

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Sistem kesihatan perlu pembaharuan segera

Kuala Lumpur: Sistem perkhidmatan kesihatan negara wajar diberikan pembaharuan bagi menangani isu peningkatan kos perubatan dan kemampuan kewangan rakyat.

Presiden Persatuan Perubatan Malaysia (MMA), Dr Koh Kar Chai, berkata pandemik COVID-19 yang melanda negara sejak Januari tahun lalu banyak memberi iktibar berhubung keperluan melakukan transformasi perkhidmatan kesihatan.

Beliau berkata, ini kerana segelintir pesakit COVID-19 kategori 5 terpaksa menerima rawatan di hospital swasta sehingga dibebani kos perubatan mencecah ratusan ribu ringgit.

"Bagi yang berkemampuan, mungkin kos sedemikian langsung tidak menjejaskan aspek ke-

wangan mereka, tetapi bukan semua yang berkemampuan untuk menjelaskan caj perubatan yang akhirnya mengundang polemik ekonomi.

"Sebenarnya kos perubatan meningkat saban tahun, cuma mungkin ia tidak dirasai sekiranya kita mendapatkan perkhidmatan di sektor awam memandangkan kerajaan memperuntukkan subsidi yang amat tinggi.

"Bagaimanapun, ia membangkitkan persoalan mengenai keperluan melakukan pembaharuan terhadap sistem perkhidmatan kesihatan negara, tanpa perlu untuk kita menunggu satu lagi gelombang pandemik pada masa depan.

"Sekiranya tidak dilaksanakan dengan tuntas, lebih ramai yang

bakal terkorban sebelum suatu pembaharuan ketara terhadap sistem perkhidmatan kesihatan berupaya dicapai," katanya dalam kenyataan, semalam.

Dr Kar Chai berkata Rancangan Malaysia Ke-12 (RMK-12) turut menyentuh pelbagai aspek berkaitan sistem perkhidmatan kesihatan negara, selain usaha pembaharuan yang giat dirintis Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM).

Bagaimanapun, katanya, rangkaian inisiatif itu tidak seharusnya sekadar 'cakap kosong' tanpa disusuli tindakan yang mencekutkan perubahan.

"Kedua-dua pihak dalam Dewan Rakyat perlu sedar bahawa kita memerlukan pembaharuan ini sekarang, justeru segerakan usaha sedemikian dengan kesepakatan bersama," katanya.



Pandemik COVID-19 dedah keperluan melakukan transformasi sistem kesihatan negara dengan segera bagi menjamin rakyat mendapat khidmat yang terbaik.
(Foto hiasan)

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 15

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Penularan COVID-19

Vaksin influenza tiada dalam program imunisasi

Hanya lapan jenis suntikan pelalian diberi secara percuma

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Kuala Lumpur: Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) tidak mempunyai sebarang perancangan untuk memasukkan suntikan vaksin influenza dalam Program Imunisasi Kebangsaan (NIP).

Demikian reaksi Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berhubung sama ada wujud keperluan menjadikan suntikan pelalian bagi virus influenza sebahagian daripada jadual imunisasi kebangsaan yang diberikan secara percuma kepada rakyat.

"Setakat ini tiada perancangan untuk memasukkan (suntikan vaksin bagi virus influenza) dalam program imunisasi kebangsaan," katanya kepada BH, semalam.

Semakan di laman info sihat kendalian KKM menunjukkan lapan jenis suntikan vaksin diperuntukkan kepada rakyat secara percuma dari peringkat bayi hingga mencecah usia 15 tahun.

Antara penyakit yang ditangani menerusi NIP ialah tuberkulosis, difteria, tetanus, pertussis, campak, beguk, rubella, Jepanese encephalitis (hanya di Sa-

rawak) dan human papillomavirus (HPV).

Turut tersenarai, Haemophilus influenza jenis B, iaitu jangkitan bakteria dan berbeza dengan virus influenza yang ketika ini vaksinya tidak diperuntukkan dalam NIP, tetapi KKM menggalakkan orang ramai mengambilnya sekali setahun sama ada di klinik atau hospital swasta.

Pada 15 Januari tahun lalu, Dr Noor Hisham dilaporkan berkata, vaksin influenza di klinik kesihatan kerajaan hanya diberikan kepada pesakit berisiko tinggi dan anggota barisan hadapan KKM.

Sementara itu, Presiden Persatuan Pakar Perubatan Kesihatan Awam Malaysia, Datuk Dr Zainal Ariffin Omar, yang turut senada dengan KKM menjelaskan, masyarakat di negara ini lebih memerlukan vaksin bagi penyakit lain, berbanding virus influenza.

"Sekarang ini pneumokokal lebih berbahaya, khususnya kepada kanak-kanak, justeru lebih baik peruntukan sedia ada disalurkan untuk vaksin yang sewajarnya berbanding virus influenza.

"Menerusi Belanjawan 2020, kerajaan sudah menyediakan peruntukan bagi vaksin pneumokokal membabitkan dana permodalan bernilai RM60 juta untuk

dimanfaatkan 500,000 bayi.

"Jika diteliti, virus influenza lebih banyak merekodkan insiden di negara Barat dan beriklim sejuk seperti Eropah, jika dibandingkan dengan Malaysia.

"Selain itu, vaksin bagi virus influenza bertukar banyak kali saban tahun disebabkan mutasi, maka ia bakal mengundang peruntukan kos yang tinggi dan merumitkan," katanya.

Pneumokokal ialah penyakit disebabkan bakteria yang lazimnya membabitkan kanak-kanak dan warga tua hingga mengundang pelbagai jangkitan, termasuk radang paru-paru, meningitis (radang membran yang mengelilingi saraf tunjang atau otak), sepsis (jangkitan dalam darah), sinusitis (jangkitan pada sinus) dan otitis media (jangkitan telinga tengah).

Pakar Perunding Pediatrik, Datuk Dr Amar Singh HSS, pula berkata kajian awal menunjukkan kadar kemasukan ke hospital kerana COVID-19 adalah kurang dalam kalangan individu yang mengambil suntikan vaksin influenza.

Selain itu, katanya, mereka yang mengambil suntikan vaksin influenza berkemungkinan mempunyai risiko jangkitan COVID-19 lebih rendah kerana patuh kepada prosedur operasi standard (SOP).



Noor Hisham Abdullah

Program gelembung pelancongan MOTAC tunggu kerajaan umum

Kuala Lumpur: Kementerian Pelancongan, Seni dan Budaya (MOTAC), menjelaskan pihaknya tertakluk keputusan Jawatankuasa Khas Pengurusan Pandemik COVID-19 walaupun sebelum itu mengumumkan Melaka, Pulau Tioman dan Genting Highlands akan dibuka melalui gelembung pelancongan domestik mulai esok.

MOTAC dalam kenyataan semalam, berkata jawatankuasa khas dipengerusikan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob itu adalah jawatankuasa tertinggi untuk memutuskan pembukaan sektor ekonomi dan juga sektor bukan ekonomi.

Katanya, sidang jawatankuasa khas pada 22 September lalu memutuskan kerajaan akan membenarkan pembukaan pusat pelancongan, pulau atau kawasan pelancongan berserta aktiviti rentas negeri dengan syarat negara mencapai 90 peratus kadar vaksinasi dewasa berdasarkan data dan analisis dibuat Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM).

"Kerajaan akan membuat pengumuman rasmi sebaik saja mendapat satu tarikh yang berseesuaian. Berdasarkan rekod Jawatankuasa Khas Jaminan Akses Bekalan Vaksin COVID-19 (JKJAV), sehingga semalam sebanyak 85.1 peratus populasi dewasa lengkap divaksinasi," katanya.

Pada 21 September lalu, Menteri Pelancongan, Seni dan Budaya, Datuk Seri Nancy Shukri, pada sidang media di Parlimen berkata Melaka, Pulau Tioman dan Genting Highlands bakal dibuka kepada orang ramai bermula 31 Oktober.

Nancy dilaporkan berkata, perkara itu sudah diluluskan

dalam Mesyuarat kedua Menteri Kuartet COVID-19 pada hari berkenaan dan akan dibawa ke Jawatankuasa Khas Pengurusan Pandemik yang dipengerusikan Ismail Sabri keesokannya sebelum diputuskan.

Pembukaan semula itu akhirnya terpaksa ditangguh berikutan keputusan Jawatankuasa Khas Pengurusan Pandemik COVID-19 yang mahu kadar vaksinasi mencapai 90 peratus terlebih dulu.

Bagaimanapun, ada pihak yang membuat dakwaan penangguhan terbit kononnya berpunca daripada kegagalan gelembung pelancongan Langkawi kerana peningkatan jumlah kes COVID-19 di pulau peranginan terkemuka itu.

