

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

KKM siap siaga hadapi risiko berlaku kenaikan kes

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Kuala Lumpur: Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) sudah bersiap siaga berdepan risiko kemungkinan berlaku peningkatan kes COVID-19 susulan keputusan kerajaan membenarkan pergerakan rentas negeri bagi individu lengkap divaksin bermula kelmarin.

Menterinya, Khairy Jamaluddin, berkata KKM akan te-

rus memantau corak jangkitan dan data pergerakan orang ramai dalam mengunjurkan kemungkinan berlaku penularan wabak.

Katanya, pemantauan perlu berikutan lonjakan pergerakan kenderaan merentas negeri pada hari pertama rentas negeri kelmarin, khususnya di Semenanjung dari semua arah, sama ada menuju ke utara, selatan atau ke Lembah Klang.

Nasional 3

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Operator lebuhraya pastikan R&R miliki aliran udara baik

Dari Muka 1

"Pergerakan kenderaan pada hari pertama rentas negeri dibenarkan di Lebuhraya Utara Selatan (PLUS) didapati meningkat 14 peratus secara keseluruhan.

"Pergerakan kenderaan menuju ke arah utara di Lebuhraya PLUS adalah yang tertinggi apabila mencatat peningkatan 20.5 peratus.

"Pergerakan rentas negeri ke arah selatan di Lebuhraya PLUS pula meningkat 15.4 peratus, manakala pergerakan menuju ke Lembah Klang pula meningkat 9.7 peratus," katanya menerusi Twitter, semalam.

Ahad lalu, Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob mengumumkan kebenaran rentas negeri kepada individu lengkap divaksin berkuat kuasa kelmarin selepas kadar vaksinasi populasi dewasa mencecah 90 peratus.

Dengan kebenaran itu, individu yang lengkap divaksin boleh merentas negeri tanpa kebenaran polis, termasuk untuk pelancongan atau menziarahi ibu bapa di kampung.

Malah, remaja berusia 12 hingga 17 tahun dan kanak-kanak yang belum divaksin juga dibenarkan merentas negeri selepas mengambil kira faktor kanak-kanak masih tidak boleh diberi pelalian berkenaan.

Khairy menggalakkan orang ramai untuk mengamalkan TRI-IS, iaitu *test* (ujian sendiri), *report* (lapor menerusi MySejahtera), *isolate* (kuarantin atau pengasingan sendiri), *inform* (memaklumkan kepada kontrak rapat jika ujian didapati positif)

dan *seek* (dapatkan rawatan segera) bagi mengawal penularan COVID-19.

Beliau turut mengingatkan semua operator lebuhraya untuk memastikan sistem pengudaraan yang baik dan penjarakan fizikal dilaksanakan di lokasi berisiko tinggi di semua pusat Rehat dan Rawat (R&R) lebuhraya.

"Pihak lebuhraya perlu bersedia untuk menerima jumlah kenderaan tinggi, yang dijangka akan berlaku hujung minggu ini, iaitu hujung minggu pertama selepas rentas negeri dibenarkan.

"Pemegang konsesi lebuhraya juga diingatkan memastikan lokasi berisiko tinggi seperti surau R&R memiliki aliran udara yang baik dan tanda untuk penjarakan fizikal sebelum aktiviti rentas negeri beramai-ramai yang dijangka hujung minggu ini," katanya.

Sementara itu, Menteri Kanan Pertahanan, Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein mengingatkan rakyat tidak bersikap sambil lewa terhadap kelonggaran yang diberikan kerajaan, kerana masih tertakluk kepada pematuan prosedur operasi standard (SOP) sedia ada.

Katanya, untuk memastikan SOP ditetapkan terus dipatuhi, Polis Diraja Malaysia (PDRM) akan terus menjalankan pemantauan dan penguatkuasaan.

"Ini termasuklah pemeriksaan secara rawak mengikut Akta

Pencegahan dan Pengawalan Berjangkit 1988 (Akta 342) menerusi sekatan jalan raya (SJR) bergerak, pemeriksaan mengejut dan pemantauan di R&R serta SJR di kawasan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Diperketat (PKPD).

"Pertama, saya nak tekankan di sini bahawa jangan kita bersikap sambil lewa terhadap kelonggaran diberikan.

"Keduanya, kebenaran yang diumumkan bukan bermakna pihak berkuasa akan bersikap lepas tangan.

"Dalam mesyuarat (Menteri Kuartet COVID-19) tadi (semalam), kita sudah mendapat laporan dan juga berbincang dengan KDN (Kementerian Dalam Negeri) dan PDRM, mereka mem-

beri jaminan pemantauan dan penguatkuasaan SOP sedia ada akan diteruskan," katanya pada sidang media selepas Mampengerusikan Mesyuarat Menteri Kuartet COVID-19 di Dewan Rakyat, semalam.

Selain Hishammuddin, tiga lagi Menteri dalam Kuartet itu ialah Khairy; Menteri Kewangan, Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz dan Menteri Komunikasi dan Multimedia, Tan Sri Annuar Musa.

Mengulas sama ada kerajaan akan mempertimbang untuk mewajibkan saringan COVID-19 sebelum merentas negeri, Hishammuddin berkata, ia mustahil dilaksanakan.

"Namun, jika ada sebarang gejala, tangguhlah dahulu perjalanan. Sebaiknya lakukan ujian pengesanan COVID-19 sendiri sebelum melakukan perjalanan dan sebelum pulang semula ke negeri bermastautin," katanya.

Hishammuddin berkata, rakyat Malaysia yang melakukan perjalanan ke luar negara, termasuk melancong masih perlu menjalani kuarantin apabila pulang.

"Sekalipun rentas negeri dan perjalanan ke luar negara dibenarkan, SOP tetap berkuat kuasa. Semua pihak perlu patuh kepada semua peraturan demi kebaikan diri sendiri dan orang sekeliling," katanya.

Ditanya sama ada kerajaan bercadang menyenaraikan negara dibenar dan dilarang, Hishammuddin tidak menolak kemungkinan itu, namun perlu ditentukan KKM.

Dalam pada itu, angka harian kes COVID-19 juga dilaporkan meningkat sedikit pada hari pertama rentas negeri dibenarkan, iaitu sebanyak 7,276 kes baharu, berbanding 6,709 kes yang direkodkan pada Ahad.

Tambahan kes baharu itu menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan 2,353,579 kes COVID-19 di Malaysia, setakat ini.



Khairy Jamaluddin

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 4
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Lebih 21.1 juta populasi dewasa terima dos lengkap

Kuala Lumpur: Lebih 21.1 juta atau 90.4 peratus daripada 23.4 juta populasi dewasa di negara ini sudah menerima suntikan lengkap vaksin COVID-19 setakat tengah malam semalam.

Data Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) di COVIDNOW menunjukkan, sejumlah 22.2 juta atau 94.9 peratus populasi dewasa negara ini selesai mendapat sekurang-kurangnya satu dos vaksin.

