

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 4
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Kes jangkitan harian kembali meningkat

Putrajaya: Kes jangkitan harian COVID-19 di negara ini kembali meningkat dengan 15,759 kes selepas lima hari berturut-turut mencatatkan penurunan.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata Sarawak terus merekodkan kes tertinggi dengan 3,732 kes, diikuti Johor (1,959), Selangor (1,934) dan Pulau Pinang (1,417).

Katanya, tiga negeri lagi turut mencatatkan kes empat angka iaitu Kelantan (1,338), Sabah (1,291) dan Perak (1,184).

Beliau berkata, enam negeri merekodkan kes COVID-19 tiga angka iaitu Kedah (786), Pahang (707), Terengganu (692), Kuala Lumpur (359), Melaka (264) dan Negeri Sembilan (127), manakala Putrajaya, Perlis dan Labuan mencatat kes dua angka dengan masing-masing 34, 23 serta 12 kes.

Sementara itu, sejumal 301 kes mati disebabkan COVID-19 dilaporkan kelmarin, dengan 108 kes dilaporkan dalam tempoh 24 jam, manakala 193 kes adalah kes tertunggak.

Data Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) di portal COVIDNOW memaklumkan, jumlah keseluruhan angka korban di negara ini adalah 23,744 kes.

Data itu juga menunjukkan

Sarawak terus merekodkan kes tertinggi dengan 3,732 kes, diikuti Johor (1,959), Selangor (1,934) dan Pulau Pinang (1,417)

Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah,
(Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan

92 kes kematian terbabit adalah kes kematian di luar fasiliti kesihatan (BID), menjadikan sejumal 4,564 kes pesakit COVID-19 yang meninggal dunia sebelum menerima bantuan perubatan.

Lembah Klang melaporkan kes kematian tertinggi dengan 143 kes, disusuli Johor (52), Kelantan (23) dan Pulau Pinang (22).

Selain itu, Sabah (19), Perak (15), Sarawak (8), Kedah (6), masing-masing empat kes di Pahang dan Terengganu, Melaka (3) serta masing-masing satu kes di Perlis dan Negeri Sembilan.

Hanya dua wilayah iaitu Labuan dan Putrajaya tidak melaporkan pertambahan kes kematian.

Mengenal kebolehjangkitan COVID-19 di negara ini, data menunjukkan masih terdapat 207,698 kes aktif.

Dari pada jumlah itu, 172,648 kes sedang menjalani kuarantine wajib di rumah, manakala 22,675 kes pula berada di Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan COVID-19 (PKRC).

Sebanyak 11,321 kes pula sedang dirawat di hospital, manakala 521 kes berada di unit rawatan rapat (ICU) serta memerlukan alat bantuan pernafasan dan 633 kes berada dalam ICU dan tidak memerlukan alat bantuan pernafasan.



Sebahagian pelajar yang menerima suntikan vaksin di PPV Dewan Canselor MSU, Shah Alam, semalam.

(Foto Owee Ah Chun/BH)

Penularan COVID-19

156 PPV untuk vaksinasi remaja secara walk-in

Pemberian vaksin bermula esok, dilaksana ikut giliran, tarikh, masa ditetapkan

Oleh Noor Atiqah Sulaiman
 bhnews@bh.com.my

Putrajaya: Sebanyak 156 Pusat Pemberian Vaksin (PPV) Awam dan Intergrasi dikenal pasti bagi menyediakan suntikan vaksin secara walk-in kepada remaja, di seluruh negara.

Pengerusi Pasukan Bertindak Imunisasi COVID-19 Remaja (CITF-A), Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali, berkata pemberian vaksin secara walk-in kepada remaja menerusi Program Imunisasi COVID-19 Kebangsaan (PICK) Remaja itu akan bermula esok.

Katanya, pelaksanaan kaedah walk-in berjadual akan dilakukan mengikut lokasi sekolah berhampiran dengan PPV yang dikenal pasti dan akan dilaksanakan mengikut giliran serta tarikh dan masa yang ditetapkan.

"Jadual akan dikeluarkan oleh pihak sekolah masing-masing kepada remaja dan ibu bapa. Kaedah walk-in ini membabitkan semua kategori remaja, termasuk mereka yang tidak bersekolah.

"Bagi remaja yang tidak bersekolah, mereka dibenarkan untuk datang ke mana-mana 156 PPV yang berdekatan dengan kediaman."

"Namun, jika kuota vaksin di PPV itu habis untuk hari berkenaan, mereka akan diberi janji temu di PPV yang sama kesihatan hari atau di klinik kesihatan swasta berdekatan," katanya dalam kenyataan, semalam.

Kelmarin, Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin, berkata terdapat beberapa kaedah akan digunakan bagi mempercepatkan proses vaksinasi bagi remaja iaitu secara jangka luar (*outreach*) iaitu ke sekolah atau institusi berjadual.

Katanya, bagi remaja yang akan menduduki peperiksaan utama dan bersekolah di sekolah asrama penuh atau asrama harian, janji temu dos. Pertama kali akan dilaksanakan mengikut giliran serta tarikh dan masa yang ditetapkan.

Selain itu, remaja dengan komorbid perlu mendapatkan vaksinasi di hospital atau klinik kesihatan yang merawat mereka.

Mereka yang gagal hadir semasa janji temu di sekolah, akan diberi janji temu di klinik kesihatan swasta yang berdekatan melalui aplikasi MySejahtera.

Mengulas lanjut, Dr Noor Azmi, yang juga Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan 1 berkata, bagi remaja yang menuntut di institusi pendidikan tinggi awam (IPTA) atau swasta (IPTS) dan berusia bawah 18 tahun, mereka dibenarkan untuk walk-in di semua PPV sedia ada dengan hanya menunjukkan pengenalan diri sebagai pelajar IPTA atau PTS.

"Ibu bapa atau penjaga perlu hadir bersama untuk menangani borang kebenaran vaksinasi mereka.

"Bagi pelajar yang sudah mendapatkan tarikh vaksinasi di sekolah, mereka perlu mengikalkan janji temu sedia ada di PPV sekolah yang ditetapkan dan tidak dibenarkan ke PPV Awam atau Integrasi," katanya.

Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali berkata, bagi mengelekakan kesesakan di PPV, hanya ibu atau bapa atau penjaga dibenarkan menemani remaja untuk tujuan vaksinasi.

"Ibu bapa juga dinasihatkan supaya memastikan anak mereka mendapat rehat pada malam sebelumnya, bersarapan pagi dan mengambil air secukupnya sebelum ke PPV.

"Ibu bapa juga perlu mengawasi remaja supaya tidak melakukan aktiviti lasak bagi tempoh tujuh hari selepas vaksin," katanya.



Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 8
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

KKM komited selesai isu doktor kontrak

Kuala Lumpur: Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) akan meneliti semua isu berkaitan pegawai kesihatan lantikan kontrak serta berusaha mencari penyelesaian interim, diikuti penyelesaian yang lebih baik.

Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin, menyatakan komitmen itu selepas mengadakan pertemuan bersama Sekretariat Gerakan Hartal Doktor Kontrak tengah hari semalam.

"Beberapa perkara telah dibangkitkan termasuk kaedah

penilaian prestasi bagi perjawatan tetap, peluang lanjutan pengajian dan masa hadapan kerjaya mereka.

"Saya telah berikan komitmen kepada mereka bahawa kementerian akan melihat setiap isu yang dibangkitkan serta akan berusaha mencari titik penyelesaian interim dan seterusnya ke arah penyelesaian yang lebih baik," katanya dalam hantaran Facebook, semalam.

Pertemuan secara maya itu

turut disertai Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan II, Datuk Aaron Ago Dagang; Ketua Setiausaha Kementerian, Datuk Mohd Shafiq Abdullah dan Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

Pada 26 Julai lalu, ratusan doktor kontrak menyertai perhimpunan aman Gerakan Hartal Doktor Kontrak bagi mengetengahkan beberapa tunutan kepada kerajaan.

Perhimpunan berkenaan berlaku serentak di semua fasiliti

kesihatan di seluruh negara mendesak kerajaan menyerap doktor kontrak menjadi pengamal perubatan tetap di kementerian.

Sebelum itu, kerajaan mengumumkan kumpulan itu akan ditawarkan lanjutan kontrak dua tahun serta beberapa kemudahan termasuk melanjutkan pelajaran dengan penajaan.

Pada masa ini, terdapat kira-kira 23,000 pegawai perubatan, pergigian dan farmasi yang dilantik secara kontrak.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO
MUKA SURAT : 7
RUANGAN : COVID-19

Hampir 80% populasi dewasa lengkap vaksin

Kuala Lumpur: Seramai 18,648,795 individu atau 79.6 peratus daripada populasi dewasa di negara ini melengkapkan suntikan vaksin Covid-19 setakat kelmarin, menurut portal COVID-NOW.

Selain itu, 93.1 peratus atau 22,097,565 individu daripada populasi dewasa sudah menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos vaksin.

Bagi vaksinasi harian pulau, sebanyak 289,618 dos suntikan vaksin diberikan kelmarin membaikkan 94,145 dos pertama dan 195,473 dos lengkap, men-

jadikan jumlah kumulatif pemberian dos vaksin merentasi Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan (Picik) adalah sebanyak 40,664,674 dos.

Picik dilancarkan pada 24 Februari lalu bagi memberikan vaksinasi untuk membendung pandemik Covid-19 di seluruh negara.

Sementara itu, portal berkenaan memaklumkan terdapat pertambahan 301 kes maut akibat Covid-19 dilaporkan setakat 11.59 malam 20 September lalu, menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan kes kematian di negara ini kini 23,744. - Bernama

Angka korban cecah 23,744 kes

Putrajaya: Sejumlah 301 kes kematian berpunca Covid-19 dilaporkan kelmarin dengan 108 kes berlaku dalam tempoh 24 jam.

Data Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) melalui portal COVIDNOW memaklumkan, daripada jumlah berkenaan, 193 kes lagi adalah kes kematian tertunggak, sekali gus menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan angka korban di negara ini adalah sebanyak 23,744 kes.

Turut dimaklumkan terdapat 92 kes kematian di luar fasiliti kesihatan (BID) menjadikan sebanyak 4,564 kes pesakit Covid-19 yang

meninggal dunia sebelum bantuan perubatan dapat diberikan.

Secara keseluruhannya termasuk kes kematian tertunggak, Lembah Klang mencatatkan kes kematian tertinggi membaikkan 143 kes, disusuli Johor (52), Kelantan (23) dan Pulau Pinang (22).

Selain itu, Sabah merekodkan 19 kematian, Perak (15), Sarawak (8), Kedah (6), masing-masing empat kes ini yang belum bersedia untuk menerima suntikan vaksin Covid-19.



MD Fiah (tiga dari kiri) ketika membuat tinjauan pembelian vaksin kepada pelajar di Pusat Pemberian Vaksin (PPV) Dewan Dato Bahaman Shamsudin, Kuala Pilah, semalam. - Gambar NSTP/AZRUL EDHAM MOHD AMINUDDIN

142 guru belum sedia

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Kuala Pilah

Jabatan Pendidikan Negeri Sembilan mengenal pasti 142 guru di negeri ini yang belum bersedia untuk menerima suntikan vaksin Covid-19.

Pengarah Jabatan Pendidikan Negeri Sembilan, Md Fiah Md Jamin berkata, jumlah itu hanya membaikkan 1.08 peratus berbanding jumlah keseluruhan guru berkhidmat di negeri ini.

"Kami mempunyai kira-kira 17,459 guru di seluruh Negeri Sembilan. Hanya 142 yang belum bersedia untuk mengambil vaksin"

Md Fiah Md Jamin

dengan memberikan alasan peribadi seperti mempunyai penyakit atau mengalami alahan.

"Sebelum ini kami ada membuat perjumpaan secara dalam talian dan bersempua dengan guru terabit. Belum sampai untuk berjumpa dengan pihak atasannya," katanya ketika sidang media sejurus membuat tinjauan di Pusat Pemberian Vaksin (PPV) di Dewan Dato Bahaman Shamsudin di sini, semalam.

Beliau berkata, pihaknya yakini semangat pendidik yang ada dalam diri guru akan melembutkan hati mereka untuk menerima suntikan vaksin pada masa akan datang.

Mengulas mengenai ibu bapa yang mungkin tidak membenarkan anak mereka kembali ke sekolah, Md Fiah berkata, penjaga atau ibu bapa diminta mengemukakan alasan dan bukti.

"Kalau mereka (ibu bapa) masih tidak yakin untuk hantar anak ke sekolah, kami masih ada kelonggan.

"Maknanya jika betul-betul tidak yakin, boleh kemukakan surat alasan dan kami tiada apa-apa tindakan. Apabila sudah yakin, boleh hantar anak ke sekolah," katanya.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO
MUKA SURAT : 10
RUANGAN : COVID-19

Kluang: Seramai 6,574 pelajar berusia 16 dan 17 tahun di daerah ini layak menerima suntikan vaksin Covid-19 di enam dewan serbaguna sekolah yang disertakan menjadi Pusat Pemberian Vaksin (PPV).

Pegawai Daerah Kluang merangkap Pengurus Bahagian Bertindak Imunisasi Covid-19 (CITF) Daerah Kluang Jamaludin A Hamid berkata, proses suntikan berkemasan berlangsung secara berperingkat bermula kelmaning hingga 1 Oktober ini.

