

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 8
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Penularan COVID-19

Janji temu vaksinasi kanak-kanak dibuka hujung bulan ini

Ibu bapa boleh daftar anak sebagai tanggungan dalam MySejahtera

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Kuala Lumpur: Tempahan janji temu bagi tujuan pemberian vaksinasi untuk kanak-kanak berusia lima hingga bawah 12 tahun menerusi aplikasi MySejahtera akan dibuka hujung bulan ini.

Pelancaran program pemberian vaksinasi kanak-kanak berusia lima hingga bawah 12 tahun itu akan diadakan pada 3 Febru-

ari depan di Hospital Tunku Azizah, Kuala Lumpur.

Formulasi vaksin adalah khas untuk kanak-kanak dengan dos ditetapkan adalah sepertiga daripada dos dewasa dengan ketutamaan pemberian kepada kanak-kanak mempunyai masalah kesihatan.

Menyatakan tempahan janji temu vaksinasi bagi golongan berkenaan akan dibuka secara berperingkat bermula hujung bulan ini untuk mereka yang tinggal di Lembah Klang.

"Tempahan janji temu vaksinasi bagi kanak-kanak berusia lima hingga bawah 12 tahun akan dibuka segera berperingkat bermula 31 Januari dan dibuka kepada ibu bapa yang tinggal di Lembah Klang dahulu.

"Perincian mengenai akses kepada sistem tempahan janji temu akan dimaklumkan dalam masa terdekat," katanya pada sidang media di Parlimen, di sini semalam.

Khairy berkata, Pasukan Pegawai Khas Imunisasi COVID-19 Kanak-Kanak (CITF-C) telah mengadakan mesyuarat pertama pada 19 Januari lalu.

Jelasnya, mesyuarat itu akan dipengerusikan oleh Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan 1, Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali.

Dalam pada itu, beliau berkata, KKM merekodkan 579,624 kes jangkitan COVID-19 membabitkan populasi remaja dan kanak-kanak berumur kurang daripada 18 tahun, bagi tempoh 25 Januari tahun lalu hingga kini.

Katanya, daripada jumlah itu, 269,773 kes membabitkan kanak-kanak berumur lima hingga 11 tahun.

Beliau berkata, kebiasaannya kanak-kanak yang dijangkiti COVID-19 ada sebilangannya mengalami gejala teruk serta memerlukan rawatan di hospital termasuk unit rawatan rapi.

"Sejak bermulanya pandemik COVID-19, KKM sudah memastikan status jangkitan COVID-19 terutama di dalam populasi remaja dan kanak-kanak," katanya.

KKM setuju tak perlu lagi imbas suhu

Kuala Lumpur: Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) bersetuju untuk mengeluarkan penggunaan pengimbas suhu daripada Prosedur Operasi Standard (SOP) kepada individu yang mahu memasuki mana-mana premis.

Menyatakan tempahan janji temu vaksinasi bagi kanak-kanak berusia lima hingga bawah 12 tahun itu akan dibuka kepada ibu bapa sebagai tanggungan dalam MySejahtera akan dibuka segera berperingkat bermula 31 Januari dan dibuka kepada ibu bapa yang tinggal di Lembah Klang dahulu.

Negara (MKN) untuk pemakluman dan kemas kini dokument rasmi SOP Pelan Pemuliharan Negara (PPN).

Beliau berkata, selepas ini individu yang ingin masuk ke mana-mana premis tidak perlu lagi mengimbas suhu, sebaliknya memadai sekadar merekodkan butiran diri menerusi imbas aplikasi MySejahtera.

1,530 kit ujian kendiri diimport tanpa kebenaran dirampas

Kuala Lumpur: Pihak Berkua Peranti Perubatan (MDA) Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) menyertai sebuah syarikat pemasaran produk kesihatan di Dataran Niaga Sungai Besi, di sini dan merampas 1,530 kit ujian kendiri COVID-19 dianggar bernilai RM10,000 yang dipercayai diimport tanpa kebenaran.

Serbuan kira-kira jam 10.30 pagi semalam itu dijalankan separa lapan pegawai MDA bersama lapan pegawai Kementerian Perdagangan Dalam Negeri dan Hal Ehwal Pengguna (KPDNHEP) serta dua anggota polis.

Ketua Eksekutif MDA, Ahmad Shariff Hambali, berkata serbuan dilakukan hasil risikan ter-

perinci pihaknya susulan aduan terhadap syarikat terbabit.

"Pemeriksaan mendapati syarikat ini melanggar syarat lesen dengan mengimpor kit ujian kendiri COVID-19 tanpa kebenaran wakil yang diberi kuasa (AR) dan mengedarkan kit ujian tanpa kelulusan bersyarat daripada MDA.

"Kit merampas 1,530 unit kit ujian kendiri COVID-19 membabitkan empat jenama dengan nilai keseluruhan dianggar RM10,000," katanya pada sidang media di lokasi serbuan di sini, semalam.

Ahmad Shariff berkata, kebanyakkan kit ujian kendiri berkecuali dijual kepada syarikat, kli-



nik dan individu.

Katanya, syarikat itu dipercuryai terbabit dengan pengedaran dan penjualan kit ujian berkenaan sejak April tahun lalu.

