedah dan Pulau Pinang (Japan), Terengganu (lima) dan Sarawak (dua).

Dalam pada itu, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, semalam terdapat 16,468 kes sembuh menjadikan jumlah kes pulih sepenuhnya daripada COVID-19 di negara ini ialah 1,179,046 kes atau 81.6 peratus daripada jumlah keseluruhan kes.

Beliau turut memaklumkan KKM mengenal pasti 43 kes mempunyai varian membimbangkan (VOC) Delta yang menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes yang dijangkiti varian berkenaan di negara ini sebanyak 467 kes.

Kadar kebolehjangkitan negara kekal pada 1.05

Kuala Lumpur: Kadar kebolehjangkitan (Rt) COVID-19 negara kelmarin kekal pada 1.05 dengan Perlis menjadi negeri mencatatkan Rt tertinggi pada 1.25, kata Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

"Sebelas 11 negeri lain masih mencatatkan Rt melebihi purata kebangsaan.

"Perlis mencatatkan Rt tertinggi, iaitu 1.25, diikuti Sarawak (1.23), Kelantan (1.19), Sabah dan Pulau Pinang (1.15) Perak (1.10) serta Melaka, Johor dan Kedah (1.09).

"Kluster Kampung Hudu 2 dicetuskan apabila wanita berusia 66 tahun dilaporkan positif pada 2 Ogos hasil saringan individu bergejala. Seramai 34 individu disaring dan 20 positif COVID-19," katanya dalam kenyataan, semalam.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, daripada data itu, Selangor mencatatkan Rt 1.10, Kuala

Lumpur merekodkan (0.99) diikuti Negeri Sembilan (0.96) dan Putrajaya (0.93), manakala Labuan pula mencatatkan dua kes baharu.

Berdasarkan Model Pembundungan Risiko, Pendedahan dan Jangkitan (SEIR) Unjuran dan Pemerhatian Kes Harian COVID-19 yang dikongsi Dr Noor Hisham, kes harian berisiko melonjak melebihi 19,000 jika Rt kembali melebihi 1.2, kesan pelanggaran prosedur operasi standard (SOP).

Sekiranya pematuan SOP dilakukan, Rt mampu turun sehingga 0.95 dan mengikut rekod Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM), Rt terendah pernah dicatatkan pada 0.81 pada 3 Mac lalu.

Aktiviti ziarah cetus 5 kluster di Kelantan

Kota Bharu: Lima daripada 13 kluster jangkitan COVID-19 yang dilaporkan Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) di Kelantan kelmarin, terdeteksi daripada aktiviti ziarah.

Lima kluster berkenaan adalah Kluster Kampung Jerimpong di Jeli, Kluster Kampung Kuin Merah, Kluster Kampung Kual Pasong Hantu dan Kluster Kampung Bayu Lalang di Pasir Mas serta Kluster Kampung Huda 2, di sini.

Pengarah Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Kelantan (JKNK), Datuk Dr Zaini Hussin, berkata Kluster Kampung Jerimpong dikesan selepas seorang wanita berusia 19 tahun dilaporkan positif pada 14

Ogos lalu hasil saringan individu bergejala sebelum menjangkiti sembilan daripada 11 individu yang disaring.

"Kluster Kampung Kuin Merah terdeteksi apabila seorang wanita berusia 49 tahun dilaporkan positif pada 14 Ogos.

"Seramai 17 individu yang disaring, 13 positif COVID-19, manakala Kluster Kampung Kual Pasong Hantu dikesan selepas wanita berusia 31 tahun dilaporkan positif pada 10 Ogos lalu.

"Daripada 45 orang yang disa-



Dr Zaini Hussin

ring dalam Kluster Kual Pasong Hantu, 27 dilaporkan positif. Kluster Kampung Bayu Lalang pula dikesan selepas wanita berusia 55 tahun dilaporkan positif pada 12 Ogos dan lima individu disahkan positif hasil saringan terhadap sembilan individu.

"Kluster Kampung Huda 2 dicetuskan apabila wanita berusia 66 tahun dilaporkan positif pada 2 Ogos hasil saringan individu bergejala. Seramai 34 individu disaring dan 20 positif COVID-19," katanya dalam kenyataan, semalam.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : COVID-19

19,631 kes baharu

16,468 kes sembuh jangkitan Covid-19 dilaporkan semalam

Oleh Muhaamad Hafis Nawawi
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Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia merekodkan 19,631 kes positif baharu Covid-19, semalam dengan 16,638 atau 84.75 peratus daripadanya dalam kalangan mereka yang tiada atau belum lengkap vaksinasi.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, pertambahan kes itu menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan kes mencecah 1,444,270 kes dan 252,147 kes aktif.

Beliau berkata, Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) mengesan 19,624 kes memabitkan penularan tempatan iaitu 16,677 warganegara dan 2,947 bukan warganegara manakala tu-

juh kes import yang dikesan memabitkan dua rakyat tempatan dan lima warga asing.

"Sebanyak 305 kes (1.6 peratus) adalah daripada kategori tiga hingga lima manakala sebanyak 19,326 kes (98.4 peratus) lagi adalah terdiri daripada kategori satu dan dua.

"Setakat ini seramai 1,054 pesakit dirawat di Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU) dengan 525 daripadanya memerlukan bantuan pernafasan," katanya dalam satu kenyataan, semalam.

Mengenai kes kematian baharu, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, sebanyak 293 kes dilaporkan semalam memabitkan 251 warganegara dan 42 bukan warganegara.

Menurutnya, daripada jumlah itu, terdapat 44 kes kematian di luar hospital (BID) iaitu 28 warganegara



TINJAUAN di kedai gunting rambut yang dibenarkan beroperasi pada hari kedua selepas kerajaan membenarkan 11 sektor ekonomi beroperasi di kawasan fasa 1 di Jalan Melayu, Kuala Lumpur dan hanya pelanggan yang lengkap dua dos vaksin sahaja dibenarkan masuk ke premis. - Gambar NSTP/AZIAH AZMEE

dan 16 bukan warganegara.