Sementara itu, MOTAC berkata, pada masa ini kebenaran rentas negeri untuk aktiviti pelancongan hanya dibenarkan melalui gelembung pelancongan Langkawi mengikut prosedur operasi standard (SOP) yang ditetapkan.

Katanya, bagi pelancon domestik pula, mereka dibenarkan melakukan aktiviti pelancongan dalam negeri yang sama bagi negeri berada dalam Fasa Dua Pelan Pemulihan Negara (PPN).

Di Kuantan, penggiat sektor pelancongan di Pulau Tioman kecewa apabila gelembung pelancongan di pulau peranginan itu yang dilaporkan bakal dibuka mulai esok ditangguhkan selepas mereka mula menerima tempahan.

Pemilik Tioman Santai Resort di Kampung Juara, Razib Ali Awang, berkata dia agak kecewa apabila Tourism Pahang kelmarin mengumumkan penangguhan berkenaan tanpa sebarang alasan.

Kes jangkitan baharu masih di bawah angka 13,000

Putrajaya: Kes baharu jangkitan COVID-19 di negara ini merekodkan angka di bawah 13,000 dengan 12,434 kes dilaporkan semalam.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata daripada jumlah kes yang dilaporkan itu sebanyak 11,591 kes membabitkan penularan tempatan atau 93.3 peratus warganegara, manakala 835 kes

atau 6.5 peratus bukan warga-negara.

"Lapan kes import pula membabitkan rakyat negara ini. Daripada 12,434 kes harian yang dilaporkan, sebanyak 207 kes atau 1.7 peratus kategori tiga, empat dan lima.

"Sejumlah 12,227 kes atau 98.3 peratus pula kategori satu dan dua," katanya dalam kenyataan media, semalam.

Beliau berkata, Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) melaporkan 17,000 kes sembuh menjadikan jumlah kes pulih sepenuhnya daripada COVID-19 sebanyak 2,037,099 kes setakat ini atau 91.2 peratus daripada keseluruhan kes jangkitan direkodkan di negara ini.

Katanya, pihaknya turut mengesan 15 kluster baharu jangkitan membabitkan sembilan kluster

tempat kerja dan enam kluster komuniti, menjadikan jumlah kluster direkodkan setakat ini sebanyak 5,462 kluster.

Terdahulu, Dr Noor Hisham dalam satu perkongsian melalui media sosial, berkata Sarawak masih merekodkan negeri tertinggi dengan 2,967 kes COVID-19, diikuti Selangor (1,362).

Katanya, turut mencatatkan

kes empat angka semalam ialah Johor dengan 1,289 kes, Kelantan (1,125) dan Sabah (1,000).

"Negeri lain yang turut mencatatkan pertambahan kes ialah Perak (971), Pulau Pinang (863), Pahang (663); Kedah (652), Terengganu (612) dan Melaka (375).

"Selain itu, Kuala Lumpur (284), Negeri Sembilan (169), Perlis (79), Putrajaya (18) dan hanya lima kes di Labuan," katanya.

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

Bapa tewas 14 hari bertarung Covid-19

Alor Setar: Lima beradik kini yatim piatu selepas bapa mereka meninggal dunia akibat dijangkiti Covid-19 pada 17 September lalu.

Terdahulu, ibu mereka, Irwana Ismail meninggal dunia tiga tahun lalu akibat darah tinggi.

"Lima anak saudara saya ini berusia 12 hingga 22 tahun. Kematian bapa mereka akibat virus itu menyebabkan kami lebih berhati-hati," kata bapa saudara mereka, Mohd Yasin Ismail, 32.

Menurut Mohd Yasin, abang iparnya, Rosly Abdul Hamid, 46, meninggal dunia selepas 14 hari dijangkiti Covid-19 dari tempat kerjanya dan mendapat rawatan di Hospital Sultanah Bahiyah (HSB).

Katanya, arwah dan anak-anaknya itu tinggal di Flat Seberang Terus di Merong.

"Abang ipar awalnya mengadu sesak nafas pada 5 September lalu sebelum anaknya menghubungi saya untuk memaklumkan perkara berkenaan.

"Saya terus menghubungi ambulans sebelum abang ipar dibawa ke HSB. Ketika itu kami tidak tahu dia sudah dijangkiti Covid-19 dan hanya mengetahuinya sebaik dia dirawat kerana tahap oksigennya semakin menurun," katanya dihubungi semalam.

Menurut Mohd Yasin, disebabkan itu, tiga daripada lima anak saudaranya dikuarantin di rumah mereka manakala yang bongsu, Rizaudil Hakimi Sofwan, tinggal bersama dan tidak perlu dikuarantin.

Katanya, anak sulung arwah ketika itu bekerja di tempat lain namun dia bersyukur kerana semua anak saudaranya disahkan negatif Covid-19.

"Abang ipar bekerja di Pa-



AYU Faradina dan adiknya, Rizaudil Hakimi Sofwan menunjukkan gambar bapa mereka, Rosly yang meninggal dunia akibat Covid-19.

sar Borong Alor Setar dan berkemungkinan jangkitan itu berlaku di tempat kerjanya.

"Sebelum ini, dia sudah tiga kali menjalani ujian cailitan di klinik swasta tetapi keputusannya negatif.

"Malah, sebelum dimasukkan ke hospital, arwah menganggap mungkin dia negatif Covid-19. Sepanjang sembilan hari dirawat, virus itu turut menyerang buah pinggang dan jantungnya," katanya.

Mohd Yasin berkata, pihak hospital sempat membuat panggilan video untuk

anak-anaknya melihat keadaan bapa mereka.

Bagaimanapun, ketika itu, Rosly sudah tidak sedarkan diri malah menggunakan alat bantuan pernafasan.

Katanya, arwah disahkan meninggal dunia jam 7.50 malam di HSB namun keluarga mereka reda dengan ketentuan Ilahi.

"Sebenarnya, arwah abang ipar sudah tidak sabar untuk menerima suntikan dos pertama vaksin yang sepatutnya pada 19 September lalu namun Allah SWT lebih menyayanginya.



Saya terus menghubungi ambulans sebelum abang ipar dibawa ke HSB. Ketika itu kami tidak tahu dia sudah dijangkiti Covid-19 dan hanya mengetahuinya sebaik dia dirawat kerana tahap oksigennya semakin menurun"

Mohd Yasin

"Saya bersyukur kerana sempat bertemu dengannya beberapa hari sebelum dia dimasukkan ke hospital.

"Ketika itu, abang ipar sudah menunjukkan perubahan apabila dia menyerahkan MyKid anak bongsunya seakan tahu akan pergi buat selamanya," katanya.

Menurutnya, jenazah dikuburkan di Tanah Perkuburan Islam Tongkang Yard di sini, 18 September lalu.

"Apabila kejadian ini menimpa keluarga sendiri, saya dan ahli keluarga lain semakin berhati-hati. Kami tahu penularan jangkitan boleh berlaku di mana-mana.

"Saya harap orang ramai terus patuh dengan prosedur operasi standard (SOP) dengan memakai pelitup muka dan elak berada di tempat sesak kerana kita tidak tahu siapa pembawa virus itu," katanya.

Mohd Yasin berkata, dia kini mengambil alih tugas menjaga dua anak saudaranya, Rizaudil Hakimi Sofwan dan kakaknya, Ayu Faradina Rosly, 15, manakala tiga beradik yang lain tinggal berasingan.

Meningkat kepada 12,434 kes semalam

Kuala Lumpur: Jumlah kes harian Covid-19 meningkat kepada 12,434 kes semalam berbanding 11,332 yang dilaporkan kelmarin, menjadikan jumlah kumulatif adalah 2,232,960 kes.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, daripada kes yang dilaporkan itu, 207 kes (1.7 peratus) adalah kategori 3, 4, dan 5 manakala 12,227 kes (98.3 peratus) lagi adalah terdiri daripada kategori 1 dan 2.

"Sarawak kekal menjadi negeri yang mencatatkan kes tertinggi dengan 2,967 kes diikuti Selangor (1,362 kes), Johor (1,289 kes), Kelantan (1,125 kes) dan Sabah merekodkan 1,000 kes.

"Pulau Pinang mencatatkan 863 kes manakala Perak (971 kes), Pahang (663 kes), Kedah (652 kes) dan Tereng-

ganu merekodkan 612 kes.

"Selain itu Melaka merekodkan 375 kes baharu, Kuala Lumpur (284 kes), Perlis (79 kes), Putrajaya (18 kes) dan Labuan mencatatkan lima kes," katanya.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, sebanyak 17,000 kes dilaporkan sembuh semalam menjadikan jumlah kes sembuh ialah 2,037,099 (91.2 peratus).

"Daripada jumlah yang dilaporkan positif, 979 kes memerlukan rawatan di Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU) yang mana 871 kes adalah kes Covid-19 dan 108 adalah kes dalam siasatan.

