**AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN**
**MUKA SURAT : 3**
**RUANGAN : NASIONAL**

*Khairy (tengah) bersama Pesuruhjaya Tinggi British ke Malaysia, Charles Hay (dua dari kiri) dan Pengarah Urusan Persatuan Kanser Kebangsaan Malaysia, Dr Murallitharan (dua dari kanan) menyaksikan majlis menandatangani Kolaborasi Precision Medicine antara Prudential Malaysia, AstraZeneca dan Pantai Premier Pathology di Kuala Lumpur, semalam.* (Foto Asyraf Hamzah/BH)

# EU iktiraf sijil vaksinasi, saringan COVID-19 Malaysia

## Ujian teknikal menunjukkan menepati Sistem Pengurusan Vaksin

Oleh Mohd Iskandar Ibrahim
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**Kuala Lumpur:** Kesatuan Eropah (EU) mengiktiraf sijil vaksinasi dan saringan COVID-19 Malaysia berkuat kuasa semalam selepas menepati Sistem Pengurusan Vaksin kesatuan berkenaan.

Perkara berkenaan dinyatakan Presiden Suruhanjaya EU, Ursula Von Der Leyen menerusi kenyataan hasil Keputusan Pelaksanaan Suruhanjaya bertarikh 1 April 2022.

Menerusi keputusan itu, sijil vaksinasi atau MySejahtera dan ujian COVID-19 yang dikeluarkan oleh Malaysia adalah selaras dengan Sistem Pengurusan Vaksin, sekali gus memudahkan kebebasan pergerakan dalam negara EU.

Kenyataan itu menyebut, Malaysia juga perlu dihubungkan dengan kerangka Sijil COVID-19 Digital EU yang diwujudkan mengikut Peraturan (EU) 2021/953.

"Pada 10 Mac 2022, berikutan permohonan Malaysia, suruhanjaya ini menjalankan ujian teknikal yang menunjukkan bahawa sijil vaksinasi dan ujian yang dikeluarkan Malaysia adalah mengikut Sistem Pengurusan Vaksin.

"Malah, ia beroperasi dengan *framework* (kerangka) yang ditetapkan oleh Peraturan (EU) 2021/953 yang mengesahkan ketulenan, kesahihan serta integriti sijil.

"Justeru, suruhanjaya ini mengesahkan bahawa sijil vaksinasi dan ujian COVID-19 dikeluarkan Malaysia, mengikut Sistem Pengurusan Vaksin dan mengandungi data yang diperlukan," katanya.

Dalam perkembangan sama, Duta EU ke Malaysia, Michalis Rokas, turut membuat ciapan perkembangan baharu berhubung pengiktirafan EU ke atas sijil vaksinasi dan ujian COVID-19 Malaysia.

"Berita baik: EU sudah menerima permintaan Malaysia @officialmosti untuk mewujudkan kesetaraan antara Sijil Covid Digital EU dan MySejahtera Malaysia.

"Ini merancakkan lagi perniagaan dan pelancongan," ciapnya menerusi Twitter.

Sementara itu, Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin, ketika merasmikan majlis Kolaborasi Precision Medicine antara Prudential Malaysia, AstraZeneca dan Pantai Premier Pathology, di sini semalam meminta lebih banyak pihak tampil mempermudahkan akses *presicion medicine* kepada pesakit kanser, terutama mereka yang tidak berkemampuan.

*Precision Medicine* adalah kaedah diagnosis dan rawatan penyakit berdasarkan pemahaman terhadap biologi termasuk maklumat ujian asid deoksiribonukleik (DNA).

Menerusi pendekatan menggunakan DNA, ia berupaya mengesan sama ada terdapat kecacatan pada tanda genetik yang umumnya dikenali sebagai kanser sebelum doktor dapat menentukan ujian, membuat diagnosis dan memberikan rawatan sewajarnya.

Khairy berkata, kerajaan mengakui tidak dapat menyediakan akses terbabit kepada semua rakyat kerana ia membabitkan kos dan perbelanjaan yang tinggi.

"Tidak mungkin kerajaan dapat berikan perkhidmatan ini untuk semua masyarakat. Ia membabitkan kos yang tinggi.

"Sebab itu kita memerlukan kerjasama dan inisiatif swasta seperti ini untuk memastikan sebanyak mungkin rakyat negara ini mendapatkan akses kepada *precision medicine*," katanya.

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 13
RUANGAN : MINDA PEMBACA

# Doktor Klinik FELDA Trolak Selatan tampilkan keperibadian terpuji

Seperi Anawari,
FELDA Trolak

**Pada** 29 Mac lalu, saya ada temu janji di Klinik FELDA Trolak Selatan, Trolak, Perak. Selaku orang kurang upaya (OKU), saya amat berpuas hati kerana mendapat layanan terbaik daripada Dr Parvina Gunasegaran di klinik berkenaan. Selain sikap ramah, doktor berkenaan turut memberi nasihat mengenai kesihatan saya.

Dr Parvina juga merawat kebanyakan pesakit dalam kalangan keluarga peneroka Gugusan FELDA Trolak, iaitu dari FELDA Trolak Utara, FELDA Trolak Selatan dan FELDATrolak Timur, selain penduduk dari perkampungan Orang Asli berdekatan.

Keperibadian ditunjukkan Dr Parvina, saya anggap terbaik kerana mampu membudayakan konsep Keluarga Malaysia. Beliau sentiasa mengukir senyumannya, manakala cara melayani pesakit wajar dipuji.

Saya pernah memberitahunya saya mungkin berpindah tempat rawatan di Kedah. Dr Parvina dengan sukacitanya membuat surat khas untuk saya ditunjukkan kepada klinik yang akan merawat saya nanti. Beliau turut mencatatkan nama beberapa jenis ubat untuk keperluan saya kelak.

Bagaimanapun perpindahan itu terbatal dan saya berjumpa Dr Parvina semula. Dengan senyumannya terukir, beliau berkata, "Tidak ada masalah!"

Semoga doktor lain turut menuruti keperibadian Dr Parvina itu.

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

HANYA 38% KANAK-KANAK DIVAKSIN SETAKAT INI

# Elak bawa anak kecil masuk bazar

**Bagan Serai**

Ibu bapa dinasihatkan supaya tidak membawa anak-anak kecil mengunjungi bazar Ramadan bagi mengelakkan mereka terdedah kepada jangkitan Covid-19 walaupun negara memasuki Fasa Peralihan ke Endemik.

Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali berkata, kawasan sesak yang sempit dengan orang ramai merupakan suasana yang tidak baik kepada kanak-kanak terutamanya mereka yang tidak mempunyai perlindungan vaksinasi.