Berdasarkan kadar pemberian vaksin harian semasa dan fokus pemberian vaksin kepada golongan remaja, portal COVIDNOW menjangkakan 100 peratus populasi dewasa lengkap divaksin Februari tahun depan.

Sejumlah 184,486 dos vaksin diberikan di seluruh negara kelmarin, merangkumi 94,540 dos kepada populasi dewasa dan 89,946 dos kepada remaja berusia 12 hingga 17 tahun.

Setakat kelmarin, lebih 2.3 juta atau 73.4 peratus remaja berusia 12 hingga 17 tahun sudah menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos vaksin COVID-19 sejak ia mula diberikan bulan lalu.

Daripada jumlah itu, seramai 283,023 atau sembilan peratus remaja lengkap divaksin.

Berdasarkan kapasiti vaksinasi semasa, portal COVIDNOW menjangkakan 80 peratus golongan remaja berusia 12 hingga 17 tahun akan lengkap divaksin pada 5 November depan.

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 5
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Program Imunisasi COVID-19 Kebangsaan

KKM belum tetap tempoh pemberian suntikan penggalak

Langkah perlu ambil kira keperluan vaksinasi dunia

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Kuala Lumpur: Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) belum mempunyai ketetapan masa melaksanakan pemberian dos suntikan penggalak vaksin COVID-19 dalam memastikan keberkesanan pelalihan itu.

Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan II, Datuk Aaron Ago Dagang, berkata pelaksanaan langkah itu perlu mengambil kira keperluan vaksinasi dunia berikutan masih ada negara yang ketinggalan dari segi pemberian pelalihan terbahit.

Selain itu, katanya, 'lampu hijau' untuk memberi dos penggalak vaksin COVID-19 sedang menunggu pelaksanaan pemberian pelalihan itu dalam kalangan remaja.

"Dos penggalak memang banyak dibahaskan sekarang ini dan bagi Malaysia, kita sudah membuat keputusan tetapi masanya belum dapat ditetapkan lagi.

"Tetapi, kita akan bagi dos penggalak ini kepada petugas ke-



Petugas kesihatan menunjukkan picagari sebelum memberikan suntikan vaksinasi kepada penerima di PPV Dewan Milenium, Pulau Pinang, semalam. (Foto Danial Saad/BH)

sihatan dan mereka berusia lebih 60 tahun yang ada komorbiditi. Dos penggalak ini untuk meningkatkan imuniti.

"Sekarang ini kita belum meneruskan pelaksanaan ini (pemberian dos penggalak) kerana masih menunggu untuk vaksin remaja dan sebagainya. Kita juga mengikut kehendak dunia, iaitu di bawah COVAX, ada negara yang masih ketinggalan dari segi vaksinasi yang perlu diberi keutamaan untuk mendapatkan vaksin lebih banyak," katanya pada sesi jawab lisan di Dewan Rakyat, semalam.

Beliau menjawab soalan tambahan Datuk Che Abdullah Mat Nawi (PAS-Tumpat) mengenai tempoh masa kerajaan akan melaksanakan pemberian dos penggalak di negara ini.

Menjawab soalan Kasthurirani Patto (DAP-Batu Kawan) berhubung berapa jumlah vaksin yang dibeli kerajaan, Aaron Ago berkata, setakat 13 September lalu, kerajaan menempah sebanyak 87.9 juta dos vaksin.

"Kos anggaran tempahan itu sebanyak RM4.64 bilion meliputi kos vaksin dan logistik," katanya.

Angka harian masih di bawah 10,000 kes

Putrajaya: Perangkaan harian terbaharu COVID-19 di negara ini masih berlegar di bawah 10,000 kes dengan 7,276 kes dilaporkan kelmari.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata perkembangan itu menjadikan jumlah kumulatif individu yang dijangkiti COVID-19 adalah 2,353,579 kes.

Sementara itu, Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) melaporkan 93 kematian baharu akibat jangkitan COVID-19 setakat tengah malam semalam.

Ia menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan kematian kepada 27,422 kes, iaitu kira-kira 1.2 peratus daripada 2,346,303 kes positif COVID-19 yang dikesan di negara ini.

Data KKM di portal COVID-

NOW memaklumkan, sejumlah 16 daripada 93 kes kematian yang dilaporkan berlaku di luar hospital (BID).

Sementara itu, penggunaan katil unit rawatan rapi (ICU) di hospital kerajaan terus mencatat penurunan dengan kadar 63.3 peratus bagi keseluruhan pesakit dan 54.8 peratus bagi pesakit COVID-19.

Bagaimanapun, kadar penggunaan katil ICU di lima negeri dan wilayah masih melebihi 70 peratus, dengan Pulau Pinang mencatat kadar penggunaan tertinggi iaitu 81.2 peratus.

Ia disusuli Sarawak (74.6 peratus), Kuala Lumpur (73.8 peratus), Johor (73.3 peratus) dan Perak (70.6 peratus), namun hanya Sarawak merekodkan peningkatan kes ICU.



Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah

Penerima Sinovac perlu dos ketiga untuk tunai umrah

Kuala Lumpur: Kerajaan Arab Saudi dilaporkan membenarkan individu yang mengambil suntikan vaksinasi Sinovac menunaikan umrah, dengan syarat mendapatkan dos ketiga.

Presiden Persatuan Agensi Pelancongan Umrah dan Haji Malaysia (PAPUH), Datuk Seri Razali Mohd Sham, berkata syarat pengambilan dos penggalak itu hanya dikenakan kerajaan Arab Saudi kepada vaksin jenis Sinovac.

"Berdasarkan maklumat terbaharu, Arab Saudi mahu suntikan kali ketiga bagi Sinovac sahaja, manakala Pfizer dan Astra Ze-

neca tidak memerlukan dos penggalak ini.

"Ia bermakna mereka yang mengambil suntikan Sinovac sebelum ini dibenarkan menunaikan

umrah, namun perlu mengambil suntikan kali ketiga," katanya kepada BH, semalam.

Sebelum ini, beberapa agensi pelancongan memaklumkan me-

"Berdasarkan maklumat terbaharu, Arab Saudi mahu suntikan kali ketiga bagi Sinovac sahaja, manakala Pfizer dan Astra Zeneca tidak perlu dos penggalak ini"

Razali Mohd Sham, Presiden PAPUH



ngenai syarat tambahan bagi umrah norma baharu termasuk suntikan Sinovac tidak diterima.

Syarat lain yang dikenakan ialah kebenaran membabitkan sekali umrah sahaja, 25 orang dalam sebuah bas, hanya bilik berdua dibenarkan dan jemaah berusia 18 tahun ke atas boleh menunaikan umrah.

Ogos lalu, kerajaan Arab Saudi meluluskan dua lagi vaksin COVID-19 iaitu Sinovac dan Sinopharm, selain Oxford-AstraZeneca, Pfizer-BioNTech, Johnson & Johnson dan Moderna.