Kata beliau, ibu bapa atau penjaga pelajar akan dimaklumkan mengenai janji te-

6,574 pelajar di Kluang layak terima suntikan vaksin

mu anak mereka sekurang-kurang sehari sebelum suntikan dan dikehendaki menemani anak masing-masing pada tarikh yang ditetapkan.

"Pelajar Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan (SMK) Sultan Abdul Jalil, SMK Tengku Aris Bendahara, SMK Jalan Kota Tinggi, SMK Bandar T6 serta SMK Canossian Convent akan diambil suntikan vaksin Covid-19 di PPV SMK Abdul Jalil pada 20 hingga 23 Sep-

tember ini.

"Ia juga membabitkan pelajar SMK Jalan Mengkilob, SMK Seri Sembong, SMK LKTF Belitong, SMK Tun Hussein Onn, Kolej Vocational Kluang, Seri Jubli International School dan Sekolah Menengah Chong Hwa," katanya pada sidang media di Pejabat Daerah Kluang di sini, semalam.

Manakala pelajar SMK Kahang dan SMK Felda Kahang Timur akan menerima suntikan di PPV STK pada 25 September.

kolah masing-masing.

Pelajar Sekolah Tinggi Kluang (STK), SMK Sri Langang, SMK Taman Kluang Barat, SM Agama Arabiah, SM Sains Johor, SM Sains Sembrong, SBP Luar dan SM Agama Kerajaan Johor pula akan menerima suntikan di PPV STK pada 26 September.

"Pelajar SMK Seri Intan, SMK Taman Seri Kluang, SMK Seri Perdana pula akan menerima suntikan di PPV SMK Simpang Renggam," katanya.

katanya.

Beliau berkata, seterusnya, temuanjani suntikan bagi pelajar SMK Seri Intan, SMK Taman Seri Kluang dan SMK Seri Perdana akan dilaksanakan di PPV STK pada 26 September.

"Pada 27 September, pelajar SMK Dato' Abdul Rahman Andak, SM Islam As Syidqiq dan SMK Seri Machap akan menerima suntikan di PPV SMK Simpang Renggam.

"Ia juga membabitkan pelajar SMK Simpang Seri Intan, SMK Taman Seri Kluang, SMK Seri Perdana pula akan menerima suntikan di PPV SMK Simpang Renggam," katanya.

Manakala pada 29 September, pelajar SMK Dato' Haji Hassan Yunos dan SMK Layang-Layang akan menerima suntikan di PPV SMK Dato' Haji Hassan Yunos.

Pelajar SMK Paloh dan SMK Seri Kota Paloh pula akan mengambil suntikan di PPV SMK Paloh pada 1 Oktober.

Sementara itu, Jamaludin berkata, bagi mereka yang berusia sama dan sudah tidak bersekolah, mereka dipelawa untuk menghubungi Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah bagi mengaturkan temuanjani suntikan vaksin di lapan klinik kesihatan di sekitar daerah ini.

Pelajar teruja ambil vaksin

Calon SPM pakai pakaian tradisional masyarakat Tionghua ke PPV sempena Festival Kuih Bulan

Covid-19.

"Saya juga memakai hanfu kerana mahu memeriahkan sambutan Festival Kuih Bulan hari ini (semalam)," katanya ketika ditemui di PPV berkemasan.

Anak bongsu daripada tiga beradik itu akan mendukung peperiksaan Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) tahun ini.

Nuradina Batrisyia Mohd Jamil, 16, dari SMK Tarcisian Convent, Ipoh berkata, dia bangun jam 5 pagi untuk segera bersiap pergi ke pusat vaksin berkenaan.

"Mula-mula memang rasa gementar. Bagaimanapun, saya gembira kerana selepas

ini, saya dapat ke sekolah semula.

"Belajar di sekolah bersama rakan serta guru juga lebih menyeronokkan," katanya. Bagi Syazwani ni Mahiyuddin, 16, dari SMK St Bernadette's Convent, Batu Gajah, dia memang mahu di suntik sebagai usaha melindungi diri daripada Covid-19.

"Saya harap rakan lain turut datang ke mana-mana PPV untuk menerima suntikan ini kerana ia bukan sahaja untuk melindungi kita malah rakan di sekolah."

lah," katanya.

Sementara itu, bapa pelajar, Syed Nor Hisham Syed Abdul Rahman, 49, memuji inisiatif pelaksanaan Pick Remaja kerana ia dapat mewujudkan persekitaran lebih selamat kepada pelajar.

"Ia melegakan ibu bapa kerana selepas ini, pelajar boleh melakukan aktiviti di sekolah dengan lebih bebas seperti bersukan dan lain-lain," katanya.



NG memakai hanfu ke PPV bagi menerima suntikan vaksin di Dewan Bandaran Kinta, Batu Gajah, semalam. Gambar NSTP/BALQIS JAZIMAH ZAHARI

Bangun awal untuk ke PPV

Kuala Pilah: "Ini memang saat ditunggu-tunggu kerana selama ini saya hanya membaca pelbagai berita di media sosial mengenai vaksin Covid-19," luah pelajar Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan (SMK) Za'ba, Ainul Nadiah Zulkifli, 16, yang menerima suntikan vaksin semalam.

Pelajar tingkatan empat itu berkata, dia dan rakan teruja dan tidak sabar menunggu hari untuk divaksin selepas mendapat tahu pengumuman kerajaan.

"Sejak kerajaan membuat pengumuman vaksin akan mulai diberikan kepada pelajar, topik mengenai vaksinasi menjadi perbincangan hangat dalam kalan-jan pelajar termasuk dalam kumpulan WhatsApp.

"Walaupun tular pelbagai maklumat mengenai vaksin di media sosial, namun saya yakin tindakan mengambil vaksin adalah keputusan tepat," katanya ketika ditemui di Pusat Pemberian Vaksin (PPV) Dewan Dato' Bahaman Shamsudin, di sini, semalam.

Ainul Nadiah berkata, proses pembelajarannya kelak akan menjadi lebih senang jika pelajar dibenarkan ke sekolah selepas mengambil vaksin.

"Ketika ini kami belajar menerusi Pengajaran dan Pembelajaran di Rumah (PDPR) yang ia agak mereumitkan apabila kami perlu menggunakan komputer dan capaian internet. Tidak semua pelajar mempunyai kemudahan itu," katanya.

Sementara itu, pelajar tingkatan lima SMK Za'ba, Muhammad Afiq Zaharudin, 17, berkata, proses vaksinasi terhadap pelajar terutama membabitkan calon



Walaupun tular pelbagai maklumat mengenai vaksin di media sosial namun saya yakin tindakan mengambil vaksin adalah keputusan tepat"

Ainul Nadiah Zulkifli

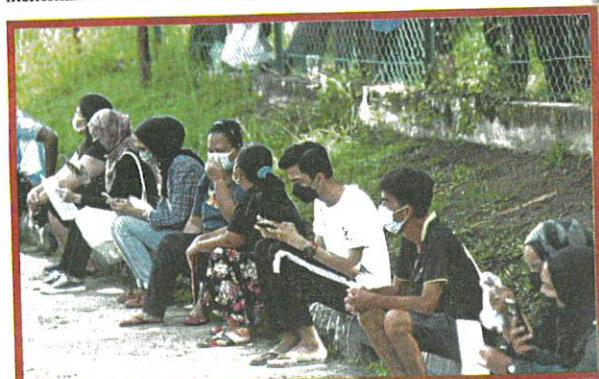
Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) adalah usaha yang positif daripada kerajaan.

"Saya bangun awal untuk datang ke PPV ditemani ibu bapa.

Memang tidak sabar untuk disuntik vaksin," katanya.

Sementara itu, Pengarah Jabatan Pendidikan Negeri Sembilan Md Fiah Md Jamin berkata, seramai 15,800 pelajar berusia 16, 17 dan 18 tahun di seluruh negeri ini termasuk yang berlajar di sekolah di luar Negeri Sembilan akan diberi vaksin.

"Sebanyak 44 PPV di seluruh Negeri Sembilan terbabit dalam proses vaksinasi terhadap pelajar dan kebanyakannya menggunakan dewan sekolah," katanya.



SEBAHAGIAN pelajar yang hadir menunggu giliran bagi menerima suntikan vaksin di PPV Dewan Bandaran Kinta, semalam.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO
MUKA SURAT : 12
RUANGAN : LOKAL

Putrajaya: Penggunaan ke mudahan katil di hospital, unit rawatan rapi (ICU) dan alat bantuan pernafasan menunjukkan perkembangan positif apabila berada pada kadar bawah 80 peratus tahap penggunaannya.

Menerusi infografik dikeluarkan Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) semalam, kadar penggunaan wad ICU kini berada di tahap 75.2 peratus manakala katil di hospital ialah 70.4 peratus.

Peratusan itu dilihat semakin menurun iaitu sekitar 50.3 peratus bagi kadar penggunaan alat bantuan pernafasan di negara ini serta di pusat kuarantin iaitu pada tahap 58.3 peratus.

Namun mengikut pecahan bagi setiap negeri, lima negeri mencatatkan penggunaan wad ICU melebihi 80 peratus iaitu Kedah sebanyak 97.5 peratus, disusuli Johor (93 peratus), Pulau Pinang (92.4 peratus), Perak (83.6 peratus) dan Terengganu (82.1 peratus).

Bagi penggunaan katil di hospital, terdapat lima negeri yang melaporkan pe-

Kadar penggunaan katil di hospital, ICU bawah 80%



PENGGUNAAN wad ICU kini berada di tahap 75.2 peratus manakala katil di hospital ialah 70.4 peratus.

ratusan melebihi 80 peratus tu 85.1 peratus kadar penggunaannya iaitu 89.9 peratus dicatatkan di Johor, diikuti Perlis (89.1 peratus), Pulau Pinang (83.6 peratus), Kelantan (82.7 peratus) serta Terengganu (81.6 peratus).

Penggunaan pusat kuarantin pula melihat Johor menjadi negeri tertinggi

AKHBAR : KOSMO
MUKA SURAT : 4
RUANGAN : NEGARA

OLEH SYALMIZI HAMID, MOHD. HUSNI MOHD. NOOR, TOREK SULONG, TENGKU DANISH BAHRI TENGKU YUSOFF, NOR AINNA HAMZAH

Pihak sekolah akan keluarkan jadual suntikan vaksin mengikut giliran

Remaja boleh walk-in di 156 PPV

PUTRAJAYA – Pemberian suntikan vaksin Covid-19 kepada remaja berusia 12 hingga 17 tahun akan dilaksanakan di 156 Pusat Pemberian Vaksin (PPV) Awam dan Integrasi di seluruh negara secara kaedah jumpa terus (*walk-in*) berjadual bermula esok.

Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan I, Datuk Dr. Noor Azmi Ghazali berkata, agihan vaksin akan dilaksanakan secara kaedah *walk-in* berjadual iaitu mengikut lokasi sekolah yang berhampiran dengan PPV yang dikenal pasti.

Beliau yang juga Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Imunisasi Covid-19 Remaja (CITF-A) berkata, pemberian vaksin akan dilaksanakan mengikut giliran serta tarikh dan masa yang ditetapkan.

"Manakala, jadual pemberian vaksin pula akan dikeluarkan pihak sekolah masing-masing kepada remaja dan ibu bapa.

"Bagi remaja yang telah mendapat tarikh vaksinasi di PPV Sekolah, kumpulan pelajar ini perlu mengekalkan janji temu sedia ada di PPV Sekolah yang telah ditetapkan dan tidak dibenarkan *walk-in* ke PPV Awam atau Integrasi," katanya menerusi satu



PARA pelajar yang menerima suntikan vaksin Covid-19 di PPV Dewan Dato' Bahaman, Kuala Pilah, semalam turut ditemani ibu bapa dan penjaga masing-masing. – MOHD. SHAHJEHAN MAAMIN

kenyataan semalam.

Noor Azmi berkata, bagi remaja yang tidak bersekolah pula, mereka dibenarkan untuk *walk-in* di mana-mana 156 PPV yang

berdekatan dengan kediaman masing-masing.

Menurut beliau, sekiranya kuota vaksin di PPV tersebut telah habis untuk hari berkenaan,

mereka akan diberi janji temu di PPV yang sama kesokan hari atau di klinik kesihatan swasta yang berdekatan.

"Remaja yang menuntut di

institusi pengajian tinggi awam atau swasta (IPTA/IPTS) yang berusia di bawah 18 tahun dibenarkan *walk-in* ke semua PPV yang masih beroperasi pada ketika ini dengan menunjukkan pengenalan diri sebagai pelajar IPTA/IPTS," katanya.

Katanya, ibu bapa atau penjaga perlu hadir bersama untuk menandatangani borang kebenaran vaksinasi anak masing-masing.

Beliau berkata, Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan (PICK) Remaja telah dimulakan secara rasmi kelmarin dan menyasarkan 3.2 juta golongan berusia 12 hingga 17 tahun.

"Sehingga semalam (kelmarin), sebanyak 5,964 buah sekolah telah berdaftar dengan portal Vaksin-Anak-Ku," kata dia.

"Setakat kelmarin juga, seramai 308,186 remaja telah menerima dos pertama vaksin Covid-19 dengan Sabah merekodkan bilangan tertinggi iaitu 118,141 orang, diikuti Sarawak (88,473); Kedah (19,453); Kelantan (17,413); Johor (16,019) dan Labuan seramai 2,523," tambahnya.

