

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN AHAD

MUKA SURAT : 8

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Program Imunisasi COVID-19 Kebangsaan

# 'Jangan tular semula kenyataan lama'

**Segala maklumat sentiasa dikemas kini berpandukan data terbaru:**  
Khairy

Oleh Fahmy A Rosli  
fahmy.azril@bh.com.my

**Kuala Lumpur:** Mana-mana pihak tidak seharusnya menceutuskan ketakutan dan kebimbangan awam dengan memularkan kembali kenyataan lama pihak berkaitan berhubung isu vaksin, kata Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin.

Khairy berkata, segala maklumat dan dapatan mengenai virus SARS-CoV-2 sentiasa dikemas kini oleh saintis dari semasa ke semasa, berpandukan data terkini.

Beliau berkata, meskipun dahulunya pakar kesihatan membuat kenyataan dan syor berbezra mengenai pengambilan vaksin penggalak misalnya, pendirian itu berubah dari semasa ke semasa mengikut data keadaan semasa.

"Pengetahuan saintis mengenai virus SARS-CoV-2 sentiasa dikemas kini sebab virus ini adalah baharu. Contoh, dulu mungkin pakar tidak syorkan dos penggalak untuk semua, tapi sekarang lain."

"Tengok tarikh statement (kenyataan). Jangan tular statement (kenyataan) lama sahaja untuk tujuan menakutkan orang," katanya di Twitter, semalam.

Menerusi harian sama, Khairy turut berkongsikan artikel perkembangan terkini membabitkan syor pemberian dos penggalak.

Antaranya, laporan berita bertarikh 4 Januari lalu, yang mana Pendaftaran Makanan dan Ubat-ubatan (FDA) Amerika Syarikat (AS) memutuskan memberi kebenaran untuk suntikan dos penggalak vaksin Pfizer untuk kanak-kanak berumur 12 hingga 15 tahun.

Antara yang beliau kongsikan adalah pengkongsian semula laporan berita luar negara berta-

ruk, FDA Panel Rejects Pfizer Booster Shot For Ages 16-65 Over Increased Risk of Heart Inflammation (Panel FDA tolak suntikan dos penggalak vaksin Pfizer untuk individu berumur 16 hingga 65 tahun berikutan peningkatan risiko keradangan jantung) bertarikh 17 September 2021.

Ada pihak yang bertindak menularkan berita lama mengenai syor pengambilan vaksin penggalak dan memohon ia diberhentikan konomnya bagi mengelakkan jutaan rakyat mati.

Khairy turut berkongsikan artikel perkembangan terkini membabitkan syor pemberian dos penggalak.

Antaranya, laporan berita bertarikh 4 Januari lalu, yang mana Pendaftaran Makanan dan Ubat-ubatan (FDA) Amerika Syarikat (AS) memutuskan memberi kebenaran untuk suntikan dos penggalak vaksin Pfizer untuk kanak-kanak berumur 12 hingga 15 tahun.



Orang ramai hadir untuk mendapatkan suntikan vaksin dos penggalak COVID-19 di Pusat Pemberian Vaksin di Lebuh Acheh, Georgetown, semalam.

(Foto Mikail Ong/BH)

## KKM gesa elak guna tiga produk kosmetik kandungi raksa

**Kuala Lumpur:** Bahagian Regulatori Farmasi Negara (NPRA), Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) menggesa orang awam untuk mengelak daripada membeli dan menggunakan tiga produk kosmetik yang dikesan mengandungi racun berjudal iaitu raksa.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, tiga produk berkenaan adalah NP Beauty FM Cream, NP Beauty FB Cream 7g dan AS'S Beauty Night Cream.

Beliau berkata, pemberitahuan produk kosmetik terbabit turut dibatalkan oleh Pengarah Kanan Perkhidmatan Farmasi, KKM dan tidak lagi dibenarkan dijual di Malaysia.

"Raksa dilarang di dalam produk kosmetik kerana boleh memudaratkan kesihatan. Ia boleh diserap masuk ke dalam badan dan menyebabkan kerosakan pada buah pinggang dan sistem saraf."

"Ia juga boleh mengganggu perkembangan otak kanak-kanak

yang masih kecil atau yang belum dilahirkan selain boleh menyebabkan ruam, iritasi dan perubahan lain pada kulit," katanya dalam kenyataan, semalam.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, penjual dan pengedar produk kosmetik berkenaan perlu menghentikan penjualan serta pengedar dengan serta-merta kerana ia melanggar Peraturan-Peraturan Kawalan Dadah dan Kosmetik 1984.