"Melihat suasana hari pertama bazar Ramadan di Bagan Serai ini, kami dapati ramai pengunjung membawa anak kecil di tempat yang penuh sesak.

"Kalau tempat sempit ini sebaiknya jangan bawa anak-anak, kita tidak mahu menyambut Ramadan dalam keadaan sedih dan sibuk di hospital," katanya.

Beliau yang juga Ahli Parlimen Bagan Serai berkata demikian ketika ditemui pemberita selepas mengedarkan kurma di Bazar Ramadan Bagan Serai di sini, semalam.

DR Noor Azmi (dua dari kanan) ketika mengedarkan buah kurma di Bazar Ramadan Bagan Serai.

Dr Noor Azmi berkata, data terkini menunjukkan vaksinasi kanak-kanak hanya sebanyak 38 peratus manakala remaja 91.7 peratus dan dos penggalak pula 67.3 peratus.

"Ini menunjukkan vaksinasi membabitkan kanak-kanak masih di tahap yang perlahan dan kami berharap ibu bapa mendapatkan vaksinasi untuk anak-anak mereka secepat mungkin," katanya.

Dalam perkembangan lain, Dr Noor Azmi berkata, keputusan memendekkan tempoh kuarantin dan memanggil petugas kesihatan yang dijangkiti Covid-19 untuk kembali bekerja bagi mengatasi masalah kekurangan kakitangan di hospital dilakukan berdasarkan fakta sains dan nasihat pakar.

> "Kita tidak mahu menyambut Ramadan dalam keadaan sedih
> Dr Noor Azmi

Beliau berkata, orang ramai tidak perlu bimbang kerana keputusan itu juga adalah syor Kumpulan Kerja Teknikal (TWG) yang membuat penilaian data saintifik dan bukannya secara semberono.

"Kuarantin dipendekkan kerana pekerja Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) juga terkena jangkitan Covid-19, antaranya menjadi kontak rapat namun rawatan dan program (tugas) di hospital agak tergendala sekiranya mereka menjalani kuarantin yang lama.

"Oleh itu, penilaian dibuat daripada mereka yang sudah divaksinasi sepenuhnya dan menerima dos penggalak serta tiada simptom lagi selain tiada rekod komorbid barulah diberi kuarantin pendek supaya dapat kembali bekerja dan menjalankan tugas," katanya.

# Tiada kluster baru dikesan kelmarin

**Kuala Lumpur:** Kes harian Covid-19 menunjukkan trend penurunan namun masih kekal lima angka apabila mencatatkan 12,380 kes dilaporkan setakat kelmarin.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, perkembangan itu menjadikan jumlah kumulatif penularan wabak itu sebanyak 4,246,467 kes dilaporkan di negara ini.

Beliau berkata, daripada jumlah itu sebanyak 11,918 kes penularan tempatan manakala 462 kes import.

"Selain itu, terdapat 253 kes memerlukan rawatan di unit rawatan rapi (ICU) dengan 122 kes disahkan Covid-19 manakala 131 kes disyaki, kemungkinan dan dalam siasatan.

"Kes yang memerlukan bantuan pernafasan pula sebanyak 157 kes iaitu 61 kes disahkan Covid-19 dan 96 kes disyaki, kemungkinan serta dalam siasatan," katanya, semalam.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, kebanyakan kes dilaporkan semalam adalah pesakit kategori satu iaitu 7,559 kes manakala 4,736 kes kategori dua, kategori tiga (32 kes), kategori empat (20 kes) dan kategori lima (33 kes).

"Berdasarkan pecahan kes kategori tiga hingga lima itu, 24 kes tidak divaksinasi atau belum lengkap vaksinasi, 33 kes menerima dua dos vaksin dan 28 kes sudah menerima dos penggalak.

"Pesakit dalam kategori berkenaan juga adalah kalangan berusia 60 tahun ke atas membabitkan 57 kes dan mempunyai komorbid pula 49 kes," katanya.

Dalam pada itu, beliau berkata, Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) merekodkan 20,635 kes pulih Covid-19 kelmarin, menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes pulih meningkat kepada 4,018,421 kes iaitu 94.6 peratus daripada keseluruhan kes.

Katanya, tiada kluster baharu dikesan kelmarin, menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan kluster kekal 6,940 dengan 181 kluster aktif.

# 30 angka korban dicatatkan kelmarin

**Kuala Lumpur:** Seramai 14,949 kanak-kanak berumur antara lima dan 11 tahun sudah lengkap menerima dua dos vaksin Covid-19 menerusi Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan Kanak-Kanak (PICKids) setakat kelmarin, peningkatan lebih daripada dua kali ganda dalam tempoh 24 jam sahaja.

Sehari sebelumnya, berdasarkan laman web COVIDNOW, hanya 6,129 kanak-kanak daripada kumpulan umur yang sama menerima dua dos vaksinasi Covid-19 sementara secara keseluruhan setakat ini, sejumlah 1,348,693 kanak-kanak sudah menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos vaksin.

Bagi remaja berusia 12 hingga 17 tahun, sejumlah 2,853,753 individu atau 91.7 peratus sudah lengkap divaksinasi.

Sementara itu, menurut portal GitHub Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM), 30 kematian akibat Covid-19 direkodkan kelmarin dengan Kedah dan Perak merekodkan kematian tertinggi, masing-masing tujuh kes diikuti Kelantan dan Selangor, tiga kes. Pahang dan Pulau Pinang masing-masing merekodkan dua kes, sementara Johor, Melaka, Negeri Sembilan, Sarawak, Terengganu dan Kuala Lumpur masing-masing merekodkan satu kes.

# KL paling banyak guna katil ICU

**Kuala Lumpur:** Kuala Lumpur dan Selangor masih merekodkan penggunaan katil di wad unit rawatan rapi (ICU) bagi merawat pesakit Covid-19 melebihi 50 peratus.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, Kuala Lumpur mencatatkan penggunaan katil ICU paling tinggi iaitu 60 peratus.

"Manakala Selangor sudah menggunakan 50 peratus daripada keseluruhan 86 katil ICU yang diperuntukkan untuk merawat pesakit Covid-19," katanya dalam kenyataan, semalam.

Bagi katil bukan ICU pula, katanya, Putrajaya dan Selangor merekodkan penggunaan katil melebihi 50 peratus iaitu masing-masing 66 peratus dan 55 peratus.

Bagaimanapun, beliau berkata, tiada negeri yang menunjukkan peratusan penggunaan katil di Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan Covid-19 (PKRC) melebihi 50 peratus.

Selain itu, Dr Noor Hisham memaklumkan, kadar penggunaan alat bantuan pernafasan (ventilator) meningkat kepada 157 pesakit dengan peratusan penggunaan alat bantuan itu adalah 18 peratus daripada keseluruhan ventilator untuk merawat pesakit Covid-19 dan bukan Covid-19.