Ibu bapa ikut berbaris teman pelajar untuk vaksinasi

PETALING JAYA – Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan (PICK) Remaja berjalan lancar di seluruh negara dengan ibu bapa bersama anak mereka sudah berbaris untuk di luar beberapa sekolah menengah di sini yang dijadikan pusat pemberian vaksin (PPV) bermula semalam.

Di **Pasis Puteh**, belum sempat pengawal keselamatan membuka pintu pagar, ratusan ibu bapa bersama anak mereka sudah berbaris untuk di luar beberapa sekolah menengah di sini yang dijadikan pusat pemberian vaksin (PPV) bermula semalam.

Menurut data Pejabat Pendidikan Daerah (PPD) Pasir Puteh, 100 peratus atau 3,624 pelajar berusia 16 dan 17 tahun dari 17 buah sekolah di daerah ini telah mendapat kebenaran ibu bapa masing-masing untuk divaksin.

Di **Kuala Terengganu**, Pengarah Kesihatan Terengganu, Datuk Dr. Kasemani Embong berkata, seramai 38,114 pelajar sekolah berusia 16 dan 17 tahun di Terengganu akan menerima vaksin di 56 PPV Sekolah di seluruh negeri bermula semalam.

"Ta turut merangkumi pelajar sekolah swasta, maahad tafhib dan sekolah berasrama penuh," katanya ketika meninjau hari



SEBAHAGIAN pelajar dan ibu bapa beratur menunggu giliran masing-masing bagi suntikan vaksin dos pertama di PPV SMK Sungai Petal, Pasir Puteh semalam. – TOREK SULONG

pertama PICK Remaja di Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Sultan Sulaiman, semalam.

Di **Kuala Pilah**, Pengarah Jabatan Pendidikan Negeri Sembilan (JPNS), Md. Fiah Md. Jamin berkata, bagi vaksinasi seramai 15,895 pelajar tingkatan empat, lima dan enam di negeri ini se-

banyak 44 PPV terbabit dalam proses berkenaan.

"Saya ucapan terima kasih kepada ibu bapa yang memberi kerjasama bagi membolehkan anak mereka divaksin dan anak-anak ini akan pulang semula ke sekolah dengan keyakinan yang tinggi memulakan sesi perse-



PETUGAS kesihatan memberikan suntikan vaksin kepada pelajar di Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Sultan Sulaiman 1, Kuala Terengganu semalam. – PUQTRA HAIRY

kolah dalam keadaan selamat," katanya ketika ditemui di PPV Murid Daerah Kuala Pilah di Dewan Dato' Bahaman semalam.

Di **George Town**, Ketua Menteri, Chow Kon Yeow berkata, pada Khamis bermula pukul 9 pagi hingga 12 tengah hari, sesi vaksinasi membabitkan pelajar

sekolah tanpa komorbid akan dibuat di enam PPV.

"Bagi remaja berusia 12 hingga 17 tahun dengan komorbid pula, janji temu vaksinasi akan dijalankan di hospital-hospital terdekat dan akan dimaklumkan menerusi aplikasi MySejahtera," kata beliau.

AKHBAR : KOSMO
MUKA SURAT : 5
RUANGAN : NEGARA

Malaysia capai 80 peratus populasi sudah divaksin

PUTRAJAYA – Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob mengucapkan tahniah kepada semua pihak ekoran kadar vaksinasi negara mencapai 80 peratus populasi dewasa semalam.

Beliau menerusi satu hantaran di Facebook berkata, kejayaan tersebut adalah hasil daripada pengorbanan semua pihak bagi mendapatkan vaksin Covid-19.

"Hasil pengorbanan para frontliners dan sokongan jitu seluruh Keluarga Malaysia dalam mendapatkan vaksin, tidak mengira tua atau muda, baik yang di kota, juga yang di desa, kadar vaksinasi negara akhirnya telah mencapai 80 peratus populasi.

"Tahniah ini adalah kejayaan kita semua" katanya semalam.

Terdahulu, Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar dalam satu ciplan di Twitter berkata, pada pukul 1 tengah hari semalam, negara berjaya mencapai sasaran 80 peratus penduduk

dewasa lengkap divaksinasi.

"Walaupun, sasaran awal adalah 80 peratus populasi dewasa, sekarang JKAV (Jawatankuasa Khas Jaminan Akses Bekalan Vaksin Covid-19) akan berusaha untuk menjelajah 20 peratus lagi yang belum atau enggan divaksin-nasi," ciapnya.

Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan (PICK) bermula pada 24 Februari lalu dengan fasa pertama menyasarkan untuk memvaksin kira-kira 500,000 petugas barisan hadapan antara hujung Februari hingga April lalu.

Fasa kedua PICK pula membabitkan kira-kira 9.4 juta warga emas berusia 60 tahun ke atas dan golongan berisiko tinggi bermula April hingga Ogos lalu.

Bagi fasa ketiga pula, bermula Mei disasarkan untuk sekitar 13.7 juta penduduk di Malaysia berumur 18 tahun ke atas, sama ada rakyat tempatan atau warga asing.



INDIVIDU lengkap vaksinasi kini diberi kelonggaran untuk dine-in di kedai makan. — FARIZ RUSADIO

Alatan tersebut bukan pengganti disinfeksi manual

Penyembur nano mist 'tidak praktikal'

Oleh NUR SHARIEZA ISMAIL

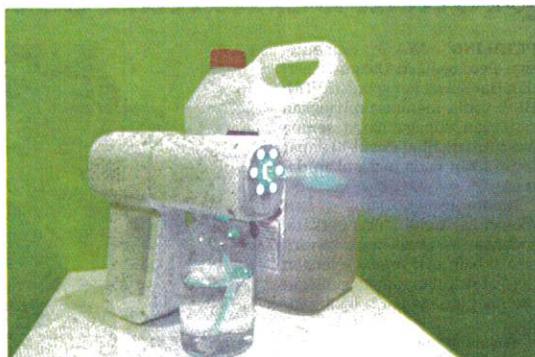
PUTRAJAYA – Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) menegaskan bahawa penggunaan alat semburan nano mist bagi tujuan disinfeksi tidak menggantikan keperluan nyahkuman permukaan secara manual.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr. Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, nano mist spray mula mendapat perhatian umum untuk digunakan sebagai alat disinfeksi bagi mengekang penularan Covid-19 sejak kebelakangan ini.

"Ini kerana ramai beranggapan bahawa penggunaan alat tersebut berupaya menghapuskan virus di udara dan di permukaan.

"Bagaimanapun, keberkesanannya penggunaan nano mist spray untuk disinfeksi bergantung kepada keupayaan alat tersebut untuk menghasilkan semburan yang sekata pada permukaan, jenis dan kepekatan larutan disinfeksi digunakan serta tempoh masa pendedahan," katanya menerusi satu kenyataan semalam.

Nano mist spray adalah alat penyembur yang boleh menghasilkan titisan halus bersaiz nano dan digunakan bagi pelbagai tujuan termasuk kosmetik, wangian dan pelbagai kegunaan



ALAT semburan nano mist yang banyak dijual di pasaran dalam negara tidak menggantikan keperluan nyahkuman permukaan secara manual.

— GAMBAR HIASAN

domestik serta industri bergantung kepada spesifikasi alat dan jenis cecair digunakan.

Beliau berkata, secara umumnya, beberapa larutan disinfeksi sedia ada seperti larutan mengandungi alkohol 70 hingga 90 peratus, hydrogen peroxide, thymol, quarternary ammonia dan juga larutan berdasarkan klorin berkesan bagi membunuh virus SARS-CoV-2 di permukaan.

"Senarai larutan disinfeksi yang berkesan untuk SARS-

CoV-2 boleh diperolehi di laman sesawang US Environmental Protection Agency yang menjadi rujukan seluruh dunia.

Larutan disinfeksi yang dinyatakan itu bertujuan untuk nyahkuman di permukaan persekitaran dan tidak sesuai digunakan secara langsung ke atas manusia.

"Ini adalah kerana, sesetengah larutan disinfeksi ini boleh menyebabkan iritasi pada mata, kulit, saluran pernafasan dan juga sistem pencernaan," katanya.

Sarawak paling ramai dijangkiti, 301 kematian kelmarin

PUTRAJAYA – Sarawak kekal menjadi negeri tertinggi menyumbang jumlah jangkitan Covid-19 negara apabila mencatatkan 3,732 kes semalam.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr. Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, jumlah tersebut menyumbang kepada jangkitan harian sebanyak 15,759 kes menjadikan keseluruhan kes sebanyak 2,127,934 kes.

Menurutnya, ia diikuti oleh Johor yang mencatatkan 1,959 kes dan Selangor (1,934 kes).

"Seterusnya, Pulau Pinang (1,417 kes), Kelantan (1,338 kes), Sabah (1,291 kes), Perak (1,184 kes), Kedah (786 kes), Pahang (707 kes), Terengganu (592 kes), Kuala Lumpur (359 kes), Melaka (264 kes) dan Negeri Sembilan (127 kes)."

"Putrajaya (34 kes), Perlis (23 kes) dan Labuan (12 kes)" katanya menerusi hantaran di Facebook semalam.

Dalam pada itu, sebanyak 301 kes kematian Covid-19 dilaporkan kelmarin menurut data yang dipaparkan di laman web COVIDNOW semalam.

Maklumat yang dikemas kini pukul 11.59 malam kelmarin itu menyebut, data itu termasuk 108 kes kematian Covid-19 bagi purata tempoh tujuh hari.

"Angka itu menjadikan jumlah kes kematian di seluruh negara sebanyak 23,744 kes.

COVID-19

Angka terkini kes Covid-19 di Malaysia sehingga semalam

Jumlah
Kes baharu
Import:
Tempatan:
Pulih
Jumlah kes sembahut
Jumlah kes keseluruhan

• Jumlah kes sembahut 1,897,386

• Jumlah kes keseluruhan 2,127,934

"Daripada jumlah tersebut, sebanyak 92 kes meninggal dunia di luar hospital atau brought-in-dead (BID) dengan kes kumulatif BID sebanyak 4,564 kes," katanya semalam.

Kesemuanya kes kematian itu dilaporkan di Selangor (130), Johor (52), Kelantan (23), Pulau Pinang (22), Sabah (19), Perak (15), Kuala Lumpur (13), Sarawak (8), Kedah (6), Pahang (4), Terengganu (4), Melaka (3), Negeri Sembilan (1) dan Perlis (1).

Sebanyak 207,698 kes aktif melibatkan 172,648 kes dikuarantin di rumah, 22,575 di Pusat Kuarentin dan Rawatan Covid-19 Berisiko Rendah (PKRC); 11,321 kes di hospital; dan 633 kes di Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU) dengan bantuan pernafasan.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 9
RUANGAN : VAKSIN UNTUK RAKYAT

Capai imuniti kelompok lebih awal

80 peratus penduduk dewasa lengkap terima dua dos vaksin

Oleh TUAN BUQHAIROH
TUAN MUHAMAD ADNAN

PUTRAJAYA

Selepas hampir lapan bulan pelaksanaan Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan (PICK), Malaysia mencatat sejarah apabila mencapai imuniti kelompok dengan 80 peratus penduduk dewasa lengkap divaksin.

Perkara itu dikongsikan oleh Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob menerusi ciapannya di Twitter.



“Tahniah! Malaysia mencapai 80 populasi dewasa negara telah lengkap di-vaksinasi,” katanya pada Selasa.

Sebelum ini, negara dijangka mencapai imuniti kelompok pada akhir tahun ini namun usaha dan gerak kerja yang dilakukan kerajaan dengan kerjasama pelbagai pihak berjaya ‘menuai hasil’ lebih awal dari sasaran.

Berdasarkan statistik yang dikeluarkan oleh Jawatankuasa Khas Jaminan Akses Bekalan



ISMAL SABRI

Vaksin Covid-19 (JKVAV), sehingga jam 11.59 malam Isnin, 79.6 peratus populasi dewasa telah lengkap dos vaksinasi Covid-19.

Sementara itu, Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar berkata, walaupun sasaran awal 80 peratus populasi dewasa telah dicapai, JKJAV akan terus berusaha menjelaki 20 peratus lagi yang belum dan enggan divaksinasi.

“Pada jam 1300hrs (1 petang) hari ini (Selasa), Malaysia telah mencapai sasaran 80 peratus penduduk dewasa lengkap divaksinasi,” kata beliau.

Kerajaan kini sedang mempergiat vaksinasi terhadap remaja berusia 12 hingga 17 tahun di seluruh negara bermula



80 peratus penduduk dewasa di Malaysia sudah lengkap divaksin bagi membolehkan negara kini mencapai imuniti kelompok.

Isnin lalu dengan menyerahkan 3.2 juta golongan remaja memberi suntikan vaksin.

Langkah itu sebagai persediaan pembukaan sekolah bagi

memastikan risiko jangkitan di sekolah dapat dikurangkan sekaligus mencegah kejadian kluster dan kes dalam kalangan warga sekolah.

Vaksin remaja secara walk-in mula esok

PUTRAJAYA - Proses pemberian vaksin kepada remaja akan dilaksanakan secara walk-in berjadual bermula Khamis ini.

Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali dalam kenyataan pada Selasa memaklumkan, langkah itu bagi mempercepatkan lagi proses pemberian vaksin kepada golongan tersebut.