Beliau berkata, individu yang melakukan kesalahan mengikut

peraturan itu boleh didenda tidak melebihi RM25,000 atau penjara maksimum tiga tahun atau kedua-duanya untuk kesalahan pertama dan denda sehingga RM50,000 atau penjara tidak melebihi lima tahun atau kedua-duanya untuk kesalahan berikutnya.

"Syarikat yang melakukan kesalahan boleh dikenakan denda sehingga RM50,000 untuk kesalahan pertama dan denda sehingga RM100,000 untuk kesalahan berikutnya," katanya.

Katanya, orang awam yang sedang menggunakan produk berkenaan dinasihatkan segera berhenti serta mendapatkan nasihat daripada ahli profesional kesihatan jika mengalami sebarang ketidaksesuaian atau kesan memudaratkan.

Orang awam juga digalakkan untuk menyemak status notifikasi sesuatu produk kosmetik dengan melayari laman sesawang rasmi NPRA www.npra.gov.my atau melalui aplikasi 'NPRA Product Status'. BERNAMA



## Jangkitan baharu catat penurunan

**Kuala Lumpur:** Kes baharu penularan COVID-19 mencatatkan sedikit penurunan semalam, dengan 3,251 kes dilaporkan berbanding 3,381 kes kelmarin.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata jumlah jangkitan terbaharu itu menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes di Malaysia setakat ini mencapai 2,783,331 kes.

Katanya, perincian kes harian COVID-19 akan dimuat naik ke laman web covid-now.moh.gov.my dengan data setiap hari dikemas kini selepas tengah malam.

Sementara itu, kadar vaksinasi bagi populasi dewasa di negara ini menghampiri 100 peratus apabila seramai 22,878,955 individu atau 97.7 peratus lengkap divaksin, setakat malam kelmarin.

Berdasarkan data Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) menerusi laman COVIDNOW, dalam tempoh sama sebanyak 98.9 peratus atau 23,164,441 individu daripada populasi dewasa sudah menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos vaksin.

Bagi populasi remaja berusia



Dr Noor Hisham

12 hingga 17 tahun pula, seramai 2,764,980 individu atau 87.8 peratus daripada mereka telah lengkapkan vaksinasi, manakala 2,855,467 atau 90.7 peratus menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos vaksin COVID-19.

Sementara itu, sejumlah 216,668 dos vaksin diberikan kelmarin membabitkan 2,627 dos pertama, 3,383 dos lengkap dan 210,658 dos penggalak.

Perkembangan itu menjadikan jumlah kumulatif pemberian vaksin menerusi Program Imunisasi COVID-19 Kebangsaan (PICK) meningkat kepada 59,033,667 dos dengan 7,570,846 daripada nya adalah dos penggalak.

Sementara itu, menurut portal GitHub KKM, sebanyak 16 kes kematian direkodkan kelmarin dengan dua daripadanya adalah kematian di luar hospital.

Daripada keseluruhannya 16 kes kematian kelmarin, sebanyak empat direkodkan di Johor; Sabah (tiga), Kedah dan Selangor masing-masing mencatatkan dua kematian, manakala masing-masing satu kes di Perak, Perlis, Pulau Pinang, Sarawak dan Terengganu.

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN AHAD

MUKA SURAT : 14

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

## MATTA nafi dakwaan ada jemaah umrah tak divaksin

**Kuala Lumpur:** Persatuan Ejen Pelancongan dan Pengembaran Malaysia (MATTA) menyangkal dakwaan ada jemaah umrah yang tidak lengkap divaksin sehingga dijangkiti COVID-19 varian Omicron.

Naib Presiden Umrah dan Haji MATTA, Mohd Azri Abd Razak, menyifatkan perkara itu mustahil berlaku kerana pengendali umrah mematuhi Prosedur Operasi Standard (SOP) seperti ditetapkan Majlis Keselamatan Negara (MKN), Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) dan Kerajaan Arab Saudi.

Katanya, antara SOP bagi perjalanan umrah adalah jemaah perlu menunjukkan bukti lengkap vaksinasi dan menyatakan jenis vaksin diambil ketika membuat tempahan tiket penerbangan.