Katanya, peningkatan kes memabitkan kes kematian semalam menjadikan sebanyak 13,077 kes kumulatif direkodkan iaitu 0.91 peratus daripada jumlah keseluruhan kes.

Selain itu, beliau berkata,

sebabnya, peningkatan kes memabitkan kes kematian semalam menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan pesakit sembuh seramai 1,179,046 orang atau 81.6 peratus daripada keseluruhan kes.

"Selangor kekal mencatatkan kes tertinggi berjumlah 5,753 kes, diikuti Sabah (2,103), Kedah (1,863), Kuala Lumpur (1,765) dan Johor (1,309).

"Sementara itu, 1,275 kes direkodkan di Pulau Pinang,

Kelantan (1,268), Perak (1,101), Sarawak (835), Pahang (670), Melaka (623), Terengganu (498), Negeri Sembilan (490), Putrajaya (41) dan Perlis (37) manakala tiada kes baharu dilaporkan di Labuan," katanya.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 19

RUANGAN : COVID-19

Aktiviti ziarah cetus 5 lagi kluster baharu

Kota Bharu: Lima daripada 13 kluster yang dilaporkan Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) di Kelantan kelmarin, tercetus daripada aktiviti ziarah-menziarahi.

Lima kluster berkenaan adalah Kluster Kampung Jerimbong, Jeli; Kluster Kampung Kuin Merah, Kluster Kampung Gual Pasong Hantu, Kluster Kampung Bayu Lalang di Pasir Mas dan Kluster Kampung Huda 2, Kota Bharu.

Pengarah Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Kelantan (JKNK) Datuk Dr Zaini Hussin berkata, Kluster Kampung Jerimbong dikesan selepas seorang wanita berusia 19 tahun yang dilaporkan positif pada 14 Ogos lalu selepas hasil saringan individu bergejala.

Katanya, kluster itu mencatatkan sembilan kes daripada 11 individu yang disaring.

"Sementara itu, Kluster Kampung Kuin Merah tercetus apabila seorang wanita berusia 49 tahun yang dilaporkan positif pada 14 Ogos. Seramai 17 individu yang disaring, 13 daripadanya positif Covid-19.

"Kluster Kampung Gual Pasong Hantu dikesan selepas wanita berusia 31 tahun dilaporkan positif pada 10 Ogos lalu. Daripada 45 orang yang disaring, 27 dilaporkan positif," katanya ketika dihubungi, di sini, semalam.

Mengulas lanjut, Dr Zaini berkata, Kluster Kampung Bayu Lalang pula dikesan selepas wanita berusia 55 tahun dilaporkan positif pada 12 Ogos dan lima individu disahkan positif hasil saringan dilakukan terhadap sembilan individu.

Beliau berkata, Kluster



Kluster Kampung Gual Pasong Hantu dikesan selepas wanita berusia 31 tahun dilaporkan positif pada 10 Ogos lalu. Daripada 45 orang yang disaring, 27 dilaporkan positif"

Dr Zaini

Kampung Huda 2 dicituskan apabila wanita berusia 66 tahun dilaporkan positif pada 2 Ogos hasil saringan individu bergejala.

"Seramai 34 individu disaring dan 20 daripadanya positif Covid-19. Kita sentiasa mengingatkan orang ramai supaya sentiasa patuh kepada prosedur operasi standard (SOP) kerana kes Covid-19 semakin meningkat," katanya.

Kelantan kelmarin merekodkan 13 kluster iaitu 10 kluster komuniti, dua tempat kerja dan satu kumpulan berisiko tinggi.

Jumlah kes baharu Covid-19 yang direkodkan di negeri itu adalah 1,227 kes dengan sembilan kematian.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO
 MUKA SURAT : 21
 RUANGAN : COVID-19 LOKAL

'Selamat bertugas Dr Asmayani'

Kuala Lumpur: Pengarah Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Pulau Pinang Datuk Dr Asmayani Khalib dilantik sebagai Timbalan Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan (Perubatan) Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia baharu, berkuat kuasa semalam.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah menerusi hantaran di Facebook beliau memaklumkan pelantikan Dr Asmayani bagi menggantikan Datuk Dr Norhizan Ismail yang bersara wajib.

"Selamat menjalankan tugas dan amanah. Semoga kecemerlangan Program Perubatan KKM dapat diteruskan," katanya yang turut menzahirkan ucapan tahniah atas pelantikan itu.

Sebelum bertugas sebagai Pengarah Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Pulau Pinang sejak 2019, Dr Asmayani pernah berkhidmat sebagai Pengarah Institut Kanser Negara



DR Noor Hisham memuat naik foto bersama Dr Asmayani di Facebooknya, semalam.

(IKN), Pengarah Hospital Kulim dan Ketua Penolong Pengarah Kanan Bahagian Perkembangan Perubatan KKM.

Beliau pernah bertugas di beberapa hospital dan fasiliti kesihatan sepanjang perkhidmatan iaitu Hospi-

tal Kuala Kubu Bharu, Selangor, Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Perak, Hospital Pulau Pinang, Hospital Bukit Mertajam, Pulau Pinang, Hospital Kajang, Selangor, Hospital Taiping, Perak dan Hospital Jengka, Pahang. Bernama.

AKHBAR : KOSMO

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NEGARA

Individu dijangkiti ke HTAR turun lebih 50 peratus Pesakit mula kurang

Oleh ISKANDAR SHAH
MOHAMED

SHAH ALAM – Kemasukan harian pesakit Covid-19 ke Hospital Tengku Ampuan Rahimah (HTAR) Klang mencatatkan penurunan lebih 50 peratus sejak minggu lalu.

Statistik menunjukkan jumlah kes diterima hospital itu berkurangan sehingga 170 kes berbanding 400 kes sebelum ini.

Pengarah HTAR, Dr. Zulkarnain Mohd. Rawi berkata, gelombang penurunan kemasukan itu mula berlaku antara awal sehingga pertengahan bulan ini.

Katanya, pesakit Covid-19 yang menerima rawatan di HTAR kini didapati berkurangan iaitu kurang daripada 900 orang.