“Jawatankuasa Badan Bertindak Imunisasi Covid-19 Remaja (CITF-A) telah mengenalpasti 156 pusat pemberian vaksin (PPV) awam dan integrasi di seluruh negara bagi tempoh peralihan ini bertujuan meningkatkan kapasiti pemberian vaksinasi Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan (PICK) Remaja secara walk-in,” katanya.

Menurutnya, pelaksanaan kaedah itu juga akan dilakukan mengikut lokasi sekolah yang berhampiran dengan PPV dan mengikut giliran, tarikh serta masa ditetapkan.

“Jadual akan dikeluarkan oleh pihak sekolah kepada remaja dan ibu bapa,” katanya.

Beliau memberitahu, pemberian vaksin itu melibatkan semua kategori remaja termasuk yang tidak bersekolah.

“Bagi remaja yang tidak bersekolah, mereka dibenarkan untuk walk-in di mana-mana 156 PPV berdekatan dengan kediaman.”

“Sekiranya kuota vaksin di PPV ter-



DR NOOR AZMI

Fjadual akan dikeluarkan oleh pihak sekolah kepada remaja dan ibu bapa.”

sebut telah ‘habis untuk hari tersebut, remaja berkenaan akan diberi janji temu di PPV sama kesokan hari atau di klinik kesihatan swasta yang berdekatan,’ katanya.

Dr Noor Azmi yang juga Pengerusi CITF-A memberitahu, remaja yang menuntut di institusi pengajian tinggi awam dan swasta berumur di bawah 18 tahun juga dibenarkan walk-in ke semua PPV yang masih beroperasi ketika ini dengan memunjukkan pengenalan diri sebagai pelajar.

Bagaimanapun menurut beliau, ibu bapa atau penjaga perlu hadir bersama untuk mendatangani borang kebenaran vaksinasi mereka.

Bagi remaja yang telah mendapat tarikh vaksinasi di PPV sekolah, beliau berkata, kumpulan pelajar ini perlu mengekalkan janji temu sedia ada dan tidak dibenarkan walk-in ke PPV awam atau integrasi.

“Sebagai langkah mengelakkan kesesakan di PPV, hanya salah seorang ibu atau bapa atau penjaga dibenarkan menemani remaja untuk tujuan vaksinasi,” katanya.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 11
RUANGAN : VAKSIN UNTUK RAKYAT

Semburan kabus nano boleh sebabkan iritasi

Beberapa larutan disinfeksi sedia ada tidak sesuai digunakan secara langsung ke atas manusia

Oleh TUAN BUQHAIRAH
TUAN MUHAMAD ADNAN

PUTRAJAYA



DR NOOR HISHAM

Penyemburan disinfeksi melalui kabus nano (mist) tidak mampu menggantikan keperluan disinfeksi permukaan secara manual untuk membunuh virus SARS-CoV-2 pada permukaan, tegas Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM).

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, beberapa larutan disinfeksi sedia ada tidak sesuai digunakan secara langsung ke atas manusia.

"Hal demikian adalah kerana setiap larutan disinfeksi boleh menyebabkan iritasi pada mata, kulit, saluran pernafasan dan sistem pencernaan," katanya dalam kenyataan pada Selasa.

Menurutnya, ramai beranggapan penggunaan alat ini berupaya menghapuskan virus di udara dan pada permukaan.

"Keberkesanan penggunaan semburan kabus nano untuk disinfeksi bergantung kepada keupayaan alat tersebut untuk menghasilkan semburan yang sekata pada permukaan, jenis dan kepekatan larutan disinfeksi yang digunakan, serta tempoh masa pendedahan," katanya.

Beliau berkata, buat masa ini terdapat beberapa larutan disinfeksi yang mengandungi alkohol



Semburan kabus nano tidak mampu ganti kaedah pembersihan permukaan secara manual.

70 hingga 90 peratus, hidrogen peroksida, timol, quarternary ammonia dan larutan berasaskan klorin berkesan bagi membunuh virus SARS-CoV-2 di permukaan.

"Senarai larutan berkesan untuk SARS-CoV-2 boleh diperoleh di laman sesawang US Environmental Protection Agency <https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/about-list-of-disinfectants-coronavirus-covid-19-0> yang menjadi rujukan dan kepekatan larutan disinfeksi yang digunakan, serta tempoh masa pendedahan," katanya.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, KKM melalui Bahagian Regulatori Farmasi Negara (NPRA) telah mengeluarkan garis panduan untuk pendaftaran

disinfeksi permukaan yang boleh dicapai melalui https://www.npra.gov.my/images/Guidelines_Central/surface_disinfectant/Revision_1_Guideline_for_Registration_of_Surfactant_Disinfectant.pdf.

"Garis panduan ini turut memberangkan keperluan pelabelan disinfeksi."

"Selain daripada itu, laporan penilaian ke atas pelbagai kaedah disinfeksi untuk mencegah penularan Covid-19 boleh dicapai melalui <https://covid-19.moh.gov.my/kajian-dan-penyeledikan/malaysia-covid-19-rapid-evidence-updates/>," katanya.

Kes baru positif Covid-19 meningkat semula

KUALA LUMPUR - Kes Covid-19 di Malaysia meningkat pada Selasa kepada 15,759 kes selepas lima hari berturut-turut mencatatkan trend penurunan dengan pada Isnin merekodkan 14,345 kes.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah dalam hantaran menerusi akaun Twitter beliau memaklumkan Sarawak mencatat kes tertinggi pada Selasa dengan 3,732 kes diikuti Johor (1,959), Selangor (1,934) dan Pulau Pinang (1,417).

"Tiga negeri lagi yang mencatat kes Covid-19 melebihi 1,000 kes ialah Kelantan (1,338), Sabah (1,291) dan Perak (1,184)," katanya.

Menurut Dr Noor Hisham, enam negeri merekodkan kes Covid-19 tiga angka pada Selasa iaitu Kedah (786), Pahang (707), Terengganu (592), Kuala Lumpur (359), Melaka (264) dan Negeri Sembilan (127).

Sementara itu, Putrajaya, Perlis dan Labuan mencatat kes dua angka dengan masing-masing 34, 23 dan 12 kes.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, kes sembah pada Selasa mencatatkan 16,650 menjadikan kumulatif kes kepada 1,897,386.

"Kes yang memerlukan rawatan di unit rawatan rapi (ICU) pula sebanyak 1,117 kes dengan 635 memerlukan bantuan pernafasan.

"Sebanyak 23 kluster baru di catatkan menjadikan jumlah kes seluruh 5,328 kluster dengan 1,315 kluster masih aktif," katanya. - Bernama

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

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 12
RUANGAN : LAPORAN KHAS

Sindrom Long Covid boleh membunuh

Jika bekas pesakit Covid-19 tidak memeriksa atau memandang ringan akan gejala yang dihadapi

Oleh NURUL NABILA AHMAD HALIMY

SHAH ALAM

Kita sering mendengar dan diberi pengetahuan mengenai penyakit Covid-19 sejak pandemik ini melanda negara sejak tahun lalu namun mungkin ramai masih belum memahami sindrom Long Covid atau Post Covid yang dihadapi bekas pesakit ini.

Long Covid adalah kesan jangka panjang yang dihadapi oleh individu yang dijangkiti wabak Covid-19.

Bagi mereka yang menghadapi gejala ini, ada yang masih keliru atau tidak yakin bahawa mereka mempunyai sindrom Long Covid sehingga menimbulkan pelbagai persoalan tentang apa yang patut mereka lakukan. Malah, angka mereka yang mengalami sindrom Long Covid juga meningkat apabila terdapat 12,654 individu pernah dijangkiti Covid-19 disyaki mengalami sindrom berkenaan.

Selain ini juga, Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar memaklumkan bekas pesakit telah diberi janji temu untuk rawatan susulan bagi memantau dan merawat sindrom tersebut.

Pegawai Kesihatan Jabatan Kecemasan, Hospital Columbia Asia di Cheras, Dr Malar Santhi Santherasegapan berkata, sindrom Long Covid boleh membunuh jika pesakit tidak diperiksa dan memandang ringan simptom berkenaan.

"Sindrom Long Covid boleh membunuh kerana ia mempunyai keadaan di mana pesakit boleh mendapat Pulmonary Embolism (PE) atau darah beku yang masuk ke saluran yang menyebabkan kematian secara tiba-tiba."

"Contohnya, selepas dijangkiti Covid-19, pesakit mem-



Pesakit yang menghidap penyakit komorbid seperti kencing manis, darah tinggi dan jantung boleh menyebabkan gejala Covid-19 dan sindrom Long Covid menjadiketara berbanding pesakit lain.



Hospital Columbia Asia di Cheras antara hospital swasta yang mempunyai klinik khas untuk membantu bekas pesakit Covid-19 mengubati sindrom Long Covid yang mereka alami.

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

punyai darah tinggi namun dia merasakan bahawa ia hanyalah sakit kepala. Namun apabila tiba di hospital, dia sudah tidak sedarkan diri akibat pendarahan di dalam kepala. Keadaan begitu pernah berlaku dan disebabkan itu, Long Covid perlu diberi perhatian," katanya.

Gejala

Dr Malar Santhi berkata, sindrom Long Covid merupakan gejala yang merangkumi pelbagai sistem dalam tubuh badan dan semua kategori satu hingga lima boleh mengalaminya di mana pada kebiasaannya ia akan melekatkan gangguan kepada sistem pernafasan pesakit.

"Yang pertama, ia akan mengganggu sistem pernafasan apabila mereka boleh mendapat seslesa, kahak, batuk berpanjangan, sakit tekak, sesak nafas, semput dan cepat penat apabila berjalan dengan cepat.

"Jantung pula berdebar-debar, tekanan darah lebih tinggi atau lebih rendah daripada biasa sebelum kena jangkitan, mempunyai radang di jantung, dan degupan jantung tidak normal," katanya.

Tambahnya, pesakit juga mempunyai masalah berkaitan dengan sistem pemakanan dan penghadaman sistem saraf malah hilang deria bau dalam jangka masa yang panjang.

"Pesakit mungkin mengalami cirit-birit, loya, muntah, kembung perut, sebu dan kurang selera ma-



DR MALAR SANTHI

F Sindrom Long Covid boleh membunuh kerana ia mempunyai keadaan di mana pesakit boleh mendapat Pulmonary Embolism (PE) atau darah beku yang masuk ke saluran yang menyebabkan kematian secara tiba-tiba."

kan rawatan untuk penyakit tersebut diberikan dengan lebih kerap.

"Sama juga seperti masalah kencing manis, darah tinggi atau kegagalan jantung yang sedia ada. Dalam jangka masa Long Covid itu, kebiasaannya mereka akan memerlukan rawatan yang lebih banyak dan pemantauan lebih rapi," katanya.

Tambah beliau, rawatan susulan bagi pesakit yang mempunyai sindrom Long Covid amat disarankan dan penting untuk kestabilan fizikal serta mental sebagai satu bentuk tanda sokongan atau semangat kepada pesakit.

"Jika dalam tempoh 14 hari pertama selepas habis kuarantin dan pesakit masih ada gejala demam, muntah dan cirit-birit, saya sangat menyarankan untuk mereka berjumpa dengan doktor, membuat pemeriksaan yang rapi bagi mendapatkan diagnosis sebenar.

"Ini kerana kita tidak boleh menganggap itu adalah sindrom Long Covid semata-mata kerana kadangkala pesakit demam disebabkan masalah lain seperti deggi dan kita tidak mahu terlepas pandang penyakit lain yang boleh dialami

oleh mereka," katanya.

Selain itu, rawatan susulan juga penting bukan sahaja untuk pemeriksaan fizikal, malah dari segi emosi bekas pesakit Covid-19 yang kebanyakannya terganggu oleh stigma masyarakat terhadap mereka.

"Kita juga tidak mahu mereka bergelut dengan gejala itu seorang diri yang mungkin akan menyebabkan tekanan dan kecemasan.

"Support system itu penting di mana doktor boleh menjelaskan keadaan sebenar pesakit supaya mereka mempunyai keyakinan diri dan kesihatan mental yang lebih mudah untuk dijaga," katanya.

Kaunter khas

Dalam pada itu, Dr Malar Santhi berpendangan bahawa institusi kesihatan setiap daerah dan negeri perlu mempunyai kaunter khas untuk pesakit Long Covid demi membantu mereka membuat pemeriksaan fizikal dan mental dari masa ke masa.

"Untuk pengetahuan, di Hospital Columbia Asia di Cheras, kami mempunyai klinik khas untuk membantu bekas pesakit Covid-19. Ia hasil inisiatif pihak hospital sendiri yang mula beroperasi pada Ogos lalu.

"Saya berpendapat setiap institusi kesihatan setiap daerah dan negeri perlu ada kaunter khas ini namun saya faham institusi kesihatan kerajaan sudah tidak menang tangani maka hospital swasta atau kementerian lain sepatutnya membuka kaunter sebegini sebagai sokongan kepada bekas pesakit Covid-19," katanya.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 13
RUANGAN : LAPORAN KHAS

'Seperti di ambang kematian'

Bekas pesakit kategori lima alami sindrom Long Covid yang teruk

Oleh NURUL NABILA AHMAD HALIMY

SHAH ALAM

Sorang suri rumah yang merupakan bekas pesakit Covid-19 kategori lima mengalami sindrom Long Covid yang teruk sehingga mengganggu sistem pernafasan seperti sukar bernafas, semput dan kurang oksigen.