Menurutnya, terdapat juga kes Covid-19 berisiko tinggi daripada kategori satu dan dua yang memerlukan kemasukan ke PKRC dan hospital sebagai langkah berjaga-jaga.

Beliau berkata, sebanyak 562 kes Covid-19 dimasukkan ke hospital dengan 220 kes membabitkan kategori satu dan dua manakala 342 kes lagi kategori tiga hingga lima.

DR Noor Hisham

AKHBAR : KOSMO
MUKA SURAT : 3
RUANGAN : NEGARA

NOOR AZMI (kanan) menyampaikan sumbangan buah kurma kepada pengunjung yang hadir ke bazar Ramadan di Jalan Raja Syed Thauphy, Bagan Serai kelmarin.

Virus Covid-19 mudah tersebar di tempat sesak

# Elak anak pergi bazar

Oleh WAT KAMAL ABAS

**BAGAN SERAI** – Ibu bapa tidak perlu membawa anak kecil khususnya bayi ke kawasan sesak seperti bazar Ramadan bagi mengelakkan dijangkiti virus Covid-19.

Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Dr. Noor Azmi Ghazali berkata, biarpun negara kini memasuki peralihan endemik, namun itu tidak bermakna bebas daripada ancaman bahaya koronavirus.

"Melihat suasana hari pertama bazar Ramadan di Bagan Serai, kita dapati ramai pengunjung membawa anak-anak kecil mereka ke tempat yang penuh sesak.

"Sebaiknya elakkan untuk membawa anak-anak kecil ini terutama bayi ke tempat yang sesak sebegini," ujarnya.

Beliau berkata demikian selepas menyampaikan sumbangan buah kurma pada pengunjung di Bazar Ramadan Jalan Raja Syed Thauphy di sini kelmarin.

Menurutnya, kanak-kanak yang masih kecil seperti bayi mudah terdedah kepada bahaya jangkitan Covid-19.

"Sebenarnya ini bukan masa yang sesuai untuk membawa mereka ke tempat begini kerana ada kanak-kanak yang belum divaksinasi merupakan golongan berisiko," katanya.

Kata Noor Azmi, data terkini menunjukkan vaksinasi membabitkan kanak-kanak hanya 38 peratus, manakala remaja 91.7 peratus dan dos penggalak 67.3 peratus.

"Ini jelas menunjukkan vaksinasi membabitkan kanak-kanak masih pada tahap yang perlahan.

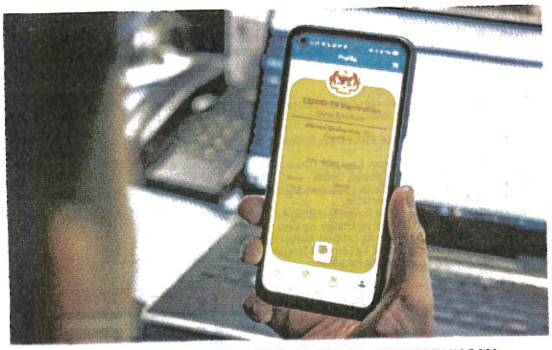
"Kita berharap ibu bapa supaya mengambil vaksinasi untuk anak-anak mereka secepat mungkin," katanya.

Sementara itu, tinjauan *Kosmo!* di beberapa lokasi bazar Ramadan mendapati, ramai ibu bapa membawa anak-anak kecil dalam keadaan bersesak termasuk bayi di dalam kereta sorong.

Di Bazar Ramadan Desa Aman, **Ipoh**, keadaan pengunjung yang bersesak tidak dihiraukan oleh ibu bapa yang membawa anak kecil bersama untuk membeli juadah.

Keadaan sama juga berlaku di Bazar Ramadan Stadium Ipoh apabila orang ramai teruja membeli juadah sambil memimpin tangan anak-anak kecil walaupun diketahui golongan tersebut mudah terdedah kepada jangkitan.

AKHBAR : KOSMO
MUKA SURAT : 4
RUANGAN : NEGARA



SIJIL vaksinasi MySejahtera kini diiktiraf oleh EU. – GAMBAR HIASAN

# Sijil vaksinasi MySejahtera diiktiraf Kesatuan Eropah

**PETALING JAYA** – Kesatuan Eropah (EU) menerima sijil vaksinasi Covid-19 Malaysia atau MySejahtera yang setara dengan Sijil Digital Covid-19 EU berkuat kuasa semalam.

Menurut satu laporan, Presiden Suruhanjaya Eropah, Ursula von der Leyen berkata, EU telah menerima sijil vaksin Malaysia yang setara dengan Sijil Digital Covid-19 EU.

"Sijil vaksinasi dan ujian Covid-19 yang dikeluarkan oleh Malaysia (MySejahtera) mengikut 'Sistem Pengurusan Vaksin' hendaklah, bagi tujuan memudahkan hak pergerakan bebas dalam EU, dianggap setara dengan yang dikeluarkan mengikut Peraturan (EU) 2021/953.

"Malaysia akan dihubungkan dengan rangka kerja amanah Sijil Covid Digital EU yang ditubuhkan oleh Peraturan (EU) 2021/953.

"Keputusan ini akan mula berkuat kuasa pada hari ia diterbitkan dalam Jurnal Rasmi Kesatuan Eropah," katanya semalam.

Malaysia baru-baru ini mendapatkan penjelasan daripada EU berhubung laporan mengatakan dua rakyat Malaysia diusir dari Jerman kerana negara anggota EU itu tidak mengiktiraf vaksin Sinovac.

# Permudahkan akses rawatan untuk pesakit kanser – KKM

**PETALING JAYA** – Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) menyeru lebih banyak syarikat gergasi di negara ini mengambil inisiatif bagi membantu mengembangkan kajian perubatan serta rawatan khususnya penyakit kanser.

Menterinya, Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar berkata, peneraju industri perubatan perlu mengambil langkah untuk mengoptimumkan penggunaan teknologi dan peralatan agar kesihatan masyarakat setempat sentiasa terjaga.

"Pengawalan penyakit kanser di negara ini memerlukan respons segera dan semua pihak bertanggungjawab perlu memainkan peranan bagi mengurangkan masalah ini.

"Ini kerana, masalah penyakit kanser yang semakin tinggi boleh diselesaikan melalui pengesanan awal, penjagaan untuk mencegah serta rawatan yang betul," katanya ketika Majlis Kolaborasi Precision Medicine di New Hotel, di sini semalam.

Turut hadir, Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Prudential Assurance Malaysia Berhad, Lim Eng Seong; Presiden Astrazeneca Sdn. Bhd., Dr. Sanjeev Panchal dan Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Pantai Premier Pathology, Hareef Muhammed.