Kementerian Haji dan Umrah Arab Saudi sebelum ini turut me-

rancang meningkatkan jumlah jemaah umrah sehingga mencecah 120,000 orang sehari.

Arab Saudi mula menerima permohonan umrah dari luar negara untuk jemaah yang divaksin pada 9 Ogos lalu.

Pada masa sama, Razali berkata, syarat tambahan dikenakan kerajaan Arab Saudi menyebabkan kos umrah bagi seorang jemaah meningkat antara RM2,000 hingga RM3,000.

Beliau berkata, peningkatan itu tidak dapat dielak berikutan penambahan kos visa, ujian saringan sendiri, kemudahan penginapan dan pengangkutan.

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

BERCUTI KE LANGKAWI

Keperluan buat ujian Covid-19 dimansuh

Kuala Lumpur: Mulai semalam, keperluan ujian pengesanan Covid-19 untuk mereka yang ingin melancong ke Langkawi menerusi Projek Rintis Gelembung Pelancongan Langkawi, dimansuhkan.

Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin berkata, pemansuhan keperluan ujian itu selepas mendapati tiada kewujudan kluster Covid-19 berpunca daripada projek rintis terbabit.

Beliau berkata, sehingga 10 Oktober lalu hanya 216 individu atau 0.4 peratus daripada 54,341 pelancong menjalani ujian pengesanan didapati positif Covid-19.

"Hanya seorang pelancong ada gejala semasa di Langkawi dan didapati po-

sitif Covid-19 melalui ujian *Real-Time Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction* (RT-PCR) dan siasatan mendapati punca jangkitan bukan di Langkawi.

"Tiada kluster Covid-19 yang berpunca daripada gelembung pelancongan di Langkawi.

"Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) menyemak semula keperluan pengujian status jangkitan Covid-19 sebelum melancong ke Langkawi.

"Mengambil kira peratus rendah pelancong dikesan positif semasa saringan, KKM memberhentikan keperluan ujian pengesanan Covid-19 pengembara ke Langkawi mulai 12 Oktober 2021," katanya.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 7

RUANGAN : COVID-19

Catat 7,276 kes jangkitan baharu

Kuala Lumpur: Kes baharu Covid-19 kembali meningkat apabila merekodkan 7,276 kes semalam menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan sebanyak 2,353,579 kes.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, daripada semua kes baharu direkodkan, 150 kes atau 2.1 peratus adalah kategori 3, 4 dan 5, manakala 7,126 lagi kes atau 97.9 peratus adalah kategori 1 dan 2.

"Daripada jumlah kes dilaporkan hari ini (semalam), 10 kes adalah kes import, manakala 7,266 kes lagi membabitkan penularan tempatan.

"Terdapat 724 kes positif sedang dirawat di unit rawatan rapi (ICU) membabitkan 683 kes Covid-19, manakala 41 kes dalam siasatan dengan 398 kes memerlukan bantuan pernafasan.

"Sebanyak 10,555 kes dilaporkan pulih hari ini (semalam) menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes pulih sepenuhnya 2,217,057 kes atau 94.2 peratus daripada keseluruhan kes," katanya.

Beliau berkata, pihaknya mengenal pasti 14 kluster baharu dilaporkan di Pulau Pinang, Selangor, Pahang, Melaka, Johor, Sarawak, Perak dan Kuala Lumpur, semalam.

AKHBAR : KOSMO
 MUKA SURAT : 4
 RUANGAN : NEGARA

Pelancong ke Langkawi tidak perlu lagi buat ujian Covid-19

PUTRAJAYA – Pelancong ke Pulau Langkawi tidak perlu lagi membuat ujian saringan Covid-19 berkuat kuasa semalam, selepas mengambil kira peratus yang dikesan positif semasa saringan sangat rendah.

Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar berkata, namun sebagai langkah mengukuhkan tindakan kesihatan awam sendiri, pelancong digalakkan untuk melakukan ujian Covid-19 sendiri sebelum memulakan perjalanan ke Langkawi bagi mengurangkan risiko jangkitan kepada pelancong lain.

Menurutnya, justeru, syarat wajib vaksinasi lengkap bagi semua pelancong dewasa masih kekal dan mesti dipatuhi.

"Bagi individu disahkan positif dan sedang dalam tempoh pengasingan dan pemantauan atau individu dikenal pasti sebagai kontak rapat kepada kes positif yang sedang menjalani perintah kuarantin dan pengawasan, mereka tidak dibenarkan melancong.

"Untuk mereka yang mengalami gejala seperti demam,



ORANG ramal yang ingin melancong ke Pulau Langkawi tidak perlu lagi membuat ujian saringan Covid-19 bermula semalam. – GAMBAR HIASAN

batuk dan selsema, dinasihatkan agar menangguhkan dahulu perjalanan," katanya dalam kenyataan akhbar semalam.

Ujarnya, sehingga 10 Oktober lalu, 54,341 pelancong telah menjalani ujian saringan Covid-19 dan hanya 216 atau 0.4 peratus dikesan positif.

Menerusi Projek Rintis Gelembung Pelancongan Langkawi

bermula 16 September lalu, semua pelancong yang akan bercuti ke Langkawi diwajibkan menjalani ujian saringan Covid-19.

Ia sama ada melalui ujian pengesanan RT-PCR atau RTK-Antigen di mana-mana fasiliti dan makmal kesihatan swasta atau melakukan ujian sendiri air liur di tempat saringan di lapangan terbang atau terminal feri.

Kematian masih kekal bawah angka 100

PUTRAJAYA – Negara kekal merekodkan kes kematian Covid-19 di bawah angka 100 dengan 93 kes dilaporkan, demikian data yang dipaparkan di laman web COVIDNOW.

Maklumat yang dikemas kini setakat pukul 11.59 malam kelmarin itu memaparkan, tiada kes kematian sebenar dilaporkan dalam tempoh 24 jam.

"Angka terbaharu ini menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan kes kematian akibat Covid-19 di seluruh negara meningkat kepada 27,422 kes.

"Terdapat 16 kes meninggal dunia di luar hospital atau brought-in-dead (BID) dengan jumlah kes BID di seluruh negara sebanyak 5,530 kes," menurut laman web tersebut di sini semalam.

Kesemua kes kematian tersebut dilaporkan di Pulau Pinang (26 kes), Sarawak (14 kes), Johor (Japen kes), Kuala Lumpur (tujuh kes), Sabah (enam kes), Kedah (lima kes), Kelantan (lima kes), Pahang (lima kes), Selangor (empat kes), Melaka (empat kes), Perak (empat kes), Terengganu

(satu kes), Negeri Sembilan (dua kes) dan Perlis (dua kes) serta tiada kematian di Labuan dan Putrajaya.