Nor Azan Samsu Baharin, 42, berkata, simptom Long Covid yang dialaminya masih berlaku sehingga hari ini walaupun dia dijangkiti Covid-19 pada awal bulan Julai lalu.

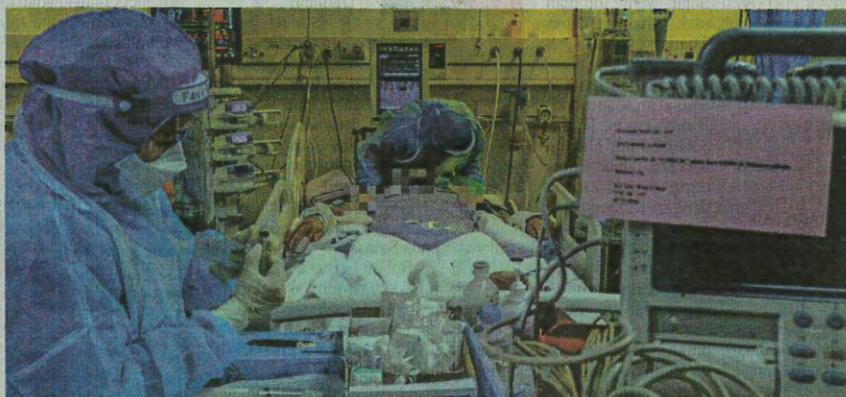
"Saya mengalami simptom Long Covid yang agak teruk seperti nafas menjadi singkat dan sering semput. Apabila nafas tak sampai, saya akan mengalami batuk yang teruk dan berpanjangan. Saya juga tidak boleh bercakap terlalu lama di telefon sebab akan cepat semput."

"Selalunya selepas Maghrib, oksigen saya akan menurun. Pada waktu malam, saya memerlukan oksigen dalam satu ke dua jam dan masih bergantung pada bantuan mesin oksigen walaupun tidak kerap."

"Buat masa ini, bacaan oksigen saya paling tinggi adalah 94 atau 95 sahaja," katanya kepada *Sinar Harian*.

Selain itu, gejala Long Covid dialaminya juga memberi perubahan terhadap tubuh badan dan memberi kesan sampingan terhadap aktiviti harian yang dilakukan.

"Sekarang ini, tubuh badan saya se-



Tempoh pemulihan daripada Long Covid danganarkan dalam masa tiga ke lapan bulan bergantung kepada keadaan pesakit.

erti kaki dan tangan lemah. Saya akan mingegeletar bila berjalan jauh. Saya hanya boleh memandu semula selepas dua bulan akibat kaki sering mingegeletar.

"Aktiviti harian juga terganggu apabila sehingga kini saya masih belum mendapat deria rasa dan buu yang betul ketika makan. Contohnya, jika ada orang menuonis masakan, saya tidak boleh bau dan makaman yang saya makan sering terasa pahit atau masin," katanya.

Tambahnya, dia terpaksa menjalani rawatan susulan dan mengambil ubat yang disyorkan oleh doktor bagi memulihkan kesihatannya.

"Doktor akan bekalkan ubat selama tiga bulan seperti ubat radang paru-paru, ubat cair darah, tambah darah dan sebagai-



NOR AZAN

nya. Rawatan susulan juga harus dilakukan seperti pemeriksaan x-ray selepas tiga bulan."

"Doktor memaklumkan masa yang diambil untuk pulih Long Covid ini adalah dalam masa tiga ke lapan bulan dan tempoh diberi itu belum tentu mewujud kesembuhan."

"Ada yang mengambil masa selama setahun dan masih mengalami komplikasi berterusan kepada keadaan badan masing-masing," katanya.

Nor Azan dijangkiti Covid-19 daripada kontak rapat dan dimasukkan wad Covid-19 di Hospital Tengku Ampuan Rahimah (HTAR), Klang selama sebulan di mana oksigennya

MENDEPANI KRISIS COVID-19:
APA TINDAKAN KITA?

hanya berada di tahap 40 ke 50 peratus sahaja.

Beliau juga hampir ditidurkan kerana keadaan paru-paru yang teruk.

Teresan dengan apa yang dialaminya, dia menasihati semua masyarakat supaya mengambil berat terhadap prosedur operasi standard (SOP) yang telah ditetapkan.

"Covid-19 amat menyakitkan di mana saya melalui proses pengambilan darah setiap hari, proses memasukkan oksigen serta sakit dalaman merupakan pengalaman yang perlit. Apabila kita terkena Covid-19, ibaratnya seperti di ambang kematian."

"Sebulan saya duduk di hospital, keadaan kesihatan saya sangat tidak mengizinkan sehingga saya takut dan tidak boleh tidur malam kerana terfikir ajal akan dijemput pada bila-bila masa," katanya.



NURUL HIDAYAH

SHAH ALAM - Sindrom Long Covid seperti nafas pendek dan sakit kepala merupakan sesuatu yang harus ditanggung oleh kebanyakan bekas pesakit Covid-19.

Nurul Hidayah Zulkarnain, 26, berkata, walaupun sudah lebih tiga bulan bebas daripada Covid-19, dia masih mengalami sindrom Long Covid yang memberi kesan terhadap kehidupan sehari-hariannya.

"Long Covid memang memberi kesan kepada kehidupan dan aktiviti harian saya. Antara simptom yang saya alami adalah masalah pernafasan seperti sesak nafas dan semput. Kalau sejuk disebabkan pendingin hawa atau cuaca hujan, saya akan berasa sakit."

"Sejak menghadapi Covid-19, saya juga terlalu kerap sakit kepala. Selain itu, nafas saya menjadi pendek sehingga suka untuk mengajai atau menghabiskan ayat al-Quran," katanya yang merupakan jurutera pemprosesan data.

Nurul Hidayah yang merupakan seorang yang aktif bersukan dijangkiti Covid-19 kategori tiga pada bulan Mei lalu.



RIA NADIA

Beri kesan kepada kehidupan sehari-hari

"Saya merupakan seorang yang aktif bersukan namun saya sudah tidak boleh melakukan aktiviti sukan dalam tempoh yang lama."

"Sebelum ini saya boleh melakukan aktiviti zumba tanpa henti selama 45 minit namun kini, saya hanya boleh bertahan selama 10 minit kerana tidak cukup nafas dan sakit dada."

"Jika sebelum ini saya boleh berlari dalam masa satu jam tanpa henti tetapi sekarang saya hanya mampu mencapai tahap 15 minit larian sahaja. Saya sudah mencuba untuk membangkitkan kembali stamina tetapi masih belum berjaya," katanya.

Nurul Hidayah yang berasal dari Sentul, Kuala Lumpur berkata, sejak disahkan positif Covid-19, penyakit semput yang dihadapinya kini semakin teruk sehingga dirinya mengalami serangan asma hampir setiap minggu.

"Saya memang menghadapi penyakit asma tetapi sejak dijangkiti Covid-19, ia menjadi semakin teruk. Hampir setiap minggu saya mendapat serangan asma terutamanya ketika waktu sejuk."

"Oleh kerana itu, saya dinasihatkan oleh doktor untuk ambil pam asma setiap hari," katanya.

Dalam pada itu, seorang lagi bekas pesakit Covid-19 kategori dua, Ria Nadia Rahim, 25, berkata, Long Covid yang dialaminya adalah sebab nafas pendek dan cepat penat.

"Saya mengalami *short of breath* sehingga berasa seperti nak pitam. Saya juga cepat berasa penat dan deria rasa terganggu."

"Apa yang ketara sekarang adalah saya tidak boleh melihat telefon terlalu lama kerana boleh menyebabkan rasa nak muntah," katanya.

Selain itu, Ria Nadia turut mempunyai gejala kepala berasa seolah-olah berpusing.

"Namu kini, situasi saya semakin pulih sedikit demi sedikit dan paras oksigen juga berada pada tahap normal," katanya.

Sebagai bekas pesakit Covid-19, Ria Nadia turut berpesan kepada masyarakat agar segera mengambil vaksin bagi mengurangkan kesan jangkitan kerana Covid-19 memberi kesan kecemasan yang berpanjangan kepada individu yang dijangkiti."

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 15
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Khairy beri jaminan cari titik penyelesaian isu doktor kontrak

KUALA LUMPUR - Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar memberi jaminan akan mencari titik penyelesaian interim yang lebih baik berhubung isu serta permasalahan dihadapi pegawai kesihatan lantikan kontrak.

Khairy menyatakan komitmen itu menerusi perbincangannya bersama Sekretariat Gerakan Hartal Doktor Kontrak yang diadakan secara maya tengah hari pada Selasa.

"Beberapa perkara telah dibangkitkan termasuklah kaedah penilaian prestasi bagi perjawatan tetap, peluang lanjutan pengajian dan masa hadapan profesion mereka," katanya menerusi catatan di laman Facebook pada Selasa.

Awal Julai lepas, sekumpulan doktor kontrak di Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) melancarkan pergerakan #HartalDoktorKontrak, bagi menyuarakan rasa tidak puas hati berhubung jawatan tetap dalam sektor

kerajaan bagi kira-kira 23,000 pegawai kesihatan kontrak di seluruh negara.

Susulan itu, kerajaan mengumumkan pegawai perubatan, pegawai perigian dan pegawai farmasi lantikan kontrak ditawarkan pelantikan secara kontrak untuk tempoh dua tahun, selepas melengkapkan tempoh khidmat wajib bagi memastikan kesinambungan perkhidmatan dan persediaan untuk mengikuti pengajian kepacaran. - Bernama

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 24
RUANGAN : NEGERI

Penggunaan katil ICU tinggi halang beralih ke fasa tiga PPN

KUANTAN - Kadar penggunaan katil di unit rawatan rapi (ICU) di Pahang yang masih tinggi menjadi penghalang kepada negeri ini untuk beralih ke fasa tiga Pelan Pemulihan Negara (PPN).

Menteri Besar, Datuk Seri Wan Rosdy Wan Ismail berkata, sejak ini kadar peratusan vaksinasi di Pahang sudah melebihi sasaran yang ditetapkan.

Menurutnya, semua kriteria telah dipenuhi kecuali penggunaan bilangan katil di unit rawatan rapi (ICU) yang agak tinggi.

"Dalam mesyuarat baru-baru ini, saya sudah bangkitkan perkara ini kepada Perdana Menteri, Ismail Sabri Yaakob, dan Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar dan beliau (Khairy



WAN ROSDY

Jamaluddin) meminta tempoh seminggu untuk semak balik perkara itu.

"Saya kata mereka yang kena jangkitan Covid-19 ini sudah lama berada dalam ICU dan jangka masa untuk pulih ambil masa sehingga dua minggu.

"Kadar vaksinasi juga kita sudah penuhi kriteria, kadar kebolehjangkitan pun bawah daripada satu dan semua itu kita sudah ada. Kita minta supaya KKM dan MKN beri pertimbangan khas untuk kita beralih ke fasa tiga," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian pada sidang akbar selepas tinjauan pemberian vaksin Covid-19 kepada pelajar berumur 16 dan 17 tahun di Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan (SMK) Bukit Rangin pada Selasa.

Wan Rosdy menjelaskan, keraja-

an negeri yakin dapat mencapai imuniti kelompok sebelum hujung tahun ini seperti yang dijadualkan.

Bagaimanapun, katanya data mendedahkan kira-kira 100,000 lagi penduduk di negeri ini belum mendaftar bagi mendapatkan vaksin.

"Setakat ini, di Pahang lebih 83.8 peratus sudah mendapat dos pertama dan 61 peratus sudah lengkap menerima dua dos. Mengenai data yang menyatakan terdapat lebih 100,000 penduduk belum mendaftar, kita akan semak semula.

"Kemungkinan angka itu tidak tepat, mungkin ada penduduk Pahang mendapatkan suntikan vaksin di luar negeri ini, mungkin di Lembah Klang, jadi data ini kita akan selaraskan semula," ujarnya.

Dalam pada itu, Wan Rosdy memaklumkan seramai 30,000 warga Felda Pahang akan menerima suntikan dos pertama vaksin pada penghujung September.

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA
MUKA SURAT : 3
RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI

3.2j pelajar mula divaksin

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PUTRAJAYA: Pemberian suntikan vaksin Covid-19 kepada remaja berusia 12 hingga 17 tahun akan dilaksanakan di 156 Pusat Pemberian Vaksin (PPV) Awam dan Integrasi di seluruh negara secara kaedah jumpa terus berjedual bermula esok ini.

Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan I, Datuk Dr. Noor Azmi Ghazali berkata, agihan vaksin itu mengikut lokasi sekolah berhampiran PPV yang dikenal pasti.

Beliau yang juga Pengurus Jawatankuasa Imunisasi Covid-19 Remaja (CITF-A) berkata, pemberian vaksin akan di-

laksanakan mengikut giliran serta tarikh dan masa yang ditetapkan.

"Jadual pemberian vaksin akan dikeluarkan pihak sekolah masing-masing kepada remaja dan ibu bapa.

"Bagi remaja yang mendapat tarikh vaksinasi di PPV Sekolah, kumpulan pelajar ini perlu mengekalkan janji temu sedia ada di PPV sekolah yang ditetapkan dan tidak dibenarkan walk-in ke PPV Awam atau Integrasi," katanya menerusi kenyataan semalam.