Dalam pada itu, Khairy Jamaluddin menyambut baik kolaborasi tiga penjuru antara Prudential Assurance Malaysia Berhad, Astrazeneca Sdn. Bhd. serta Pantai Premier Pathology bagi meluaskan akses saringan genetik (*genomic testing*) untuk pesakit kanser.

Mengulas lanjut, Khairy Jamaluddin berkata, 'precision medicine' adalah rawatan kanser yang menggunakan ubatan khas untuk seseorang individu dengan mengambil kira sejarah genetik, persekitaran dan gaya hidup bagi merancang rawatan serta pencegahan penyakit terbabit.

**AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN**
**MUKA SURAT : 12**
**RUANGAN : VAKSIN UNTUK RAKYAT**

# 864,450 warga emas belum dapat *booster*

Kadar kematian golongan itu menunjukkan peratusan peningkatan paling tinggi berbanding kumpulan usia lain

Oleh MUHAMMAD YUSAINY MOHAMAD YUNUS

SHAH ALAM

Seramai 864,450 warga emas yang berusia 60 tahun ke atas masih belum menerima dos penggalak vaksin Covid-19.

Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar berkata, kes kematian akibat Covid-19 kini banyak tertumpu kepada golongan tersebut.

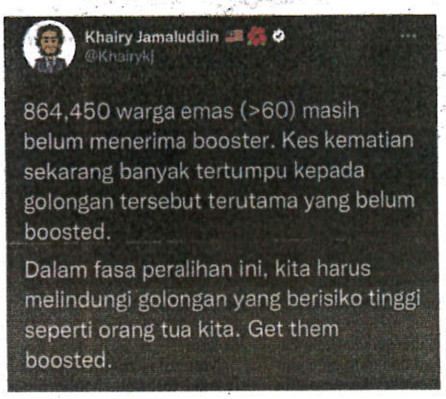
Tambahnya, data yang dikongsikan oleh beliau menunjukkan kadar kematian warga emas menunjukkan peratusan peningkatan paling tertinggi berbanding kumpulan usia lain.

"Kes kematian sekarang banyak tertumpu kepada golongan tersebut terutama yang belum ambil dos penggalak.

"Dalam fasa peralihan ini, kita harus melindungi golongan yang berisiko tinggi seperti orang tua kita. *Get them boosted*," katanya menerusi ciapan di Twitter pada Isnin.

Tambah Khairy Jamaluddin, semua rakyat Malaysia perlu kekal berwaspada dalam fasa peralihan ke endemik itu.

"Alhamdulillah masjid mula penuh untuk solat berjemaah. Terus pakai pelitup muka dengan cara yang betul," ujarnya.




Tangkap layar ciapan Twitter Khairy pada Isnin.

## Jangan bawa anak kecil ke bazar elak jangkitan Covid-19

BAGAN SERAI - Ibu bapa dinasihatkan supaya tidak membawa anak-anak kecil mengunjungi bazar Ramadan bagi mengelakkan mereka terdedah kepada jangkitan Covid-19 walaupun negara telah memasuki fasa peralihan ke endemik.

Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali berkata, kawasan sesak dengan orang ramai merupakan suasana tidak baik kepada kanak-kanak terutamanya mereka yang tidak mempunyai perlindungan vaksinasi.

"Melihat suasana hari pertama bazar Ramadan di Bagan Serai ini, kami dapati ramai pengunjung membawa anak kecil di tempat yang penuh sesak.

"Kalau tempat sempit ini sebaiknya jangan bawa anak-anak, kita tidak mahu menyambut Ramadan dalam keadaan sedih dan sibuk di hospital," katanya.

Dalam perkembangan lain, Dr Noor Azmi berkata, keputusan memendekkan tempoh kuarantin dan memanggil petugas kesihatan yang dijangkiti Covid-19 untuk kembali bekerja bagi mengatasi masalah kekurangan kakitangan di hospital dilakukan berdasarkan fakta sains dan nasihat pakar.

Beliau berkata, orang ramai tidak perlu bimbang kerana keputusan itu juga adalah syor Kumpulan Kerja Teknikal (TWG) yang membuat penilaian data saintifik dan bukannya secara semberono. - Bernama

Ibu bapa dinasihatkan supaya tidak membawa anak-anak kecil mengunjungi bazar Ramadan bagi mengelakkan mereka terdedah kepada jangkitan Covid-19.

## Sijil vaksin Malaysia diperakui di Eropah

SHAH ALAM - Kesatuan Eropah (EU) menerima dan memperakui sijil vaksinasi digital MySejahtera.

Berita baik itu dikongsikan oleh Duta Besar Kesatuan Eropah ke Malaysia, Michalis Rokas dalam ciapannya di Twitter, pada Isnin.

"EU telah menerima permintaan Malaysia untuk mewujudkan kesetaraan antara Sijil Covid Digital EU dan MySejahtera Malaysia. (Ia menjadi faktor) penggalak untuk perniagaan dan pelancongan," menurut beliau menerusi ciapan itu.

Katanya, Malaysia boleh dihubungkan terus dengan rangka kerja keyakinan Sijil Covid Digital EU, di bawah Peraturan (EU) 2021/953 dan keputusan itu akan berkuat kuasa mulai 4 April.

## 12,380 kes baharu direkodkan pada Ahad

SHAH ALAM - Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) merekodkan 12,380 kes baharu Covid-19 pada Ahad menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes adalah sebanyak 4,246,467.

DR NOOR HISHAM

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, jumlah berkenaan melibatkan 11,918 kes tempatan dan 462 kes import.

"Bagi pecahan daripada jumlah tersebut, sebanyak 7,559 kes atau 61.05 peratus adalah daripada pesakit Covid-19 kategori satu, sementara 4,736 kes atau 38.26 peratus adalah pesakit kategori dua.

"Bagi kategori tiga, terdapat 32 kes (0.26 peratus), kategori empat dengan 20 kes (0.16 peratus) dan bagi kategori lima adalah sebanyak 33 kes (0.27peratus)," katanya dalam satu kenyataan pada Isnin.

Mengulas lanjut, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, berdasarkan jumlah keseluruhan 85 kes bagi pesakit kategori tiga hingga lima, sebanyak 24 kes dilaporkan tidak divaksinasi atau belum lengkap mendapatkan pelalian berkenaan.

"Sejumlah 33 kes pula sudah menerima dua dos vaksin Covid-19 tetapi belum menerima dos penggalak. Sebanyak 28 kes pula sudah menerima dos penggalak.

"Selain itu, 57 kes melibatkan mereka yang berumur 60 tahun ke atas. 49 kes lagi mempunyai komorbid," ujarnya.