Pesakit sedang dirawat dan diasingkan merekodkan 112,379 kes melibatkan 88,645 kes dikuarantin di rumah, 15,356 kes di Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan Covid-19 (PKRC), 7,622 kes di hospital, 359 kes di Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU) tanpa bantuan pernafasan dan 397 kes di ICU dengan bantuan pernafasan.

Sementara itu, negara merekodkan sebanyak 7,276 kes jangkitan baharu Covid-19 semalam, menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan kes di seluruh negara sebanyak 2,353,579.

Data tersebut dikongsikan Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr. Noor Hisham Abdullah menerusi satu hantaran di Facebook semalam.

"Maklumat terperinci akan dimuat naik ke laman COVIDNOW <https://covidnow.moh.gov.my>.

"Data setiap hari bagi laman COVIDNOW adalah dikemas kini sekali gus selepas tengah malam," katanya.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 2

RUANGAN : VAKSIN UNTUK RAKYAT

'Tolong ingat graf jangkitan Covid-19'

Khairy ingatkan rakyat supaya jaga SOP, tidak alpa dengan kebenaran rentas negeri

Oleh MUHAMMAD YUSAINY
MOHAMAD YUNUS

SHAH ALAM

MEDEPANI KRISIS
COVID-19:
APA TINDAKAN
KITA?

Usulan keputusan kerajaan memberi kebenaran rentas negeri bermula 10 Oktober, Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar mengingatkan orang ramai untuk memantau data kejayaan negara dalam penurunan kes jangkitan Covid-19.

Beliau berkata, orang ramai perlu ingat kembali data berkenaan supaya graf jangkitan tersebut tidak lagi meningkat secara mendadak.

Katanya, berdasarkan Model SEIR Unjuran dan Pemerhatian Kes Harian Covid-19 telah menunjukkan

penurunan angka kes jangkitan Covid-19 dalam negara.

"Sepertimana kami benarkan rentas negeri, tolong ingat gambar (graf jangkitan) ini.

"Kita sedang turun dari puncak bencana dan sengsaraan. Mari kita pastikan tiada lagi kes meningkat dengan tinggi.

"Pakai pelitup muka, patuh prosedur operasi standard (SOP) dan amalkan TRIIS #ReopeningSafely," katanya menerusi ciapan di Twitter pada Isnin.



Mengulas lanjut, dalam ciapan Twitter-nya pada Selasa Khairy berkata, kebenaran rentas negeri pada hari pertama menyaksikan peningkatan perjalanan secara keseluruhan sebanyak 14 peratus.

"Perjalanan ke utara meningkat kepada 20.5 peratus, selatan (15.4 peratus) dan Lembah Klang (9.7 peratus).

"Kami akan terus memantau corak penyakit dan data mobiliti untuk meramalkan kemungkinan wabak. #TRIIS. #Membuka Semula dengan Selamat," ujar beliau.



Tangkap layar ciapan Twitter Khairy pada Isnin.

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

Tidak perlu lagi gelembung pelancongan

Tiada keperluan pelaksanaan gelembung pelancongan di Pulau Langkawi apabila kebenaran rentas negeri telah diberikan

Oleh Hidayah Hairom & Raiham Sanusi

KUALA LUMPUR

Tiada sebarang keperluan pelaksanaan gelembung pelancongan di Pulau Langkawi apabila kebenaran rentas negeri telah diberikan. Bagaimanapun, Menteri Kanan

Pertahanan, Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein, berkata, pertimbangan untuk meneruskan projek rintis pelancongan itu bergantung kepada keputusan Kementerian Pelancongan, Kesenian dan Kebudayaan (MOTAC). "Apabila kita benarkan semua rentas negeri, tiada keperluan lagi untuk wujudkan gelembung pelancongan.

"Sekiranya Menteri Pelancongan, Seni dan Budaya, Datuk Seri Nancy Shukri memikirkan perlu untuk kita laksanakan gelembung pelancongan ini untuk pelancong luar negara, mungkin kita kena tunggu maklum balas MOTAC," katanya di Bilik Media Parlimen pada Selasa.



HISHAMMUDDIN

Ketika ditanya sama ada Malaysia akan mengeluarkan senarai negara-negara yang boleh dikunjungi susulan pemansuhan MyTravelPass, beliau menyifatkan perkara tersebut perlu dipertimbangkan namun ia berada di bawah bidang kuasa Kementerian Kesihatan

Malaysia (KKM).

"Saya rasa perlu kita lihat kerana ini merupakan amalan beberapa negara sebelum ini.

"Tetapi untuk tentukan dan senaraikan negara-negara berkenaan adalah di bawah tanggungjawab KKM," katanya.

Ujian pengesanan Covid-19 untuk ke Langkawi dihentikan

PUTRAJAYA - Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) menghentikan keperluan ujian pengesanan Covid-19 bagi pelancong ke Pulau Langkawi.

Menterinya, Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar berkata, keputusan itu dibuat selepas mengambil kira peratus pelancong yang dikesan positif Covid-19 semasa saringan yang sangat rendah.

"Pemberhentian keperluan menjalani ujian oleh pengembara ke Langkawi ini berkuat kuasa mulai Selasa," katanya dalam kenyataan pada Selasa.

Beliau bagaimanapun berkata, sebagai langkah mengukuhkan tindakan kesihatan awam, pelancong digalakkan untuk melakukan ujian Covid-19 sendiri sebelum memulakan perjalanan.

"Ini bagi mengurangkan risiko jangkitan kepada pelancong lain," katanya.

Sementara itu, Khairy berkata, syarat wajib vaksinasi Covid-19 lengkap bagi semua pelancong dewasa masih kekal dan perlu dipatuhi.

"Bagi individu yang disahkan positif dan kontak rapat, serta sedang dalam tempoh pengasingan dan pemantauan adalah tidak dibenarkan melancong,"

katanya.

Beliau berkata, mereka yang mengalami gejala seperti demam, batuk dan selesema juga dinasihatkan agar menangguhkan dahulu perjalanan.

"Keluarga Malaysia mesti bertanggungjawab dalam usaha mencegah penularan jangkitan Covid-19," katanya.

Dalam pada itu, Khairy berkata, sehingga 10 Oktober lalu, seramai 54,341 pelancong sudah menjalani ujian pengesanan Covid-19.

Daripada jumlah itu, katanya, hanya 216 orang atau 0.4 peratus pelancong dikesan positif.

"Hanya seorang pelancong yang mengalami gejala semasa di Langkawi dan didapati positif Covid-19 melalui ujian RT-PCR. Siasatan mendapati punca jangkitan bukan di Langkawi," katanya.

Menurutnya, tiada kluster Covid-19 yang berpunca dari gelembung pelancongan di Langkawi sejak ia dilaksanakan 16 September lalu.