Beliau berkata, kenyataan Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin mengenai isu itu, mempunyai implikasi serius terhadap sistem visa Kerajaan Arab Saudi, sekali gus memburukkan pandangan masyarakat terhadap penggiat industri umrah di negara ini.

"MATTA meminta kementerian menyiasat perkara ini dan tidak menundung jari kepada syarikat pengendali umrah.

"Kaunter imigresen dan kawalan keselamatan di lapangan terbang adalah tempat semakan terakhir status vaksinasi bagi pelancong atau jemaah ke luar negara.

"Justeru, pihak yang terbabit harus dikenakan tindakan undang-undang di bawah Akta Pencegahan dan Pengawalan Penyakit Berjangkit 1988 (Akta 342)," katanya dalam kenyataan media.

Sebelum ini, KKM mengesahkan ketidakpatuhan kepada SOP membabitkan jemaah umrah apabila 14 peratus daripada 122 kes Omicron yang pulang ke tanah air setakat Selasa lalu, didapati tidak menerima suntikan vaksin.

Mengenai penangguhan umrah sementara berkuat kuasa hari ini hingga 8 Februari, Mohd Azri berkata, kerajaan perlu mempertimbangkan semula langkah itu kerana ia memberi kesan negatif kepada agensi pelancongan dan jemaah sendiri.

Beliau berkata, penangguhan itu menyebabkan paket umrah sedia ada perlu dikaji semula kerana akan membabitkan kos tambahan yang perlu ditanggung agensi pelancongan mahupun jemaah pada masa akan datang.

Mohd Azri berkata, MATTA sedia bertemu KKM atau pihak berwajib untuk berbincang dan mencari jalan terbaik supaya penularan Omicron dapat dikuangkan dan memastikan punca pendapatan agensi

## Agensi perlu jujur patuhi syarat

**Kuala Lumpur:** Tiada jemaah haji yang tidak lengkap vaksinasi akan 'terlepas' ke Tanah Suci jika ibadah itu dibenarkan tahun ini.

Timbalan Menteri di Jabatan Perdana Menteri (Hal Ehwal Agama), Datuk Ahmad Marzuk Shaaify, memberi jaminan kes membabitkan kecuaian dan penipuan mahupun ketidakpatuhan kepada syarat, termasuk vaksinasi tidak akan berlaku.

"Agensi kita, iaitu Tabung Haji (TH) sangat berpengalaman dalam pengurusan jemaah dan diiktiraf dunia.

"Jadi, kes membabitkan kecuaian dan penipuan mahupun ketidakpatuhan kepada syarat, termasuk vaksinasi tidak akan berlaku.

"Kita akan memastikan ia berjalan mengikut syarat," katanya kepada BH.

Beliau berkata demikian ketika mengulas mengenai pendekatan Menteri Kesihatan,

Khairy Jamaluddin, baru-baru ini yang dilaporkan berkata, terdapat jemaah umrah yang dijangkiti varian Omicron tidak menerima sebarang vaksin dan dibenarkan pergi menggerakkan ibadah berkenaan.

Khairy berkata, pihaknya juga sedang menyiasat sama ada mereka yang tidak divaksinasi terbabit disebabkan faktor kesihatan atau enggan divaksinasi.

Mengulas lanjut, Ahmad Marzuk berkata, semua pihak terutama pengusaha agensi pelancongan dan umrah perlu jujur serta mengikut peraturan ditetapkan dalam usaha kerajaan menangani penularan COVID-19.

"Sepatutnya, apabila kita nak pergi umrah, kita mengharapkan Allah menghapuskan dosa kita. Jadi, kalau permulaan perjalanan umrah sudah ada pemalsuan dan ketidakpatuhan tertentu serta penipuan, itu tidak sepatutnya berlaku," katanya.

Ahmad Marzuk berkata, jika benar berlaku ketidakpatuhan terhadap prosedur operasi standard (SOP) atau kemungkinan wujud penipuan, ia hanya menyebabkan bahana dan kesannya amat besar.

Agensi kita, iaitu Tabung Haji sangat berpengalaman dalam pengurusan jemaah dan diiktiraf dunia

*Ahmad Marzuk Shaaify,  
Timbalan Menteri di Jabatan  
Perdana Menteri (Hal Ehwal Agama)*



"Orang lain ikut syarat ditetapkan, tetapi tiba-tiba kita boleh mengabaikan syarat terbabit sehingga sampai tahap menipu, itu tidak sepatusnya. Namun, saya difahamkan perkara itu masih di bawah siasatan," katanya.