Sementara itu, beliau berkata, tiada kluster baharu direkodkan pada Ahad menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan kluster aktif sebanyak 181.

"Sebanyak 253 kes memerlukan rawatan di unit rawatan rapi (ICU) dengan 122 daripadanya disahkan Covid-19 manakala kes disyaki, kemungkinan dan kes dalam siasatan pula adalah sebanyak 131," katanya.

Dr Noor Hisham turut memaklumkan negara merekodkan sebanyak 20,635 kes sembuh menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kepada 4,018,421 kes setakat ini.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 22
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

# Permudahkan akses *precision medicine* kepada pesakit kanser

**PETALING JAYA** - Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) mengakui tidak dapat menggunakan inisiatif *precision medicine* khususnya kepada pesakit kanser kerana kosnya yang terlalu tinggi.

Menterinya, Khairy Jamaluddin berkata, pihak swasta harus memainkan peranan masing-masing dalam memastikan inisiatif itu dapat membantu pesakit kanser di negara ini.

"Tidak mungkin kerajaan dapat berikan perkhidmatan ini untuk semua rakyat.

"Ia melibatkan kos yang tinggi dan itu sebab kita memerlukan kerjasama dan inisiatif swasta seperti ini untuk memastikan sebanyak mungkin rakyat negara ini mendapatkan akses kepada kemudahan ini," katanya ketika berucap pada majlis menandatangani perjanjian persefahaman (MoU) antara Prudential BSN Takaful, AstraZeneca dan Pantai Premier Pathology di sini pada Isnin.

Turut hadir pada majlis itu Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Prudential Assurance Malaysia Berhad, Lim Eng Seong; Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Prudential BSN Takaful, Wan Saifulrizal Wan Ismail; Presiden AstraZeneca Malaysia, Sanjeev Panchal dan Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Pantai Premier Pathology, Hareef Muhammed.

Khairy berkata, buat masa ini kerajaan menguruskan pesakit kanser yang tidak mempunyai insurans kesihatan.

"Tak semua orang mampu sebab kita bercakap mengenai segmen yang kecil sahaja.

"Jadi inisiatif ini membolehkan golongan yang ada pelan insurans mendapatkan akses mudah kepada *precision medicine*," katanya.

Justeru, beliau berharap lebih banyak syarikat insurans dapat melaksanakan kolaborasi seperti ini dan memastikan pesakit kanser mendapatkan rawatan yang lebih baik.

"Ini juga penting selaras dengan Kertas Putih Kesihatan yang akan kerajaan bentangkan bagaimana untuk memantapkan perkhidmatan kesihatan negara," katanya.

Jelasnya lagi, Kertas Putih Kesihatan adalah penting kerana kesihatan perlu dilihat sebagai pelaburan dan bukan hanya sebagai perbelanjaan.

"Kita mahu syarikat insurans, farmaseutikal menunjukkan peranan mereka dalam menyediakan perkhidmatan yang terbaik kepada masyarakat," katanya.

Tambahnya, inisiatif ini menyokong visi kerajaan untuk menjadikan penjagaan kesihatan lebih inklusif dan mudah diakses.

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA
MUKA SURAT : 1
RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI

# Kesatuan Eropah akhirnya iktiraf sijil MySejahtera

Oleh AMREE AHMAD
dan OMAR ZIN
utusannews@mediamulia.com.my

**PUTRAJAYA:** Jutaan penerima dos Sinovac di negara ini lega apabila vaksin itu diperakui Kesatuan Eropah (EU) berkuat kuasa serta-merta.

Berita gembira itu dimaklumkan oleh blok berkenaan menerusi kenyataan rasmi dalam laman sesawangnya hari ini setelah keputusan berkenaan diluluskan Jumaat lalu.

"Suruhanjaya Eropah (EC) sedia memudah cara pergerakan pemegang sijil vaksinasi dari Malaysia dalam kawasan EU selaras Peraturan 2021/953 Parlimen Eropah," jelas kenyataan itu.

Kenyataan rasmi berkenaan juga diperakui sendiri oleh Presiden EC, Ursula von der Leyen di ibu pejabat badan tersebut di Brussels, Belgium bertarikh 1 April lalu.

Ia dikongsikan Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin melalui ciapan akaun Twitter dengan ayat ringkas: "Malaysia dan EU dihubungkan semula."

*Utusan Malaysia* pada 23 Mac lalu mendedahkan secara eksklusif mengenai nasib lebih 10 juta penerima vaksin keluaran Sinovac di Malaysia yang berisiko disekat untuk memasuki EU.

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

*Malaysia's digital vaccination certificate issued via the MySejahtera app has been recognised by the European Union. (Inset) European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen.*

FREE MOVEMENT

# EU RECOGNISES VAX CERT ON MYSEJAHTERA

## Inoculation, testing info will facilitate travel in Europe, says von der Leyen

TEH ATHIRA YUSOF
**KUALA LUMPUR**
news@nst.com.my

MALAYSIA'S digital vaccination certificate in the MySejahtera app is now recognised in the European Union (EU) via its Digital Covid Certificate trust framework.

European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen said the EU has accepted Malaysia's Covid-19 vaccine certificate effective yesterday.

"Covid-19 vaccination and test certificates issued by Malaysia in accordance with the 'Vaccine Management System' shall, for the purpose of facilitating the right of free movement within the Union, be considered as equivalent to those issued in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2021/953.

"Malaysia shall be connected to the EU Digital Covid Certificate trust framework established by Regulation (EU) 2021/953.

"This decision shall enter into force on the day of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union," she said in a statement yesterday.

Regulation (EU) 2021/953 lays down the issuance, verification and acceptance of interoperable Covid-19 vaccination, test and recovery certificates to facilitate the holders' right to free movement during the pandemic.

Malaysia, in its report to the EU, had stated that its MySejahtera application issued Covid-19 vaccination certificates for shots by Pfizer-BioNTech, AstraZeneca-Oxford, Sinovac, CanSino and Sinopharm.

It said the MySejahtera application also contained certificates for Covid-19 nucleic acid amplification tests, such as reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction but not rapid antigen tests. The report also said Malaysia did not issue certificates of recovery from Covid-19.

EU ambassador to Malaysia Michalis Rokas also shared the news on Twitter.

"Some great news: The EU has accepted Malaysia's request for establishing the equivalence between EU's Digital Covid Certificate and Malaysia's MySejahtera.

"A booster for business and tourism," he said.

# Khairy: 864,000 seniors yet to get booster shot

**KUALA LUMPUR:** More than 864,000 senior citizens aged 60 and above nationwide have yet to receive their Covid-19 vaccine booster shot.

Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin said most recent Covid-19 deaths involved the elderly, especially those who had yet to receive the booster dose.

"A total of 864,450 elderly folk aged 60 and above have yet to receive their booster dose.

"Currently, the fatalities are focused on the group, especially those who have yet to be boosted. In this phase of transition to the endemic stage, we must protect high-risk groups such as our parents. Get them boosted," he said on Twitter yesterday.

In another tweet, Khairy reminded the public to continue to stay safe and vigilant during the transition to endemicity.

"*Alhamdulillah*, mosques are beginning to be full again for congregational prayers. Continue wearing your masks properly.

"Masking properly, especially indoors, with good ventilation is crucial in managing Covid-19," he said.

Malaysia registered 12,380 Covid-19 infections on Sunday.

The Health Ministry also reported 30 fatalities, including 11 brought in dead. The death toll is now 35,099.

**AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES**
**MUKA SURAT : 3**
**RUANGAN : NEWS/NATION**

KEEPING INFECTIONS DOWN

# 'DON'T BRING KIDS TO BAZAARS'

Protect children as vaccination rate is still low among them, says deputy health minister

**BAGAN SERAI**

PARENTS are advised not to bring children to Ramadan bazaars to protect them from being exposed to Covid-19 infection.

Deputy Health Minister Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali said although the country was transitioning to endemicity, it was not advisable for children, especially those who were unvaccinated, to go to crowded places.

"On the first day of Ramadan, we can see that many people bringing along their children, especially the young ones, to Ramadan bazaars in Bagan Serai.

"It is not advisable to bring children to such places as we do not want to observe Ramadan in a sombre mood or at hospitals," he said after distributing dates at the Ramadan bazaar here on Sunday.

He said the latest data showed only 38 per cent of children in the country had been vaccinated and 91.7 per cent of adolescents had been completely vaccinated.

"The vaccination rate among children is still low and we hope parents will get their childre vaccinated as soon as possible."

*Deputy Health Minister Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali distributing dates at the Ramadan bazaar in Bagan Serai on Sunday.* BERNAMA PIC

Dr Noor Azmi said the decision to shorten the quarantine period for healthcare workers infected by Covid-19 was based on scientific advice to overcome the manpower shortage at hospitals.

"The quarantine period has been shortened to prevent disruption of hospital operations.

"Those (healthcare workers) who have been fully vaccinated and who received a booster dose and are asymptomatic will undergo assessment to ensure that they are safe to return to work."

Recently, the Malaysian Health Coalition had urged the Health Ministry to review its decision to shorten the quarantine period for health workers. **Bernama**

# Too few vaxxed seniors and kids, says Labuan health director

**LABUAN:** The number of children aged 5 to 11, as well as the elderly, who have received or completed the Covid-19 vaccination in Labuan, is far below expectations, said Labuan Health director Dr Ismuni Bohari.

"We have done extensive campaigns to get people, especially children and the elderly, to get the shots, but it seemingly fell on deaf ears," he said yesterday.

Dr Ismuni said surveys done on the island between Feb 23 and March 29 found that 73 per cent of 926 children aged 5 to 11 had not received the vaccine.

The remaining 254 had only received the first dose.

"The immunisation rate among adolescents (aged 12-17) has improved steadily, with 80 per cent of the 699 having completed the vaccination and seven per cent receiving the first dose. But the remaining 13 per cent have not received a single shot," he said.

Dr Ismuni said nine per cent of 468 senior citizens aged above 60 had not received the vaccine, four per cent had received only one dose, 30 per cent had completed the second dose and 57 per cent had received the booster shots.

"For adults (aged 18-59), of the 3,534 surveyed, 52 per cent have received the booster shots, 43 per cent have completed the second dose, three per cent have received the first dose, and the remaining two per cent were unvaccinated," he said.

*Dr Ismuni Bohari*

Dr Ismuni said among the reasons for people not taking the vaccine were the influence of family members and peers, disbelief in vaccine, confidence in self-immunity and that two doses of vaccine were sufficient.

"Some of them had also stated unpreparedness for the vaccination, vaccination not being compulsory, fear of side effects and health reasons, " he said. **Bernama**

# 14,949 fully vaccinated under PICKids programme

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Up to Sunday, 14,949 children aged 5 to 11 have received two doses of the Covid-19 vaccine under the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme for Children (PICKids). Data on COVIDNOW showed that 1,348,693 children had received at least one dose of the vaccine.

A total of 2,853,753 adolescents aged 12 to 17, or 91.7 per cent, had received two doses of the vaccine, and 2,949,653, or 94.8 per cent, had received at least one dose.

A total of 15,850,917 adults, or 67.4 per cent, received a Covid-19 vaccine booster dose, 22,954,771, or 97.6 per cent, have been fully vaccinated and 23,230,565, or 98.8 per cent, received at least one dose. Yesterday, 15,708 doses of vaccine were dispensed, involving 2,178 for first dose, 9,277 for second dose and 4,253 booster doses.

Health Ministry data on Github showed that 30 Covid deaths were recorded on Sunday. Kedah and Perak had the most deaths with seven cases each, followed by Kelantan and Selangor with three cases each. Pahang and Penang recorded two cases each; and Johor, Melaka, Negri Sembilan, Sarawak, Terengganu and Kuala Lumpur recorded one case each. **Bernama**

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 5
RUANGAN : NATION

# 'Cancer cases to rise by 2030'

## KJ: 66,000 newly diagnosed per year raises concerns

By IYLIA MARSYA ISKANDAR and CHAN MAY THENG
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**Targeted efforts:** Khairy (centre) with Hay (second from left) and National Cancer Society Malaysia managing director Dr M. Murallitharan (second from right) witnessing the precision medicine collaboration signing ceremony. – IZZRAFIQ ALIAS/The Star

**PETALING JAYA:** The number of people in Malaysia newly diagnosed with cancer is expected to rise to over 66,000 annually by 2030, says Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin.

"This is an increase from the 49,000 people estimated to be newly diagnosed with cancer in 2020," he said.

The ministry, he said, recognised cancer as an important health concern among Malaysians and was committed to reducing the incidence of cases while improving treatment and prevention strategies.

"Since there are more than 200 types of cancer, each warrants more research to find a cure, to ensure each patient can benefit tremendously from personalised and practical health solutions," he said.

Khairy said this in his speech at the Precision Medicine Collaboration launch and signing ceremony between AstraZeneca, Prudential Malaysia and Pantai Premier Pathology here yesterday.

Also present was British High Commissioner to Malaysia Charles Hay.

Precision medicine is a medical model that encourages the use of medicine according to a particular individual, taking into account individual variability in genes, environment and lifestyle.