"Keselamatan dan keberkesanan kit ujian yang dirampas itu tidak dapat disahkan dan dikuatir berisiko terhadap pengguna

Tempoh kuarantin 5 hari bagi pengembawa lengkap dos penggalak

Kuala Lumpur: Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) menetapkan tempoh kuarantin hanya kepada lima hari khusus untuk pengembawa yang sudah lengkap dos penggalak, bermula Isnin depan.

Menyatakan tempahan janji temu vaksinasi bagi kanak-kanak berusia lima hingga bawah 12 tahun itu akan dibuka segera berperingkat bermula 31 Januari dan dibuka kepada ibu bapa yang tinggal di Lembah Klang dahulu.

"Perincian mengenai akses

Pengaruh Imigresen.

Katanya, perintah itu dikuatasakan mengikut Akta Pencegahan dan Pengawalan Penyakit Berjangkit 1988 (Akta 342) bagi mengawal penularan jangkitan COVID-19.

"Berdasarkan data, sahís dan pengalaman negara lain berkaitan pengurusan kemasukan pengembawa dari luar negara, KKM membuat penilaian semula tempoh pengawasan dan perhatian untuk memutuskan ketetapan terkini," katanya pada sidang media di Parlimen, semalam.

Katanya, semua pengembawa dari luar negara akan diberi Perintah Pengawasan dan Perhatian di Rumah (HOS) digital.

"Pengembawa tidak perlu lagi dipakaikan gelang pengawasan biasa (merah jambu)," katanya.

Bagaimanapun, katanya, pengembawa dari negara berisiko tinggi dan dibenarkan menjalani perintah kuarantin di keadaan masih dipakai gelang pengawasan digital.

mendangkan pengimportan dan pengedarannya tidak mengikut keperluan ditetapkan MDA.

"Kes ini akan disiasat mengikut Seksyen 19 (1) Akta Perintah Perubatan 2012 (Akta 737), iaitu tidak mematuhi syarat dikenakan ke atas lesen establismen.

"Jika sabit kesalahan, boleh dikenakan denda tidak melebihi RM100,000 atau penjara tidak melebihi satu tahun atau kedua-duanya sekali," katanya.

Ahmad Shariff berkata, pemegang lesen di bawah Akta 737 diingatkan sentiasa mematuhi ke semua syarat yang dikenakan ke atas lesen bagi mengelak dikenakan tindakan undang-undang.

Katanya, pperuncit, penyedia perkhidmatan kesihatan dan orang awam dinasihati menyematkan status lesen syarikat yang membekalkan peranti perubatan dan status pendaftaran sesuai peranti perubatan.

"Semakam boleh dibuat melaui www.mda.gov.my dan sistem carian peranti perubatan mda.mda.gov.my," katanya.

Sebarang aduan berkaitan peranti perubatan tidak berdaftar atau syarikat pembekal tidak mempunyai lesen establismen atau melanggar syarat ditetapkan boleh dilasurkan melalui Sistem Pengurusan Maklum Balas MDA (MDAFEMES) di <https://www.mda.gov.my/>.

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 9
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Kes jual sijil vaksin COVID-19 palsu

Aplikasi MySejahtera lebih 1,000 individu disekat

Sekatan mudahkan KKM siasat ketulenan vaksinasi

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Kuala Terengganu: Aplikasi MySejahtera milik lebih 1,000 individu yang pernah mendapatkan perkhidmatan doktor swasta yang terbabit dalam penjualan sijil vaksinasi COVID-19 disyaki palsu dekat Marang di sini, sudah disekat.

Ketua Polis Terengganu, Datuk Rohaimi Md Isa, berkata sekatan itu dibuat bagi membolehkan Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) menjalankan siasatan terhadap status yang tertera dalam aplikasi MySejahtera mereka untuk mengesahkan ketulenan vaksin-



Keratan akbar BH
11 Januari lalu.

nasi masing-masing.

Beliau berkata, siasatan mendapat ada kira-kira 1,900 orang mendapatkan perkhidmatan dengan klinik berkenaan dengan 1,223 permohonan sudah dihantar kepada vendor untuk dikemas kini status sebagai penerima vaksin dalam aplikasi MySejahtera.

"Daripada jumlah itu, kita tidak pasti berapa ramai yang sudah siap atau dikemas kini MySejahtera mereka dan ia akan dimaklumkan pihak KKM kelak.

"Bagaimanapun, semua aplikasi MySejahtera yang berasal dari klinik berkenaan sudah di-

sekat KKM.

"Dalam hal ini, ia tidak berfungsi dan kita sedang menunggu KKM menjalankan semakan sebelum tindakan selanjutnya diambil," katanya pada sidang media di Ibu Pejabat Polis Kontingen Terengganu di sini, semalam.

Rohaimi berkata, sekatan ini, keterangan seramai 23 individu yang status MySejahtera dikemas kini sebagai penerima vaksin, tetapi tidak menerima suntikan sudah diambil.

Katanya, siasatan mendapat status sebagai penerima MySejahtera mereka adalah palsu.