DR. ZULKARNAIN

"Saya bersyukur jumlah kemasukan pesakit berkenaan menurun lebih 50 peratus sejak minggu lalu.

"Keadaan itu sekali gus me-

ngurangkan pesakit kategori tiga ke atas untuk dimasukkan ke dalam wad," katanya ketika dihubungi Kosmo! di sini semalam.

Menurut Zulkarnain, penurunan positif itu membuktikan keberkesanan pelaksanaan Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan (PICK) termasuk di daerah Klang.

"HTAR kini dalam keadaan terkawal dan kita meliputi semua pegawai serta kakitangan sentiasa terus komited untuk memerangi pandemik.

"Saya turut berharap trend penurunan ini akan berterusan dan meminta orang ramai terus mengambil vaksinasi masing-masing," ujarnya.

Tambahnya, kapasiti katil bagi Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU) pesakit Covid-19 di HTAR kini pada tahap kira-kira 92 peratus.



JUMLAH kemasukan pesakit akibat jangkitan Covid-19 di HTAR, Klang menunjukkan penurunan ketara.



BEBERAPA kedai sukan dan butik pakaian mula beroperasi semasa tinjauan di Suria KLCC, Kuala Lumpur semalam. – BALQIS MISHA

Lapan negeri rekod kes empat angka

PUTRAJAYA – Lapan negeri mencatatkan kes penularan Covid-19 melebihi empat angka semalam, manakala negara merekodkan sebanyak 19,631 kes baharu.

Dengan pertambahan kes tersebut jumlah keseluruhan pesakit dijangkiti Covid-19 adalah sebanyak 1,444,270 kes.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr. Noor Hisham Abdulah dalam ciapan Twitter berkata, Selangor merekodkan sebanyak 5,753 kes, diikuti oleh Sabah sebanyak 2,103 kes dan Kedah sebanyak 1,863 kes.

"Seterusnya, Kuala Lumpur (1,765 kes), Johor (1,309 kes),

Pulau Pinang (1,275 kes), Kelantan (1,268 kes), Perak (1,101 kes), Sarawak (835 kes),

Negeri Sembilan (490 kes), Pahang (670 kes), Melaka (623 kes) dan Terengganu (498 kes).

"Putrajaya (41 kes), Perlis (37 kes), manakala tiada jangkitan baharu di Labuan," katanya.

Dalam pada itu, sebanyak 293 kes kematian direkodkan menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan pesakit meninggal dunia di seluruh negara melepasi 13,000 dengan sebanyak 13,077.

Pesakit sembuh harian pula sebanyak 16,468 menjadikan seramai 1,179,046 jumlah pulih sepenuhnya daripada Covid-19.

AKHBAR : KOSMO
 MUKA SURAT : 5
 RUANGAN : NEGARA

7,599 petugas kesihatan dijangkiti

KUALA LUMPUR — Seramai 7,599 atau 3.05 peratus daripada 248,874 petugas Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) yang telah menerima dos lengkap vaksin dijangkiti Covid-19 hasil saringan berkala.

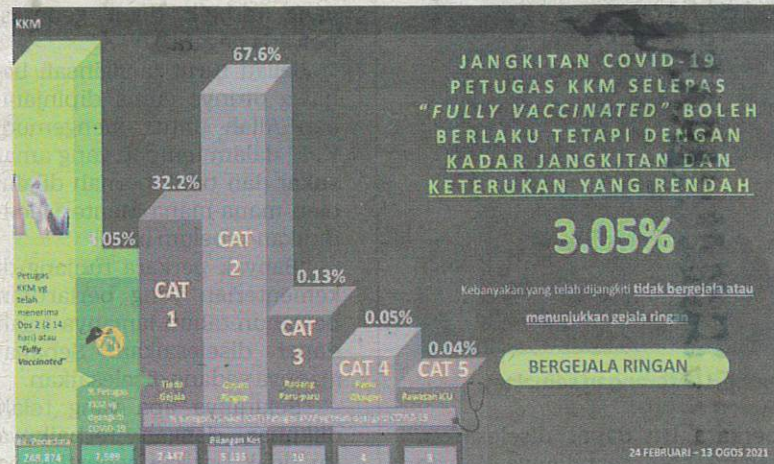
Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr. Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, bermula 24 Februari hingga 13 Ogos lalu seramai 248,874 petugas kesihatan telah lengkap dua dos vaksin.

"Daripada jumlah itu hanya 17 kes atau 0.22 peratus yang berada dalam kategori tiga, empat dan lima.

"Dimaklumkan juga dua kes kematian dalam kategori lima," katanya dalam satu hantaran di laman media sosial beliau semalam.

Dalam pada itu, beliau berkata, kebanyakan yang telah dijangkiti tidak bergejala atau menunjukkan gejala ringan.

"Pemberian vaksin lengkap berfungsi mengurangkan keterukan jangkitan dan bukan sifarkan keparahan dan kematian," katanya.



DATA berhubung petugas kesihatan telah divaksin dan dijangkiti Covid-19 yang dikongsi Dr. Noor Hisham di laman sosialnya semalam.

Berdasarkan graf yang dikongsi dalam hantaran itu, seramai 5,135 atau 67.6 peratus daripada 7,599 petugas kesihatan yang sudah melengkapkan vaksinasi yang dijangkiti berada dalam kategori dua iaitu mengalami gejala ringan.

Pada masa sama, sebanyak 32.2 peratus daripada petugas

kesihatan yang dijangkiti itu berada dalam kategori satu mem-babitkan seramai 2,447 orang, manakala 10 kes dalam kategori tiga (mengalami radang paru-paru), kategori empat sebanyak empat kes (memerlukan bantuan oksigen) dan kategori lima yang dirawat di Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU) sebanyak tiga kes.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 10

RUANGAN : VAKSIN UNTUK RAKYAT

Tiada varian Lambda di Malaysia

Kajian penjujukan genom setakat ini tidak mengesan kehadiran varian itu

Oleh **TUAN BUQHAIRAH TUAN MUHAMAD ADNAN**

PUTRAJAYA

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah menafikan dakwaan varian Lambda ada dikesan di Malaysia.