Cancer control in Malaysia, said Khairy, required urgent response and all parties involved needed to play their part in reducing the severity of this problem.

"This can be enhanced with early detection, preventive care, and most importantly, proper care and treatment," he said.

Findings from the National Cancer Registry Report 2012-2016 showed that people with lung and liver cancers had a five-year relative survival rate of only 11% and 12.8%, with most only diagnosed in Stages Three and Four, said Khairy.

"The percentages of cases detected in Stages Three and Four rose from 58.7% to 63.7% between 2012 and 2016.

"Late diagnosis results in the disease becoming more advanced and less treatable under the available treatment options. This means fewer people will survive cancer," he said.

On the collaboration, Khairy said the initiative supported the government's vision of making healthcare more inclusive and accessible to all.

"The Health White Paper we are curating is important because we need to start looking at health as an investment, and not just as an expenditure," he said.

**Watch the video**
**TheStarTV.com**

# Don't bring your kids to Ramadan bazaars, parents told

**BAGAN SERAI:** Parents are advised not to take their children to Ramadan bazaars to protect them from exposure to Covid-19.

Although the country has entered the transition to endemic phase, it was not advisable for children – especially those unvaccinated – to go to crowded places, said Deputy Health Minister Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali.

"On the first day of Ramadan, we saw many people visiting Ramadan bazaars in Bagan Serai along with their children.

"It is advisable not to bring children to such places as we do not want to observe Ramadan in a sombre mood or at hospitals," he said after distributing dates here.

Citing the latest data, he said only 38% of the child population in the country has been vaccinated while for adolescents, 91.7% of the group have completed their vaccination.

"This shows that the vaccination rate among children is still low and we hope parents will get their children vaccinated as soon as possible," he said.

In another development, Dr Noor Azmi said the decision to shorten the quarantine period for healthcare workers infected by Covid-19 was made based on scientific reasons as well as advice by experts on tackling the manpower shortage at hospitals.

"The quarantine period is shortened to prevent disruption of hospital operations," he added.

These healthcare workers, who have been fully vaccinated and received their booster jobs, will undergo assessment to ensure it is safe for them to return to work, he also said.

The Malaysian Health Coalition urged the ministry to review its decision to shorten the quarantine period for health workers.

Meanwhile, the number of new Covid-19 cases remained below the 15,000 mark for two days in a row with 12,380 cases reported on Sunday, bringing the case tally in the country to 4,246,467.

On Saturday, 14,692 cases were reported.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said of the new cases recorded on Sunday, 7,559 were in Category 1, 4,736 in Category 2, 32 in Category 3, 20 in Category 4, and 33 in Category 5.

"Of the 85 cases that comprised Categories 3 to 5, 24 were not vaccinated or not fully vaccinated, 33 had received two doses of vaccine but not the booster dose, while 28 had received booster shots," he said in a statement.

He said 20,635 recoveries were reported on Sunday, bringing the cumulative recoveries in the country to 4,018,421 cases.

Dr Noor Hisham also said that out of the number of new cases on Sunday, 253 required treatment in the intensive care unit (ICU), while 157 required respiratory support.

He said Kuala Lumpur and Selangor recorded ICU bed occupancy of 50% or more as at Sunday, at 60% and 50%, respectively.

As for bed occupancy at Covid-19 Low-Risk Quarantine and Treatment Centres, he said no state recorded usage exceeding 50%, while patients needing respirators increased to 157, bringing respirator usage at the facilities to 18%.

According to Dr Noor Hisham, 562 cases were admitted to hospitals on Sunday with 220 being in Categories 3 to 5.

The national infectivity rate or Rt value stood at 0.85 on Sunday with Selangor still recording the highest rate of 1.05 and Kelantan the lowest at 0.69. — Bernama

# EU accepts Malaysia's Covid-19 vaccination and test certificates

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Covid-19 vaccination and test certificates issued by the Malaysian government are now recognised by the European Union (EU).

This allows the free movement of Malaysian travellers within the EU.

The decision of the European Commission on the recognition comes into force effective yesterday.

In a statement made available on the EU's website, European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen had noted that in order for the recognition to be operational, Malaysia shall be connected to the EU Digital Covid Certificate trust framework established by Regulation (EU) 2021/953.

"The Covid-19 vaccination and test certificates issued by Malaysia are in accordance with the Union's 'Vaccine Management System' and are considered as equivalent to those issued in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2021/953," the statement read.

However, the statement added that in order to protect the union's interests, particularly in the area of public health, the commission may use its powers to suspend application of this decision or repeal it, if the conditions of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/953 are no longer met.

Malaysia had on Nov 18, 2021 provided the commission with detailed information on the issuance of interoperable Covid-19 vaccination and test certificates under the Vaccine Management System.

""Malaysia informed the commission it considered the Covid-19 certificates it issues are in accordance with a standard and a technological system that are interoperable with the trust framework established by Regulation (EU) 2021/953 that allows for the verification of the authenticity, validity and integrity of the certificates," the statement read.

On March 10 this year, following a request by Malaysia, the commission carried out technical tests that demonstrated that the Covid-19 vaccination and test certificates issued by Malaysia are in accordance with the Vaccine Management System, that is interoperable with the trust framework established by Regulation (EU) 2021/953, and allows for the verification of the authenticity, validity and integrity of the certificates.

Meanwhile, Ambassador of the EU to Malaysia, Michalis Rokas, tweeted on the latest development relating to the recognition of Malaysian vaccination and test certificates.

"Some great news: The EU has accepted Malaysia @officialmosti request for establishing the equivalence between EU's Digital Covid Certificate and Malaysia's MySejahtera.

"A booster for business and tourism!" he said. — Bernama

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

## 'Do not bring children to Ramadan bazaars'

**BAGAN SERAI:** Parents are advised not to bring their children to Ramadan bazaars to protect them from being exposed to Covid-19 infection.

Deputy Health Minister Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali said although the country has entered the transition to endemic phase, it was not advisable for children, especially those who have not been vaccinated, to go to crowded places.

"On the first day of Ramadan, many people who visited Ramadan bazaars in Bagai Serai brought along their children, especially the young ones.

"It is not advisable to bring them to such places. We do not want to observe Ramadan in a sombre mood or at hospitals," he told Bernama after distributing packets of dates at the Bagan Serai Ramadan bazaar on Sunday.

According to the latest data, only 38% of the child population have been vaccinated against Covid-19 while 91.7% of the adolescent group have completed their vaccination, he said.

"This shows that the vaccination rate among children is still low."

On another development, Noor Azmi said the decision to shorten the quarantine period for healthcare workers infected by Covid-19 was based on scientific findings as well as advice from experts.

"The quarantine period is shortened to overcome the manpower shortage and prevent disruption of hospital operations.