"Siasatan juga mendapat ada di antara mereka ini memaklumkan diajar keronnya ada mengambil suntikan, tetapi sebenarnya adalah suntikan air suling atau gasram.

"Apa yang boleh saya katakan sekatan ini, kebanyakannya mereka yang berurusan dengan klinik berkenaan tidak mengambil suntikan vaksin yang sebenarnya.

"Kalau ada pun, saya percaya jumlahnya tidak lebih daripada 10 orang kerana maklumat awal kita memang tidak ada," katanya.

Media sebelum ini melaporkan Polis Terengganu membongkar kegiatan penjualan sijil vaksinasi COVID-19 dipercaya palsu dengan merampas hampir 100 keping kad peringatan (temu janji) vaksinasi.

Kegiatan itu terbongkar susulan serbuan serbuan sepasukan pegawai dan anggota Jabatan Siasatan Jenayah Komersial yang membawa penahanan doktor swasta yang juga suspek utama berusia 51 tahun pada 8 Januari lalu.



'Wajib dos penggalak lonjak kes jual sijil palsu'

Kuala Lumpur: Kegiatan menjual sijil vaksinasi dihuatiri merbah ke seluruh negara jika dos penggalak dijadikan mandatori atau syarat wajib untuk rakyat dibenarkan bergerak bebas.

Pakar Perubatan Kesihatan Awam, Datuk Dr Zainal Ariffin Omar, berkata, individu yang enggan mengambil dos penggalak dihuatiri cenderung membeli sijil vaksinasi palsu untuk 'melepas' syarat berkenaan.

Beliau berkata, kegiatan jenayah berkenaan agak sukar dipantau kerana ia membabitkan persetujuan bersama antara penerima dan doktor, justeru faktor amanah dan etika adalah isu yang penting untuk ditangani.

"Mengenai ramai tidak setuju peranan klinik swasta untuk terbabit vaksinasi COVID-19, persoalan timbul adakah perlu hanya klinik kerajaan sahaja dibenarkan untuk beri vaksin dalam situasi sekarang?

"Bagi saya, Pusat Pemberian Vaksin (PPV) swasta dibenarkan untuk mengurangkan beban klinik kerajaan dan memudahkan orang ramai," katanya.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO
MUKA SURAT : 6
RUANGAN : LOKAL

Kuala Terengganu: Aplikasi MySejahtera lebih 1,000 orang yang pernah mendapatkan perkhidmatan doktor klinik swasta yang terbabit dalam penjualan sijil vaksinasi Covid-19 dipercaya iai palsu di Marang sudah disekat.

Ketua Polis Terengganu Datuk Rohaimi Md Isa berkata, sekejut itu dibuat bagi membolehkan pihak Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) menjalankan siasatan terhadap aplikasi MySejahtera mereka bagi mengesahkan ketulenan status vaksinasi.

Beliau berkata, siasatan mendapat terdapat kira-kira 1,900 orang mendapatkan perkhidmatan dengan klinik berkenaan dengan 1,223 per-

MySejahtera 1,000 individu disekat

mohonan sudah dihantar ke vendor untuk dikemas kini status sebagai penerima MySejahtera.

"Daripada jumlah itu, kita tidak pasti be-

rapa ramai yang sudah siap atau dikemas kini MySejahtera mereka dan ia akan dimaklumkan pihak KKM kelak.

"Bagaimanapun, kesemua aplikasi MySejahtera yang berasal daripada klinik berkenaan sudah disekat oleh KKM."

"Dalam hal ini, ia tidak berfungsi dan kita sedang menunggu KKM menjalankan semakan sebelum tin-

dakan selanjutnya diambil,"

katanya pada sidang media di Ibu Pejabat Polis Kontingen Terengganu di sini, semalam. Rohaimi berkata, setakat

dak mengambil suntikan vaksin yang sebenarnya.

"Kalau ada pun, saya percaya jumlahnya tidak lebih daripada 10 orang kerana maklumat awal kita memang tidak ada," katanya.

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“Ada mengambil suntikan tetapi sebenarnya adalah suntikan air suling
Rohaimi

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

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Kuala Lumpur

Kegiatan menjual sijil vaksinasi tanpa suntikan vaksin Covid-19 dikehutari semakin merebak ke seluruh negara jika dos penggalak dijadikan mandatori atau syarat wajib untuk bergerak bebas.

Meluahkan kebimbangan itu, Pakar Perubatan Kesihatan Awam Datuk Dr Zainal Ariffin Omar berkata, ramai yang tidak mahu dos penggalak akan membeli sijil vaksinasi palsu.

Beliau berkata, kegiatan jenayah berkenaan agak su-

SIJIL PALSU VAKSINASI

Dos penggalak dorong penipuan?

kar untuk dipantau kerana ia membabitkan persetujuan bersama antara penerima dan doktor.

Justeru, katanya, faktor amanah dan etika adalah amat kritikal.

"Mengenai ramai tidak setuju peranan klinik swasta untuk terabit vaksinasi Covid-19, persoalan timbul adakah perlu hanya klinik

kerajaan sahaja dibenarkan untuk beri vaksinasi dalam situasi sekarang?"

