AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 9
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

# Harjeet dilantik KSU KKM

**Putrajaya:** Timbalan Ketua Setiausaha (Pengurusan) di Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM), Datuk Harjeet Singh dilantik sebagai Ketua Setiausaha (KSU) KKM yang baharu berkuatkuasa semalam.

Pelantikan Harjeet bagi menggantikan Datuk Seri Mohd Syafiq Abdullah yang kini menjawat jawatan sebagai Ketua Pengarah Perkhidmatan Awam (KPPA) pada 10 Februari lalu.

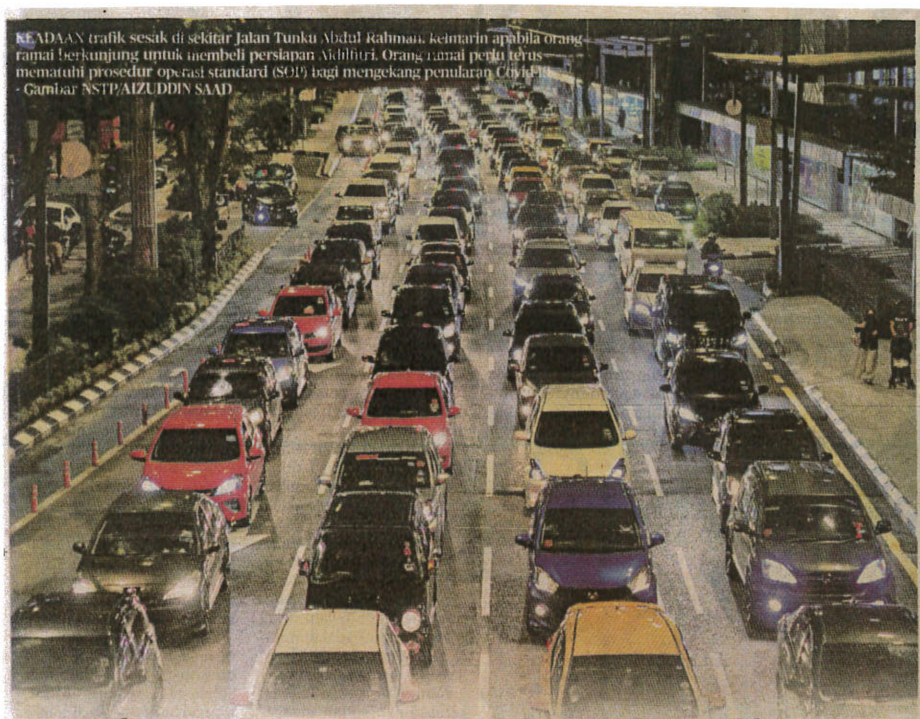
Ketua Setiausaha Negara, Tan Sri Mohd Zuki Ali mengucapkan tahniah atas pelantikan berkenaan dan memaklumkan pelantikan dibuat berikutan Harjeet mempunyai pengalaman luas dalam bidang perancangan, pengurusan sumber manusia dan dasar serta pernah berkhidmat sebagai Ketua Pengarah Biro Pengaduan Awam.

*Harjeet Singh*

"Saya percaya dengan pengalaman, pengetahuan dan kredibiliti dimiliki Harjeet mampu menerajui KKM untuk memberikan perkhidmatan dengan penuh integriti, cekap dan pantas sejajar dengan slogan kementerian 'Kami Sedia Membantu'," katanya dalam kenyataan, semalam.

Harjeet, 59, berkelulusan Ijazah Sarjana Muda Sains dari Universiti Ohio, Columbus, . Amerika Syarikat dan sudah berkhidmat dalam perkhidmatan awam 33 tahun sejak mula menyertai perkhidmatan awam sebagai Pegawai Tadbir dan Diplomatik pada 1 Ogos 1989.

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



KEADAAN trafik sesak di sekitar Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman, kelmarin apabila orang ramai berkunjung untuk membeli persiapan Aidilfitri. Orang ramai perlu terus mematuhi prosedur operasi standard (SOP) bagi mengekang penularan Covid-19. - Gambar NSTP/AIZUDDIN SAAD

# Ada penurunan kes

## KKM rekod 8,112 kes baharu positif Covid-19 setakat kelmarin

Oleh Suraya Roslan
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**Kuala Lumpur**

Kes baharu Covid-19 dalam negara menurun kepada empat angka apabila 8,112 kes dilaporkan setakat kelmarin.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, kes baharu itu membabitkan 8,087 kes penularan tempatan dengan 25 kes lagi adalah import yang mendapat jangkitan dari luar negara.