Noor Azmi berkata, bagi remaja yang tidak bersekolah, mereka dibenarkan hadir terus di mana-mana 156 PPV yang berdekatan dengan kediaman masing-masing.

Kata beliau, sekiranya kuota vaksin di PPV tersebut habis untuk hari berkenaan, mereka akan diberi janji temu di PPV sama keesokan hari atau di klinik kesihatan swasta berdekatan.

Menurutnya, pendekatan pergi terus ke PPV berjedual ini dibuat bagi memudahkan dan mempercepatkan lagi proses pemberian vaksin kepada remaja di seluruh negara.

"Remaja yang menuntut di IPTA/IPTS yang berumur di bawah 18 tahun dibenarkan walk-in ke semua PPV yang masih beroperasi pada ketika ini dengan menunjukkan pengenalan diri sebagai pelajar IPTA/IPTS," katanya.

Mengulas lanjut, beliau berkata, ibu bapa atau penjaga

perlu hadir bersama untuk menandatangi borang kebenaran vaksinasi.

Noor Azmi berkata, Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan (PICK) Remaja dimulakan secara rasmi semalam dan menyasarkan 3.2 juta remaja berusia 12 hingga 17 tahun.

Sehingga semalam, beliau memberitahu, sebanyak 5,964 buah sekolah telah berdaftar dengan portal Vaksin-Anak-Ku.

Katanya, seramai 308,186 remaja telah menerima dos pertama vaksin Covid-19 dengan Sabah merekodkan bilangan tertinggi iaitu 118,141 orang diikuti Sarawak (88,473); Kedah (19,453); Kelantan (17,413); Johor (16,019) dan Labuan seramai 2,523.



SEBAHAGIAN pelajar sekolah beratur untuk menerima vaksin dalam Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan (PICK) terhadap kumpulan remaja berusia 12 hingga 17 tahun di Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Sultan Sulaiman 1 di Kuala Terengganu semalam. - UTUSAN/PUQTRA HAIRY

KJ jamin selesai isu doktor kontrak

PETALING JAYA: Menteri Kesihatan memberi komitmen akan mencari titik penyelesaian interim yang lebih baik berhubung isu dihadapi pegawai kesihatan lantikan kontrak.

Khairy Jamaluddin berkata demikian sejurus selepas sesi perbincangan bersama Sekeretariat Gerakan Hartal Doktor Kontrak yang diadakan secara maya semalam.

"Beberapa perkara dibang-

kitkan termasuk kaedah penilaian prestasi bagi perjawatan tetap peluang lanjutan pengajian dan masa depan profesion mereka," kata Khairy menerusi kenyataan di Facebook.

Pergerakan #HartalDoktorKontrak dilancarkan se-kumpulan doktor kontrak di Kementerian Kesihatan untuk menyuarakan rasa tidak puas hati berhubung jawatan tetap dalam sektor kerajaan bagi

23,000 pegawai kesihatan kontrak di seluruh negara.

Susulan itu, kerajaan mengumumkan pegawai peribatan, pegawai pergigian dan pegawai farmasi lantikan kontrak ditawarkan lantikan secara kontrak bagi tempoh dua tahun, selepas melengkapkan tempoh khidmat wajib bagi memastikan kesinambungan perkhidmatan dan persediaan mengikuti kepakaran.

Bagaimanapun, 26 Julai lalu, ratusan doktor kontrak menyertai perhimpunan aman Gerakan Hartal Doktor Kontrak bagi mengetengahkan beberapa tuntutan kepada kerajaan.

Perhimpunan berkenaan berlaku serentak di semua fasiliti kesihatan di seluruh negara mendesak kerajaan menyerap doktor kontrak menjadi pengamal perubatan tetap di kementerian.

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA
MUKA SURAT : 7
RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI

RMK-12 perlu tumpu pembangunan vaksin

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PETALING JAYA: Kerajaan disarankan mengambil serius menganai pembangunan dan penyelidikan (R&D) vaksin merentasi Rancangan Malaysia Ke-12 (RMK-12) dalam memastikan krisis kesihatan masa hadapan dapat dikawal sebaiknya.

Bercakap kepada *Utusan Malaysia*, Pakar Virologi Universiti Malaya (UM), Prof. Dr. Sazaly Abu Bakar berkata, Malaysia sudah mampu mencipta vaksin, tetapi tidak ke arah membangunkan vaksin tersebut ke peringkat untuk digunakan manusia.

"Kita belum ada keupayaan untuk mengambil vaksin yang dicipta lalu diuji kepada haiwan dan manusia untuk dikilangkan serta dipasarkan kepada orang awam. Malaysia masih di takuk paling awal iaitu peringkat penciptaan."

"Malaysia belum mempunyai keupayaan kerana tiada pelaburan dilakukan sejak dulu lagi, walaupun pernah melakukannya terhadap haiwan tetapi bukannya manusia. Oleh itu, perlu diutamakan untuk mendapatkan teknologi dalam mer-



PETUGAS kesihatan memberi suntikan vaksin Covid-19 kepada pelajar sekolah di Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Sultan Sulaiman 1, Kuala Terengganu, semalam. - UTUSAN/PUQTRA HAIRY

jalankan R&D ini dan sekiranya tiada teknologi akan membantutkan perkembangan keparuhan pakar-pakar di Malaysia," jelasnya.

Sebelum ini, dilaporkan dokument Rancangan Malaysia Ke-12 (RMK-12) yang sudah hampir siap 100 peratus dan dijangka dibentangkan pada 27 September ini oleh Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob.

Pelan tersebut perlu me-

menuhi jangkaan mengutamakan polisi jangka panjang yang lebih fundamental, membasmikan kemiskinan, mengurangkan jurang pendapatan, infrastruktur yang tersusun dan perpaduan terutamanya melibatkan isu keadaan ketersediaan menangani krisis kesihatan negara.

Tambah Sazaly, kos pembangunan itu bergantung kepada strategi kerajaan sama ada melakukan R&D sendiri yang bakal

menggunakan kos yang besar dan masa yang lama atau tidak. Malaysia boleh mencontohi kerajaan Singapura yang melabur kepada syarikat pembangunan vaksin dan membawa vaksin ke negara mereka.

Ulas beliau, di Thailand, mereka menghantar pasukan saintis ke luar negara untuk bekerjasama dengan syarikat pengeluar di luar negara serta membangunkan kilang mereka sendiri di Thailand.

"Di Arab Saudi pula, pihak mereka membawa syarikat ke negara mereka untuk membina kilang dan terus dengan mencipta vaksin di dalam negara.

"Sekiranya tidak dilakukan, Malaysia masih akan menghadapi masalah apabila ada keperluan tetapi tiada vaksin. Nasib baik, dalam isu Covid-19, kita cepat membeli vaksin disebabkan ada peruntukan apabila membelinya awal sebelum vaksin itu ada lagi.

"Kerajaan diharapkan mengambil serius perkara ini untuk tidak menangguhkan pembangunan vaksin ini setelah Covid-19 sudah reda. Ini sudah disarankan pakar lebih 10 tahun dahulu, dan masih tidak diambil cakna kerajaan, maka kerajaan perlu menyokong pembangunan ini sepenuhnya," jelasnya.

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

PM: 80PC OF ADULTS FULLY VACCINATED

Continue efforts to combat Covid-19, says Ismail Sabri as efforts stepped up to track down unvaxxed

NOR AIN MOHAMED RADHI AND DHESEGAAN BALA KRISHNAN
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MA LAYSIA has achieved its target of vaccinating 80 per cent of its adults against Covid-19, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said yesterday.

However, Ismail Sabri urged Malaysians to continue efforts to combat the coronavirus.

"Congratulations! Malaysia has achieved its 80 per cent adult population vaccination target.

"Let's continue with our efforts to combat Covid-19 #LindungDiriLindungSemua," he said on Twitter.

Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin also shared the news with the tweet: "At 1300hrs (1pm) today, Malaysia reached the target of 80 per cent of its adult population being fully vaccinated.

"Although the initial target was 80 per cent of the adult population, now the Covid-19 Vaccine Supply Access Guarantee Special Committee (JKJAV) will try to track down the 20 per cent who have not or refused to be vaccinated."

JKJAV data on Monday showed that 79.6 per cent of adults have been completely vaccinated.

However, the day also saw a rise in brought-in-dead (BID) Covid-19 cases and hospitalisation rate.

The Health Ministry's Covid-Now portal showed that BID cases jumped drastically from 64 on Friday to 92 on Monday.

It was the eighth consecutive day that Malaysia logged over 300 deaths since Sept 13 when the country reported 413 deaths.

Covid-19 fatalities recorded on Monday, however, declined to 301 from the 376 registered the previous day. The fatalities reported on Monday raise the country's Covid-19 death toll to 23,744.

Klang Valley reported the most



number of deaths, with Selangor logging 130 deaths followed by 13 deaths in Kuala Lumpur.

As of Monday, the seven-day average of confirmed Covid-19 deaths in the country was 108.

Based on data for the last two weeks, Penang accounted for most of the Covid-19 deaths with 17.5 deaths for every 100,000 people.

The number of Covid-19 patients admitted to hospitals also increased slightly to 11,321 on Monday from 11,277 recorded the previous day.

It was the first time the number of hospitalisations had increased since Aug 17.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said 76 per cent, or 1,595, of Intensive Care Unit beds set aside for Covid-19 patients were in use.

In Perlis, all 11 ICU beds were being used, while Terengganu, Penang, Johor, Kelantan and Sarawak reported a more than 90 per cent bed occupancy rate.

However, the number of patients requiring ICU treatment dropped to 1,154, with patients requiring ventilator support also decreasing to 633.

Johor had the highest hospital bed occupancy rate at 89.8 per cent, while only 40.7 per cent of beds in Kuala Lumpur hospitals were occupied as of yesterday.

Malaysia recorded 15,759 Covid-19 cases as of noon yesterday, raising the national tally to 2,127,934.

Sarawak remained the state with the most number of cases at 3,732, followed by Johor at 1,959 and Selangor at 1,934.

Penang reported 1,417 new cases, Kelantan (1,338), Sabah (1,291), Perak (1,184), Kedah (786), Pahang (707), Terengganu (592), Kuala Lumpur (359), Melaka (264) and Negeri Sembilan with 127. Putrajaya, Perlis and Labuan reported 34, 23 and 12 cases respectively.

Malaysia reported 14,345 new cases on Monday.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES
MUKA SURAT : 4
RUANGAN : NATION / NEWS

DISINFECTION AGAINST COVID-19

Health D-G: Nano mist not replacement for standard surface cleaning

PUTRAJAYA: The use of nano mist does not replace the requirement for standard surface cleaning for disinfection against Covid-19, said Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

He said the nano mist had gained public attention in its use as a disinfecting tool to prevent the transmission of Covid-19, with some people believing that it could kill SARS-CoV-2 virus in the air and on surfaces.

"However, the effectiveness of this device is dependent on its



Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

dispersion ability, the disinfectant type used and its concentration, as well as the contact time between disinfectant and surface," he said in a statement yesterday.

Nano mist spray delivers nano-size particles and is widely used for various purposes, including in cosmetics and perfumes, and for domestic and industrial use. It is available in many forms and sizes, ranging from spray gun and handheld spray for personal use and larger size for industrial use.



Nano mist spray is available in many forms and sizes, ranging from spray gun and handheld spray for personal use. PIC BY ASWADI ALIAS

Dr Noor Hisham said several surface disinfectants had been identified to be effective against SARS-CoV-2 such as alcohol (70 to 90 per cent), hydrogen peroxide, thymol, quaternary am-

monia, and chlorine-based solution.

The list of recommended surface disinfectants against SARS-CoV-2 is available from the United States Environmental Protec-

tion Agency website at <https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/about-list-n-disinfectants-coronavirus-covid19-0>, which is an international reference for disinfectants. **Bernama**

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES
MUKA SURAT : 5
RUANGAN : NATION / NEWS

156 PPVs FOR WALK-IN VACCINATIONS

Approach is part of collaboration with Education Ministry to expedite process, says Noor Azmi

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THE government will provide scheduled walk-in vaccinations for adolescents aged 12 to 17 at 156 vaccination centres (PPVs) nationwide beginning Thursday.

Deputy Health Minister Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali, who chairs the Covid-19 Immunisation Task Force-Adolescent (CITF-A), said the approach was part of a collaboration with the Education Ministry.

These scheduled walk-ins would facilitate and expedite the vaccination process among teenagers, he said.

He said the decision was made after taking into consideration the vaccination rate among the adult population, which would soon reach its target and due to the drop in the number of recipients at public and integrated PPVs nationwide.

"All PPVs under Covid-19 Immunisation Task force (CITF) would cease operations on Oct 15. Hence, CITF-A has identified 156



Shafirul Hapizi Shafiza, 16, receiving his first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine at the vaccination centre at MSU Chancellor Hall in Shah Alam yesterday. PIC BY OWEW AH CHUN

PPVs nationwide during this transitional period to increase vaccination capacity for adolescents through walk-ins.

"These scheduled vaccinations will be conducted based on the location of schools near the respective PPV, and would be done on rotation-basis based on a set date and time."

He said these walk-in schedules would be issued by the re-

spective schools to teenagers and their parents.

He said the scheduled walk-ins for teenagers at these 156 PPVs would start only on Thursday.