Menurutnya, kajian penjujukan genom penuh yang dijalankan makmal mendapati 43 sampel merupakan varian Delta yang kini menjadi dominan.

“Setakat ini tiada varian Lambda dikesan di negara kita,” katanya pada Selasa.

Beliau berkata demikian menjawab pertanyaan pengguna akaun Twitter bahawa varian itu telah muncul di negara ini.

Varian Lambda yang dikenali sebagai C.37 pertama kali dikesan di Peru dan telah mengakibatkan jangkitan lebih 80 peratus kes di negara itu.

Lambda dipercayai lebih mudah menular berbanding varian Gamma dan Alpha selain lebih berupaya melawan antibodi yang dihasilkan oleh vaksin.

Pertubuhan Kesihatan Dunia (WHO) mengklasifikasikannya sebagai varian perlu perhatian (VOI)

dan bukannya varian yang membimbangkan (VOC).

Sementara itu, Dr Noor Hisham memaklumkan, kes baharu positif Covid-19 kekal di bawah 20,000 dua hari berturut-turut dengan 19,631 individu disahkan positif pada Selasa.

Katanya, Selangor kekal dengan kes positif tertinggi iaitu 5,753 diikuti Sabah (2,103), Kedah (1,863), Kuala Lumpur (1,765), Johor (1,309), Pulau Pinang (1,275), Kelantan (1,268) dan Perak (1,101). Negeri yang dilihat



DR NOOR HISHAM

terkawal dalam penularan adalah Sarawak (835), Pahang (670), Melaka (623), Terengganu (498), Negeri Sembilan (490), Putrajaya (41) dan Perlis (37).

Labuan mengulangi rekod Sabtu lalu apabila sekali lagi mencatatkan sifar kes.

“Pertambahan itu menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan kes positif Covid-19 di negara ini adalah 1,444,270,” katanya.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, terdapat 252,147 kes aktif di seluruh negara.

“Kes memerlukan rawatan di unit rawatan rapi (ICU) adalah 1,054 termasuk 525 pesakit me-

merlukan bantuan pernafasan,” katanya.

Dalam pada itu, terdapat 293 kes kematian dilaporkan membabitkan 251 warganegara dan 42 warga asing.

“Daripada jumlah tersebut, terdapat 44 kes kematian di luar fasiliti kesihatan (BID) yang terdiri daripada 28 rakyat tempatan dan 16 warga asing.

“Bagi kes sembuh pula, terdapat pertambahan sebanyak 16,468 kes sekali gus menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan 1,179,046,” katanya.

Tambahnya, sebanyak 39 kluster baharu dikenalpasti membabitkan 23 kluster tempat kerja dan 13 kluster komuniti.

“Turut dikesan adalah dua kluster pusat tahanan dan satu kluster berisiko tinggi,” kata beliau lagi.

MEDEPANI KRISIS COVID-19: APA TINDAKAN KITA?

Hanya 17 petugas kesihatan dijangkiti Covid-19 kategori tiga ke atas

PUTRAJAYA - Hanya terdapat 17 kes positif Covid-19 membabitkan petugas kesihatan yang telah lengkap dos suntikan vaksin berada di kategori tiga hingga lima.

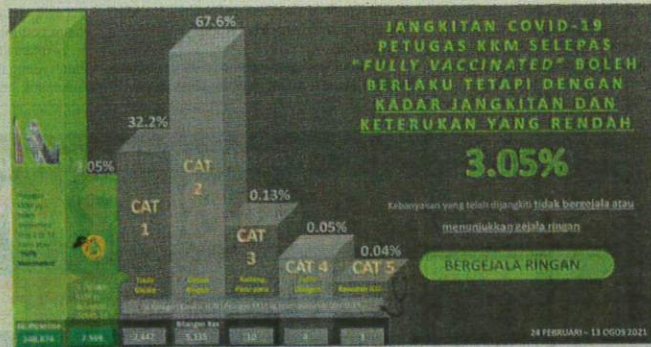
Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, setakat ini seramai 248,874 petugas kesihatan telah menerima vaksin lengkap.

“Hasil saringan berkala Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia

(KKM) serta saringan bergejala, terkini 7,599 kes dijangkiti Covid-19,” katanya dalam hantaran di Facebook beliau pada Selasa.

Menerusi data yang disertakan, terdapat seramai 2,447 petugas kesihatan yang dijangkiti berada di kategori satu, manakala 5,315 pula kategori dua yang mempunyai gejala ringan.

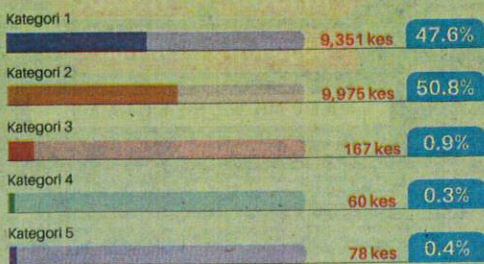
“Kes kematian kekal kepada dua orang,” jelas beliau.



Data yang dikongsikan di Facebook Dr Noor Hisham pada Selasa.

SITUASI TERKINI KES COVID-19 DI MALAYSIA

KES BAHARU MENGIKUT KATEGORI



- Kategori 1** Tanpa gejala
- Kategori 2** Gejala ringan
- Kategori 3** Jangkitan paru-paru
- Kategori 4** Jangkitan paru-paru memerlukan oksigen
- Kategori 5** Ada jangkitan paru-paru dan memerlukan alat bantuan pernafasan

Sumber: CPKC Kebangsaan & Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia

Bilangan kes Covid-19 mengikut negeri di Malaysia



*Dikemas kini pada jam 12 tengah hari 17 Ogos 2021

JUMLAH KES BAHARU DAN SEMBUH DILAPORKAN SETIAP HARI

JUMLAH KESELURUHAN:	1,444,270	PULIH:	1,179,046	ICU:	1,054	KEMATIAN:	13,077	KES BAHARU:	19,631	SUDAH DI VAKSIN:	28,312,631
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AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA

MUKA SURAT : 10

RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI

Angka kematian lepassi 13,000 kes

Oleh **PETAH WAZZAN ISKANDAR**
 utusannews@mediamulia.com.my

PUTRAJAYA: Angka kematian akibat Covid-19 kini melepasi 13,000 kes dengan mencatatkan 13,077 kes keseluruhan dengan 293 lagi kematian baharu direkodkan.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr. Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, Selangor terus menjadi penyumbang terbesar iaitu 90 kes, 47 kes di Kuala Lumpur, 42 kes di Johor, 21 kes di Pahang, masing-masing 19 kes di Melaka dan Perak.