Beliau juga menjelaskan, urusan umrah adalah di bawah bidang kuasa Kementerian Pelancongan, Seni dan Budaya (MOTAC) kerana ia membabitkan agensi pelancongan, manakala haji di bawah agensi agama di Jabatan Perdana Menteri.

AKHBAR : KOSMO AHAD

MUKA SURAT : 12

RUANGAN : NEGARA

## Lagi produk dikesan ada racun berjadual

**PUTRAJAYA** – Bahagian Regulatori Farmasi Negara (NPRA) Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) mengesan racun berjadual iaitu merkuri dalam produk kosmetik melibatkan NP Beauty FM Cream, NP Beauty FB Cream -7g dan As's Beauty Night Cream.

Ketua Pengaroh Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr. Noor Hisham Abdul-lah berkata, penjual dan pengedar produk kosmetik itu perlu menghentikan penjualan dan pengedarannya serta-merta.

Tegasnya, penjualan produk kosmetik itu melanggar Peraturan-Peraturan Kawalan Dadah dan Kosmetik 1984.

“Individu yang melakukan kesalahan di bawah peraturan-peraturan ini boleh dikenakan denda tidak lebih RM25,000 atau penjara tidak lebih tiga tahun atau kedua-duanya untuk kesalahan pertama dan denda tidak lebih RM50,000 atau penjara tidak melebihi lima tahun atau kedua-duanya bagi kesalahan berikutnya,” katanya dalam satu kenyataan semalam.

Ujarnya, merkuri dalam produk kosmetik boleh memudaratkan kesihatan serta boleh diserap masuk ke dalam badan, menyebabkan kerosakan buah pinggang serta sistem saraf.



ANTARA produk kosmetik yang dikesan mengandungi dadah berjadual iaitu merkuri oleh pihak NPRA.

AKHBAR : MINGGUAN MALAYSIA

MUKA SURAT : 8

RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI

## Kulit terbakar, naik gelembung air dan gatal kesan vaksin Covid-19?

**KUANTAN:** Cukup perit penideritaan dialami Azimiyah Yaakob, 49, apabila kulitnya mengalami gelembung air dan gatal-gatal keseluruhan badan serta kulitnya terbakar yang didakwa dialami selepas menerima dos kedua vaksin Covid-19.

Ibu kepada seorang anak itu mendakwa, selepas menerima dos pertama vaksin tersebut di sebuah klinik panel di sini, dia mengalami pening kepala dan muntah yang berlarutan selama dua minggu.

Dia mendakwa, pada awal bulan September tahun lalu, dia sekali lagi ke klinik panel berkenaan untuk suntikan dos kedua vaksin Covid-19.

"Setelah pulang ke rumah, saya sekali lagi alami sakit kepala, gatal dan sakit keseluruhan badan. Selepas itu badan mula berkudis, luka ditempat gatal dan mula naik gelembung-gelembung air.

"Selepas itu, saya mendapatkan rawatan di sebuah hospital di sini pada 25 November tahun lalu dan doktor pakar kulit yang merawat saya mengesahkan bahawa ia kesan vaksin Covid-19.

"Saya juga telah membuat laporan polis berhubung perkara ini dan juga ada surat daripada doktor pakar berkenaan yang mengesahkan apa yang saya alami adalah kesan vaksin Covid-19.

"Saya kecewa kerana kerajaan menerusi Kementerian Kesihatan menyatakan vaksin ini selamat tetapi ia tidak selamat kepada saya," dakwanya kepada *Mingguan Malaysia* di sini semalam.

Azimiyah mendakwa, dia juga kecewa kerana sebelum menerima dos kedua vaksin Covid-19, dia memberikan maklum balas mengalami sakit kepala yang berpanjangan serta demam.

"Respons jururawat di klinik panel itu juga mengecewakan saya. Dia memaklumkan jika saya tidak masuk wad selepas dos pertama tida masalah. Suntikan dos kedua boleh diambil," dakwanya.

Azimiyah mendakwa, kerana kesan sampingan itu, tiga bulan dia terlantar sakit dan tidak bermaya serta 18 hari dirawat di hospital di sini.

"Ketika ini pun kesannya masih ada, banyak kesan sampingan. Kulit kesan terbakar belum pulih, kuku kaki kanan tercabut, sebelum ini saya aktif jenis tal duduk diam, tapi kini badan lemah dan letih, hampir 80 peratus tenaga hilang.