Teenagers from all categories of education, including those who do not attend school, will be able to be vaccinated through this approach.

"For teenagers who are not attending school, they are allowed

to walk in at any of these PPVs nearest to their homes.

"However, if the PPV has reached the vaccine quota for the day, they would be given a vaccine appointment for the next day either at the same PPV or a nearby private clinic," he said in a statement.

Dr Noor Azmi said teenagers who received appointments to be vaccinated at their respective

schools' PPV must follow those schedules, and they will not be allowed to go for the walk-ins at these PPVs.

The Health Ministry later clarified that scheduled walk-ins would not apply to students at boarding schools as they would receive appointments via MySejahtera.

Students from regular daytime schools may also go to these 156 PPVs only after their respective school issues a specific "walk-in schedule" for the parent and student.

Dr Noor Azmi said teenagers below the age of 18 who were currently attending tertiary institutions follow a different rule.

"This group is allowed to receive their vaccine through walk-ins at all PPVs that are currently operating by furnishing their student identification card. Parents or guardians must be present to sign the consent form for their vaccination."

As a precautionary measure against overcrowding, Dr Noor Azmi said only one parent or guardian was allowed to accompany the teenager for vaccination.

He also advised parents to ensure their children were well-rested the night prior to the vaccination, have breakfast and drink sufficient water before going to the PPV.

Parents should monitor their children and prevent extreme activities for seven days after the vaccination, he said.

'Over 300,000 teens have received first Covid-19 vaccine dose'

KUALA LUMPUR: A total of 308,186 adolescents aged between 12 and 17 have received the first dose of Covid-19 vaccine, with Sabah recording the highest number at 118,141.

This is followed by Sarawak (88,473), Kedah (19,453), Kelantan (17,413), Johor (16,019) and Labuan (2,523).

Deputy Health Minister Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali, who is the Covid-19 Immunisation Task force-Adolescent (CITF-A) chairman, said up to Monday, 5,964 schools have registered with the Vaksin-Anak-Ku portal as part of the inoculation programme.

Covid-19 National Immunisation Programme for Adolescents, which officially kicked off on Monday, targeted 3.2 million teenagers aged 12 and 17.



Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali

He said vaccinations for this age group, however, had started earlier in these five states and the Federal Territory of Labuan.

The step served as preparation for the reopening of schools to reduce infection risks, while pre-

venting clusters and cases among school personnel and students.

"As announced by the Health Minister (Khairy Jamaluddin) on Monday, the vaccinations would be done through several methods, namely, outreach (programme) and scheduled (vaccinations) at schools or institutions.

"Vaccination will be conducted by personnel comprising health staff, private medical practitioners, healthcare organisations or medical non-governmental organisations," he said in a statement yesterday.

For major examination candidates who are staying at hostels, the first vaccine dose would be scheduled at nearby clinics or schools, while the second dose would be administered at their respective schools.

Meanwhile, teenagers with comorbidities would receive their doses at hospitals or clinics where they were being treated, he said.

Those who fail to turn up for their vaccination at school would be given another date at a nearby private clinic via the MySejahtera app.

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

ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS

Safeguarding interests of all on self-test kit price

THE proposal to lower the ceiling price of Covid-19 self-test kits must be studied by taking into account the interests of all parties and cannot be done in haste, the Dewan Rakyat was told.

Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Alexander Nanta Linggi said the implementation of the proposal must be able to create a win-win situation between the consumers, manufacturers and traders.

"The ministry will continue to hold engagement sessions with the Health Ministry, taking into account the views of all stakeholders, as well as the production and import costs, before the decision to lower the price (of self-test kits) is made," he said during the Minister's Question Time yesterday.

Nanta was answering a ques-

tion from Cha Kee Chin (PH-Rasah) who wanted to know whether the ministry would further lower the ceiling price of the Covid-19 self-test kit, which was currently set at RM19.90, to enable more people to afford it, especially the B40.

Cha suggested that the ceiling price of the test kit be reduced in stages from RM15 to RM5.

In reply to Cha's supplementary question on setting a ceiling price for other products, such as the "spray guns" (for sanitation), pulse oximeters and air purifiers, which are now widely used by the people, Nanta said the proposal would also be scrutinised.

Earlier last month, the ministry set the maximum retail price for a set of Covid-19 self-test kit at RM19.90, while the wholesale price was set at RM16 effective Sept 5.



Datuk Seri Alexander Nanta Linggi

Nanta said so far, there were 16 brands of self-test kits that had been approved by the Medical Device Authority and it would be added from time to time to create price competitiveness in the market and prices could be lowered.

Nanta also said the ministry was always carrying out enforcement to ensure that traders and manufacturers complied with the set ceiling prices.

He added that from Sept 5 to 20, a total of 2,261 premises were inspected, involving 123 wholesalers and 2,138 retailers. Ten traders, who sold the kits above the set ceiling price, were issued warnings. **Bernama**

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 8

RUANGAN : NATION / NEWS

SANDAKAN FOLK

10,000 fail to turn up for second jab

SANDAKAN: About 10,000 people here did not return to vaccination centres (PPV) to get their second Covid-19 vaccine dose.

Sandakan health officer Dr Johari Awang Besar said the district recorded 42 per cent of the 363,000 population who completed their vaccination.

"So far, the total number who completed two-dose vaccinations is 42 per cent. For the first dose, it is 56 per cent.

"However, there are three per cent or about 10,000 people who have already received the first dose but did not come back to get the second."

"We have since urged them to take the second dose as soon as possible," he told a press conference here on Monday.

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 2
RUANGAN : NATION

80 per cent vaccination target met

PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia has fully vaccinated 80% of the adult population in the country, ahead of its October target.

"Congratulations! Malaysia has achieved 80% full vaccination of the adult population," Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob declared on Twitter yesterday.

The Prime Minister also reminded the people to continue in their efforts in fighting Covid-19. According to the CovidNow website, 79.6% or 18,646,795 of the country's adult population has been fully vaccinated as at noon, Sept 21.

It also said that 93.1% of the adult population or 22,097,565 individuals have received at least their first dose.

Under the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme, the original target for Malaysia to reach the 80% fully vaccinated adult population was October.

Cumulatively, 40,664,674 doses have been administered.

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 4
RUANGAN : NATION

Apply one week in advance

Travellers arriving in M'sia have home quarantine option

By GERARD GIMINO
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PETALING JAYA: The option for travellers arriving in Malaysia to undergo home quarantine also applies to those with permanent resident status or under the Malaysia My Second Home (MM2H) programme.

They must have a home or residence in the country, produce a negative polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test result and be fully vaccinated.

This comes following the announcement by Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin that the "Jurassic process" of submitting email applications to undergo isolation at home would be replaced with a simplified Home Quarantine Application (HQA) portal from yes-

terday to ease the process.

Submissions are to be made through the eCovid19 HQA portal, with each application allowing a maximum of 10 travellers under one quarantine address.

Applications are also required to be submitted at least seven to 10 days prior to their arrival.

The current application process on the portal requires applicants to fill up a form with information of their full name, contact details, quarantine address, type of application and date of arrival.

It will be mandatory for travellers intending to undergo home quarantine to submit their details through the portal.

This includes full name, identification or passport number, nationality, vaccine type, date of both vaccine doses, and date of birth.

Applications can also be submitted either by the travellers themselves, on behalf of their family members, or by a representative of the person travelling.

Those who have been fully vaccinated are also required to provide proof of their inoculation in either a PNG, JPEG or PDF file.

Each application will then be reviewed by the Health Ministry with the applicant being notified within three days of submitting a complete application.

Eligibility depends on the number of people living at the residence, and the number of rooms and bathrooms there.

Other factors that will be taken into account are whether there are pregnant women, anyone aged 60 and above, or children below the age of 12 at the residence.

If an applicant is found to have provided false information, approval will be revoked automatically.

This is also an offence under Section 22(d) of the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Act 1988 (Act 342), and if convicted, punishable under Section 24 of the same Act, according to information on the portal.

Previously, those who intended to apply for home quarantine upon arrival were required to submit an email request to the ministry.

However, since the government allowed fully vaccinated travellers to undergo home quarantine upon arrival, there was a surge in the number of requests with a backlog of 6,000 applications via email.

The HQA portal can be accessed at <https://ecovid19.moh.gov.my/outbreak-portal-hqa>.

Health DG sheds light on concerns surrounding nano mist

PUTRAJAYA: The use of nano mist does not replace the requirement for standard surface cleaning for disinfection against Covid-19, says Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

"Nano mist has gained public attention in its use as a disinfecting tool to prevent transmission of Covid-19, with some members of the public believing that it could kill the SARS-CoV-2 virus in the air and on surfaces."

"However, the effectiveness of this device is dependent on its dispersion ability, the disinfectant type used and its concentration, as well as the contact time between disinfectant and surface," he said.

Nano mist spray delivers nanosized particles and is widely used for various purposes, including cosmetics, perfume, domestic and industrial use.

It is available in many forms, ranging from spray gun and handheld spray for personal use and larger sizes for industrial use.

Dr Noor Hisham said currently, several surface disinfectants had been identified to be effective against SARS-CoV-2 such as alcohol 70% to 90%, hydrogen peroxide, thymol, quaternary ammonia and chlorine-based solution.

The list of recommended surface disinfectants against SARS-CoV-2 is available on the US Environmental Protection Agency website <https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/about-list-n-disinfectants-coronavirus-covid19-0>, which is an international reference for disinfectants.

The Star recently reported that experts had raised concerns over how these gadgets were being used.

While some shops are using them to spray sanitiser on objects to prevent Covid-19 infection, many are also using them on visitors, customers and even themselves.

Universiti Sains Malaysia virologist Dr Kumita Theva Das said while the mist or dry fog that these guns emitted was good for covering large surface areas, it was a bad idea to aim it at people.

"If not used properly, the chemicals in the spray can potentially be hazardous," she said.

Seniors hope to be jabbed near their home

By NELSON BENJAMIN
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JOHOR BARU: While senior citizens are grateful to the government for planning a booster shot, many are hoping the authorities relook the way the vaccination appointment is being given out as some are forced to travel almost 200km to get their vaccination.

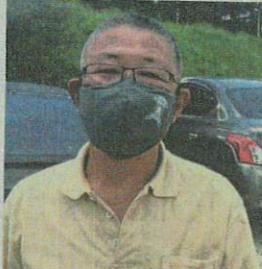
They are hoping that those requiring booster shots will be allowed to just walk into the nearest vaccination centre to their home.

Retired teacher Chua Ah Tee, 74, from Muar, was shocked when he was given an appointment about 200km away in Johor Baru for his first dose.

"Earlier I had rejected an appointment via MySejahtera to have my vaccination done in Kulai."

"As my children were concerned about my health, my daughter decided to take leave to travel from Kuala Lumpur with a police permit to drive me to Johor Baru for my inoculation late June and for my second dose in July," he said in an interview.

Chua, who is living on his own, said he was sad that he had to trouble his children to take leave to



Long trip: Tan had to drive from Muar to Johor Baru to get his wife vaccinated.

drive him to a vaccination centre all the way in Johor Baru.

"I hope that for the booster shot, those manning MySejahtera will just give us an appointment and let us take it at the nearest vaccination centre," he said.

Another retiree, Tan Boon Lee, 66, had to drive more than four hours to and from Muar to get his 60-year-old wife vaccinated in Persada in Johor Baru.

"I got my shots in Muar, but my wife's appointment for the first and



Inconvenient location: Krishnan had to travel 45km to Kluang for his first dose.

second doses were in Johor Baru.

"Now that the government plans to give us a booster shot, I hope that they will consider our situation as senior citizens and allow us to get vaccinated in Muar," he said.

Another senior citizen, K. Krishnan, 81, from Layang-Layang had to travel 45km to Kluang for his first dose.

Krishnan, who is a smallholder, said those manning MySejahtera should be careful when giving out appointments as even his 13-year-

old grandson was given a slot for vaccination at the centre in Kluang early this month via the mobile app.

"Once he was there, the doctor checked and said it was a mistake and apologised."

"They instead administered a vaccine shot for the boy's father who was not vaccinated despite being registered in MySejahtera for some time," he said.

Another senior known only as Abdulla, 65, said he was given an appointment in Muar when he lived in Kulai.

"My children told me to cancel the appointment at least two times before they decided to pay for me to get my shots at a private clinic," he said.

He said while it was good that the government wanted to look into the welfare of senior citizens by providing vaccines, it must be mindful of the location of the vaccination centre that they were being sent to.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob had earlier announced that Malaysia would be offering a third dose or booster shot to vulnerable groups, including healthcare frontliners and the elderly living with comorbidities, next month.

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 6
RUANGAN : NATION

Teens can opt for walk-in jabs

Schools to issue schedules on vaccination at one of 156 selected PPVs

By JOSEPH KAOS Jr
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PUTRAJAYA: Teenagers aged 12 to 17 can get their Covid-19 jabs via a scheduled walk-in process at 156 selected vaccination centres (PPV) nationwide from tomorrow.

Schools will be issuing schedules on when students can get vaccinated at the selected PPVs, said Deputy Health Minister Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali, who is chairman of the Covid-19 Immunisation Task Force for Adolescents (CITF-A).

"CITF-A has identified 156 public and integrated PPVs nationwide

that can help boost the capacity of the vaccination drive involving teenagers.

"The PPVs that these teenagers can go to are those located nearest to their schools."