"Daripada jumlah itu juga sebanyak 565 kes dilaporkan memerlukan bantuan pernafasan dengan 378 kes ada Covid-19 dan 187 adalah kes disyaki dan dalam siasatan," katanya.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO
 MUKA SURAT : 8
 RUANGAN : COVID-19

Kuantan

Walaupun berada di sebalik tembok besi, penghuni Penjara Penor, di sini, bersyukur kerana tidak dilupakan dalam pemberian suntikan vaksin Covid-19 sebagai perlindungan diri daripada wabak berbahaya itu.

Bantuan yang dikenali sebagai Tan, 30, mengakui sering tertanya-tanya bilakah dia akan menerima suntikan itu kerana banyak mengetahui mengenai Covid-19 menerusi media massa sebelum dipenjarakan pada Februari lalu.

"Ketika perbualan telefon dengan orang tua sebelum ini, mereka ada bertanyakan tentang vaksin di penjara. Jika berpeluang bercakap lagi, saya hendak beritahu saya sudah divaksin...sekarang-kurangnya mereka akan berasa lega," katanya.

Anak jati Kuala Lumpur

Lawan Covid-19 di penjara

90 peratus daripada 1,823 banduan di Penjara Penor lengkap vaksinasi

yang sedang menjalani hukuman penjara selama dua tahun kerana melanggar perintah pengawasan polis itu, ditemui selepas menerima suntikan kedua dos vaksin Sinovac di penjara itu pada Selasa lalu.

Sementara itu, Aizi, 29, dari Maran yang menjalani hukuman penjara lima tahun dari 2019 kerana kesalahan dadah berkata, dia tidak melepaskan peluang mendapatkan vaksin kerana bimbang sama ada masih berpeluang mendapatkan suntikan secara percuma apabila dibebaskan kelak.

"Walaupun berada dalam penjara, kami dimaklumkan mengenai kepentingan dan

kebaikan mengambil vaksin. Saya tahu ia penting untuk beri kami perlindungan diri dan sejak itu saya menantikan panggilan untuk mendapatkan vaksin," katanya.

Bagi Nanthan, 32, yang menjalani hukuman penjara enam tahun kerana kesalahan menyamun sejak pertengahan tahun lalu mengakui agak bimbang untuk mendaftarkan diri sebagai penerima vaksin di aplikasi MySejahtera, namun kini boleh menarik nafas lega se-

lepas menerima suntikan vaksin.

Sementara itu, Pengarah Penjara Penor Fayrouz Ahmad Zawawi berkata, penjara berkenaan sudah mencapai imuniti kelompok kelmarin, apabila lebih 90 peratus daripada 1,823 banduan termasuk warga asing lengkap vaksinasi.

Katanya, daripada jumlah itu, seramai 408 penghuni menerima vaksin CanSino manakala selebihnya menerima vaksin Sinovac dengan pemberian dos pertama pada 6

dan 7 September lalu, diikuti dos kedua pada Isnin dan Selasa lalu.

Pemberian vaksin dikendalikan 25 petugas kesihatan yang berada di penjara selama lapan jam bermula jam 9 pagi, di bengkel tenun yang dijadikan pusat pemberian vaksin (PPV) Penjara Penor dengan tujuh stesen vaksinasi di bawah pengawasan dan bantuan kakitangan penjara.

"Penghuni yang divaksin juga diberikan kad vaksinasi Covid-19 yang disimpan pihak penjara dan akan diserahkan kepada mereka semasa dibebaskan kelak.

"Selain sebagai dokumen perakuan sudah menerima

vaksin, ia juga membantu mereka yang hanya menerima satu dos di sini untuk mendapatkan dos kedua di luar," katanya.

Fayrouz berkata, pemberian vaksin di dalam penjara membantu mengurangkan penularan wabak itu, ditambah pula dengan langkah pencegahan oleh pihak penjara termasuk tindakan meletakkan penghuni baharu diterima di pusat transit penerimaan banduan selama 14 hari bagi pemerhatian.

Selepas disahkan negatif, banduan terbabit sekali lagi dikuarantin selama enam hari dalam penjara sebelum dipindahkan ke blok kediaman masing-masing. - Bernama

"
 Saya tahu ia penting untuk beri kami perlindungan diri
 Aizi

Teruja terima suntikan



PELAJAR menunggu giliran untuk menjalani suntikan vaksin Covid-19 pada Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan (Pick) Remaja di Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Pengkalan Berangan, Marang, semalam. Seramai 1,470 pelajar daripada empat sekolah menerima dos pertama vaksin jenis Pfizer-BioNTech sebagai persediaan pembukaan sesi persekolahan pada Oktober ini. - Gambar NSTP/GHAZALI KORI

85.1 peratus daripada populasi dewasa sudah lengkap divaksin

Kuala Lumpur: Seramai 19,912,566 individu atau 85.1 peratus daripada populasi dewasa di negara ini sudah lengkap menerima suntikan vaksin Covid-19 setakat kelmarin. Berdasarkan perincian yang dikongsi menerusi portal COVIDNOW semalam, Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) memaklumkan sebanyak 94 peratus atau 21,993,709 individu daripada populasi dewasa sudah menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos suntikan vaksin.

Selain itu, seramai 33,050 atau 1.1 peratus daripada populasi remaja berusia 12 hingga 17 tahun melengkapkan suntikan vaksin setakat kelmarin.

Bagi kedua-dua populasi, sebanyak 329,722 dos suntikan vaksin turut diberikan semalam, membabitkan 168,734 dos pertama dan

160,998 dos kedua menandakan jumlah keseluruhan pemberian dos vaksin sebanyak 43,028,919 menerusi Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan (Pick).

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

Sementara itu, sebanyak 240 kes kematian akibat Covid-19 dicatatkan setakat jam 11.59 malam kelmarin, menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kematian kini adalah 25,935.

Daripada jumlah itu, sebanyak 89 adalah kes kematian harian sebenar selama tujuh hari, manakala selebihnya adalah kes kematian tertunggak atau 'backlog'.

Bagaimanapun, angka itu boleh berubah sekiranya terdapat kes kematian yang dikemas kini. - Bernama

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 10

RUANGAN : COVID-19

Kematian 2 pelajar tiada kaitan vaksin

Ipoh: Polis menafikan kematian dua pelajar Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan (SMK) Tasek Damai, di sini, adalah disebabkan vaksin sebagaimana didakwa menerusi rakaman video tular.

Ketua Polis Perak, Datuk Mior Faridalathrash Wahid berkata, sebaliknya kematian dua pelajar itu, masing-masing disebabkan oleh Covid-19 dan sakit jantung.

Katanya, kematian pertama direkodkan pada 18 Julai lalu membabitkan seorang pelajar perempuan sekolah itu yang disahkan positif Covid-19 dan pada masa turut menghidap kencing manis serta darah tinggi tahap kronik selain dua bulan berada dalam keadaan kritikal di Hospital Raja Permaisuri Bainun (HRPB) Ipoh.

Beliau berkata, kematian kedua direkodkan pada 17 September lalu membabitkan seorang pelajar lelaki yang meninggal dunia disebabkan sakit jantung.

"Maklumat disahkan tidak benar dan mengelirukan. Memang ada dua pelajar (SMK) Tasek Damai yang meninggal dunia, tetapi bukan disebabkan oleh vaksin.

"Kedua-dua kejadian tiada

kena-mena dengan vaksin (memandangkan) program vaksinasi Pick-R (Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan Remaja) bermula pada 20 September lalu," katanya.

Katanya, polis akan memanggil individu yang dipaparkan dalam video berkenaan bagi membantu siasatan memandangkan dakwaan tidak benar itu dilihat bakal menimbulkan kekusaran awam.

"Ya, PDRM (Polis Diraja Malaysia) akan siasat," katanya.

Terdahulu, terdapat keratan video berdurasi satu minit 38 saat ditularkan, memaparkan seorang wanita dilihat sedang berucap kepada sekumpulan individu sebagai tanda bersolidariti untuk menuntut hak pelajar sekolah tidak diwajibkan mengambil vaksin imunisasi Covid-19.

Dalam ucapannya, wanita itu mendakwa berlaku dua kes kematian pelajar SMK Tasek Damai yang disebabkan oleh vaksin Covid-19, selain dua lagi pelajar di lokasi berlainan termasuk di Lahad Datu, Sabah serta dua lagi remaja di Ipoh yang mengalami alahan serius selepas divaksin.

RINGKAS

Usah timbul kebimbangan awam

Kuala Lumpur: Semua pihak diminta bertenang dan tidak menimbulkan kebimbangan awam susulan rakaman video tular mendakwa beberapa individu meninggal dunia selepas menerima vaksin Covid-19.

Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali menerusi ciapan di Twitter rasminya semalam memaklumkan, Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) meneliti perkara berkenaan dan akan memberikan maklum balas dalam masa terdekat.