7,276 kes baharu, 150 daripadanya kategori tiga hingga lima

PUTRAJAYA - Sebanyak 7,126 daripada 7,276 kes baharu positif Covid-19 adalah kategori satu dan dua.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, hanya 150 kes positif yang dikesan terdiri daripada kategori tiga hingga lima.

"Daripada jumlah itu juga, Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia

(KKM) melaporkan 10 kes import dan 7,266 penularan dalam negara yang membabitkan 6,869 rakyat tempatan dan 397 warga asing," katanya dalam kenyataan pada Selasa.

Menurutnya, keseluruhan kes terkumpul positif Covid-19 adalah 2,353,579 kes.

"Sebanyak 683 kes dirawat di unit rawatan rapi (ICU) dan 398 pesakit perlu bantuan pernafasan," katanya.

Beliau berkata, terdapat 10,555 kes sembuh turut direkodkan menjadikan jumlah keseluruhannya, 2,217,057 kes.

"Sejumlah 14 kluster baharu dikenal pasti membabitkan enam kluster tempat kerja dan lima kluster komuniti. Turut dikesan masing-masing satu kluster kumpulan berisiko tinggi, pendidikan lain dan institut pendidikan swasta," katanya.

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

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : PERSIDANGAN PARLIMEN KE-14 TAHUN 2021

Tiada kluster Covid-19 di Dewan Rakyat

KUALA LUMPUR - Tiada kluster penularan Covid-19 berlaku di dalam Dewan Rakyat sepanjang Sidang Mesyuarat Pertama Penggal Keempat Parlimen Ke-14 yang berlangsung selama 17 hari.

Yang Dipertua Dewan Rakyat, Datuk Azhar Azizan Harun berkata, sejak berlangsung pada 13 September lalu sehingga berakhir pada Selasa hanya sembilan kes Covid-19 dilaporkan dan kesemuanya berpunca daripada komuniti.

Katanya, keadaan itu hasil pelbagai langkah yang dilakukan untuk mengelakkan berlaku penularan pandemik tersebut.

"Persidangan kali ini diadakan dengan mengambil kira cabaran penularan kes wabak Covid-19 di negara kita.

"Pelbagai langkah telah diambil bagi memastikan persidangan ini berjalan lancar termasuk mewajibkan ujian RTK-AG Saliva Test Kit secara berkala serta meningkatkan kualiti udara dalaman di semua bangunan di Parlimen," katanya ketika berucap menangguhkan sidang Dewan Rakyat.

Susulan itu, Azhar berkata, beliau dan Timbalannya, Datuk Mohd Rashid Hasnon merakamkan penghargaan dan terima kasih kepada Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) khususnya kepada Makmal Kesihatan Awam Kebangsaan (MKAK) yang diketuai Dr Noorliza Mohd Noordin.

Menurut beliau, Dr Noorliza telah memberi sepenuh komitmen dan mengerakkan langkah-langkah perlu dalam memastikan Parlimen Malaysia dan semua yang terlibat dalam persidangan itu agar sentiasa berada dalam keadaan terkawal dan selamat daripada jangkitan wabak Covid-19.

"Saya turut mengucapkan terima kasih yang tidak terhingga kepada rakan saya, Ahli Parlimen Pengerang, Datuk Seri Azalina Othman Said yang sudi mempengerusikan sementara beberapa kali mesyuarat Dewan Rakyat sepanjang persidangan ini," katanya.

Sidang Dewan Rakyat itu bagaimanapun ditangguhkan ke suatu tarikh yang masih belum ditetapkan.

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA

MUKA SURAT : 8

RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI

Langkawi: Tak perlu lagi ujian Covid-19

PUTRAJAYA: Kementerian Kesihatan setuju menghentikan keperluan ujian pengesanan Covid-19 bagi pelancong ke Langkawi, berkuat kuasa semalam, selepas mengambil kira peratus positif semasa saringan sangat rendah.

Menterinya, Khairy Jamaluddin berkata, bagaimanapun pelancong digalakkan melakukan ujian Covid-19 sendiri sebelum memulakan perjalanan ke pulau peranginan itu bagi mengurangkan risiko jangkitan.

Namun katanya, syarat wajib vaksinasi Covid-19 lengkap bagi semua pelancong dewasa masih kekal.

"Bagi individu disahkan positif dan dalam tempoh pengasingan dan pemantauan atau individu dikenal pasti sebagai kontak rapat kepada kes positif yang sedang menjalani perintah kuarantin dan pengawasan, mereka tidak dibenarkan melancong.

"Untuk mereka yang mengalami gejala seperti demam, batuk dan selsema, dinasi-

hatkan agar menangguhkan dahulu perjalanan," katanya dalam kenyataan semalam.

Menerusi Projek Rintis Gelembung Pelancongan Langkawi bermula 16 September lalu, setiap pelancong yang akan bercuti ke Langkawi bukan kes positif Covid-19 dan bukan kontak rapat kepada kes positif diwajibkan menjalani ujian pengesanan Covid-19 di mana-mana fasiliti dan makmal kesihatan swasta atau melakukan ujian sendiri air liur di tempat saringan di lapangan terbang atau terminal feri.

Dalam pada itu, Khairy berkata, sehingga 10 Oktober lalu, seramai 54,341 pelancong menjalani ujian pengesanan Covid-19 dan hanya 216 atau 0.4 peratus pelancong dikesan positif.

"Hanya seorang pelancong mengalami gejala semasa di Langkawi dan didapati positif Covid-19 melalui ujian RT-PCR. Siasatan mendapati punca jangkitan bukan di Langkawi," ujarnya.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NEWS / NATION

No mandatory Covid-19 testing for travellers to Langkawi, says Khairy

KUALA LUMPUR: The government has decided to drop the mandatory Covid-19 testing requirement for travellers going to Langkawi, effective yesterday.

Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin said this was done in the wake of the government's lifting of the interstate travel ban on Monday.

He said to strengthen self-health measures, travellers were encouraged to conduct a Covid-19 test before leaving for Langkawi to reduce the risk of infection to other tourists.

"However, the condition that all visitors to Langkawi must have completed the Covid-19 vaccination process is still in place," he said in a statement.

Individuals who tested positive and were in isolation and observation or those identified as close contacts to a positive case undergoing a quarantine and



Visitor arrivals in Langkawi have been improving steadily since Sept 16, with up to 2,000 travellers arriving by flights daily. PIC BY HAMZAH OSMAN

surveillance order were not allowed to travel, he said.

Those who were experiencing symptoms such as fever, cough and cold were advised to postpone the trip, he added.

Up to Oct 10, he said, only 216 out of 54,341 individuals tested positive since the Langkawi travel bubble pilot project began on Sept 16.

He said only one traveller

showed symptoms and tested positive for Covid-19 when in Langkawi. However, no clusters were triggered.

For those travelling interstate, Khairy reminded them again to carry out a Covid-19 self-test before beginning their journey to protect themselves and others from Covid-19 infection.

"We would like to remind the people to ensure that Covid-19 preventive measures are always practised."