"Bagi saya, pusat pembeian vaksin (PPV) swasta diadakan untuk mengurangkan beban klinik kerajaan dan memudahkan orang ramai. Kegiatan urus niaga sijil vaksinasi tanpa suntikan vaksin yang berlaku ketika ini adalah faktor



Kegiatan jenayah berkenaan agak sukar untuk dipantau kerana ia membabitkan persetujuan bersama"

Dr Zainal Ariffin Omar

manusia iaitu penerima dan pemberi perkhidmatan," katanya.

Beliau berkata, selain golongan antivaksin, kemungkinan besar turut tertarik dengan tawaran sijil vaksinasi tanpa suntikan adalah golongan yang sudah lengkap dua suntikan vaksin Covid-19 namun melakukan kesalahan itu un-

tuk dos penggalak.

"Kerajaan tidak perlu jadi dos penggalak sebagai mandatori atau pelaksanaannya terlalu keras. Biarlah ia sebagai pilihan individu," katanya.

Muka depan Harian Metro semalam melaporkan kes penipuan membabitkan sijil vaksinasi Covid-19 tanpa suntikan diilahit semakin membimbangkan apabila beberapa premis perubatan swasta dikesan melakukan jenayah itu.

Peningkatan kes dilaporkan berlaku di lima negeri iaitu Terengganu, Selangor, Kelantan, Johor dan Kedah susulan pemantauan serta risikan yang dijalankan Polis Diraja Malaysia.



Perkuat diri lawan virus

SEBAHAGIAN daripada warga emas yang sudah menerima dos penggalak Covid-19 secara 'walk-in' di Pusat Pemberian Vaksin (PPV) Integrasi Axiastra Arena, Bukit Jalil, kelmarin. - Gambar NSTP/HAIRUL ANUAR RAHIM

Kuala Lumpur: Seramai 122,202 pegawai dan anggota polis seluruh negara lengkap menerima suntikan vaksin Covid-19, kata Ketua Polis Negara (KPN) Tan Sri Acryl Sani Abdullah Sani.

Beliau berkata, seramai 32,652 pegawai dan anggota polis sudah menerima dos penggalak setakat 18 Januari lepas.

"Semoga dengan usaha ini, dapat melindungi warga

PDRM (Polis Diraja Malaysia) daripada risiko jangkitan wabak Covid-19 ketika melakukan tugas dan memutuskan rantai wabak itu.

"Selain itu, saya mengucapkan tahniah kepada Jabatan Pengurusan kerana usaha berterusan memas-

tikan warga PDRM dilindungi menerusi Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan," katanya.

Aman di sini, semalam. Sementara itu, Acryl Sani berkata, PDRM menggariskan tiga fokus sepanjang 2022 iaitu untuk memperkasakan integriti warga PDRM, berkhidmat untuk masyarakat dan mensejajarkan keamanan negara.

122,202 pegawai, anggota polis lengkap divaksin

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO
MUKA SURAT : 9
RUANGAN : COVID-19

KLUSTER PENDIDIKAN

Merebak ke 3 negeri

Oleh Ahmad Hasbi,
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Kuala Lumpur

Kluster Pendidikan kini melanda Negeri Sembilan, Kedah dan Kelantan dengan jumlah keseluruhan warga sekolah yang positif Covid-19 setakat semalam ialah 464.

Negeri Sembilan merekodkan dua kluster diikuti enam di Kedah dan empat di Kelantan.

Di Seremban, Negeri Sembilan, Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Bertindak Kesihatan, Alam Sekitar, Koperasi dan Kepenggunaan negeri S Verapen berkata, kluster pendidikan di negeri ini bermula di dua sekolah.

Kluster Pendidikan Jalan Sikamat bermula apabila 227 individu disarang, termasuk kontak rapat dengan 56 daripadanya disahkan positif Covid-19 manakala 171 negatif.

"Warga sekolah yang positif diantar ke Pusat Kuaran dan Rawatan Covid-19 Berisiko Rendah (PKRC) Tampin bagi rawatan.

"Di Sekolah Menengah Agama Nilai pula, 57 pelajar disarang dan 13 daripadanya positif Covid-19," katanya.

Di Alor Setar, Pengarah Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri (JKN) Kedah Dr Othman Warijo memaklumkan, negeri bérkenaan kini merekodkan enam kluster pendidikan dengan tiga kluster baharu dilaporkan kelmarin, membabitkan keseluruhan 253 individu positif Covid-19.

Tiga kluster baharu itu adalah Kluster Dah Padang Halban, Kluster Dah Sungai Kob dan Kluster Dah Sungai Limau.

"Kluster Dah Halban membabitkan 25 kes di Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan (SMK) Changlun, Kubang Pasu dan Kluster Dah Sungai Kob pula membabitkan 37 kes di SMK Sungai Kob, Kulim.

"Manakala Kluster Dah Sungai Limau membabitkan 27 warga Sekolah Menengah Agama Saadah Al-Dinayah Al-Islamiah, Yan," katanya. Dr Othman turut memaklumkan, sembilan pelajar asrama Maktab Mahmud Pendang turut positif Covid-19 membabitkan Kluster Dah Penyarom menjadikan keseluruhan kes di maktab itu kepada 108.