"Perkembangan itu sekali gus menjadikan sehingga kini terdapat sebanyak 4,325,818 individu sudah dijangkiti virus berkenaan di negara ini," katanya dalam kenyataan, semalam.

"Putrajaya mencatatkan kadar penggunaan 59 peratus
Dr Noor Hisham

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, daripada jumlah kes baharu yang dikesan kelmarin, sebanyak 46.50 peratus atau 3,772 kes adalah pesakit Covid-19 dalam kategori satu.

"Ia diikuti pesakit Covid-19 dalam kategori dua (4,284 kes), kategori tiga (29 kes), kategori empat (10 kes) dan kategori lima (17 kes).

"Secara keseluruhannya daripada 56 kes dalam kategori tiga hingga lima itu, sebanyak 38 kes membabitkan individu mempunyai komorbid.

"Selain itu, sebanyak 33 kes adalah membabitkan pesakit Covid-19 berusia 60 tahun ke atas, sudah menerima dua dos vaksin (21 kes), tidak divaksin atau lengkap vaksin (17 kes) dan sudah menerima dos penggalak (18 kes)," katanya.

Menurutnya, jumlah kluster yang masih aktif di negara ini ialah 130 kluster dengan penambahan satu kluster baharu setakat kelmarin.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, dua negeri mencatatkan pengisian katil kes kritikal atau unit rawatan rapi (ICU) melebihi 50 peratus iaitu Putrajaya (100 peratus) dan Selangor (53 peratus).

"Bagi pengisian katil bukan ICU melebihi 50 peratus, hanya Putrajaya mencatatkan kadar penggunaan 59 peratus.

"Pesakit Covid-19 yang memerlukan alat bantuan pernafasan meningkat kepada 110 pesakit dengan peratusan penggunaan ventilator 13 peratus," katanya.

# 12 lagi kematian akibat Covid-19

**Kuala Lumpur:** Sebanyak 132,390 kanak-kanak berumur lima hingga 11 tahun sudah melengkapkan dos suntikan vaksin Covid-19 menerusi Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan Kanak-kanak (PICKids) setakat kelmarin.

Berdasarkan data menerusi laman web COVIDNOW, sebanyak 1,365,915 kanak-kanak dalam kumpulan sama atau 38.4 peratus daripada populasi itu sudah menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos vaksin.

Bagi populasi remaja berusia 12 hingga 17 tahun pula, sejumlah 2,860,287 individu atau 91.9 peratus sudah lengkap divaksinasi manakala 2,961,642 individu atau 95.2 peratus telah menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos vaksin.

Dalam pada itu, seramai 15,922,033 individu dewasa atau 67.7 peratus sudah menerima suntikan dos penggalak, 22,957,184 individu atau 97.6 peratus daripada populasi itu pula lengkap vaksinasi manakala 23,234,427 atau 98.8 peratus menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos vaksin Covid-19.

Sebanyak 38,820 dos vaksin diberikan kelmarin melibatkan 4,079 dos pertama, 28,469 dos kedua dan 6,272 dos penggalak, menjadikan jumlah kumulatif dos diberikan di bawah Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan (Pick) sebanyak 69,221,371.

Sementara itu, menurut portal GitHub Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM), sebanyak 12 kematian akibat Covid-19 dilaporkan di negara ini kelmarin dengan Sarawak merekodkan jumlah tertinggi sebanyak lima kes, diikuti Perak dengan dua kes manakala Johor, Kedah, Kelantan, Selangor dan Kuala Lumpur masing-masing mencatatkan satu kes.

# Harjeet Singh KSU baharu KKM

**Putrajaya:** Datuk Harjeet Singh ***(gambar)*** dilantik sebagai Ketua Setiausaha (KSU) Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) yang baharu berkuat kuasa semalam.

Sebelum pelantikan itu, Harjeet Singh, 59, adalah Timbalan Ketua Setiausaha (Pengurusan) KKM.