Kedah/Perlis chapter of Malaysian Hoteliers Association vice-chairman Razmi Rahmat told the *New Straits Times* that visitor arrivals in Langkawi had been improving steadily since Sept 16, with up to 2,000 travellers arriving by flights daily.

Kedah Tourism, Arts and Cultural committee chairman Mohd Firdaus Ahmad, meanwhile, said Langkawi's visitor arrival had ex-

ceeded the initial target of 30,000 people last month.

"We have recorded more than 70,000 in visitor arrivals to date and with the reopening of state borders, we strongly believe that we will be able to surpass the 200,000 visitor arrival target by end of this year."

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob had, on Sunday, announced the reopening of state borders, which allowed the resumption of interstate travel as the country reached the 90 per cent target of Covid-19 vaccination for its adult population.

The country's borders, however, are still closed to foreign tourists.

The tourism industry in Malaysia reported an estimated RM100 billion in losses last year and another RM45 billion in the first half of this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : NATION / NEWS

16 B.I.D. CASES

93 DEATHS LOGGED ON MONDAY

Latest data has Sarawak topping list of fatalities and daily cases

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MALAYSIA reported 93 Covid-19 fatalities as of 11.59pm on Monday, bringing the death toll to 27,422.

Data on the Health Ministry's CovidNow portal showed that 16 of these deaths were brought-in-dead (B.I.D.), bringing the BID total to 5,530 B.I.D.

Sarawak recorded the highest number of fatalities with 14, followed by Johor with eight, and Kuala Lumpur and Sabah with six each. Kedah, Kelantan and Pahang reported five deaths each,



A health worker drawing a syringe of Covid-19 vaccine in Kepala Batas, Penang, yesterday. PIC BY DANIAL SAAD

four deaths each were reported in Perak and Selangor, Negri Sembilan and Perlis reported two deaths each and one death was logged in Terengganu.

The data showed that 69.1 per cent (18,944) of deaths involved unvaccinated individuals, 21.7 per cent (5,962) partially vaccinated and 9.2 per cent (2,516) fully vaccinated.

Those aged 60 and above made up 53.8 per cent (13,978) of fatalities, 45.9 per cent were in the 18-59 age group, 0.1 per cent (36) were aged 12 to 17, and 0.2 per cent (42) were 11 or younger.

The death rate is now 8.4 per 10,000 people nationwide.

On Monday, 6,709 cases and 10,833 recoveries were recorded nationwide. This brings the num-

ber of active cases to 112,379.

Sarawak recorded 1,037 cases followed by, 938 in Kelantan, 777 in Johor, 671 in Selangor, 532 in Sabah; 480 in Terengganu, 441 in Penang, 426 in Pahang, 414 in Perak, 357 in Kedah, 220 in Kuala Lumpur, 188 in Malacca, 163 in Negri Sembilan, 36 in Putrajaya and 29 in Perlis.

No cases were reported in Labuan.

Seventy-five per cent of the population has been inoculated against the virus, with 65.6 per cent fully vaccinated, or 21,437,380 people.

The country is projected to fully immunise 80 per cent of the population by Nov 26.

Nine per cent, or 283,023, children aged 12 to 17 have been fully immunised, while 64.4 per cent, or 2,027,472, have received at least one dose.

The Education and Health Ministries collaborated on the latest feature on the portal, Find My School, which publishes data

on vaccination coverage at schools.

The Health Ministry also reported that 756 patients were in Intensive Care Units (ICU). From the total, 397 require ventilators.

The Klang Valley reported the highest number of patients in ICU at 151 (121 in Selangor, 29 in Kuala Lumpur and one Putrajaya) with a 67.8 per cent utilisation rate.

This was followed by Sabah (110), Sarawak (108), Perak (75), Penang (72), Kelantan (60), Johor (58), Kedah (55), Terengganu (20), Pahang (19), Melaka (15), Negri Sembilan (nine) and Perlis (four).

Hospital bed utilisation nationwide is currently at 63.3 per cent.

Of the total active cases, 78.9 per cent were observing home quarantine (88,645 people), while 13.7 per cent (15,356) were at Covid-19 Low-Risk Quarantine and Treatment Centres.

Only 6.8 per cent of the cases (7,622) were being treated in hospitals.

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 2
RUANGAN : NATION

Remaining ever vigilant

Frontliners thankful for downtrend but urge strict SOP compliance

PETALING JAYA: Exhausted frontliners are thankful for the drop in Covid-19 cases but they are ever vigilant and plead with Malaysians to continue following the standard operating procedures as interstate travel has now resumed.

A doctor attached to a Covid-19 designated hospital in the Klang Valley said that since the pandemic broke out in March last year, they have always been on their toes.

She said while they had some time off between the first and second wave, they had never stopped working since the third wave in October last year.

This year has been almost non-stop work, with a peak in July and August, causing them emotional and mental anguish.

"It has been really tough and nothing in my medical training prepared me for this. I felt so helpless as I could not do anything for my patients and their families," she said.

Over the past weeks, there has

been a drop in the number of serious cases and frontliners can now breathe easy.

She hasn't been back to her hometown in Kedah for almost a year to see her family but is planning to head back next month.

"For some, they are just burnt out but for many others including me, we have been exhausted for the longest time," she said.

She said the vaccination programme has contributed to the drop in severe cases but hoped people would not let their guard down.

"The virus can still evolve and cause damage. I have seen what Covid-19 can do to people and their families. It is devastating. I hope people care for themselves and those around them," she said.

A doctor from Teluk Intan, who declined to be named, shared that nothing much has changed for the hospital as there are still many Covid-19 cases in the community.

"In the ICU, the situation is fluctuating and we still maintain the few

wards we have converted into ICU wards," he said.

The doctor added that since restrictions have been lifted, there is no more any demarcation of those coming from red zones.

As such, the doctor said they do not know the risk status of the people coming into the hospital.

"What we did in the past was to have an isolation zone for those from the red zones, whether they had flu or a heart ailment. Since there is no longer any demarcation, what we do now is to put patients with respiratory problems such as cough, cold, and those with fever from unknown sources, in the isolation zone.

"We also strengthened our SOP to ensure the safety of everyone," he said.

Since interstate travel is now allowed, the doctor said medical staff are anticipating an increase in the number of patients.

"If you get Covid-19, we will still continue with the same process

where people will be hospitalised, contact tracing will be conducted among others. I don't think anything will change. I don't think people will stop coming to the hospital if they have Covid-19," he said.

With this, the doctor urged Malaysians to be extra cautious and to continue practising the SOP.

"As borders reopen, we don't know where people are coming from. There are also a lot of children who remain unvaccinated. So let's not let our guard down that can result in children being infected. Those who are vaccinated too can be infected. It does not mean that they are completely immune from the virus," he said.

Another doctor, who also declined to be named, said it will take a while before there is a reduction in the number of people in ICU.