"Kerana kesan sampingan ini, saya perlu makan 45 biji ubat sehari dan sehingga kini badan saya ada steroid. Hanya dengan cara ini saya dimaklumkan oleh doktor, ia dapat menyembuhkan kesan yang saya alami," dakwanya.



**AZIMIYAH** Yaakob menunjukkan gambar keadaan kulitnya yang gatal, terdapat gelembung air, berkudis dan terbakar yang didakwa dialaminya selepas menerima suntikan kedua vaksin Covid-19 di kediamannya di Kuantan, Pahang. - MINGGUAN/SHAIKH AHMAD RAZIF

AKHBAR : NEW SUNDAY TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 2

RUANGAN : NEWS/NATION

## OMICRON CASES

# UNVAXXED PILGRIMS: 'GIVE US DETAILS'

**Umrah agencies question Health Ministry's revelation as they say pilgrims follow strict SOP before visa is issued**

NOR AIN MOHAMED RADHI  
KUALA LUMPUR  
news@nst.com.my

**T**HE Health Ministry has been urged to clarify its revelation recently that umrah pilgrims who returned to the country with the Covid-19 Omicron variant did not have any vaccination record.

Malaysian Association of Tour and Travel Agents (Matta) vice-president for umrah and haj Mohd Azri Abdul Razak said there were strict procedures that pilgrims must follow before the visa was issued.

"At umrah agencies, before one could be issued with the visa, they must be fully vaccinated with vaccines that have been approved by Saudi Arabia, namely Pfizer and AstraZeneca, while Sinovac recipients must get the booster shot."

"For the purchase of flight tickets, for example, to Jeddah, we must declare the vaccines used by umrah pilgrims."

"Also, we must key in all the particulars via the Muqeem online portal (electronic registration of the vaccine) not less than 72 hours before flying to the kingdom."

"At check-in, the ticketing of-

ficers will check the visa, along with the Covid-19 test results, vaccine certificate and Muqeem printout before issuing a boarding pass."

"Upon arrival in Saudi Arabia, (the) Immigration (personnel) will also check the vaccination details."

"As such, the revelation is shocking given that all the strict requirements are in place. Therefore, we hope the ministry can provide details of the matter."

He added that the ministry should call the industry players and clarify the matter.

"Should the revelation be found to be true, stern action, including legal action, must be taken to prevent it from happening again."

Azri's sentiment was echoed by Magna Bridge Travel and Tours Sdn Bhd chief executive officer Datuk Helmi Daud, who said umrah agencies had been following strict pro-

cedures for the umrah.

"I don't think we are that careless to jeopardise our reputation and business."

"However, among the public now the perception is that umrah travel agents are irresponsible, which is the last thing we want as it will affect our 'periuk nasi'."

"While we welcome what (Health Minister) Khairy Jamaluddin has done to ensure everybody is safe, certain things must be looked at more thoroughly."

"As such, we hope the ministry can come out with details of this revelation."

On the postponement of the umrah for a month starting yesterday, Helmi hoped that the ministry could give the exact date when it could resume along with the standard operating procedures (SOP).

The move, he said, would allow travel agents to better plan for the umrah.

"This includes specific SOP such as pilgrims must undergo a swab test upon arrival in Malaysia at a certain fee and those tested positive must be quarantined at designated quarantine centres at a certain fee."

"By doing so, we can put in the additional costs while budgeting."



Mohd Azri Abdul Razak

Datuk Helmi Daud

"Other SOPs include those who wished to perform the umrah must do it via registered agents with a licence for the umrah."

On Thursday, Khairy told a press conference that 17 out of 122 Omicron cases in the country did not have a vaccination history, with 12 of them being umrah pilgrims.



An umrah pilgrim heading for the check-in counter at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport on Thursday.  
BERNAMA PIC

AKHBAR : NEW SUNDAY TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : NEWS/NATION

18 YEARS OLD AND ABOVE

# 32PC OF ADULTS HAVE RECEIVED BOOSTER SHOT

**7,570,846 adults have received third dose of vaccine, equivalent to 23.2pc of total population**

TEOH PEI YING  
KUALA LUMPUR  
news@nst.com.my

**S**OME 32.3 per cent of the adult population (18 years and above) have received the Covid-19 booster shot up to Friday.