Katanya, 15 kes lagi di Sabah, masing-masing sembilan kes di Negeri Sembilan dan Kedah, lapan kes di Pulau Pinang, tujuh kes di Kelantan, lima kes di Terengganu serta dua kes di Sarawak.

"Kematian melibatkan 251 warga tempatan dan 42 warga asing dengan 162 lelaki dan 131 wanita manakala 44 kes meninggal dunia di rumah dan 249 pesakit mempunyai pelbagai latar belakang penyakit," katanya dalam kenyataan semalam.

Menurut Noor Hisham, tempat kerja terus menjadi majoriti terbesar kluster iaitu 23 daripada jumlah keseluruhan harian, 39 kluster diikuti 13 kluster komuniti, dua kluster pusat tahanan dan satu kluster kumpulan berisiko tinggi.

Beliau berkata, kluster tem-



KEADAAN pusat beli-belah yang kelihatan agak lengang meskipun kerajaan kini memberi kebenaran kedai pakaian, fesyen dan aksesori beroperasi dalam Fasa 1 Pelan Pemulihan Negara (PPN) di Kompleks Sogo Kuala Lumpur di sini semalam. - UTUSAN//FAUZI BAHARUDIN

pat kerja menyaksikan tujuh kluster di Selangor, Kelantan (3), Johor (3) manakala Negeri Sembilan, Sarawak, Pulau Pinang dan Pahang, masing-masing dua kluster serta Kuala Lumpur dan Kedah, masing-masing satu kluster.

Noor Hisham berkata, Kluster komuniti, empat di Kelantan, Kampung Kijang di Kota Bharu (14), Lorong Wook di Pasir Mas (11), Kampung Kubang Rambutan di Pasir Mas (9); dua di Sarawak, Kampung Kakeng di Serian dan Tebedu (65), Ja-

lan Lembah Hijau di Miri (31); dua di Selangor, Mas Puchong di Sepang (70), Teluk Merbau di Sepang (48).

"Negeri yang mencatat satu kluster komuniti, Sabah, Sawit Baiduri di Lahad Datu (77), Melaka, Bukit Payung Taboh Nanning

di Alor Gajah (39); Terengganu, Kampung Panchor di Besut (35); Negeri Sembilan, Dusun Kubur di Jelebu (26) dan Johor, Jalan Dato Usman Awang di Kota Tinggi (16).

"Dua kluster pusat tahanan, dua di Pulau Pinang, DTI Juru 2 di Seberang Perai Tengah (61), Pagar Bertam Satu di Seberang Perai Utara (41) manakala satu kluster kumpulan berisiko tinggi, Solok Keramat di Klang, Selangor (16)," katanya.

Beliau berkata, Malaysia mencatatkan sedikit penurunan kes positif Covid-19 iaitu 19,631 kes berbanding semalam, 19,740 kes sekali gus mengatasi kes sembuh iaitu 16,468 kes dengan 1,054 kes di unit rawatan rapi (ICU) selain 525 kes memerlukan bantuan pernafasan dan 252,147 kes aktif.

Katanya, Selangor terus menjadi penyumbang terbesar apabila merekodkan sebanyak 5,753 kes, diikuti Sabah (2,103), Kedah (1,863), Kuala Lumpur (1,765), Johor (1,309), Pulau Pinang (1,275), Kelantan (1,268) dan Perak (1,101).

"Lima negeri merekodkan kes tiga angka iaitu Sarawak (835), Pahang (670), Melaka (623), Terengganu (498) dan Negeri Sembilan (490).

"Putrajaya pula mencatatkan kes dua angka iaitu 41 kes dan Perlis, 37 kes manakala Labuan, sifar kes," katanya.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NATION/NEWS

PANDEMIC UPDATE

19,631 NEW COVID-19 CASES

Labuan only state with zero new infections while Selangor continues to top list of cases

VEENA BABULAL
AND FARAH SOLHI
KUALA LUMPUR
news@nst.com.my

THE country clocked in 19,631 new Covid-19 cases yesterday, said Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

In revealing the daily statistics, which included the number of new infections by states, Dr Noor Hisham said the Federal Territory of Labuan was the only place with zero new infections.

He said Selangor still recorded the highest number of daily cases at 5,753 followed by Sabah (2,103), Kedah (1,863), Kuala Lumpur (1,765) and Johor (1,309).

Penang recorded 1,275 cases, followed by Kelantan (1,268), Perak (1,011), Sarawak (835), Pahang (670), Melaka (623), Terengganu (498), Negri Sembilan (490), Putrajaya (41) and Perlis (37).

Dr Noor Hisham said with 19,631 new Covid-19 cases yesterday, Malaysia's cumulative number of infections now stood at 1,444,270.

The number of active cases totals 252,147.

Category 2 made up the bulk of infections at 9,975 (50.8 per cent) with 83.8 per cent of them being mildly symptomatic patients.

These patients comprised those who were either not vaccinated or not fully vaccinated.

Category 1 involved 9,351 cases (47.6 per cent), with 85.8 per cent of the patients either unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated.

Category 3 comprised 167 patients (0.9 per cent) with 83.8 per



Medical frontliner Sophie Leza Zulkifly preparing a Pfizer shot at the Hospital Canselor Tuanku Muhriz drive-through vaccination centre in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. PIC BY ROHANIS SHUKRI

cent of patients either unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated.