Katanya, bagi Kluster Dah Jalan Pantai di SMK Kota Kuala Muda, Sungai Petani, tiada pertambahan dengan kes positif kekal 33 pelajar.

Di Kota Bharu, Kelantan pula, negeri ini merekodkan empat kluster pendidikan dengan tiga daripadanya adalah kluster baharu yang dilaporkan kelmarin, dengan jumlah kumulatif 142 kes.

Pengarah JKN Kelantan, Datuk Dr Zaini Hussin berkata, kluster baharu itu membabitkan Kluster Pulau Melaka, Kluster Padang Raja di Kota Bharu dan Kluster Jalan Bandar Chiku di Gua Musang.

"Kluster Pulau Melaka merekodkan 11 kes, Kluster Padang Raja sembilan kes dan Kluster Jalan Bandar Chiku lapan kes.

"Tiga kluster ini membabitkan pelajar di Sekolah Kebangsaan dan Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan (SMK)," katanya.

42.7% individu dewasa terima dos penggalak

Kuala Lumpur: Seramai 258,337 individu penduduk dewasa di negara ini menerima dos penggalak Covid-19, kelmarin, menjadikan jumlah kumulatif bagi pemberian dos penggalak meningkat kepada 10,002,472 atau 42.7 peratus.

Berdasarkan data Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) menerusi laman CovidNow, sebanyak 22,911,629 atau 97.9 peratus daripada populasi dewasa

sudah lengkap menerima vaksinasi manakala 23,189,939 individu atau 99.1 peratus daripada kumpulan itu menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos suntikan vaksin Covid-19.

Bagi remaja berumur 12 hingga 17 tahun, seramai 2,776,837 individu atau 88.2 peratus sudah melengkapkan vaksinasi manakala 2,862,423 individu atau 90.9 peratus telah menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos vaksin Covid-19.

AKHBAR : KOSMO
MUKA SURAT : 4
RUANGAN : NEGARA

Sembilan kluster Covid-19 sekolah dicatat, babit 1,120 pelajar di Kedah

Ibu bapa mula kebimbangan

SUNGAI PETANI – Kalangan ibu bapa meluahkan rasa bimbang susulan peningkatan jumlah kluster Covid-19 dalam kalangan pelajar di asrama sekolah di negeri ini sejak kebelakangan ini.

Seorang waris dari Sungai Lalan dekat sini, Norshuhaida Muhammad Ali, 44, berkata dia mempunyai tiga orang anak yang masih bersekolah.

Katanya, seorang anak perempuan kim bersekolah di sekolah berasrama iaitu di Sekolah Menengah Agama Fauzi di Yan dekat sini.

Ujarnya, pihak sekolah baru sahaja memaklumkan bahawa waris sudah tidak dibenarkan untuk menghantar makanan ke asrama sejak dua hari lalu sebagai langkah keselamatan.

"Sebagai ibu sudah pasti saya bimbang mengenai keselamatan dan kesihatan anak-anak."

"Saya berharap agar pihak sekolah dapat mengambil tindakan sewajarnya supaya tiada penularan Covid-19 dalam kalangan pelajar di asrama," katanya ketika dihubungi di sini semalam.

Seorang ibu dari Kota Kuala Muda, di sini, Suzana Saad, 44, berkata, penularan kes Covid-19 di sekolah anaknya iaitu di Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan (SMK) Kota Kuala Muda bagi Kluster Dah Jalan Pantai membuat-



PELAJAR SMK Kota Kuala Muda di Kuala Muda menjalani ujian saringan selepas berlaku penularan Covid-19 di sekolah itu.

kan dia semakin bimbang untuk menghantar anak ke sekolah.

Katanya, meskipun anaknya tidak tinggal di asrama, namun risiko untuk dijangkiti tetap ada memandangkan mereka akan bertemu dengan rakan-rakan sekolah setiap hari.

"Sebagai ibu, saya bimbang akan keselamatan anak-anak, namun begitu saya juga terpaksa akur dengan situasi pandemik di negara kita ketika ini," katanya.

Seorang lagi waris dari Guar Chempedak, dekat sini, Noor Hanim Bohari, 39, berkata dia mempunyai seorang anak yang kini menyambung pelajaran di Kolej Matrikulasi Kedah dan tiga orang lagi masih bersekolah di sekolah menengah dan sekolah kebangsaan.

Katanya, dia sentiasa berperasan kepada anak-anaknya supaya mematuhi prosedur operasi standard (SOP) di pusat peng-

jian masing-masing selain membekalkan makanan tambahan seperti vitamin C kepada mereka.

"Saya harap ibu bapa peka dengan kesihatan anak-anak, jika lihat anak tidak sihat jangan benarkan mereka ke sekolah," ujarnya.

Pengarah Kesihatan Negeri Kedah, Dr. Othman Warijo berkata, sebanyak sembilan kluster membatikan institusi pendidikan dengan seramai 1,120 pelajar disahkan positif Covid-19 setakat ini di Kedah.

Ujarnya, satu kluster baharu diliybihar semalam iaitu Kluster Dah Teratai Jingga babit 18 pelajar Maktab Mahmud Alor Setar.