Based on data gleaned from the Health Ministry's CovidNow website, 7,570,846 adults have received the third dose of a Covid-19 vaccine, equivalent to 23.2 per cent of the total population.

On Friday, 216,668 doses of vaccine were administered nationwide, including 210,658 booster

doses.

Since the Covid-19 National Immunisation Programme was rolled out in February last year, 59,033,667 doses of vaccine have been administered.

On Friday, the coronavirus claimed another 16 lives in Malaysia, taking the death toll to 31,644.

Two were brought-in-dead cases with one each reported in Kedah and Penang.

Four fatalities were reported in Johor, three in Sabah, two each in Kedah and Selangor, and one each in Perak, Perlis, Penang, Sarawak and Terengganu.

Meanwhile, the hospitalisation rate in five states was on the rise compared with a week ago with Negeri Sembilan at 17 per cent, followed by Penang (32 per cent), Sabah (22 per cent), Selangor (17 per cent) and Putrajaya (19 per cent).

Up to Friday, 66.7 per cent of hospital beds had been occupied.

Melaka has the highest bed utilisation rate at 83.8 per cent, followed by Terengganu (75.8 per cent), Kedah (74.6 per cent), Kelantan (73.5 per cent) and Johor (72.1 per cent).

Some 57.6 per cent of the intensive care unit (ICU) beds were occupied, 36.7 per cent of ventilators were in use and 27.8 per cent of Covid-19 quarantine and treatment centre beds (PKRC) were occupied.

Yesterday, 3,251 new infections were recorded.

This the fourth consecutive day that the daily Covid-19 infections have remained above the 3,000 mark, with 3,381 cases logged on Friday, 3,543 on Thursday and 3,270 on Wednesday.

The cases went below the 3,000 mark from Jan 2 to 4.

Selangor recorded the highest number of daily cases at 879. It was followed by Kelantan (385), Johor (299), Kuala Lumpur (271), Sabah (242), Pahang (226), Penang (219), Kedah (216), Negeri

Sembilan (172), Perak (161), Melaka (141), Terengganu (94), Putrajaya (30), Sarawak (18), and Perlis and Labuan (14 each).

The Health Ministry also detected six new clusters — four workplace and two community — in six states.

The workplace clusters were Lok Lanas Ketereh 2 in Kota Baru, Kelantan; Jalan Boulevard in Kepong and Titiwangsa in Kuala Lumpur; Industri Tiga Jalan Bukit Keimuning in Klang, Selangor; and Putra Tiga C in Putrajaya, Cheras and Hulu Langat.

The two community clusters were KM 32 Pondok Kempas in Jasin and Melaka Tengah, Melaka, and Sri Semantan in Temerloh, Pahang.

Currently, 39,697 people have Covid-19, with 81.9 per cent undergoing home quarantine, 8.9 per cent placed at PKRC, 8.5 per cent hospitalised and 0.7 per cent in ICU. A total of 114 patients (0.3 per cent) in the ICU require ventilator support.

SALE PROHIBITED

## 3 cosmetic products with mercury banned

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Health Ministry has banned the sale of three cosmetic products that contain mercury, a scheduled poison.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the products were NP Beauty FM Cream, NP Beauty FB Cream -7g and As's Beauty Night Cream.

"The Health Ministry's National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency wants to warn the public against buying and using the mentioned products, which were detected to contain mercury."

"Following this, the senior pharmaceutical services director has revoked the product notifications of these items. They are no longer allowed to be sold in the market," he said in a statement yesterday.

Dr Noor Hisham said the sellers and distributors of these products must stop selling and distributing them immediately.

He said the selling and distributing of these three banned products would be a violation under the Control of Drugs and Cosmetics Regulations 1984.

Dr Noor Hisham said offenders could be fined not more than RM25,000 or face a maximum of three years in prison, or both, for the first offence and fined not more than RM50,000 or a maximum of five years' imprisonment, or both, for subsequent offences.

He said companies that committed the offence could be fined up to RM50,000 for the first offence and RM100,000 for subsequent offences.

He said mercury was a no-no ingredient in cosmetic products due to its harmful effects.

"Mercury can damage one's kidney and nervous system. It can also disturb the brain development of kids and the unborn. Mercury can also cause rashes, irritation and changes to the skin."

As such, he urged people to stop using them immediately and to seek medical advice from healthcare professionals should they experience any discomfort or adverse effect.