"Pihak KKM mengambil maklum akan video tular di media sosial berkenaan dakwaan kesan sampingan susulan pemberian vaksin melalui program vaksinasi remaja.

Pihak KKM memandang serius perkara ini dan pihak KKM juga sedang mendapatkan fakta terperinci bagi setiap isu yang dibangkitkan di dalam video tersebut," katanya. - Bernama

JKNS nafi kematian remaja akibat vaksin

Kota Kinabalu: Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Sabah (JKNS) menafikan dakwaan mengenai kematian seorang remaja akibat vaksin di Lahad Datu yang tular di media sosial, baru-baru ini.

Pengarah JKNS Dr Rose Nani Mudin dalam kenyataan dikeluarkan semalam berkata, pihaknya memandang serius aduan orang ramai mengenai mesej palsu dalam rakaman video itu.

"Adalah dimaklumkan bahawa dakwaan berkenaan tidak benar kerana JKNS dan Pejabat Kesihatan Lahad Datu menafikan berlaku kematian seperti yang didakwa serta pihak kami juga telah membuat laporan polis terhadap dakwaan tersebut.

"Perbuatan individu ini boleh menimbulkan perasaan panik dan kebimbangan orang ramai terutama ibu bapa dan remaja yang bakal menerima suntikan vaksin.

"JKNS meminta orang ramai khususnya ibu bapa supaya tidak mudah terpengaruh dengan sebarang maklumat yang tidak benar mengenai vaksin," katanya dalam satu kenyataan.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 8

RUANGAN : VAKSIN UNTUK RAKYAT

Lembah Klang, Melaka dan Kedah beralih fasa

Berkuat kuasa 1 Oktober ini setelah mengambil kira penilaian risiko semasa oleh KKM dan MKN

Oleh MUHAMMAD YUSAINY MOHAMAD YUNUS

SHAH ALAM

Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Khas Pengurusan Pandemik pada Rabu bersejajar membenarkan peralihan fasa bagi tiga negeri dan kelonggaran prosedur operasi standard (SOP) kepada beberapa sektor berkuat kuasa 1 Oktober ini.

Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob berkata, Lembah Klang (Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya dan Selangor) dan Melaka beralih dari Fasa 2 ke Fasa 3, manakala Kedah pula beralih ke Fasa 2 Pelan Pemulihan Negara (PPN).

Beliau berkata, peralihan fasa itu dibuat setelah mengambil kira penilaian risiko semasa oleh Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) dan Majlis Keselamatan Negara (MKN).

"Berdasarkan keputusan jawatankuasa yang membenarkan peralihan dari Fasa 1 ke Fasa 2 bagi negeri Kedah, ia bermakna tiada lagi negeri

berada di Fasa 1 di seluruh negara.

"SOP bagi negeri-negeri yang memasuki Fasa 2, 3 dan 4 adalah sama dengan sebelum ini. Keterangan SOP terkini akan dikemas kini oleh MKN di laman sesawang www.mkn.gov.my," katanya dalam kenyataan pada Rabu.

Sementara itu, Ismail Sabri berkata, penganjuran majlis rasmi kerajaan dan swasta termasuk majlis perasmian serta bengkel dibenarkan di negeri Fasa 2 dan 3.

Bagaimanapun, katanya, ia perlu mematuhi syarat iaitu tetamu sudah menerima vaksinasi lengkap dengan kapasiti dibenarkan sebanyak 50 peratus ruang premis untuk Fasa 2 dan 3, manakala kapasiti penuh seratus peratus bagi Fasa 4.

Ujar beliau, bagi individu yang belum menerima vaksin, perlu menjalani *pre-event test* menggunakan kit ujian sendiri (saliva) sebelum hadir dengan disaksikan oleh penganjur atau pengesahan daripada pengamal perubatan.

Beliau berkata, sektor latihan kemahiran dan pusat latihan industri termasuk kolej vokasional, Pendidikan Teknikal dan Latihan Vokasional (TVET) dibuka di semua fasa dengan mematuhi SOP selaras dengan pem-



ISMAIL SABRI

bukaan institut pengajian tinggi (IPT) berkuat kuasa pada 15 Oktober ini.

"Selain itu, kehadiran penyokong ke tempat perlawanan sukan dan rekreasi di negeri Fasa 2, 3 dan 4 juga dibenarkan.

"Kehadiran ini meliputi sebelum, semasa dan selepas acara sukan serta rekreasi dengan syarat penonton telah menerima vaksinasi lengkap, memakai pelitup muka sepanjang perlawanan serta tiada aktiviti makan minum sepanjang berada di stadium," ujar beliau.

Dalam pada itu, Ismail Sabri berkata, Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan (PICK) merekodkan kadar 85.1 peratus populasi dewasa lengkap divaksin pada Selasa.

"Seperti yang telah saya umumkan pada 22 September lalu, kerajaan akan membenarkan pergerakan rentas negeri apabila kadar vaksinasi lengkap populasi dewasa mencapai 90 peratus.

"Kerajaan juga akan mempertimbang lebih banyak sektor ekonomi untuk kembali beroperasi seperti biasa bagi membolehkan rakyat meneruskan kehidupan dengan lebih baik setelah ia ditutup sejak sekian lama," katanya.

>>> UNTUK MAKLUMAT LANJUT MENGENAI FASA PPN, SILA LAYARI SINAR HARIAN ONLINE

12,434 kes baharu, 17,000 sembuh Covid-19

PUTRAJAYA - Kes positif Covid-19 terus meningkat apabila 12,434 kes baharu dilaporkan setakat jam 12.30 tengah hari Rabu.



DR NOOR HISHAM

Kebanyakan negeri merekodkan peningkatan kes dengan Sarawak kekal melapor angka tertinggi iaitu 2,967 kes diikuti Selangor (1,362), Johor (1,289), Kelantan (1,125) dan Sabah (1,000).

Negeri yang mencatatkan jangkitan tiga angka ialah Perak (971), Pulau Pinang (863), Pahang (663), Kedah (652), Terengganu (612), Melaka (375) dan Negeri Sembilan (169), manakala Perlis (79), Putrajaya (18) dan Labuan (lima).

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah dalam kenyataan berkata, daripada jumlah itu, terdapat 207 kes adalah kategori tiga hingga lima.

"Sebanyak 12,227 kes lagi adalah terdiri daripada kategori satu dan dua," katanya.

Menurutnya, jumlah kumulatif kes positif Covid-19 adalah 2,232,960 kes.

"Kes yang memerlukan rawatan di unit rawatan rapi (ICU) adalah 979 dan seramai 565 pesakit memerlukan bantuan pernafasan," katanya.

Beliau berkata, sebanyak 17,000 kes sembuh dilaporkan menjadikan jumlah keseluruhannya 2,037,099 kes.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, terdapat 15 kluster Covid-19 dikenal pasti membabitkan sembilan kluster tempat kerja dan enam kluster komuniti.

"Jumlah keseluruhan kluster adalah 5,462 dan 4,338 daripadanya telah diisytiharkan tamat manakala 1,124 masih aktif," katanya.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN
 MUKA SURAT : 10
 RUANGAN : VAKSIN UNTUK RAKYAT

Kematian dua pelajar tiada kaitan vaksinasi

Kematian membabitkan seorang pelajar perempuan dan lelaki masing-masing berusia 17 tahun adalah disebabkan penyakit lain

Oleh TUAN BUQHAIRAH
 TUAN MUHAMAD ADNAN

PUTRAJAYA

Kematian dua pelajar Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan (SMK) Tasek Damai, Ipoh, Perak tiada kaitan dengan vaksinasi Covid-19 sebagaimana yang ditularkan di media sosial.

Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan I, Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali berkata, kematian membabitkan seorang pelajar perempuan dan lelaki masing-masing berusia 17 tahun adalah disebabkan penyakit lain.

"Bagi pelajar perempuan, dia adalah seorang pesakit yang mempunyai penyakit kencing manis jenis satu yang bergantung kepada rawatan insulin," katanya dalam kenyataan pada Rabu.

Beliau berkata, pelajar perempuan tersebut telah

dijangkiti Covid-19 dan meninggal dunia pada 18 Ogos lalu sebelum Program Vaksinasi PICK Remaja bermula.

"Bagi pelajar lelaki pula, dia menghidap penyakit jantung kongenital," jelasnya.

Menurutnya, pelajar berkenaan telah dibawa ke unit kecemasan hospital akibat jangkitan kuman yang teruk.

"Bantuan pernafasan dan resusitasi telah diberikan, namun pelajar itu meninggal dunia pada 17 September lalu," katanya.

Dr Noor Azmi yang juga Pengerusi Badan Bertindak Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan Remaja (CITF-A) berkata, kedua-dua pelajar itu bagaimanapun belum menerima vaksin Covid-19.