Katanya, kluster pendidikan pertama yang dikesan adalah pada 11 Januari lalu iaitu Kluster Dah Che Bema membabitkan Kompleks Al-Hidayah, Desa Keda, Sungai Petani (sekolah tahfiz) dalam daerah Kuala Muda.

"Kluster pendidikan kedua pula dikesan pada 17 Januari lalu iaitu Kluster Dah Jalan Merbau diikuti Kluster Dah Penyarum, Kluster Dah Teluk Teduri dan Kluster Dah Jalan Pantai.

"Seterusnya Kluster Dah Padang Halban, Kluster Sungai Kob, Kluster Dah Sungai Limau dan Kluster Dah Teratai Jingga," katanya ketika dihubungi di sini semalam.

"Daripada 48 pelajar tersebut, tiga orang telah sembuh dan kembali ke sekolah."

"Pihak sekolah sedang menunggu arahan daripada pihak KKM untuk tindakan selanjutnya," katanya.

134 pelajar SASER dijangkiti setakat semalam

SEREMBAN – Jumlah kes positif bagi kluster pendidikan Jalan Sikamat membatikan Sekolah Menengah Sains Tuanku Munawir, Seremban (Saser) meningkat ke pada 134 pelajar setakat semalam. Sumber dari edaran dalaman

sekolah berkenaan menyatakan daripada jumlah tersebut seramai 96 pelajar tingkatan 5 dan selebihnya 38 pelajar tingkatan 4. Katanya, bagi guru-guru dan semua anggota sokongan sekolah keputusan ujian saringan Co-

vid-19 adalah 100 peratus negatif. "Bagi pelajar positif ujian Covid-19, seramai 48 orang telah dibawa ke Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan Covid-19 (PKRC) Tampin oleh pihak Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM)."

'Anak alami batuk lepas positif'

KOTA BHARU – "Saya sering menghubungi anak yang kini dirawat di PKRC. Dia memaklumkan mengalami batuk selepas di-sahkan positif Covid-19."

Demikian ujar bapa kepada salah seorang pelajar Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Agama (SMKA) Naim Lilbanat, Jalan Telipot, di sini yang disahkan positif Covid-19 sejak lima hari lalu.

Dia yang hanya mahu diketahui sebagai Hakimi, 45, berkata, anaknya yang berusia 16 tahun kini menerima rawatan di Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan Covid-19 (PKRC), Kolej Kemahiran Tinggi Mara Pasir Mas.

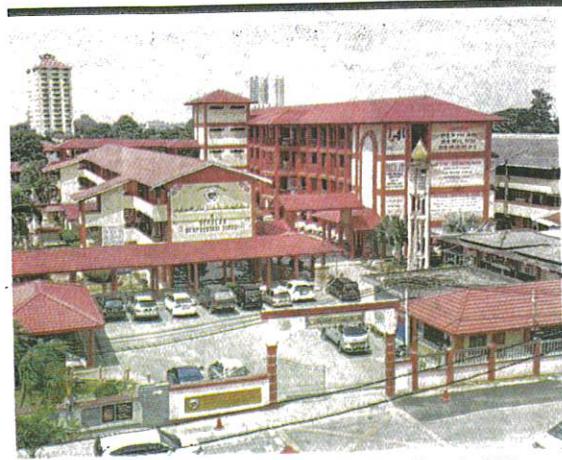
"Saya bekerja sebagai kakitangan swasta di Kuala Terengganu

mengetahui status kesihatan anak apabila dimaklumkan oleh isteri baru-baru ini.

"Saya sudah menjangka akan berlaku penularan jangkitan di asrama sekolah jika mereka mengambil mudah aspek prosedur operasi standard (SOP), namun tidak menjangka akan tercetusnya Kluster Embi Telipot di sekolah tersebut," katanya ketika dihubungi semalam.

Menurutnya, dia bagaimanapun tidak menyalahkan sesiapa apabila anaknya itu dijangkiti sebaliknya reda dengan perkara tersebut.

Pengarah Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Kelantan, Datuk Dr. Zaini Hussin berkata, Kelantan mere-



SMKA Naim Lilbanat di Kota Bharu mencatatkan penularan Covid-19 dalam Kluster Embi Telipot. – GAMBAR HIASAN

Kluster Covid-19 melibatkan sekolah

Kedah

- **Kluster Dah Che Bema:** Kompleks Al-Hidayah, Desa Keda, Sungai Petani (sekolah tahfiz)
- **Kluster Dah Jalan Merbau:** Kolej Mara Kuala Nerang
- **Kluster Dah Penyarum:** Maktab Mahmud Pendang
- **Kluster Dah Teluk Teduri:** Maktab Rendah Sains Mara (MRSM) Baling
- **Kluster Dah Jalan Pantai:** Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan (SMK) Kota Kuala Muda
- **Kluster Dah Padang Halban:** SMK Changlin, Kubang Pasu
- **Kluster Dah Sungai Kob:** SMK Sungai Kob, Kulim
- **Kluster Dah Sungai Limau:** Sekolah Menengah Agama (SMA) Saadah Al-Dinlyah, Al-Islamiyah, Yan
- **Kluster Dah Teratai Jingga:** Maktab Mahmud Alor Setar, Kota Setar