Ketua Setiausaha Negara Tan Sri Mohd Zuki Ali dalam satu kenyataan memaklumkan, Harjeet Singh mempunyai pengalaman luas dalam bidang perancangan, pengurusan sumber manusia, dan dasar serta pernah berkhidmat sebagai Ketua Pengarah Biro Pengaduan Awam.

"Saya percaya dengan pengalaman, pengetahuan dan kredibiliti dimiliki, beliau mampu menerajui KKM untuk memberikan perkhidmatan dengan penuh integriti, cekap dan pantas sejajar dengan slogan Kementerian 'Kami Sedia Membantu'," kata Mohd Zuki.

Berkelulusan Ijazah Sarjana Muda Sains dari Universiti Ohio, Columbus, Amerika Syarikat, Harjeet Singh sudah 33 tahun dalam perkhidmatan awam dengan menyertai perkhidmatan sebagai Pegawai Tadbir dan Diplomatik pada 1 Ogos 1989. - Bernama

AKHBAR : KOSMO
MUKA SURAT : 4
RUANGAN : NEGARA

# Kes Covid-19 turun bawah 10,000

**PUTRAJAYA** – Jangkitan Covid-19 kelmarin merekodkan penurunan bawah angka 10,000 iaitu sebanyak 8,112 kes, kali pertama sejak lebih dua bulan lalu.

Pertambahan itu menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan kes di Malaysia sebanyak 4,325,818.

Kali terakhir negara mencatatkan kes di bawah angka 10,000 ialah pada 5 Februari lalu iaitu sebanyak 9,117 kes.

Berdasarkan laman web *COVIDNOW*, daripada kes yang dilaporkan kelmarin, sebanyak 25 kes adalah kes import yang mendapat jangkitan dari luar negara.

"Kesemua kes dilaporkan di Selangor (4,299 kes), Kuala Lumpur (708), Negeri Sembilan (490), Perak (465), Johor (404), Pulau Pinang (355), Kedah (257), Melaka (225), Sarawak (224) dan Terengganu (211).

"Seterusnya, Pahang (193 kes), Sabah (124), Kelantan (98), Perlis (26), Labuan (22) dan Putrajaya (11)," katanya.

Sebanyak 12 kes kematian Covid-19 dilaporkan menjadikan jumlah kematian terkini sebanyak 35,292 kes serta sebanyak empat kes meninggal dunia di luar hospital atau *brought-in-dead* (BID) dengan jumlah kes BID sebanyak 7,453 kes.

Sebanyak 145,798 kes aktif dilaporkan melibatkan 142,513 kes dikuarantin di rumah, 300 kes di Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan Covid-19 (PKRC), 2,811 kes di hospital, 64 kes di Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU) tanpa bantuan pernafasan dan 110 kes di ICU dengan bantuan pernafasan.

**AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN**
**MUKA SURAT : 9**
**RUANGAN : NASIONAL**

# Harjeet Singh dilantik KSU KKM

**PUTRAJAYA** - Timbalan Ketua Setiausaha (Pengurusan) Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM), Datuk Harjeet Singh Hardev Singh dilantik sebagai Ketua Setiausaha (KSU) kementerian itu.

HARJEET

Ketua Setiausaha Negara, Tan Sri Mohd Zuki Ali dalam kenyataan pada Isnin memaklumkan, lantikan itu berkuat kuasa pada 11 April.

Harjeet, 59, berkelulusan Ijazah Sarjana Muda Sains dari Universiti Ohio, Columbus, Amerika Syarikat dan telah berkhidmat dalam perkhidmatan awam selama 33 tahun sebagai pegawai tadbir dan diplomatik pada 1 Ogos 1989.

Beliau mempunyai pengalaman luas dalam bidang perancangan, pengurusan sumber manusia dan dasar serta pernah berkhidmat sebagai Ketua Pengarah Biro Pengaduan Awam.

"Saya percaya dengan pengalaman, pengetahuan dan kredibiliti dimiliki oleh Harjeet, KKM mampu memberikan perkhidmatan dengan penuh integriti, cekap dan pantas," katanya.

**AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN**
**MUKA SURAT : 11**
**RUANGAN : NASIONAL**

# 48,000 stok Paxlovid untuk rawatan Covid-19 diperoleh

**SHAH ALAM** - Syarikat farmaseutikal tempatan, Pharmaniaga Logistic Sdn Bhd (Pharmaniaga) menerima 48,000 stok pil untuk rawatan Covid-19 keluaran Pfizer, Paxlovid PF-07321332 pada Isnin.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, ubat itu disyorkan untuk rawatan pesakit Covid-19 dewasa berumur 18 tahun dan ke atas yang tidak memerlukan terapi oksigen dan berisiko tinggi mendapat gejala teruk.

"Ia tidak bertujuan untuk digunakan sebagai pengganti kepada vaksinasi Covid-19 atau mengelakkan dijangkiti Covid-19.

"Penggunaan Paxlovid adalah satu lagi senjata melawan Covid-19 iaitu ubat antiviral untuk aspek rawatan wabak tersebut.

"Ia diberikan segera selepas dikesan positif Covid-19 dan dalam tempoh masa lima hari gejala bermula untuk keberkesanan optimum," katanya menerusi hantaran di Facebook pada Isnin.

Sebelum ini, *Sinar Harian* melaporkan Malaysia telah meluluskan penggunaan pil Paxlovid secara pendaftaran bersyarat untuk kegunaan semasa bencana.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, perkara itu diputuskan dalam mesyuarat Pihak Berkuasa Kawalan Dadah (PBKD) kali ke-370.

Katanya, pil berkenaan membabitkan gabungan molekul baharu, PF-07321332 dan ritonavir antiviral HIV yang perlu diambil sebagai tablet berasingan.

Pharmaniaga menerima sebanyak 48,000 stok pil Paxlovid PF-07321332 pada Isnin.

**AKHBAR** : SINAR HARIAN
**MUKA SURAT** : 11
**RUANGAN** : NASIONAL

# Negara catat 8,112 kes baharu Covid-19 pada Ahad

NOOR HISHAM

**SHAH ALAM** - Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) merekodkan 8,112 kes baharu Covid-19 pada Ahad menjadikan jumlah kumulatif sebanyak 4,325,818 kes.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, jumlah berkenaan melibatkan 8,087 kes tempatan dan 25 kes import.

"Bagi pecahan daripada jumlah tersebut, sebanyak 3,772 kes atau 46.50 peratus daripada pesakit Covid-19 kategori satu, sementara 4,284 kes atau 52.81 peratus pesakit kategori dua.

"Bagi kategori tiga terdapat 29 (0.36 peratus), kategori empat dengan 10 kes (0.12 peratus) dan bagi kategori lima adalah 17 kes (0.21 peratus)," katanya.

Dalam pada itu, beliau berkata, kes sembuh merekodkan 15,765 kes yang menjadikan jumlah kumulatif sebanyak 4,144,728 dengan 96.8 peratus.

Mengulas lanjut, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, berdasarkan jumlah keseluruhan 56 kes bagi pesakit kategori tiga hingga lima, 17 kes dilaporkan tidak divaksinasi atau belum lengkap mendapatkan pelalian berkenaan.

"Sementara 21 kes pula sudah menerima dua dos vaksin Covid-19 tetapi tidak menerima dos penggalak, manakala 18 kes telah menerima dos penggalak.

"Selain itu, 33 kes melibatkan mereka yang berumur 60 tahun ke atas manakala 38 kes lagi mempunyai komorbid dan tiada kes melibatkan ibu mengandung," jelasnya.

Bagaimanapun, beliau berkata, satu kluster baharu direkodkan menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan kluster aktif sebanyak 130.

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

12 DEATHS

# 8,112 CASES LOGGED ON SUNDAY

99.31pc in categories 1 and 2, says Health director-general

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*Kuala Lumpur Hospital workers treating categories 3 and 4 Covid-19 patients last month.* PIC BY EFFENDY RASHID

AFTER nine straight days of a downward trend, new daily Covid-19 cases fell to four figures at 8,112 on Sunday, raising the country's caseload to 4,325,818.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah yesterday said 99.31 per cent of cases were in categories 1 and 2, and the remaining 0.69 per cent were in categories 3, 4 and 5.

"Seventeen patients of the 56 cases in categories 3 and 4 were either unvaccinated or only received one vaccine dose, 21 were fully vaccinated without booster shots, and 18 were fully vaccinated, including booster shots.