Category 4 accounted for 60 patients (0.3 per cent), with 81.7 per cent of them either unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated.

Category 5 patients accounted for 78 patients (0.4 per cent) with 80.8 per cent of them either unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated.

A total of 16,468 people recovered yesterday, bringing the cumulative number of recoveries to

1,179,046.

A total of 293 fatalities were recorded yesterday, bringing the cumulative number of fatalities to 13,077.

Brought in dead cases dipped to 15 per cent of the overall 293 Covid-19 fatalities recorded yesterday. This was the second consecutive day that the numbers have shown signs of decline.

The rates had more than doubled on Aug 9, accounting for seven per cent of total deaths and had been rising steadily before peaking at 35 per cent on Sunday and dropping to 28.1 per cent on Monday.

Dr Noor Hisham said 1,054 patients were receiving treatment at the Intensive Care Unit, with 525 of them 525 intubated.

On a related matter, he said a total of 7,599 or 3.05 per cent of healthcare workers were infected with Covid-19.

The Health Ministry detected the cases during periodic screening sessions, he added.

He said only 17 cases or 0.22 per cent were in Category 3, 4 and 5.

"We have also been informed



Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah

by the ministry that there were two deaths in Category 5."

The Health Ministry recorded 39 new Covid-19 clusters yesterday, which contributed a total of 1,289 infections.

Twenty-three of the new clusters were linked to workplaces.

Three states recorded the highest number of new clusters — Selangor with nine clusters, Kelantan (seven) and Sarawak (four).

"The cumulative number of

Covid-19 clusters stands at 4,257, with 1,360 active clusters. Meanwhile, 2,897 clusters have ended," said Dr Noor Hisham.

On a separate development, Bernama reported that the number of daily admissions of Covid-19 patients at Tengku Ampuan Rahimah Hospital (HTAR) in Klang, Selangor, had dropped by more than 50 per cent since last week.

HTAR director Dr Zulkarnain Mohd Rawi said the hospital had previously been receiving about 400 Covid-19 cases daily, but the number had since dropped to 170.

The wave of admissions, he said, took place in early to the middle of last month.

"At its peak in July, we had more than 1,000 cases. Up to 1pm today (yesterday), we have no more than 900 patients in total.

"The number of admissions (of patients) has decreased since last week. This situation indirectly resulted in a drop in the number of patients in Category 3 and above." **Additional reporting by Rafidah Mat Ruzki and Mahani Ishak**

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NATION

Covid-19 patient admission at HTAR down by 50%

SHAH ALAM: The daily admission rate of Covid-19 patients for treatment at Tengku Ampuan Rahimah Hospital (HTAR) in Klang has dropped by over 50%.

Previously, the hospital had received about 400 Covid-19 cases daily for treatment but the numbers went down to around 170 in the past week, said HTAR director Dr Zulkarnain Mohd Rawi.

"The number of Covid-19 patients at this hospital has dropped from over 1,000 at the height of the infection last July.

"As of 1pm (yesterday), the number of such patients was less than 900. The patient admission bubble at HTAR occurred from early to mid-July.

"Alhamdulillah, there has been a drop in the number of patients in categories three and above," he said when contacted by Bernama.

This was in response to media reports on the current situation at HTAR following the downtrend in Covid-19 patient admissions since last month, with the most significant decline recorded at the Kuala Lumpur Hospital last week.

Dr Zulkarnain said the drop in patient admissions was proof that the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme had yielded positive results and that the situation at HTAR was under control.

He added that up until Monday afternoon, the bed occupancy in HTAR's intensive care unit for Covid-19 patients was around 92%.

— Bernama

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 7

RUANGAN : NATION

Hospital looking for kin of dead man

GEORGE TOWN: Hospital Sungai Bakap (HSB) says the body of a man who died from gastrointestinal bleeding has been unclaimed since Aug 8.

The administration is urging relatives to come forward to claim the body.

The deceased is Abdul Rahman Abdullah, 53, and his last known address is listed as Bandar Manjalara Kepong, Selangor.

The hospital's forensic department spokesperson said Abdul Rahman was found on the side of a road in Seberang Jaya on July 29 and was admitted to Hospital Seberang Jaya (HSJ) with gastrointestinal bleeding.

"He was discharged from HSJ on Aug 5 and transferred to HSB to be cared for but died on Aug 8.

"Until now, the hospital has been unable to locate his family members," the spokesperson added.

The hospital urged anyone with information to get in touch with HSB's forensic department for burial arrangements. — Bernama

AKHBAR : THE SUN

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS

Vaccinate before trying for babies: Health experts

➤ Expectant mothers at higher risk of developing severe symptoms if infected with Covid-19

BY SHIVANI SUPRAMANI
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

PETALING JAYA: A post-quarantine baby boom has been the subject of many jokes lately, as if pregnancy and Covid-19 are the only certainties of 2020 and 2021.

After all, it is easy to yield to the temptation to create a whole new generation when couples are cooped up at home with nothing to do.

However, health experts say, it is more advisable to put the brakes on until the prospective parents are fully vaccinated.

According to them, an expectant mother is at a higher risk of developing severe symptoms if infected compared with those who are not pregnant.

Dr Patricia Lim Su-Lyn, a consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist at KPJ Tawakal KL Specialist Hospital, explained that changes occur to the woman's body when she is carrying a child, raising the risk of severe illness that may require hospitalisation.

"There is an increased risk of blood clots or severe pneumonia that may lead to prolonged fatigue, reduced lung capacity, scarring of the lungs and even stroke and death," she told *theSun*.

"Vaccination is the key, and women who are more than 12 weeks into their pregnancy should be vaccinated," she added.

Over and above that, she said, they should wear only well-fitted masks if they have to go out. Otherwise, they should stay indoors, limit face-to-face interactions and wash their hands frequently.

Lim added that the mother should also keep to her scheduled check-ups and be up to date with other immunisations needed during pregnancy.

The Health Ministry revealed last week that there has been an increase in Covid-19 infection among expectant mothers.