Negeri Sembilan

- **Kluster Jalan Sikamat:** Sekolah Menengah Sains Tuanku Munawir, Seremban
- **Kluster Jalan Ban Alik 2:** SMA Nilai

Melaka

- **Kluster Jalan Kemendor:** Kolej Vokasional (KV) Datuk Seri Abu Zahar Isnin, Jasin
- **Kluster Jalan Tun Telani:** KV Melaka Tengah, Bukit Katil

Kelantan

- **Kluster Pulau Melaka**
- **Kluster Padang Raja**
- **Kluster Jalan Bandar Chiku**
- **Kluster Embi Telipot**

*Kluster sekolah di Kelantan babit 142 kes. Sekolah Kebangsaan dan SMK

kodkan empat kluster pendidikan dan tiga daripadanya kluster baharu dengan jumlah kumulatif sebanyak 142 kes.

"Kluster baru yang dicatatkan adalah Kluster Pulau Melaka, Kluster Padang Raja di Kota Bharu dan Kluster Jalan Bandar Chiku di Gua Musang membatikan pelajar sekolah kebangsaan dan juga sekolah menengah kebangsaan.

"Kluster Pulau Melaka merekodkan 11 kes, manakala Kluster Padang Raja sembilan kes dan Kluster Jalan Bandar Chiku lapan kes," katanya.

Tambahnya, Kluster Embi Telipot yang membatikan pelajar asrama SMKA Naim Lilbanat bertambah kepada 106 kes.

AKHBAR : KOSMO**MUKA SURAT : 5****RUANGAN : NEGARA**

PENUMPANG yang tiba dari Singapura melalui VTL darat perlu menjalani ujian kesihatan sebelum dibenarkan keluar dari Terminal Larkin Sentral, Johor Bahru. - GAMBAR HIASAN

Tangguh sementara bendung varian Omicron

VTL darat bakal disambung semula

Oleh KHAIRUL MOHD. ALI

ISKANDAR PUTERI – Inisiatif Perjalanan Lengkap Vaksin (VTL) darat yang menghubungkan Malaysia dan Singapura melalui Johor Bahru bakal disambung semula selepas ditangguhkan sementara akibat varian Omicron.

Menteri Besar, Datuk Ir. Hasni Mohammad berkata, pihaknya akan memberi kerjasama penuh bagi memastikan pelaksanaan itu berlangsung semula seperti dirancang.

"VTL darat akan disambung semula selepas ditangguhkan selama kira-kira satu bulan, tetapi kini sudah disambung semula dan kerajaan negeri akan terus memantau situasi semasa melibatkan Covid-19.

"Saya juga berhasrat untuk meminta kerajaan Pusat meningkatkan jumlah pengembara yang boleh merentas antara kedua-dua negara melalui inisiatif berkenaan," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian ketika berucap menyempurnakan Majlis Perasmian Zon Dron dan Robotik Iskandar (DRZ), di sini semalam.

Turut hadir, Presiden dan Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Iskandar Investment Berhad (IIB), Datuk Ir. Khalil Anwar Ahmad dan Ketua Polis Johor, Datuk Kamarul Zaman Mamat.

Disember lalu, Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar memberitahu, kerajaan memutuskan untuk menggantung sementara penjualan tiket

bas dan penerbangan bagi VTL antara Malaysia dan Singapura sehingga 20 Januari 2022.

Sementara itu, Hasni turut memaklumkan kerajaan negeri sedang merancang untuk membuka sebuah Pusat Pemberian Vaksin (PPV) Mega di daerah ini bagi pelaksanaan suntikan ketiga atau dos penggalak.

"Saya akan mengadakan perbincangan dengan Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Johor serta beberapa agensi berkaitan berhubung cadangan berkenaan.

"Perancangan membuka sebuah PPV Mega di daerah Johor Bahru itu juga akan dapat membantu Johor terus kekal menjadi negeri yang mengamalkan langkah proaktif dalam mencegah penularan Covid-19" ujarnya.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 8
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

1,900 antivaksin guna sijil vaksin palsu

Aktiviti tersebut dikesan berlaku sejak September 2021

Oleh NORHASPIDA YATIM

KUALA TERENGGANU

Kira-kira 1,900 pelanggan anti-vaksin di sebuah klinik swasta di Marang dipercayai menggunakan sijil vaksin palsu tanpa mendapatkan sebarang suntikan di klinik tersebut.

Ketua Polis Terengganu, Datuk Rohaimi Md Isa berkata, hasil siasatan mendapati tidak sampai 10 pelanggan di premis itu mendapatkan suntikan vaksin berbayar secara sah selepas klinik tersebut dibenarkan melakukan prosedur berkenaan sejak September tahun lalu.

Menurut Rohaimi, status MySejahtera kesemua pelanggan terabit kini disekat oleh Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) dan tidak lagi berfungsi.

"Setakat ini, sejumlah 1,223 butiran pelanggan telah dihantar kepada pihak vendor (vaksin) untuk dikemas kini status MySejahtera mereka.