"Healthcare workers, who are fully vaccinated and had received the booster dose, and are asymptomatic, will undergo assessment to ensure they are safe to return to work," he said.

The Malaysian Health Coalition has urged the Health Ministry to review its decision to shorten the quarantine period for health workers.

## Increase in number of fully-inoculated kids

**KUALA LUMPUR:** A total of 14,949 children aged between five and 11 have completed two doses of the Covid-19 vaccination under the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme for Children as of Sunday, more than doubled from 6,129 children recorded the day before.

Based on the CovidNOW website, a total of 1,348,693 children have received at least one dose of the vaccine.

For adolescents aged 12 to 17, 2,853,753 or 91.7% have received two doses of the vaccine, while 2,949,653 or 94.8% received the first dose.

A total of 15,850,917 or 67.4% of the adult population have received the booster dose, 22,954,771 or 97.6% have been fully vaccinated and 23,230,565 or 98.8% received at least one dose of the vaccine.

On Sunday, a total of 15,708 doses of the vaccine were dispensed, involving 2,178 first doses, 9,277 second doses and 4,253 booster doses, bringing the cumulative number of doses administered under the immunisation programme to 68,991,116.

According to the Health Ministry's GitHub portal, 30 deaths due to Covid-19 were recorded on Sunday with Kedah and Perak having seven cases each, Kelantan and Selangor three each, Pahang and Penang two cases each, while Johor, Malacca, Negri Sembilan, Sarawak, Terengganu and Kuala Lumpur recorded one each. – Bernama

# Number of vaccinated children, elderly still low

**LABUAN:** The number of children aged between five and 11, as well as the elderly, who have received or completed their Covid-19 vaccination here is still far below expectation, said Labuan Health director Dr Ismuni Bohari.

He said this was revealed following a scouting exercise by healthcare personnel throughout the island from Feb 23 to March 29.

"We have campaigned extensively to get people, especially children and the elderly to get vaccinated, but our calls seem to fall on deaf ears," he told Bernama yesterday.

Ismuni said the healthcare personnel found that 73% of 926 children (aged 5-11) have not received the vaccine, while the remaining 254 only received the first dose since the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme for Kids was launched on Feb 7.

"The immunisation rate in adolescents (aged 12-17) improved steadily with 80% of 699 individuals have completed their vaccine and 7% received the first dose. However, the remaining 13% have not been vaccinated," he said.

Ismuni said of the 468 individuals aged above 60, 9% have not received the vaccination, 30% completed the second dose, and 57% have received the booster shots.

"Of the 3,534 adults aged 18 to 59, 52% have received their booster shots, 43% have completed the second dose, 3% received the first dose, and the remaining 2% were unvaccinated," he said.

Ismuni said among the reasons that contributed to the low number of recipients were discouragement from family and friends and the belief that two doses were sufficient.

"Some of them also said they were unprepared to be vaccinated and that they feared the side-effects."

## New Covid cases remain below 15,000

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The number of new Covid-19 cases remained below the 15,000 mark for two days in a row with 12,380 cases reported on Sunday, bringing the tally to 4,246,467, said Health Director-General Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

On Saturday, 14,692 cases were reported.

Noor Hisham said of the new cases recorded on Sunday, 7,559 were in category one, 4,736 in category two, 32 in category three, 20 in category four and 33 in category five.

"Of the 85 cases that comprised categories three to five, 24 were not vaccinated or not fully vaccinated, 33 had received two doses of vaccine but not the booster dose, while 28 had received booster shots," he said in a statement yesterday.

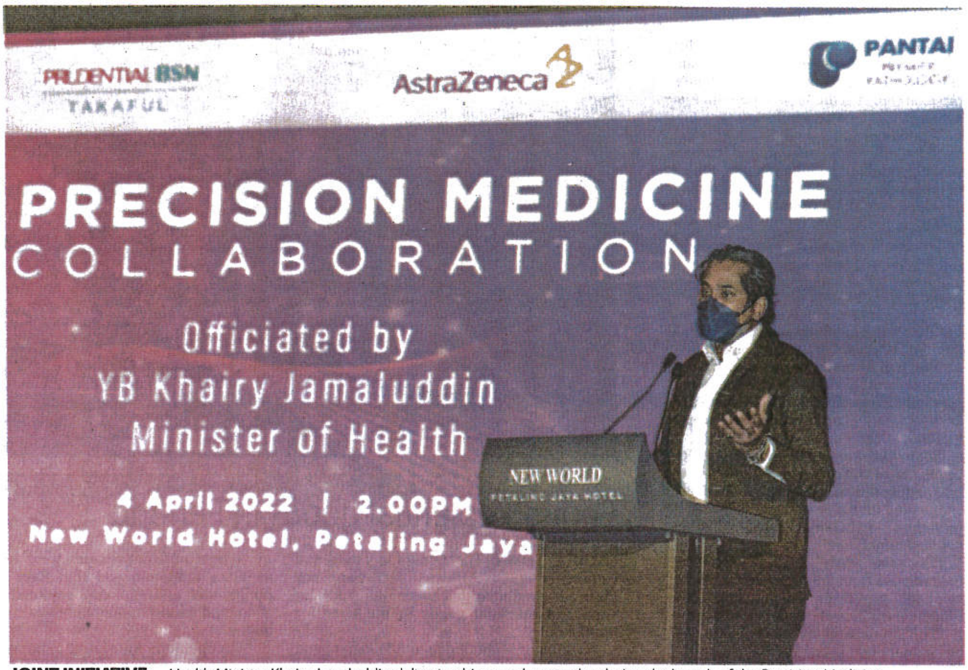
He added that 20,635 recoveries were reported, bring the cumulative recovery cases to 4,018,421.

Noor Hisham said out of the number of new cases, 253 required treatment in the intensive care units (ICU), while 157 required respiratory support.

On utilisation of specialised health facilities for Covid-19 cases, he said Kuala Lumpur and Selangor recorded ICU bed occupancy at 60% and 50% respectively as of Sunday, Bernama reported.

He added that no state recorded bed usage exceeding 50% at Covid-19 low-risk quarantine and treatment centres, while patients needing respirators increased to 157, bringing respirator usage at the facilities to 18%.

Noor Hisham said 562 cases were admitted to hospitals with 220 being in categories three, four and five, while the rest in categories one and two. The national infectivity rate stood at 0.85 with Selangor s recording the highest rate of 1.05 and Kelantan the lowest at 0.69.




**JOINT INITIATIVE ...** Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin delivering his speech yesterday during the launch of the Precision Medicine Collaboration initiative between Prudential Assurance Berhad Malaysia, AstraZeneca Malaysia and Pantai Premier Pathology. – ***BERNAMAPIX***