The people are urged to check the notification status of a cosmetic product at the NPRA official website at [www.npra.gov.my](http://www.npra.gov.my) or through the NPRA Product Status application, which can be downloaded at Google Play Store.



People waiting to get the Covid-19 booster shot at the vaccine delivery centre in Lebuh Acheh, George Town, yesterday. PIC BY MIKAIL ONG

AKHBAR : SUNDAY STAR

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NATION

# Fourth dose isn't so soon

More data needed to determine its necessity, say experts

By LIEW JIA XIAN

jiaxian@thestar.com.my

**PETALING JAYA:** Foreign news reports have emerged about the possible need for a fourth Covid-19 vaccine jab but doctors here are non-committal, saying that such talk is "premature".

"It is premature for Malaysia to focus on the necessity of a fourth dose," said Malaysian Medical Association president Dr Koh Kar Chai.

He said more data would be coming in the near future that would be a guide on the need for future doses of the vaccine.

Furthermore, he explained that Malaysia was in the midst of administering the third dose as a booster in a bid to prepare the nation for a possible wave of Omicron infection.

"We still have some way to go to complete this exercise," he said.

"Even though the United Kingdom Health Security Agency has mentioned that a fourth dose of the vaccine is not necessary as it has been shown that protection against hospitalisation among those aged 65 and over remained at about 90% even around three months after receiving the third dose, it is premature for us in Malaysia to focus on the necessity of a fourth dose," he added.

On Friday, British health officials stated that booster jabs were providing high levels of protection for the elderly against severe disease from the Omicron variant, which



**Boosting immunity:** A health worker administers a booster shot at KL Gateway PPV. — ONG SOON HIN/The Star

meant that there is no need for people to have a fourth jab, for now.

Universiti Sains Malaysia virology scientist Dr Muhammad Amir Yunus said the third jab, which is the booster shot, might stimulate stronger and durable humoral response for those 65 years old and above as compared to younger age groups.

"Therefore, the third jab may provide a more long-lasting effect," he said.

Thus, Dr Muhammad Amir said that having a booster shot was sufficient for the time being as research had shown that the Omicron would mainly cause mild to moderate symptoms, if not asymptomatic.

However, he added that the administering of a fourth shot would depend on the country's authority.

The authorities would have done a risk assessment on the current development before making any

decision, he said.

"Similarly, in Malaysia, I believe the authorities are doing a risk assessment."

"Any decision made should be tailored to our current situation," he said.

For ordinary folk like retired teacher Bernard Chew who recently received his booster jab, he is happy that the shot is currently sufficient to protect him against existing variants.

"I believe life has to go on and we cannot solely depend on vaccines to stay safe and healthy."

"We have to do our part by exercising regularly and eating well to keep our immune system strong," said Chew, 66.

Lawyer S. Natasha, 33, welcomed the news that people might not need to have a fourth shot after getting their booster jabs, especially for the elderly.

"As someone with parents above the age of 60, hearing that they may need multiple booster shots makes me worried," she said.

"She said her parents had ailments, like diabetes and high blood pressure."

"This puts them at a higher risk due to other health issues."

"Although the vaccine is important, it is odd that they need boosters so soon after being fully vaccinated."

"If it is not necessary and compulsory, I think it is best they stop with the one booster they have been given recently," she said.

## Almost 98% of adult population fully vaxed

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The vaccination rate for the adult population in Malaysia is close to 100%, with a total of 22,878,955 individuals or 97.7% having completed their Covid-19 vaccination.

Based on the Health Ministry's CovidNow portal, a total of 23,164,441 individuals or 98.9% received at least one dose of the vaccine.

For the adolescent population aged between 12 and 17, a total of 2,764,980 individuals or 87.8% completed the vaccination, while 2,855,467 or 90.7% received at least one dose of the vaccine.

A total of 216,668 doses of vaccine were administered on Friday, with 2,627 of them administered as the first dose, 3,383 as the second dose, and 210,658 as the booster dose.

This brings to a total of 59,033,667 doses, including 7,570,846 in booster doses, having been dispensed under the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme as of Friday.

According to the ministry's GitHub portal, 16 deaths were recorded on Friday, with two of them being brought-in dead (BID) cases. — Bernama

## Over 3,000 new cases for four days in a row

**PETALING JAYA:** For the fourth consecutive day, new Covid-19 cases breached past the 3,000 mark, with 3,251 new infections yesterday.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said this brought the cumulative infections in the country to 2,783,331.