However, the doctor said now that vaccinated Malaysians can travel more freely, it is vital that people continue to adhere strictly to the SOP.

Doctors fought pandemic at their own risk

PETALING JAYA: After an unrelenting period where they furiously fought to hold back the tide of Covid-19 infections, medical frontliners are heaving a sigh of relief now that 90% of the country's adult population are fully vaccinated.

Dr Mohan Babu Ramaloo, a house officer stationed at Hospital Taiping in Perak, is pleased with the milestone and hopes this will convince the vaccine-hesitant to get inoculated.

The 25-year-old said fighting the virus at the peak of the crisis affected his mental health.

"It was depressing, and I was in a constant state of anxiety about going out due to the devastating effects of the pandemic," he said.

He also recalled the ordeal of having to be in personal protective

equipment constantly.

"We had to bear with the intense heat of wearing the suit, and for a very long time," he added.

With this tiring and difficult period behind him, Dr Mohan still advises the public to continue to take precautions and be vigilant as interstate travel is allowed.

Dr Nor 'Azlah Mohammad Azhar, who is with a clinic in Rompin, Pahang, said October "is when we are finally able to sit down and take a breather, seeing a downtrend in cases along with the completion of mass vaccinations."

"Looking at how far we've come, I'd say it's all worth it," said the 30-year-old medical officer.

She added that their job scope has expanded from just seeing patients at the clinic to doing the

sampling for hundreds of Covid-19 swab tests daily, and other duties.

"I also attend to Covid-19 patients at home via the mobile Covid-19 Assessment Centre (CAC)," she said.

Remembering the worst moments of the pandemic, Dr Nor 'Azlah said it was an exhausting journey over many months.

Some of them, she added, were also deployed to quarantine centres and low-risk quarantine and treatment centres (PKRC).

Dr Nor 'Azlah shared that when her pregnant best friend was diagnosed with Category 4 Covid-19, it was no longer "just another case" for her.

"Here was someone dear to me. It helped remind me to treat each patient as a person and not just another case," she said.

Her best friend finally recovered and gave birth.

Sharing stories and struggles among colleagues became an antidote to all the stress and pressure they had to deal with.

"There were times that I felt burnt out, but I was lucky I stayed not too far from my parents. I would feel recharged after a visit home.

"Having supportive friends also helped. Just sharing our stories or problems might not sound like much but to me, it made a world of difference," she said.

The battle is far from over, insisted Dr Nor 'Azlah.

"We have to accept that the virus now lives among us - so always remember to keep a physical distance, wash your hands and wear masks," she added.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : NATION

Penang Hospital doctors finally get to eat on time

GEORGE TOWN: At the height of the pandemic a few months ago, Dr Sophie Mak Yi Hong counted herself lucky if she managed to steal some time to take her first meal of the day at 4pm.

Covid-19 cases were skyrocketing and people were dying everywhere, almost everyday.

Seeing the pain and suffering of Covid-19 patients at Penang Hospital could easily make anybody forget about anything, Dr Mak said.

"Sometimes, I felt like passing out too. But as the cases slowly went down and there were fewer patients, we finally got to eat on time," she added.

With the vaccination rate of the adult population now breaching the 90% mark, Dr Mak said the situation at the hospital has greatly improved.

"We managed to close six wards and also the dental blocks for low-risk patients."

"The field hospital at the carpark has also recorded a drop in the number of patients," the 27-year-old said.

Dr Mak, who is a Universiti Malaya graduate, said the success of the vaccination rate in the country is owed mainly to the Health Ministry's policies and strategies.

"Convincing the public to get vaccinated was the hardest part, and I believe the ministry has done very well on this matter."

"I can't deny that we (the frontliners) have also done our part, be it at the hospitals or at the vaccination centres. Many of us had to devote our time and energy to fight



Brief respite: Doctors taking a break while working shifts at Penang Hospital.
—Photo taken from Docs on Vacay Facebook page

the disease.

"We should not ignore the role played by charitable organisations and the private sector in donating health equipment to us, and also the media for disseminating the correct information to the masses," she said.

As the country opens up more sectors, Dr Mak advised Malaysians to continue to be vigilant.

"Always wear a mask, practise social distancing and don't forget to wash your hands often."

"Also, we should always keep abreast of the latest Covid-19 information," she said.

Dr Mak said if someone had been vaccinated, then the likelihood of developing severe symptoms is statistically proven to be lesser.

"For a healthy person, even if you get it, you

will most likely recover after a while."

"Achieving zero cases is no longer possible. We have to live with the virus and get back our life under a new normal," she said.

The passion to save lives runs deep in Mak's family as her older brother is also a doctor who was in charge of vaccinating the Orang Asli in Raub, Pahang.

Meanwhile, Penang Hospital infectious disease unit head Datuk Dr Chow Ting Soo reminded the public to be more responsible when visiting family members.

"If you're going to visit your close relatives in another state, please do a self-test before starting the journey."

"Also try to reduce indoor activity, or gathering in a big group inside the house as this will affect the air circulation," she said.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NATION

Positivity rate hits milestone

Latest figure of 4.65% falls within WHO's recommended threshold

By JOSEPH KAOS Jr
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PETALING JAYA: Malaysia's Covid-19 positivity rate continues to show improvement, with the latest figure of 4.65% falling within the World Health Organisation's (WHO) recommended threshold.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the 7,276 Covid-19 cases recorded yesterday were out of 156,567 tests conducted.

"The positivity rate is 4.65%, fulfilling the WHO's benchmark of 5%. This shows that the number of Covid-19 tests conducted in the country is adequate and depicts the correct situation on the field," he said yesterday.

The positivity rate refers to the percentage of people who are Covid-19 positive out of the total tested.

Based on the ministry's CovidNow website, the last time Malaysia's

average positivity rate was around 5% was in May, before the third movement control order was imposed.

The positivity rate peaked at an average of 15% around August before hitting a declining trend towards the end of September.

The 7,276 cases reported in the country yesterday consisted of 97.9% (7,126 cases) of mild and asymptomatic infections.

"Another 150 cases or 2.1% are Categories 3, 4 and 5 infections," said Dr Noor Hisham in his daily Covid-19 update.

The total of 7,276 cases reported yesterday is the second lowest daily figure in the last three months, only behind Monday's 6,709 infections.

Cumulatively, the country has recorded 2,353,579 total infections since the pandemic began.

Malaysia also discharged 10,555 more Covid-19 patients, bringing total recoveries to 2,215,057 or 94.2%.

There are now 724 patients in intensive care units (ICUs) nationwide, down from 762 the previous day.

Some 398 patients are on ventilator support.

Other daily Covid-19 figures will only be updated on the ministry's CovidNow website after midnight, including breakdown of cases according to state as well as the number of deaths.

As at Monday at 11.59pm, there are 112,379 active cases – a figure which continues to be on a downward trend.