"Punca kematian ialah 'Sepsis with Underlying Congenital Health Disease,' jelas beliau.

Sementara itu, mengulas mengenai dua lagi pelajar berusia 16 dan 18 tahun yang juga adik beradik, beliau berkata, kedua-duanya dimasukkan ke sebuah hospital swasta di Ipoh selepas mengalami kesan sampingan vaksin Comirnaty.

"Remaja berusia 16 tahun telah dibenarkan keluar dari hospital,



DR NOOR AZMI

manakala remaja berusia 18 tahun masih dalam rawatan dan pemerhatian doktor pakar di hospital tersebut," katanya.

Beliau berkata, semakan oleh Agensi Regulatori Farmasi Negara (NPRA) bagaimanapun mendapati laporan kesan sampingan kedua-dua beradik itu masih belum diterima.

Dr Noor Azmi turut menasihatkan semua pihak yang ingin membuat kenyataan umum agar bersedia untuk bertanggungjawab ke atas kesan dan implikasi daripada tindakan itu.

"Kenyataan salah akan menyebabkan kekeliruan dan salah tanggapan ibu bapa terhadap PiCK-Remaja," katanya.

Sebelum ini, sebuah video berdurasi satu minit 42 saat tular di media sosial memaparkan seorang wanita mendakwa beberapa pelajar mengalami kesan sampingan susulan imunisasi (AEFI).

Wanita berkenaan turut mendakwa, dua pelajar di Ipoh, Perak dan seorang remaja di Lahad Datu, Sabah meninggal dunia selepas menerima vaksin Covid-19.

Pada Rabu, Ketua Polis Perak, Datuk Mior Faridalathrash Wahid ketika dihubungi *Sinar Harian* memaklumkan polis akan menjalankan siasatan lanjut berhubung dakwaan tersebut termasuk memanggil individu yang terlibat dalam rakaman video terbabit.

JKNS nafi dakwaan kematian remaja di Lahad Datu akibat vaksin

KOTA KINABALU - Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Sabah (JKNS) menafikan dakwaan mesej palsu rakaman video yang tular di media sosial berlaku kematian membabitkan seorang remaja akibat suntikan vaksin di Lahad Datu.

Pengarah Kesihatan Sabah, Dr Rose Nani Mudin berkata, JKNS memandang serius berkaitan aduan orang ramai berhubung mesej berkenaan.

"Dimaklumkan bahawa dakwaan tersebut adalah tidak benar kerana JKNS dan Pejabat Kesihatan Kawasan Lahad Datu menafikan berlaku kematian seperti yang didakwa. Pihak JKNS telah membuat laporan polis terhadap dakwaan itu.

"Perbuatan individu ini boleh menimbulkan perasaan panik dan kebingungan orang ramai terutamanya ibu bapa dan remaja yang bakal menerima suntikan vaksin," katanya dalam kenyataan pada Rabu.

Schubungan itu, Ros Nani berkata, JKNS menyeru kepada orang ramai khususnya ibu dan bapa supaya tidak mudah terpengaruh dengan sebarang maklumat yang tidak benar mengenai vaksin.

"Vaksin mampu mencegah jangkitan Covid-19 dan kematian akibatnya.

"JKNS menyeru ibu dan bapa atau penjaga segera untuk mendaftarkan remaja di bawah jagaan masing-masing menerusi MySejahtera dan mendapatkan vaksin segera bagi melindungi diri mereka dan keluarga," katanya.

Pemberian vaksin kepada remaja selari dengan perkembangan luar negara

SHAH ALAM - Peningkatan pemberian vaksin Covid-19 kepada remaja di Malaysia adalah selari dengan perkembangan di luar negara yang sudah memulakan langkah tersebut.

Pakar Perubatan Kesihatan Awam Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM), Profesor Madya Dr Mohd Dzulkhairi Mohd Rani berkata, tindakan tersebut merupakan salah satu langkah sebagai persediaan mereka kembali meneruskan pembelajaran secara bersemuka di sekolah.

"Negara-negara maju di luar sana juga sudah banyak yang memberikan vaksin Covid-19 kepada golongan remaja.

"Kebanyakan mereka sudah boleh meneruskan sesi persekolahan secara bersemuka dengan prosedur operasi standard (SOP) tertentu.

"Sekiranya hendak mencapai tahap liputan vaksin yang tinggi, memang kita pun perlu memasukkan golongan remaja ini dalam pengiraan capaian vaksin, seterusnya menurunkan kadar jangkitan yang teruk dan kadar kematian ke hospital serta unit rawatan rapi (ICU)," jelas beliau.

Sementara itu, Pakar Kesihatan Awam daripada Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Profesor Dr Sharifa Ezat Wan Puteh berkata, kesan sampingan vaksin kepada remaja yang sudah divaksin setakat ini adalah rendah jika dibandingkan secara umum.

"Untuk kesan sampingan seperti miocarditis atau jantung



DR MOHD DZULKHAIRI



DR SHARIFA EZAT

selepas vaksin walaupun ada risiko, tetapi sangat rendah, manakala risiko dijangkiti Covid-19 dan kesannya pada paru-paru serta jantung lebih berbahaya.

"Jadi, jangan takut untuk menerima vaksin sebab kadar sampingan adalah rendah berbanding dengan kemungkinan dijangkiti Covid-19 yang tentunya lebih bahaya.

"Saya setuju vaksin diberikan kepada golongan remaja,



Peningkatan pemberian vaksin Covid-19 kepada remaja di Malaysia adalah selari dengan perkembangan di luar negara.



cuma ibu bapa dan pentadbir sekolah perlu faham anak-anak boleh mengalami kesan

sampingan, jadi perlu sentiasa pantau mereka dan segera rujuk kepada doktor," ujarnya.

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

Orang Asli Kuala Masai lega bebas Covid-19

Oleh RAJA JAAFAR ALI
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JOHOR BAHRU: Kira-kira 400 penduduk Orang Asli di Kampung Kuala Masai kini boleh menarik nafas lega apabila mereka disahkan bebas daripada jangkitan Covid-19.

Kini kehidupan mereka kembali normal dengan meneruskan aktiviti laut seperti menangkap ikan dan ternakan kupang.

Tok Batin kampung tersebut, Kilo Baru berkata, kehidupan masyarakat Orang Asli di sini kembali ceria setelah penduduk Orang Asli Seletar yang dijangkiti Covid-19 sudah pulih seperti biasa.

"Saya amat berterima kasih kepada Kementerian Kesihatan, Jabatan Kemajuan Orang Asli dan pelbagai agensi lain yang membantu penduduk di sini ketika ramai yang sakit," katanya kepada *Utusan Malaysia* ketika ditemui semalam.

Pada 26 Ogos lalu perkampungan Orang Asli Kampung Kuala Masai gempar apabila 59 penduduk dimasukkan ke hospital akibat jangkitan Covid-19 termasuk bayi berumur dua bulan dan ditempatkan di Pusat Kuarantin Risiko Covid (PKRC)



SEORANG penduduk Orang Asli memunggah hasil kupang setelah disahkan bebas daripada Covid-19 di di Kampung Kuala Masai dekat Johor Bahru, semalam. - UTUSAN/RAJA JAAFAR ALI

Hospital Permai.

Ekoran itu kira-kira 100 penduduk diarah menjalani kuarentin di rumah masing-masing se-

lama 14 hari.

Kilo Baru berkata, seramai 139 penduduk kampung itu telah pun diberi vaksin Cansino

pada 17 September lalu dan ada antaranya telah selesai dos kedua vaksin Pfizer bulan Ogos lalu.

Covid-19: Pesakit jantung lebih berisiko

PUTRAJAYA: Pesakit jantung perlu mengambil vaksin dan menggunakan teknologi bagi melengkapkan diri dengan pengetahuan kesihatan kerana mereka berisiko tinggi mendapat komplikasi jika dijangkiti Covid-19.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr. Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, selain itu, pesakit mestilah kekal sihat bagi meningkatkan daya ketahanan diri daripada penyakit Covid-19 serta mengamalkan prosedur operasi standard (SOP) dan norma baharu.

Katanya, amalan gaya hidup sihat perlu diutamakan bagi persediaan menghadapi fasa endemik Covid-19, malah teknologi digital diop-timumkan untuk terus berhubung.

"Berdasarkan Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO), lebih daripada 18.6 juta kematian akibat penyakit jantung di seluruh dunia direkodkan pada tahun 2019, selain merupakan penyebab utama kematian di Malaysia yang menyumbang sebanyak 15 peratus daripada 109,164 kematian secara perubatan.

"Perangkaan ini dijangka lebih meruncing terutamanya tatkala seluruh dunia sedang berdepan dengan pandemik Covid-19 yang menyebabkan akses kepada informasi dan rawatan penyakit jantung serta penyakit tidak berjangkit yang lain menjadi lebih sukar," katanya dalam satu kenyataan sempena Hari Jantung Sedunia 2021, semalam.