There were 3,161 recoveries yesterday, taking the country's recovery rate to 97.4% or 2,711,900 cumulative recoveries.

"Most or 98.2% of the 3,251 new infections were asymptomatic (Category One) and those with mild symptoms (Category Two)."

"Some 1.8% or 58 cases belonged in Categories Three, Four and Five," he said, referring to patients with more severe symptoms.

Dr Noor Hisham, in a statement yesterday, also said two new clusters were detected, taking the current number of active ones to 176.

As of yesterday, 243 patients were in intensive care units, while 113 required ventilator support.

Malaysia's Covid-19 infectivity rate or R-nought ( $R_0$ ) now stands at 0.96, with five states and territories exceeding a value of over 1.0.

They are Labuan (1.15), Sabah (1.06), Putrajaya (1.01), Negeri Sembilan (1.00) and Melaka (1.00).

## Don't cheat, mufti tells umrah pilgrims

**PETALING JAYA:** Umrah pilgrims who falsify their vaccination certificates are being "cruel" (zalim) and unjust to other pilgrims who are vaccinated against Covid-19, says deputy Perak Mufti Datuk Zamri Hashim.

The action by these irresponsible individuals can also mar the credibility of the country's vaccination certificate which is extremely important for Malaysians who want to perform their umrah.

Zamri expressed worry that the issue might affect those who have genuine vaccination certificates and want to perform the umrah, *Sinar Harian* quoted him as saying.

"It is certainly wrong to lie. Those who have falsified their vaccination certificates are being cruel to the vaccinated groups and are putting their lives in danger."

"If someone is endangering others while performing the umrah or haj, it is feared that such action may raise questions whether the umrah or haj ritual is mabruk (accepted into the grace of Allah)," he said during a function in Parit Buntar on Friday.

He was responding to Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin who said that 17 of the 122 individuals infected with the Omicron variant as of Tuesdays were found to have no vaccination record and were all individuals travelling from overseas.

On Jan 1, Khairy announced that the government had decided to temporarily suspend travel permission to perform umrah starting from Jan 8 to curb the spread of the Omicron Covid-19 variant.

The postponement was due to

concerns over the spread of the Omicron variant due to non-compliance by umrah pilgrims with the home-quarantine procedure, resulting in infection among family members.

Following this, he said the Cabinet had ordered the temporary postponement of umrah for a month from yesterday to enable a risk assessment to be carried out before allowing the pilgrimage to resume.

The revision of the SOP would include making it mandatory for pilgrims to get a booster dose.

On Friday, Home Minister Datuk Seri Hamzah Zainudin said the ministry would raise with other agencies the issue of how Omicron-positive travellers with no vaccination records managed to enter the country.

He added that his ministry would

hold talks with all airline companies regarding the entry of foreign travellers infected with the Omicron variant, besides not having any Covid-19 vaccination record.

"Before any individual receives a clearance pass from the airline company, all details regarding their vaccination record must be presented and checked properly," said Hamzah.

He added that the immigration department will then receive the record before granting clearance for travelling.

"However, if the clearance pass had been submitted to immigration without knowing if (a person) has been fully vaccinated or not, are we going to withdraw and not allow them to board the flight, because how are they going to claim compensation?" he said.

## Sabah's first Omicron patient recovers

**KOTA KINABALU:** Sabah's first and only known Covid-19 patient infected by the Omicron strand has recovered, says state Covid-19 spokesman Datuk Seri Masidi Manjun.

"He has recovered from the infection and so far that seems to be the only (Omicron) case identified (in Sabah)," he said when referring to

the man who was found positive after returning to Tawau from umrah.

However, he said they were still waiting for the Covid-19 screening result on the man's wife.

Masidi did not rule out the possibility of Sabah imposing restrictions for those travelling from Labuan as Omicron cases on the island

has increased.

"I strongly feel that whatever our response will be should be based on science and medicine."

"We should not be so quick to panic."

"However, what is happening in Labuan must be taken as a lesson and regulations must be enforced effectively as we do not really know

what is going to happen next," he said yesterday.

Answering a question as to whether there were any Sabahans among the group of 10 unvaccinated umrah returnees who were found positive for Omicron in Kuala Lumpur recently, Masidi said the state government was still waiting for confirmation on that.