"There are 174 patients in intensive care units (ICU) with 110 of them on ventilators."

He said the ministry had recorded 12 Covid-19 deaths on Sunday, raising the death toll to 35,292, and there were 15,765 recoveries, taking the recovery tally to 4,144,728.

He said the situation among categories 1 and 2 patients was fluid, especially among high-risk groups as there were patients that required hospitalisation or admission to quarantine and treatment centres (PKRC) as precautionary measures.

"Up to April 10, there were 382 patients admitted to hospitals, 215 of whom are listed in categories 1 and 2."

On bed utilisation, he said 24 per cent of 11,743 Covid-19 normal beds were being used, 20 per cent of 861 ICU beds and four per cent of 7,196 PKRC beds.

He said the ministry had detected one new cluster on Sunday, raising the number of active clusters to 130.

Malaysia had detected 6,950 clusters in the last two years, he added.

Based on the ministry's CovidNow data-sharing website, the ministry had conducted more than 77,406 Covid-19 tests daily, with a 13.5 per cent positivity rate detected.

The website showed that 48.8 per cent of the adult population, or 15,922,033 people, had received their booster jabs up to April 10.

For children between 5 and 11, he said 132,390 had received two vaccine doses and 1,365,915, or 38.4 per cent, of children had received one dose.

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 6
RUANGAN : NATION

# No Omicron XE in Malaysia yet, says Health DG

**PETALING JAYA:** Malaysia has yet to record cases of the Omicron XE variant, says Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

"So far not yet," he said in response to *The Star*'s enquiry.

The ministry previously said random sampling would be conducted at the country's international gateway as well as cases reported at hospitals in order to detect the presence of the new mutation of the Omicron variant.

Dr Noor Hisham had also said efforts to prevent the spread of the variant could be done by continuing to comply with standard operating procedure (SOP), which is complemented with comprehensive screening tests, vaccine coverage and the use of antiviral drugs.

XE is a mix of the previously highly infectious Omicron BA.1 strain, which emerged late last year, and the newer "stealth" BA.2 variant.

Thailand recorded its first case of the Omicron XE on April 2 found through genomic sequencing of a swab sample taken from a Thai patient at the Centre for Medical Genomics, Ramathibodi Hospital.

Universiti Putra Malaysia medical epidemiologist Assoc Prof Dr Malina Osman previously predicted that Omicron XE could arrive in the country within a month or two given that the virus has been detected in Thailand, Taiwan and United Kingdom.

However, she believed the situation would be under control as the country had good vaccination coverage, good adherence to protocols, and measures in place for travellers to limit the spread.

# Masks 'must stay on for now'

## Experts: They're vital in preventing infection until endemic stage

By **IMRAN HILMY**
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**Multi-masking:** Belinda Yeoh, 27, arranging face masks on shelves at Wellings Rock pharmacy in Jalan Macalister. – CHAN BOON KAI/The Star

**GEORGE TOWN:** Tempted to remove your face mask, just like residents in some countries that have eased up on Covid-19 rules?

Take it from Hospital Penang infectious disease unit head Datuk Dr Chow Ting Soo: wearing face masks is still vital in keeping Covid-19 at bay as the country has not reached the endemic phase yet.

She said a three-ply face mask would be good enough to prevent exposure to pathogens.

"Endemicity is when the population immunity is good, the healthcare system is manageable and there is the availability of intensive care unit (ICU) beds," she said, citing other factors such as newer vaccines targeting certain variants, or a fourth dose for vulnerable groups.

Starting March 29, Singapore began easing its Covid-19 restrictions, including optional mask use when outdoors and gatherings allowed for up to 10 people (instead of five) for mask-off activities.

Many have since asked whether Malaysia would follow suit, given its high vaccination rate and the number of Covid-19 cases on a downtrend.

To this, virology scientist Dr Muhammad Amir Yunus said infections involving the unvaccinated and boosted population was almost equal – 55 and 54 (per 100,000 population), respectively.

He said the statistics, based on a seven-day average as at March 30, showed booster recipients could still get the disease although the figure was relatively small.

The Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) lecturer, however, said wearing an ordinary three-ply face mask would prevent viral transmissions.