Dr. Noor Hisham berkata, pendekatan melalui teknologi digital dilihat sangat berpotensi memangkin penyebaran ilmu pengetahuan kesihatan agar masyarakat dapat memantau kesihatan jantung dan memahami risiko-risiko penyakit jantung.

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA

MUKA SURAT : 30

RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI



**HISHAM SUHAILY
OTHMAN**

Positif Covid-19 dari rakan pulang bercuti

LANGKAWI: Ketua Wanita UMNO Bahagian Langkawi, Hisham Suhaily Othman dirawat di Hospital Sultanah Maliha (HSM) di sini selepas disahkan positif Covid-19 sejak semalam.

Turut dilaporkan positif Ketua Puteri UMNO Bahagian Langkawi, Umi Kalsom Abdul Muthalib serta lima Ahli Jawatankuasa Wanita UMNO bahagian itu dan mereka kini menjalani kuarantin sendiri di rumah.

Hisham Suhaily ketika dihubungi mengesahkan perkara tersebut dan memaklumkan beliau dirawat di HSM sejak pagi semalam.

"Pada mulanya saya buat ujian sendiri air liur selepas menjadi kontak rapat kepada beberapa rakan yang disahkan positif Covid-19 selepas pulang melancong dari pulau ini.

"Dua kali buat ujian air liur dan negatif, namun saya disahkan positif menerusi ujian RT-PCR (*Real-Time Reverse Transcription-Polymerase Chain Reaction*) di sebuah klinik swasta pada Jumaat lalu," katanya di sini hari ini.

Beliau yang juga Exco Wanita UMNO Pusat berkata, enam rakannya yang menjalani kuarantin sendiri turut disahkan positif Covid-19 selepas melakukan ujian RT-PCR.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES
 MUKA SURAT : 2
 RUANGAN : NEWS / STORY OF THE DAY

ANTI-VAX CONSEQUENCES

KHAIRY: GOVT MULLING JAB OPT-OUT 'PRICE'

People who refuse vaccine may be barred from premises, activities, Dewan told

NURADZIMMAH DAIM
 AND ARFA YUNUS
 KUALA LUMPUR
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THE government is considering an opt-out option for those who do not wish to receive the Covid-19 vaccine.

Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin said this would mean there was a "price" to pay for refusing vaccination, such as not enjoying some of the facilities and services accorded to fully vaccinated people.

"The ministry is also mulling making vaccination mandatory for certain sectors, such as healthcare, security, education and services.

"This would be done by exercising provisions under the Occupational Safety and Health Act 1994," he said in a written parliamentary reply to a question by Jempol member of parliament Datuk Mohd Salim Sharif in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

Khairy said the government was also considering making vaccination compulsory for people to use facilities at certain places and participate in social activities.

He said this would include eateries, shopping malls, government premises, universities, libraries and sports activities.

Khairy said the cabinet would discuss the issue first.

Khairy said a study in April showed that only five per cent of Malaysians had refused to be vaccinated against Covid-19.

He said while the government has not decided to have mandatory Covid-19 vaccination, legal action could be taken against anyone spreading false information or influencing others against vaccination.

"The government is carrying out various initiatives to encourage reception of the Covid-19 vaccine among the people.

"Among them are privileges for fully vaccinated people to dine at restaurants, pray at mosques, surau and other places of worship, and interstate travel for long-distance married couples.

"The government is also vaccinating people in villages and rural areas through outreach programmes, and conducting house visits for bedridden individuals."

In addition, (other initiatives are) walk-in vaccination, setting up vaccination centres, and on-site vaccination for workplaces with a huge number of workers, he said.

On a separate matter, Khairy said 120,974 compounds had been issued to people flouting the standard operating procedures (SOP) since last year.

A total of RM74.92 million in compounds had been collected with 360 cases taken to court, he said in reply to Fong Kui Lun (PH-Bukit Bintang).

At press time, the ministry's CovidNow portal showed that up to Tuesday, 23,178,045 people, or 71 per cent of the population, have received at least one dose of vaccine. Of this number, 19,945,616 people, or 61.1 per cent, have been fully vaccinated.

Malaysia recorded 12,434 Covid-19 cases up to noon yesterday, an increase from Tuesday's 11,332.

Sarawak remained the state with the most cases with 2,967, followed by Selangor with 1,362 and Johor with 1,289.

Intensive care unit bed utilisation was highest in Penang at 93 per cent of 88 beds, followed by Terengganu at 89 per cent of 38 beds and Kelantan at 85 per cent of 89 beds.



Khairy Jamaluddin

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : NATION / NEWS

Ministry debunks claim 3 teens died after vax

KUALA LUMPUR: The Health Ministry has denied claims by a woman in a viral video that three teenagers had died due to being vaccinated against Covid-19, while two others had been taken to hospital in Perak.

Deputy Health Minister I Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali in a statement yesterday said disseminating unverified information was irresponsible.

He said a video circulating on social media had alleged that two students of Sekolah Menengah Tasek Damai in Ipoh and a teenager in Lahad Datu, Sabah, had died after receiving Covid-19 shots.

"Based on our investigations, a 17-year-old female student from SMK Tasek Damai was an insulin-dependent Type 1 diabetes patient. She contracted Covid-19 and died on Aug 18, before the start of the Covid-19 National Immunisation Programme for Adolescents.

"Another student, a 17-year-old male student from the same school, died due to sepsis with underlying congenital health disease. He was taken to the emergency department following a severe bacterial infection. Respiratory assistance and resuscitation were administered, but he died on Sept 17 and did not receive the Covid-19 vaccine.

"The cause of his death was sepsis with underlying congenital health disease."

Dr Noor Azmi said investigations did not find any teenager in Lahad Datu who had died after being vaccinated.

On another case, Dr Noor Azmi said a pair of siblings had been admitted to a private hospital in Ipoh due to severe reactions after

being vaccinated.

"The siblings, who are 16 and 18, suffered side effects from the Comirnaty vaccine.

"The 16-year-old teenager was allowed to go home, while the 18-year-old is still undergoing treatment and observation by a specialist at the hospital."

Dr Noor Azmi, who is the Covid-19 Immunisation Task Force-Adolescent chairman, said the National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency (NPRA) had yet to receive reports on the side effects experienced by the siblings.

"The ministry would like to advise government and private medical practitioners to immediately make a report to the NPRA, should they suspect that their patients are suffering from side effects due to the vaccine."

In a one-minute and 38-second video that went viral, a woman had demanded the right for school students not to be vaccinated against Covid-19, and claimed that two students from SMK Tasek Damai in Perak and a teenager from Lahad Datu had died from Covid-19 vaccines.

She said other teenagers had also suffered Covid-19 vaccination side effects.

Dr Noor Azmi advised parents and guardians to monitor the condition of their children after receiving the Comirnaty vaccine.

"Side effects can happen after vaccination and the side effects are mostly mild. Please bring your child or dependent to a health facility immediately for treatment if they experience symptoms after receiving the vaccine such as chest pain, breathing difficulties, palpitations, swelling and itching."

Kelantan surveys find 27,000 people who refuse vaccination

KOTA BARU: More than 27,000 people in Kelantan have refused to be vaccinated against Covid-19, said state Local Government, Health and Housing Committee chairman Dr Izani Husin.

He said this number was found during surveys by district officers on the state's adult population last month.

He said from the total, 17,000 people cited underlying health problems while 9,000 people did not give their reasons for rejecting inoculation.

"A number of them said they could not take the vaccine due to health reasons, while others, mainly from the anti-vaccine groups, did not state their reason for refusing the vaccine," he said after the state executive council meeting at Darul Naim complex here yesterday.

Dr Izani said the state government, however, could not force people to take the vaccine.

"Even though the vaccine is not mandatory, we have informed the people that without vaccination, they will face a lot of difficulties.

"They will pose a health risk to others. Taking the vaccine is important as it will protect us and our families from being infected."

Dr Izani said up to yesterday, more than one million people in the state have received at least

one dose, while 65,000 have yet to be vaccinated.

"The state government has been told that some 38,000 people are unaccounted for and efforts are under way to locate them.

"Despite all this, we are confident that the state will achieve the vaccination rate of 90 per cent (of the adult population) soon," he added.

In Kota Kinabalu, the Sabah government said awareness campaigns on the importance of vaccination would be continued.

State Community Development and People's Wellbeing Minister Shahelmy Yahya said government organisations were reaching out to people, including in rural areas, to educate them on the importance of getting vaccinated.

He said this in response to recent reports of people rejecting vaccines, including a woman who filed a judicial review to challenge the standard operating procedures.

"I believe their numbers (anti-vaxxers) are not big but it is a matter of concern as their actions may influence others," said Shahelmy, who is also state immunisation operations director.