Of the 112,379 active cases, nearly 80% are mild and asymptomatic patients who are undergoing isolation at home.

Some 13.7% are at low-risk quarantine centres, while 6.8% are hospitalised.

The number of patients in ICUs is 0.7% out of all active cases.

Meanwhile, the Health Ministry has removed mandatory Covid-19

screening requirement for Langkawi travellers, after seeing a low number of tourists testing positive.

"As at Oct 10, a total of 54,341 tourists had undergone Covid-19 screening (since the implementation of the Langkawi tourism bubble initiative on Sept 16) and of that, only 216 travellers (0.4%) tested positive.

"Only one tourist developed symptoms while in Langkawi and tested positive for Covid-19.

"Investigations found that the source of infection was not in Langkawi.

"The travel bubble initiative has also produced no Covid-19 clusters in Langkawi," said Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin in a statement.

He stressed that the requirement for adult travellers to be fully vaccinated against Covid-19 remains, and those who wish to travel are encouraged to self-test before departure.

29 test positive after Covid-19 outbreak at shelter home

By SHEILA SRI PRIYA
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PETALING JAYA: Some 29 occupants and caretakers of a shelter home in Jalan Pekaka 8/11, Kota Damansara, have tested positive for Covid-19.

Caretaker Tan CS said the shelter houses those with mental disability between the ages of 20 and 78.

He said initially, three of the home's occupants went down with fever. He brought them to a private clinic, where they were confirmed to be Covid-19 positive.

"Soon, more in the home started coughing and having a fever, and I became very worried. I got help from a private clinic to test everyone.

"We tested 30 people, including the five caretakers. All except one were positive. Soon, some became more unwell.

"The authorities sent ambulances to take six of our occupants to be admitted at Hospital Sungai Buloh on Oct 9," he added.

Tan said the rest were put under home quarantine, adding that he was thankful that all of them are improving and no one is in critical condition.

Tan said the management spent about RM5,000 to do private Covid-19 tests, adding that the home is running low on funds and he hoped the public could provide donations.

"We just need some Covid-19 testing kits, vitamins, cleaning supplies, gloves, adult diapers and food supplies such as instant noodles, milk powder and cereal," he added.

Petaling district disaster management committee chairman Datuk Johary Anuar said the home occupants are in stable condition.

"They are not in a critical stage and we are in constant communication with the home through the phone."

"The Health Department visited the home once, but we are on standby in case anyone needs to be sent to the hospital. However, they are recovering well," he added.

'Frustrated Doctor' has hope in her heart

KLANG: These days, Dr Dhivya Dhyana Suppiah (pic) wakes up to more hope, which is a far cry from how it was a few months back.

The 30-year-old doctor, who serves at a public hospital, is a frontliner who was trapped in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic when it was raging at its worst.

Dr Dhivya Dhyana caught public attention when she uploaded a video on social media in July titled "Chronicles of a Frustrated Doctor", narrating the physical and emotional challenges faced by medical frontliners.

"Morale among doctors was very low at that point of time as many people, including those who were young and healthy, were dying.

"Doctors had to choose whom to help as wards were overflowing and there was a shortage of medical equipment," she recalled.

Heaving a sigh of relief, Dr Dhivya Dhyana said the situation has changed drastically with a small number of people infected with Covid-19 being admitted currently.



She added that many Covid-19 wards were also being shut down as there wasn't a need for them anymore.

"We used to have eight Covid-19 wards at the hospital where I work, and we now have only two.

"We are going to shut down one more ward and leave only one open as the 60 beds it has is more than enough to receive the number of

Covid-19 cases," she added.

Dr Dhivya Dhyana said all the additional intensive care unit wards that were opened during the height of the pandemic have also been shut down and there was now sufficient equipment to go around.

She added that doctors were happy as they now can save everyone who is admitted as opposed to having to choose.

On the number of cases, Dr Dhivya Dhyana said although the numbers were still high, most were in Categories 1 to 3.

"There are only a small number of Categories 4 and 5 patients who require hospitalisation and oxygen, but we notice most of those getting admitted now are unvaccinated people," she noted.

According to Dr Dhivya Dhyana, working hours have also improved with frontliners no longer required to work long hours with merely short spurts of rest in between.

On the current situation, she said the number of Covid-19 cases was expected to go up after a week or

two from the date interstate travel was allowed.

"But we believe the number of cases will not be as high as it was before and those infected will either be mild or asymptomatic cases," she added.

She "hopes everyone will get vaccinated as it is one of the main factors to curb Covid-19 fatalities".

In a previous interview with *The Star*, Dr Dhivya Dhyana had spoken about how a 38-year-old Covid-19 patient, with no other health problems, collapsed and died due to a blood clot in the lungs.

"He was not vaccinated.

"When I called his wife to tell her that her husband had died, I could hear their baby crying in the background," she had said.

The part-time fashion model and beauty pageant finalist had also stayed put in the public healthcare system when many of her peers, who were also contract doctors like her, had opted to leave during the peak of the pandemic due to uncertainties in their employment status.

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MUKA SURAT : 12
RUANGAN : VIEWS

Vaccines for the stateless

I AM sad to see that the Health Ministry is paying no attention to the plight of people with no citizenship, especially children between the ages of 12 and 18 years.

This is especially heart-rending when the child is only 14 years old and suffering from systemic lupus erythema (SLE). For over one year, this child, who is my niece, has not been able to consult her doctors face-to-face at Selayang Hospital.

Although her next appointment to see them was scheduled for this month, for her safety we have postponed it to November. This is because people with SLE have low immunity, and the risk of being infected with Covid-19 is very high

unless they are vaccinated against it.

Her father has registered her via MySejahtera for vaccination, but there has been no response so far from the authorities concerned. A few friends have also sent inquiries to MySejahtera about the matter, but all have received no reply except an auto-generated message.

The girl's father had taken half a day off work to get her vaccinated at a walk-in centre, but they were told by staff at the centre that they could not vaccinate children below 18.

My niece needs to be fully vaccinated before she can consult her doctors, and we have a letter from

them to certify that she is fit to get a Covid-19 jab.

I have also contacted a few private clinics from a list provided by a friend. The list has the Health Ministry's logo on it.

We've heard Kulai MP Teo Nie Ching urging the Health Ministry to allow stateless people in the country to be vaccinated. But when we contacted the ministry about this matter, we were given the run-around.

For the well-being of my niece, I hope she can be vaccinated soon so that she can resume normal consultations with the specialists treating her for SLE.

I find it hard to believe that the

Health Ministry would not consider the case of an autoimmune patient as a priority.

How many cases are there of such individuals? Why can't some arrangements be made for them to be vaccinated since they have letters from their doctors to support their case?

It makes us wonder whether this is discrimination against stateless people in this country. My niece is an innocent child and it is time for the government to understand her plight and that of the stateless people like her.

AA

Kuala Lumpur