"Don't let your guard down thinking the worst is behind us.

"Although there has been a downtrend in Covid-19 cases, the public should pay heed to the number of cases involving the boosted population," said Muhammad.

He added that people should still put on their face masks to curb transmissions, especially in Ramadan bazaars and mosques.

"We are still not out of the woods yet although most of the adult population in this country is fully vaccinated."

Muhammad said he hopes the number of cases would continue to decline in the next few weeks.

USM virologist Dr Kumitaa Theva Das said with the virus still evolving, putting on a well-fitted face mask is important.

"Face masks are still needed," she said, noting the emergence of a new variant, Omicron XE, which is 10% more transmissible than the BA.2 variant.

"N95, KN95 and KF94 face masks are most suitable to protect against the new variant XE, and the Omicron variant, which makes up about 90% of the globally circulating variant.

"These types of face masks are better than wearing two layers of face masks (surgical mask plus cloth mask)," she added.

A check at several pharmacies showed there had been brisk sales of face masks and hand sanitisers.

Pharmacist Lim Chee Mun said there was no shortage of these items, which have become necessities, in Penang.

"They are just like food. People buy them every day," she said.

To ensure safety standards, the government said effective Jan 2 next year, manufacturers and importers of non-medical face masks must apply for MS Sirim certification and labelling from Sirim QAS International Sdn Bhd.

In reference to this latest requirement, Malaysian Community Pharmacy Guild president Foon Hwei Foong said she hopes it would not lead to a steep price increase.

# New cases expected to continue going down

**PETALING JAYA:** The daily number of new Covid-19 cases in the country is expected to continue its downward trend in the coming months, say health experts.

Universiti Putra Malaysia epidemiologist Assoc Prof Dr Malina Osman said the drop in the number of cases could largely be attributed to the high vaccination coverage and that many had already been infected in past months.

"The current situation is largely attributed to our vaccination rate and the fact that more and more people have been infected with mild symptoms over the past few months.

"The community also seems to have practised the recommended standard operating procedure (SOP)," she said.

Yesterday, daily cases dropped below 10,000 for the first time since Feb 5 to 8,112 cases.

Dr Malina also believes school attendance and Ramadan might not have much impact as the situation has started to stabilise.

"I think (there has been) no (increase in education and emergence of Ramadan clusters).

"For the next three to six months, the situation will most likely be more stable.

"We can observe a further decline in the number of new and active cases but the (health) impact to those who are still not fully inoculated or not vaccinated will be the same.

"Whether there is a possible new cluster or not, continuing data surveillance is needed," she added.

Volunteers For Community Engagement and Empowerment For Covid-19 chairman Datuk Dr Zainal Ariffin Omar said the latest data was a positive sign that the country was doing the right thing.

He, however, cautioned the public not to let their guard down, adding that it was yet too early to see the impact of the Ramadan month.

"The reduced number of cases is good but we have to be careful since we interact with each other more now.

"But most people are more confident, given that we have a good immunisation rate as well as immunity status.

"The only thing that we should be concerned about is when there's a new variant, but so far, we are confident that we will be able to fight through this until the end," he said.

# Health DG: New cases falling below 10,000 mark

**KUALA LUMPUR:** New Covid-19 cases recorded a downward trend over the past nine consecutive days and hit below the 10,000 mark with 8,112 cases reported on Sunday, says Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

The Health director-general said prior to this, new infections dropped to 10,177 cases on April 9 from 14,944 cases the day before.

On April 7, the figure had dropped for six consecutive days with 11,994 cases.

The last time Malaysia recorded new cases below the 10,000 mark was on Feb 5 this year with 9,117 cases before it soared to 32,800 cases on March 8.

Dr Noor Hisham said of the new infections, 8,056 cases or 99.31% were in Categories 1 and 2.

"Some 56 cases or 0.69% were in Categories 3, 4 and 5," he said in a statement.

He also said only one new cluster was detected, bringing the number of active clusters to 130.

Dr Noor Hisham said the country's infectivity rate dropped slightly to 0.82 from 0.83 on April 9.

Only two states registered Covid-19 critical or intensive care unit (ICU) bed occupancy of over 50%: Putrajaya at 100% and Selangor at 53%.