Sabah Health director Dr Rose Nani said police reports would be lodged against those making false statements on vaccination.



Teenagers waiting to be vaccinated at SMK Pengkalan Berangan in Marang, Terengganu, yesterday. PIC BY GHAZALI KORI

AKHBAR : THE STAR
 MUKA SURAT : 8
 RUANGAN : NATION

'Brace for virus spread among kids'

Expert: Take safety precautions amid reopening of economic sectors

By ALLISON LAI
 allison@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: More refined data about Covid-19 infections and fatality among children is needed to understand how much of it is due to the Delta variant, say health experts.

As more adults get vaccinated and more economic sectors open up, they expect more transmissions among children.

Senior consultant paediatrician Datuk Dr Amar Singh HSS (*pic*) said there had been an upswing of Covid-19 infections in children this year, especially since July.

"As more adults get vaccinated, which results in more of society opening up, we expect spread among children; the next 'Delta wave' will be among children.

"Our curve went up dramatically from July onwards. We need to have a separate data set for monitoring children's infections, hospitalisation, and deaths to enable the public to monitor the severity of the problem in children," he said when contacted.

For children who get infected, Dr Amar said it was expected that at least one in 100 would get hospitalised, and one in 10,000 would die, and one in 10 would suffer from long-Covid symptoms.

He said the death rate could climb if the intensive care unit for children cannot cope with the numbers.

"If we could get monthly data, showing denominators of children infected and numerators of deaths, I suspect we would see that the children mortality rate since July has gone up due to the Delta variant.

"The data is very important to help people make decisions about vaccines because a lot of people are hesitant about vaccinating children," he said, adding that data will show that vaccines are innocuous.

Recently, Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah



said there have been 67 children (infants to those up to 17 years) who died of Covid-19 this year compared to six in 2020.

He said statistics showing an increasing trend of infections in those below 18 years old was worrying, while the sharp rise in deaths among this age group was also of concern.

To keep our children safe, Dr Amar said the vaccination of children aged 12 to 17 returning to school should be promoted.

"We will have to wait for safety data for vaccination in children under 12.

"For all children, we need to improve the school environment before reopening them," he said.

He added that such measures include improving classroom ventilation, putting in place routine weekly RTK-Ag testing at school, making sure children have good

masks, having a system in place to keep children in their class bubbles, and involving parents in decision making in schools.

"All parents should reduce their children's exposure and risk of getting Covid-19.

"Avoid taking children to any indoor public places like supermarkets and malls.

"Any parent who suspects his child is infected should get a test done early and alert authorities to get the appropriate support," he said.

Universiti Malaya professor of occupational and public health Prof Dr Victor Hoe said while schools must be safe to reopen, we cannot wait for all children to be vaccinated before the opening, and there should be other ways of reducing the risk of transmission among children.

"Physical time at the school should focus on things that cannot be taught online like communication and motor skills," he said.

Calling for a limit in the use of air-conditioning that does not

bring in the fresh air into classrooms, he said school operators must ensure good ventilation at all times.

As most transmissions at workplaces happened during mealtime, Dr Hoe said there should be a proper standard operating procedure (SOP) to ensure that there is no crowding at the canteen.

"If all parents and children follow good SOP while they are at home, this will lower the chances of children getting the infection and bringing it to the school," he said.

Malaysian Public Health Physicians' Association president Datuk Dr Zainal Ariffin agreed that the reopening of schools need not wait until all children are vaccinated.

"The opening of school in stages is a good move.

"The important thing is the school community follow the SOP and implement the vaccination programme as fast as possible.

"Parents should be careful when taking their children out by avoiding crowded places," he said.

Misinformation on teen death causes panic

By MUGUNTAN VANAR
 and IVAN LOH
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IPOH: Those who wish to make statements in regard to the vaccination programme for teenagers should verify their information first, says Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali.

The Deputy Health Minister said the act of giving inaccurate information to the community was irresponsible.

"The ministry would like to advise those who wish to make statements in general to be prepared to bear some responsibility for any impact and implications caused by their actions.

"Before issuing any statements to the public, please ensure that all information you wish to share has been verified with the relevant parties," he said in a statement yesterday in response to claims on social media where a woman claimed that several individuals, including a teenager in Lahad Datu, Sabah, and

two secondary students from Ipoh, Perak, died after getting their Covid-19 vaccines.

"The spread of inaccurate information to the community is irresponsible.

"Wrong statements can cause confusion and doubts among parents towards the vaccination programme for teenagers," said Dr Noor Azmi, who added that the ministry had debunked the claims made by the woman.

"A 17-year-old student from SMK Tasek Damai who has diabetes, had Covid-19 and died on Aug 18.

"This was before the start of the vaccination programme for teenagers," Dr Noor Azmi said.

"The other 17-year-old from the school died on Sept 17 due to sepsis with underlying congenital health disease. He, too, had yet to receive his vaccine.

"There were no reported deaths of teenagers after being vaccinated in Lahad Datu," he added.

On the claim that a mother whose two teenage children were experi-

encing adverse events following immunisation (AEFI) in Ipoh, Dr Noor Azmi said both had been given Cominarty (from Pfizer-BioNTech) and were warded in a private hospital.

"The 16-year-old child has been discharged, while the 18-year-old is still under observation.

"The National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency (NPRA) has yet to receive any report on the side effects as faced by the siblings," he said.

"The ministry would like to advise all public and private medical practitioners who suspect patients to be experiencing AEFI to report the cases to NPRA immediately.

"We would also like to advise parents or guardians to monitor the condition of the child under their care after receiving Cominarty," he said, adding that side effects could occur after the vaccination although most were not serious.

"Please bring the child to a health facility for treatment should there be any symptoms like chest pains,

breathing difficulties, palpitations, swellings and adverse itchiness on the body," he added.

A representative from SMK Tasek Damai is believed to have lodged a report over the matter at the Kampong Tasek police station here.

Meanwhile, Sabah Health director Dr Rose Nani Mudin said a police report has been lodged on the video.

"The claims of the individual have created panic and concern among the people, particularly parents and teenagers planning to receive the vaccine," she said on the department's Facebook page yesterday.

"I urged parents not to believe such unfounded claims being circulated on social media," she said, adding that most of the Covid-19 patients needing intensive care were those who were not vaccinated based on the statistics in the state.

"Those needing more information about the vaccines can contact the Sabah Health Department hotline at 019-605 1196," she added.

85.1 per cent of adult population fully vaccinated

KUALA LUMPUR: A total of 19,912,566 people or 85.1% of the adult population have completed their Covid-19 vaccination.

Based on the Health Ministry's data on CovidNow, 94% or 21,993,709 adults have received at least one dose of the vaccine.

It also showed 33,050 people or 1.1% of the adolescents, comprising those aged between 12 and 17, having completed the vaccination.

As of Tuesday, a total of 329,722 doses of the vaccine have been administered with 168,734 doses as first dose and 160,998 doses as second.

This brings the number of doses dispensed under the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme to 43,028,919.

The immunisation programme was launched on Feb 24 this year to curb the spread of the pandemic.

Separately, a total of 240 deaths due to Covid-19 were reported on Tuesday with 71 of them under brought-in-dead (BID) cases, bringing the cumulative deaths to 25,935 people.

Of the fatalities, 89 cases were actual deaths reported for the day while the rest were backlog cases. — Bernama

Figures remain below the 15,000 mark

PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia's Covid-19 figures remained below the 15,000 mark for the eighth day straight with 12,434 new infections.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the country's cumulative total of cases were now 2,232,960.

"Of the 12,434 new cases, 98% of them are either mild or asymptomatic cases.

"Another 207 cases (1.7%) are Category Three, Four and Five cases," he said in his daily Covid-16 statement.

Five states reported four-digit

case increases - Sarawak with 2,967 cases, Selangor (1,362), Johor (1,289), Kelantan (1,125) and Sabah (1,000).

Kuala Lumpur continued reporting low numbers of cases with 284 new infections reported yesterday.

Dr Noor Hisham said 17,000 patients were discharged, making it the 13th consecutive day where recoveries outnumbered new cases.

"The country's cumulative Covid-19 recoveries are now at 2,037,099.

"This is a recovery rate of 91.2%," he said, adding that there were 979 patients in the intensive care units

of which 871 were confirmed Covid-19 cases while the others were suspected.

He said 565 patients are on ventilator support.

Dr Noor Hisham added that as of Tuesday, Malaysia's infectivity rate was at an Rt level of 0.88.

He said only Putrajaya (Rt 1.01) and Terengganu (Rt 1.00) had Rt levels above 1.0.

The Health Ministry had also identified 15 new clusters nationwide bringing the total of active ones to 1,124.

Meanwhile, the Health Ministry's

CovidNow website reported that the country's Covid-19 death cases statistic was still on a decreasing trend.