Its director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said this became apparent in October last year when 200 cases were detected. This rose rapidly and in May there were 850 infections, rising to 899 in June.

By Aug 7, a total of 5.3% of infected expectant mothers already needed intensive care, up from 3% on July 10.

Expectant mothers now account for one in every 20 Covid-19 patients who need intensive care, compared with one expectant mother in every 220 infected women.

As of Aug 9, 70 expectant mothers have succumbed to Covid-19.

Another gynaecologist, who wanted to be known only as Dr Alysa, said some women may feel that age is catching up on them and if they wait until the pandemic is over, they may no longer want to have children.

"But given the increased risk, delay if you can," she told *theSun*.

On the other hand, gynaecologist and fertility specialist Dr Hoo Mei Lin pointed out that there have been no recommendations to delay childbearing during the pandemic.

"In fact, most health authorities worldwide are telling couples to not delay fertility treatments as we do not know when the pandemic will end," she said.

Nonetheless, she told *theSun*, it may be prudent to delay pregnancy until one is fully vaccinated.

All vaccines are deemed safe and have not been shown to cause problems with fertility or sexual dysfunction," she added.

Hoo explained that when a woman is pregnant, changes occur in her body to accommodate her unborn child. "These changes make her more vulnerable to Covid-19 infection and its effect on the immune system," she said.

These changes, she said, could also make it more difficult to take certain measures needed to help Covid-19 patients breathe normally. "This is especially so when the mother is already in the second and third trimester of her pregnancy," she said.

Hoo said vaccination would prevent hospitalisation and death, while other measures that must be taken to reduce the risk of infection are social distancing, hand hygiene and double-masking.

"In the meantime, if a sufficient number of people have been vaccinated and herd immunity is achieved, the risk of exposure will also be reduced," she added.

50% drop in Covid patients at HTAR

SHAH ALAM: The number of daily admissions of Covid-19 patients for treatment at Tengku Ampuan Rahimah Hospital (HTAR), Klang, has dropped by over 50% since last week.

HTAR director Dr Zulkamain Mohd Rawi said previously, the hospital had been receiving about 400 Covid-19 cases daily for treatment but the number went down to around 170 during the period.

"The number of Covid-19 patients at this hospital has dropped from over 1,000 at the height of the infection in July. As of 1pm today (Tuesday), the number of such patients is less than 900. The patient admission bubble at HTAR occurred in July until the middle of that month.

"The number of admissions has decreased since last week. This situation indirectly has resulted in a drop in the number of patients in category three and above," he said yesterday in response to media reports on the current situation at HTAR following the downtrend in Covid-19 patient admissions since one month ago. - Bernama



ADDED PROTECTION ... A protective shield is worn over the face of newborn Wan Nur Raisya Ameena before her parents take her to the hospital for scheduled (infant) immunisation. - BERNAMAPIX

Achieving herd immunity among Muhyiddin's main priorities

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia is getting closer to its goal of achieving herd immunity in tackling Covid-19 before the end of this year.

This has been a key initiative for Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin before his resignation as prime minister on Monday.

In an effort to curb the spread of Covid-19, which required extraordinary measures, the Pagoh MP took drastic action by introducing the movement control order (MCO) in March 2020, during which time three-digit new cases were recorded.

The MCO, which were implemented in phases to include the enhanced MCO, conditional MCO, recovery MCO, were well received by the people that Muhyiddin's line, *jangan ke sana, ke sini*, was used in parody songs to remind people to just stay at home.

To convince the people the need to get vaccinated to reduce the risk of Covid-19 infection, the father of four was also among the first individuals in Malaysia to receive the vaccine shot on Feb 23.

In launching the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme on Feb 24 to curb the pandemic, Muhyiddin targeted 80% of the country's population or 26.5 million individuals to get the vaccine for free and so far RM5 billion has been allocated for the purpose.

So far, the programme has shown some early positive development after the number of categories three to five Covid-19 cases in six states, namely the Federal Territory of Labuan, Sarawak, Negri Sembilan, Selangor, Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya, dropped by over 40%.

The Perikatan Nasional government's efforts through the Ministry of Health and the Covid-19 Immunisation Task Force had enabled the rate of full vaccination in the Klang Valley to reach 64.7% and this had resulted in a decline in hospital admissions. - Bernama

Malaysia to age faster if pandemic continues

SHAH ALAM: Malaysia will reach the ageing nation status earlier than expected if the Covid-19 pandemic continues for a long term, following a decline in the number of births in the country.

National Population and Family Development Board (NPFDB) director-general Abdul Shukur Abdullah said based on the projections of the Department of Statistics Malaysia, the country is expected to reach the ageing nation status by 2030 when 15% of its population is aged 60 and above.

"However, with the Covid-19 pandemic, the status could be reached much earlier.

"In an opinion poll conducted by NPFDB in April 2020 it was found that 53% of respondents expected that this pandemic would result in an increase in the number of births.

"However, the majority of the respondents (61%) decided to postpone or replan their pregnancy," he told Bernama yesterday.

The Department of Statistics reported that in 2020, the 60 and above population increased from 3.4 million (2019) to 3.5 million representing 10.7% of the total population.

Abdul Shukur said there was a 4.4% drop in birth rate recorded in the second quarter of this year, compared to the corresponding period last year, and this was expected.

He said among the factors that caused couples to delay having a baby were lack of savings (58%), fear of being infected with Covid-19 (34%) and fear that access to prenatal treatment would be disrupted due to the pandemic (32%).

Based on the latest figures released by the

Statistics Department, it was found that the number of unemployed graduates had increased by 22.5%, from around 165,200 people in 2019 to around 202,400 in 2020.

In the meantime, he said the results of the NPFDB study in 2018 projected the country has the potential and would experience a population shrinkage for the first time in 2072.

"In the study, it was projected that the country's population will continue to increase until it reaches a maximum of 46.09 million people in 2071 before beginning to drop to 46.08 million people in 2072," he said.