"The walk-ins will be conducted according to a schedule set by the schools."

"The schools will inform the students and parents involved (on where and when they can go for the walk-ins)," Dr Noor Azmi said in a statement.

Teenagers who are not school-goers can walk into any of the 156 PPVs nearest to them, but they must

be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

"If the vaccine quota at a PPV they go to has run out for the day, they will be given an appointment at the same facility the next day, or at a nearby private health clinic," said Dr Noor Azmi.

University students who have not reached the age of 18 are also allowed to walk in at all PPVs that are still in operation.

They need to provide identification to prove they are students of a higher learning institution, and they too, must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

This is because the parent or guardian has to sign consent forms in the presence of a doctor at the PPVs.

Dr Noor Azmi said to avoid congestion at PPVs, teens should only be accompanied by one parent or guardian.

The walk-in process is an alternative way for teenagers aged 12 to 17 to get their Covid-19 jabs, besides getting them at schools.

Teenagers who have already received vaccination appointments at schools (via MySejahtera) must stick to their dates and are not allowed to join the walk-in process

at PPVs, said Dr Noor Azmi.

Boarding school students (both daily and full boarding) who are about to sit for major school exams will be given vaccination appointments.

Their first dose will be either at a clinic or school located near them, while the second jab will be given at schools.

The vaccination programme for teenagers is expected to involve 3.2 million adolescents aged 12 to 17.

Up to Sept 20, more than 300,000 teens have received their first jabs since the programme kicked off in Sarawak on Sept 8.

The kids are alright, they're vaccinated

By ILI AQILAH
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BATU GAJAH: There was some excitement among students queuing up as early as 8.30am to get their Covid-19 vaccination at the Dewan Bandaran Kinta.

Bryan Ng Chee, 17, from SMK Tronoh, came dressed in a hanfu, a traditional Chinese outfit.

"In conjunction with the Mid-Autumn Festival, I bought this new hanfu and coincidentally got to wear it on my vaccination day."

"I am the last one in my family to get the vaccination, so it is exciting for me," he said.

However, Ng admitted he felt a bit nervous.

"I am worried about the pain. Hopefully it won't be painful," he said.

S. Jehani, 18, said getting vaccinated means being able to attend school as usual.

"I don't prefer online learning as it is hard for students to ask questions of the teachers. I know that getting vaccinated will allow me to go to classes."

"In my house, only my mother has completed her vaccination and we have a two-month-old baby, so I do feel safer now that I am getting vaccinated," she added.

Jehani said she and her classmates were informed they were going to get vaccinated by their teacher.

"We have a group chat and my class teacher updated us about our vaccination a few days ago."



"We got the notification via MySejahtera the day before our vaccination," she added.

Mohd Rasul Kamsani, 16, from SMK Sultan Yussuf, said getting vaccinated would make him feel safer.

"Although there have been Covid-19 cases reported of those who are vaccinated, the percentage is low and they seem to recover much more quickly."

"So, I do feel safer getting it, especially if it will allow me to go back to school," he added.

Mohd Rasul said almost all of his family members have been vaccinated.

"My parents and my two older

siblings are vaccinated. I have two younger siblings who are in primary school."

"With more people getting vaccinated, I believe it will create a safer environment," he added.

As caretakers aren't allowed into the vaccination centre, parents were seen waiting for their children on the roadside.

Syed Nor Hisham Syed Abdul Rahman, 49, was at the vaccination centre with his son, Syed Muhammad Amir, 17, at 8am.

"These days, everyone needs to get vaccinated to go anywhere. Now that he is vaccinated, I do feel it is safer for him to go back to school," he said.

Kam, a housewife, said she was initially hesitant about getting her daughter vaccinated.

"It took me some time to let her get the vaccination. I saw some Facebook posts claiming that the vaccination is not safe for younger children."

"However, with the new Delta variant, I feel that my daughter is protected with the vaccine and I wouldn't want to jeopardise her health based on just (social media) posts."

"She is also excited to get vaccinated and even prepared her outfit a day before, including wearing a face mask that matches her shoes," she added.

PUTRAJAYA: Civil servants who have no strong reasons to reject the Covid-19 vaccination will soon know the action they may face.

The Public Services Department (PSD) is set to forward several actions and approaches to the National Security Council for its deliberation.

This includes a directive to make it compulsory for public servants to be vaccinated except for those who have strong reasons to be exempted.

PSD said several measures can be taken by ministries and departments based on the existing Public Service (Conduct and Discipline) Regulations to ensure civil servants are inoculated.

"All public servants must abide by the regulations, including on matters relating to presence at the workplace, when directed by the head of department," it said in a statement yesterday.

PSD noted that almost 98% of civil servants have been immunised.

"Looking at the percentage, the number of those who have not been vaccinated is very small."

"However, this matter needs to be given priority to give confidence and guarantee to the people when dealing with civil servants at government premises," it said.

those under isolation at low-risk quarantine centres (PKRC), while 11,321 (5.5%) were hospitalised.

There were 1,154 (0.6%) patients in the intensive care unit (ICU), including 633 (0.3%) on ventilators.

The national ICU utilisation rate is currently at 75.2%.

Kedah's ICU rate is currently the country's highest at 97.5%, followed by Johor (93%) and Penang (92.4%).

Recoveries beat new cases for fifth day, says DG

PUTRAJAYA: For the fifth day in a row, the total number of Covid-19 recoveries surpassed the number of new cases in the country.

In his daily Covid-19 statement, Health director general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said 16,650 people were discharged while there were 15,759 new infections yesterday.

Sarawak is the state with the highest number of cases after reporting 3,536 new infections.

This is higher than the 2,555 combined total in the Klang Valley, with Selangor recording 2,158 cases, Kuala Lumpur with 374 and Putrajaya, 23.

Dr Noor Hisham said that of the 15,759 new cases, 98.2% were mild to asymptomatic cases.

"Another 288 cases or 1.8% are those in Categories 3, 4 and 5."

Since the pandemic began, about 2.1 million people in Malaysia have been infected with

the virus, with 1.8 million having recovered.

The national infectivity rate was at an Rt level of 0.93 as of Monday.

The Health Ministry also identified 23 new clusters, taking the active number to 1,315.

Meanwhile, the ministry's CovidNow website showed that case figures continue to be on a downward trend.

The average number of deaths in the last seven days - based on

actual date of death - was 108, which was a decline from early August when the average was around 300 deaths a day.

Active Covid-19 cases in the country had gone down to 207,698 as of Monday - a further reduction of 2,770 from the previous day.

Of the total active cases, 172,648 or 83.1% were patients with mild infections and undergoing home quarantine.

Another 22,575 (10.9%) were

AKHBAR : THE STAR**MUKA SURAT : 6****RUANGAN : COMMENT**

National Blood Centre: Donations on the increase, supply adequate

BLOOD donations have increased lately, says National Blood Centre (PDN) director Dr Noryati Abu Amin.

She said this was attributed to concern showed by those who had been donating blood consistently to help others in need.

This includes emergency cases who are accident victims, complications during childbirth, premature babies who lack blood, thalassaemia, cancer and kidney failure patients, as well as those who need to undergo critical and complex surgery.

"There are also Covid-19 patients, especially those with a background of chronic diseases, who need blood transfusion.

"The upward donation trend will ensure that PDN and blood banks have sufficient blood supply, as well as help increase the stock in states that are experiencing an increase in Covid-19 cases," she said in a statement uploaded on PDN's Facebook.

She said this in response to a WhatsApp message, which went viral recently, claiming that the blood banks of several hospitals

were critically low in supply.

Meanwhile, Dr Noryati said the Health Ministry had issued guidelines on prevention and control measures to curb the transmission of infectious diseases during blood donation activities.

She said the guidelines outlined various measures for blood donation activities to ensure the safety of blood donors, blood donation campaign organisers, health workers and blood transfusion recipients.

"These guidelines also set a temporary suspension period for blood



National Blood Centre employee attending to a donor during a blood donation drive in Rawang. — Filepic

donation activities for individuals who have just received their Covid-19 vaccine, which are in line with

the recommendations of the World Health Organisation," she added.
— Bernama

AKHBAR : THE SUN
MUKA SURAT : 8
RUANGAN : SPEAK UP

Budget considerations for healthcare

COMMENT

by Ameen Kamal

HEALTHCARE has been underfunded compared with global standards. For example, the World Health Organisation recommends 6% of the national GDP to be allocated for public health.

That said, assuming a GDP at the end of 2021 of RM1.5 trillion, this equates to RM90.5 billion – an impractical jump from 2021's budget of RM31.9 billion, especially considering depressed government income throughout the pandemic.

The minimum 4% has been called for by many health experts in previous years, which equates to RM60.28 billion, almost doubling 2021 allocations.

Galen Centre for Health and Social Policy called for a minimum of RM4 billion to RM6 billion increase in overall budget irrespective of GDP, which could be more doable for the government given its financial constraints.

As battling Covid-19 will likely extend well into 2022 due to immunological uncertainties and virus variants, we need tools that go beyond vaccination.

Specifically, Malaysia should consider early-stage prophylactic treatments such as antiviral medications to prevent disease progression for non-severe cases.

For example, the US, which has a population of 328.2 million people, has reportedly allocated US\$3 billion for antiviral treatments (roughly RM12.6 billion). Scaled to population size, Malaysia would correspondingly require RM1.26 billion.

However, considering Malaysia's lower GNI per capita, Malaysia may want to consider an initial allocation worth at least a third of this value i.e., RM400 million.

Malaysia also needs to consider specialised

treatments such as monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) for those with higher risk of getting severely ill.

For example, 30,000 doses of sotrovimab may cost approximately RM529 million, based on the US wholesale cost of US\$2,100 per dose according to online pharmaceutical portal Fierce Pharma.

Assuming current and future vaccines work well against emerging variants, the figure could be lower. For example, in a scenario where a reduced number of cases may only require 12,000 doses would cost RM105.8 million.

Therefore, a mid-range value of RM250 million may be considered as a starting point for biologics, depending on the percentage of high-risk patients.

As a comparison, the Australian government announced on Aug 8 that it had secured 7,700 doses of sotrovimab with an estimate of 8% to 15% high-risk SARS-CoV-2 positive patients.

Of course, new treatments are constantly being developed and this allocation is not only for antiviral medications or mAbs – it may be swapped for other emerging interventions the Health Ministry deems promising, safe and effective.

Relatedly, learning from what was a confusing set of changes in the 2021 healthcare budget, it is hoped that Budget 2022 would be clear and transparent.

For example, next year's drugs budget may not need to be lumped together under the "medical supplies for medical facilities" under "Program Khusus". Certain Covid-19 related drugs may be parked under respiratory medicine as it is primarily a respiratory disease.

Given that Covid-19 may result in secondary health complications, a new programme/activity for Covid-19 may be created instead of being pooled in one general line item. Another important allocation to be increased would be Skim Peduli Kesehatan for the B40 (PeKa B40).

As a public healthcare programme for the lowest income group, there is a need to increase

budget allocations to accommodate the increasing size of this income bracket.

It is estimated that the "B40" could have increased to "B50" within 2021, therefore an additional minimum of RM20 million is needed.

Given that more households are expected to drop into the B40 group by 2022, RM40 million is proposed to be added, bringing the allocation to RM120 million in 2022, compared with RM80 million in 2021.

For both non-communicable and transmissible diseases, there should be an expansion of budget allocations for both generics and innovative drugs.

The latter requires a bigger share given Malaysia's apparent preference for generics. As this is likely driven by the relatively higher costs of innovative medicines, some of these could be funded through a larger sin tax system, and collaborations between the private and public sector.

Another programme that requires a budget revisit is psychiatry and mental health programmes. Surprisingly, it was reported that this specific programme experienced nearly 10% reduction in 2021 allocations compared with 2020.

It has been reported that the Malaysian Mental Health Association (MMHA) observed "in stress-related help requests since the start of pandemic. Other issues such as depression, suicide, and domestic violence have also seen an increase."

Economic struggles and disruptions in education are expected to continue in 2022, therefore, prolonging the already-exacerbated mental health issues among students, households and the economic workforce.

As such, a minimum 15% increase from 2020 allocation worth RM344.8 million to RM396.5 million is proposed for the year 2022.

Empowering self-responsibility in health as a key social protection component

Head of Galen Centre for Health and Social Policy Azril Mohd Khalib reportedly mentioned that "we need people to be healthy, be responsible for their own health and invest in their own well-being to prevent the onset of non-communicable diseases (NCD) and be better prepared for medical emergencies such as catastrophic injuries".

Aligned with this statement, it is time for the government and the health system (both public and private players) to start promoting and incentivising healthy lifestyles.

As Malaysia strives for universal healthcare, the same mindset of empowering the people with a universal access to healthier lifestyles is needed.

A focus on nutrition must include mechanisms to ensure healthier agricultural and food production processes become the "normal" non-premium standard.

A heavier sin tax should be created not only for cigarettes and alcoholic beverages, but perhaps many other ingredients and chemical substances to fund a special budget for lifestyle-related NCD.

In promoting this, special incentives (beyond tax exemptions) to incentivise healthier lifestyle options such as healthy food, sports equipment, outdoor activities and gym memberships should be included.

In addition to expanding the public healthcare budget, innovative funding mechanisms such a co-payment between public and private players should be considered in order to allow Malaysians better access to new innovative drugs, treatments and health programmes.

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