The average number of deaths in the last seven days - based on the actual date of death - is 89.

This is a decline from early August, when the average was around 300 death cases a day.

The country's active Covid-19 cases have gone down to below 175,000, of which 83% are people with mild or asymptomatic infections and who are undergoing home quarantine.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 16

RUANGAN : NATION

Actor Ashraf's father dies due to Covid-19

ACTOR Ashraf Muslim's father, Muslim Bulat, 67, passed away due to Covid-19 on Tuesday, *Berita Harian* reported.

Muslim was hospitalised for eight days at the Universiti Malaya Medical Centre before losing the battle to the disease.

Ashraf shared the sad news of his father's passing via Instagram and Facebook.

"Today is the saddest day as Dad has left us in a good and peaceful state. As the eldest child, I would like to apologise for all the mistakes my father may have made in the past," he said.

On Sept 20, Ashraf shared that his father was intubated and required ventilation.

> The daily also reported that popular singer Azlan, 39, broke his left leg after suffering a



Final memories: Ashraf taking a picture with his father in his last days. — Courtesy of Instagram

fall in a forest in Semenyih on Monday.

The lead vocalist from Azlan & The Typewriter, whose real name is Nor Azlan Rosle Sallehudin, said the incident happened while he was making his way down a steep hill.

"During the incident, I went down a rather slippery slope because I wanted to head to the river located at the bottom of the hill.

"As it was very slippery, I stumbled and broke my left leg.

"I had to hop slowly while my

friends supported me," he said.

The *Jangan Khianati Aku* singer said it took them almost an hour to reach the top of the hill due to his injuries.

The group struggled and had to make many stops due to fatigue.

"I'm grateful my friends were there to help me, otherwise I would have had to call the rescue workers.

"I was taken to the hospital to do an X-ray scan. The result showed a cracked ankle and a broken bone," he said.

Due to the seriousness of his injuries, Azlan said the doctor recommended him to undergo surgery.

"The doctor advised me to insert an implant on the injured area.

"But I still have to wait for the doctor's decision after a follow-up," said Azlan, who updated his condition on Instagram.

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

Sabah allows inter-district travel

KOTA KINABALU: The Sabah government has agreed to allow inter-district travel according to zones from tomorrow.

State Local Government and Housing Minister Datuk Masidi Manjun said this was subject to requirements such as the state's adult population achieving 60% vaccination and districts within each zone must also achieve the same rate for their adult population.

"Any district that has yet to achieve the 60% rate will automatically not be part of the zoning system, and will remain under the 'stand alone district' status," he said in statement on Tuesday.

Masidi added that a total of 2,264,603 of Sabah's population had received their first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine, that involved 2,027,449 of the adult population, with 1,750,540 being fully vaccinated, including 1,750,346 adults.

Masidi said the state government would also allow several businesses to reopen tomorrow, such as spas, beauty salons, reflexology and wellness centres, Bernama reported.

Health massage as well as manicure and pedicure services will also start operations tomorrow.

Other businesses allowed to reopen from tomorrow are tourism and recreational activities such as zoos, edutainment centres and jungle parks.

Masidi said premises owners must ensure that visitors have a low-risk Covid-19 status and that they are fully vaccinated by showing their MySejahtera app before being allowed to enter.

For individuals without the MySejahtera app, they need to show their vaccination or vaccine reminder cards, he said.

Meanwhile, Masidi said a total of 965 new cases were recorded yesterday, bringing the total number of infections in the state to 195,990.

A total of 38 fatalities were also recorded on Tuesday.

He added that 1,367 recoveries were recorded on Tuesday, bringing the total number of recovered cases in the state to 176,090.

Back-to-school stress may affect some pupils

» Teachers need to take soft approach during first few weeks to boost enthusiasm levels and relieve anxiety, say experts

KUALA LUMPUR: With schools set to reopen in stages starting Oct 3, many children might be feeling excited at the thought of meeting their classmates.

But not all children are eager to return to school due to various reasons such as fear of Covid-19 infection or feeling nervous about

interacting with friends and teachers.

Some children might also be afraid that their teachers would question them on their home-based teaching and learning attendance record and be scolded for not completing their schoolwork.

Some experts have suggested

that teachers take the soft approach in the first few weeks after schools reopen during face-to-face teaching and learning sessions.

They said a more relaxed classroom atmosphere would be necessary to boost students' enthusiasm levels and relieve any stress or anxiety they might be feeling, considering that they were away from school for over a year.

Child psychologist Dr Noor Aishah Rosli told Bernama teachers should consider organising leisure activities, sporting events and games for their students to participate in, with strict adherence

to standard operating procedures.

"I think in the first one or two weeks (after schools reopen), formal teaching sessions should take a back seat and teachers should focus on reviving the school mood and stimulating the children's social and communication skills," said Noor Aishah, who is also Universiti Malaya education psychology and counselling department senior lecturer.

An Education Ministry online study on home-based teaching and learning, carried out between March and July last year, showed that urban student involvement was 59.3% compared to 51.4% for rural students.

The study also showed that 51.2% of students felt stressed while learning at home, 48.9% said they were stressed due to limited interaction with teachers, 55% due to limited interaction with friends and 53.4% due to lack of guidance of the learning process.

The ministry also stated that 56.6% of students actively participated in the sessions, while 66% of parents or guardians said the sessions were effective for their children.

Commenting on the option given to parents and guardians not to send their children to school due to the Covid-19 threat, Noor Aishah said parents should ensure that their young children mastered their reading, writing and arithmetics.

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia faculty of education lecturer Assoc Prof Hasnah Toran said the issue of whether children are ready for face-to-face sessions is something that relevant experts should discuss.

She said parents should also have their own strategies to ensure smooth implementation of the return-to-school process.

Nurhayati Zainudin, a preschool teacher under the Integrated Special Education Programme at Sekolah Kebangsaan Dato' Penghulu Luak Jempol in Negri Sembilan, said the most effective approach to educate children with special needs are face-to-face teaching and facilitation sessions.



ALL SET FOR VISITORS ... A staff of Sarawak Culture Village in Kuching sanitising an Iban longhouse in preparation for its reopening next month. —BERNAMAPIX

Prisoners grateful to be included in programme

KUANTAN: Although behind bars, inmates at the Penor Prison are grateful that they were not forgotten when the government launched the National Covid-19 Immunisation programme.

An inmate, who wanted to be known only as Tan, said he was aware of the Covid-19 pandemic when he

was taken to the prison last February and wondered whether he would also receive the vaccine.

"Now, I can tell my parents that I am already vaccinated the next time they call me. I am sure they will be relieved," he told Bernama.

Tan, from Kuala Lumpur, who is serving a two-year sentence for

violating a police surveillance order, received his second dose of the Sinovac vaccine at the prison yesterday.

Meanwhile, Aizi, from Felda Jengka in Maran, who is serving a five-year sentence for a drug offence, said he agreed to be vaccinated because he was worried there would

no longer be free Covid-19 vaccinations by the time he is released.

"We have been told about the importance and benefits of vaccination. I know it is important to get vaccinated for our own protection," he said.

Penor Prison director Fayrouz

Ahmad Zawawi said the prison had achieved herd immunity, with more than 90% of its 1,823 inmates, including foreigners, having been vaccinated. The vaccination was conducted by 25 health workers under the supervision and assistance of prison staff at a workshop that was turned into a vaccination centre.

AKHBAR : THE SUN ON THURSDAY

MUKA SURAT : 9

RUANGAN : SPEAK UP - LETTERS

LETTERS
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Treat need to vaccinate as civic duty

IT is encouraging to read that 30% of teen students nationwide have received their first vaccine dose (*theSun* 28/9). It is about being responsible – to get immunised against the infectious Covid disease so they can resume in-school classes safely. This is in stark contrast to a small minority of teachers, staff and students, who remain vaccine-hesitant or wary.

It is a medical fact that vaccination prevents the spread of Covid-19, and masks help the protection along. Yet, some vaccine-hesitant folks are stubbornly continuing to argue about their rights to choose. What about the rights of the vast, responsible, majority in our society who have sensibly chosen to do the right thing – to get vaccinated?

It is not enough to rely on strong personal, religious or political beliefs to avoid vaccination. Treat the need to vaccinate as a civic duty. It is well known that when the rights of an individual affects the good of many, the good wins, just like for seat belts, child car seats, speed limits, no smoking in public places where the good superseded the rights of individuals.

Vaccine hesitant, or anti-vaxxers, and anti-maskers jeopardise not only their lives, but also of others. Hence, mandatory vaccine makes sense. Therefore, (barring valid medical reasons) get vaccinated, so lockdowns and restrictions may finally ease or end and we can all go back to some semblance of normality.

Sze Loong Steve Ngeow
Kajang