For non-ICU bed usage, he said only Putrajaya had surpassed the 50% mark at 59% while no state had more than 50% at the Covid-19 Quarantine and Low-Risk Treatment Centre. – Bernama

# Over 132,000 children in M'sia fully vaccinated

**KUALA LUMPUR:** A total of 132,390 children aged five to 11 have completed the vaccination under the national Covid-19 Immunisation Programme for Children.

Based on the CovidNow website, a total of 1,365,915 children in the age group or 38.4% of the population have received at least one dose of the vaccine.

For adolescents between 12 and 17, a total of 2,860,287 or 91.9% of the population have completed the vaccination while 2,961,642 or 95.2% have received at least one dose of the vaccine.

Separately, a total of 67.7% of the adult population or 15,922,033 have received the booster dose while 22,957,184 or 97.6% have completed the vaccination and 23,234,427 or 98.8% have received at least one dose of the vaccine.

A total of 38,820 doses of the vaccine were dispensed on Sunday, involving 4,079 as first dose, 28,469 as second dose and 6,272 as booster, bringing the cumulative number of vaccine doses administered under the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme to 69,221,371.

According to the Health Ministry's GitHub portal, 12 deaths were reported with Sarawak having the highest at five cases, followed by Perak (two) and one death each in Johor, Kedah, Kelantan, Selangor and Kuala Lumpur. — Bernama

**AKHBAR : THE SUN**
**MUKA SURAT : 2**
**RUANGAN : NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS**

# Harjeet Singh appointed Health Ministry sec-gen

**PUTRAJAYA:** Datuk Harjeet Singh has been appointed as the new secretary-general of the Health Ministry with effect from yesterday, said Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Mohd Zuki Ali.

Prior to the appointment, Harjeet, 59, was the ministry's deputy secretary-general (Management).

Mohd Zuki said in a statement that Harjeet has vast experience in planning, human resource management as well as policy, and had previously served as the director-general of the Public Complaints Bureau.

"I believe that with his experience, knowledge and credibility, Harjeet will be able to lead the ministry to provide services with integrity, efficiency and speed in line with the ministry's slogan *Kami Sedia Membantu* (We Are Ready to Help)."

Harjeet, who holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Ohio University, Columbus, United States, has been with the civil service for 33 years. – Bernama

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

# Cases showing downward trend

**KUALA LUMPUR:** New Covid-19 cases showed a downward trend when 8,112 cases were reported on Sunday, said Health Director-General Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

Noor Hisham said of the new cases reported, 8,056 or 99.31% were in categories one and two.

"A total of 56 cases or 0.69% were in categories three, four and five," he said in a statement yesterday.

He also said only one new cluster was reported, bringing the number of clusters so far to 130.

Noor Hisham added the country's infectivity rate (Rt) decreased slightly to 0.82 on Sunday from 0.83 on April 9.

He said two states registered over 50% bed occupancy at intensive care units (ICU) – Putrajaya at 100% and Selangor at 53%.

For non-ICU bed usage, Putrajaya surpassed the 50% mark at 59%, while no state recorded occupancy of more than 50% at Covid-19 Quarantine and Low-Risk Treatment Centres. – Bernama

# Over 132,000 children vaccinated

**KUALA LUMPUR:** A total of 132,390 children aged five to 11 have completed their vaccination under the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme for Children as of Sunday.

Based on the CovidNow website, 1,365,915 children in the age group or 38.4% have received at least one dose of the vaccine.

For adolescents aged between 12 and 17, 2,860,287 or 91.9% have completed their vaccination, while 2,961,642 or 95.2% have received at least one dose of the vaccine.

Meanwhile, 15,922,033 of the adult population or 67.7% have received their booster shot, while 22,957,184 or 97.6% have completed their vaccination. A total of 23,234,427 or 98.8% have received at least one vaccine dose.

A total of 38,820 doses were dispensed on Sunday, comprising 4,079 first doses, 28,469 second doses and 6,272 booster shots, bringing the cumulative total administered under the immunisation programme to 69,221,371.

According to the Health Ministry's GitHub portal, 12 deaths due to Covid-19 were reported on Sunday, with Sarawak recording the highest at five cases, Perak two and one each in Johor, Kedah, Kelantan, Selangor and Kuala Lumpur. – Bernama