However, Abdul Shukur said there was a possibility the country would experience a population shrinkage much earlier, if the number of births continued to decline as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. - Bernama

AKHBAR : THE SUN

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS

Increase in child Covid cases

KUALA LUMPUR: More children are being hospitalised for Covid-19 now compared to any other time of the ongoing pandemic as the highly contagious Delta strain takes hold in Malaysia.

University Malaya Medical Centre (UMMC) consultant paediatric cardiologist Assoc Prof Dr Norazah Zahari said more children have been admitted in the last two months with Covid-19 symptoms, necessitating the expansion from one ward for Covid-19 child patients to a whole floor in the children's building at UMMC.

"We did have a few cases, about two to three, which needed ICU (intensive care unit) admission. They suffered from complications to the heart from Covid-19 infections," she said, adding that out of those, one case was confirmed as multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C).

➤ Facility at UMMC expanded from one ward to entire floor due to spike in admissions

MIS-C is a serious complication of Covid-19 and is characterised by inflammation in multiple organs, such as the heart, lungs, kidneys and also the blood vessels. Although children who contract Covid-19 are less likely to develop severe symptoms, they are not immune to the disease, Bernama reported.

Experts were not surprised to see the numbers increasing as Covid-19 has become what health officials call a "pandemic of the unvaccinated".

Until recently, children in Malaysia have not been allowed to be inoculated, although the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine has been approved for children aged 12 and above since June.

"When there is a pocket of people who cannot get vaccinated, they are very vulnerable - the children and adolescents," said Universiti Malaya epidemiologist Assoc Prof Dr Mas Ayu Said.

On Aug 15, former coordinating minister for the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar announced that vaccinations for all children in the 12 to 17 age group will start from Sept 15. However, priority would be given to those with comorbidities and older schoolchildren before the younger ones are vaccinated, depending on vaccine supply.

While experts lauded the development, they say it still leaves

children vulnerable in the meantime, especially as some states have begun easing restrictions for fully vaccinated individuals, including allowing interstate travel and allowing parents to dine in at restaurants with their children.

As of Aug 14, 51.7% of the population, equivalent to 72.1% of adults, have received at least one dose of the vaccine. Out of that figure, 31.9% of the population, or 44.5% of adults, have received two doses.

Until Malaysia reaches the point where enough adolescents are protected, health experts think it is too soon to ease certain restrictions for fully vaccinated adults, especially parents and others who live or work with children.

Norazah said she would not recommend parents going out with or without their children until they have been vaccinated or until the pandemic is under control.

'Not true Orang Asli deprived of food aid'

GOPENG: A Perak exco has denied allegations that 23 Orang Asli villages in the Batang Padang district were deprived of food supply.

State Women, Family and Community Development and Non-Governmental Organisation Committee chairman Datuk Dr Wan Norashikin Wan Noordin said delivery of food and basic need items were being managed and monitored by various agencies such as the Welfare Department and the Department of Orang Asli Development, Bernama reported.

"The Welfare Department coordinates all types of donations from the state government, elected representatives or individuals. The items would be gathered and distributed by the Welfare Department while the Civil Defence Department would deliver them to the homes.

"So, there is no question of the supplies piling up or delayed as the system that we have is the best. We have not received any complaints about this but we will monitor the situation to ensure that the welfare of the people is being looked after."

She was speaking after presenting donations to childcare centres under the management of the State Welfare Department at Pertubuhan Kebajikan Anak-Anak Yatim/Miskin Dahikmah yesterday.

Wan Norashikin was responding to media reports alleging that residents in 23 localities in the Batang Padang district, which had been placed under an enhanced movement control order since Aug 11, have not received any food aid.

Founder of Koperasi Pembangunan Orang Asli, Ramesh Arumugam Chettiar, claimed that residents in the village have been without food and were living in hunger.

On childcare centres, Wan Norashikin said the state government has allocated RM333,600 to 39 such establishments, involving 1,112 children.

She said the amount was based on the number of children at each centre at the rate of RM300 per child, adding that the yearly assistance from the state government was to help ease the burden of running the centres.



DOES NOT HURT ...

Foreign workers waiting at an observation area after receiving their Covid vaccine shots yesterday at the Hotel Equatorial inoculation centre in Bukit Jambul, Penang.

— MASRY CHE ANI/THE SUN

Simple but effective steps to prevent infections

KUCHING: The measures to prevent Covid-19 infections remain unchanged regardless of the variant, which require cooperation of the public to follow the standard operating procedures (SOP).

Sarawak health director Datuk Dr Mohamed Sopian Mohamed said this includes using a face mask and observing physical distancing in public places or staying home if one

had no important reason to go out.

"Don't organise or participate in any social gathering, event or celebration for the time being as infected individuals without symptoms or with mild symptoms may turn up," he said yesterday.

He added that those who were not healthy and had a cough, sore throat, breathing difficulty or fatigue were also urged not to go to work and to

quickly get screened and treated at the nearest health facility.

"The preventive measures, despite appearing simple, are very effective to curb the spread of Covid."

The number of new Covid-19 cases recorded daily in Sarawak again breached the 1,000 mark on Monday with 1,566 cases, the highest since March last year.

Mohamed Sopian said 73%, or

1,144 of the new cases reported on Monday, were detected in the Kuching, Bau and Lundu districts.

"There are 45 active clusters in Kuching, four in Bau and five in Lundu as of Monday," he said.

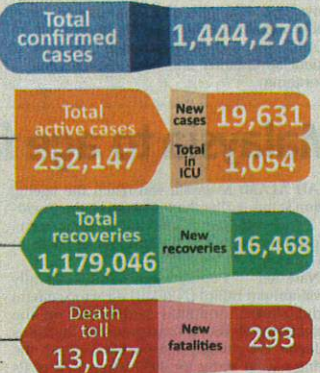
He added that most of the clusters could be linked to social and family gathering activities as well as failure to observe the SOP at workplaces and institutions. — Bernama



COVID-19 UPDATE

As of noon yesterday

theSun



PROGRESS STATISTICS FOR THE NATIONAL COVID-19 IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME

As of August 16

Received first dose
17,252,314

Received second doses
11,060,317

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