"Boleh dikatakan hampir keseluruhan pelanggan yang berurusan di klinik swasta itu tidak mengambil vaksin termasuk



ROHAIMI



Status MySejahtera kesemua pelanggan terabit kini disekat oleh KKM dan tidak lagi berfungsi. (Gambar hilang)

mereka yang berkhidmat dalam sektor kerajaan, syarikat milik kerajaan (GLC) serta individu perseorangan," katanya kepada pemberita dalam sidang akhbar di Ibu Pejabat Polis Kontinjen (IPK) Terengganu di sini, Khamis.

Beliau berkata, seramai 23 individu, telah diambileterangan dan kesemua mereka mengakui membeli sijil vaksinasi Covid-19 palsu.

Katanya, ada segelintir pelanggan mendakwa menggunakan suntikan air suling dan air garam sebagai helah mahu membuktikan mereka telah mengambil

suntikan vaksin Covid-19.

"Daripada 23 individu itu, seramai 18 daripadanya mengakui status MySejahtera mereka tidak dikemas kini, namun dua orang sahaja yang membuat aduan ditipu.

"Pihak polis turut menerima maklumat daripada majikan yang mengesyaki kakitangan mereka terlibat dalam pembelian sijil vaksinasi Covid-19 palsu dan berdepan tindakan dalaman," katanya.

Tambahnya, selain klinik swasta terabit, tiada tangkapan baharu dan tiada klinik swasta lain dikesan menjual sijil vaksinasi Covid-19 palsu di Terengganu.

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

Vaksin kanak-kanak 5 hingga 11 tahun mulai Februari ini

KUALA LUMPUR - Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) akan melaksanakan pemberian vaksin Covid-19 untuk kanak-kanak berusia lima hingga 11 tahun bermula Februari nanti, sebaik vaksin Pfizer (kanak-kanak) tiba di Malaysia pada 31 Januari ini.

Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar berkata, keputusan itu berdasarkan data, maklumat dan pandangan Kumpulan Kerja Teknikal (TWG) serta panel penulis Garis Panduan Klinikal Vaksinasi Covid-19 Kanak-Kanak.

"Pelancaran program vaksinasi kanak-kanak berusia lima tahun hingga bawah 12 tahun akan diadakan pada 3 Februari ini di Hospital Tunku Azizah, Kuala Lumpur," katanya.

Beliau berkata, tempahan janji temu vaksinasi kanak-kanak akan dibuka secara berperingkat bermula 31 Januari ini dan dibuka kepada ibu bapa yang tinggal di Lembah Klang dahulu, namun perinciannya dimaklumkan dalam masa terdekat.

"Tempahan janji temu melalui MySejahtera dibuka pada penghujung Januari ini dan sebagai permulaan ibu bapa boleh mendaftarkan anak sebagai tanggungan dalam aplikasi MySejahtera mereka," katanya.

Keutamaan vaksinasi itu pada permulaan program adalah kanak-kanak yang mempunyai masalah kesihatan seperti penyakit respiratori kronik, kardiovaskular, kencing manis dan penyakit saraf. - Bernama

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

Lam Thye: Step up probe to unearth fake vax certs

KUALA LUMPUR: The authorities have been urged to step up the probe into fake Covid-19 vaccination digital certificates.

Alliance for Safe Community chairman Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye called on the public to come forward if they had information on other cases of clinics offering fake vaccination certificates.

"While the police must be commended for unravelling more cases of unforgivable deceit, it is hoped they will step up investigations to unearth more possible cases and bring the culprits to book without delay."

"It is important for the police to act quickly because much more than public confidence in the Covid-19 vaccination process is at stake. Their health also may be in jeopardy," he said yesterday.

Several attempts to produce and sell fake Covid-19 vaccination certificates have been busted by the police recently, with the first uncovered with the arrest of a 51-year-old doctor at a private clinic in Marang, Terengganu, who raked in over RM1 million in sales from fake vaccination cer-

tificates since September.

A similar case was uncovered at a private clinic in Gombak that is believed to have issued Covid-19 vaccination certificates at RM500 per person without inoculation.

The clinic would allegedly empty vaccine vials before returning them to the Health Ministry.

Lee expressed concern over the number of such cases being detected by the authorities as it meant the reported number of people who had been vaccinated against Covid-19 was false.

Up to yesterday, the CovidNow portal said 97.9 per cent of adults and 88.2 per cent of adolescents were fully vaccinated.

Lee questioned whether vaccinations from clinics that issued fake Covid-19 vaccination certificates were included in the figures.

"If so, the figures would not be a true reflection of the state of vaccination and of the resulting state of the nation's health."

"Previously, we had fake vaccinations, then fake vaccination certificates and now fake statistics?"

SINCE 2020

'580,000 kids have caught Covid'

KUALA LUMPUR: Nearly 580,000 children aged 18 and under have been infected with Covid-19 since the pandemic hit the country.

Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin said of the total, 269,773 involve children aged 5 to 11.

At a press conference at the Parliament building yesterday, he said although children would only experience minor symptoms from an infection, some might suffer from serious illnesses and require hospitalisation or intensive care.

"There have been 144 deaths due to Covid-19 among those aged

18 and under. Of this, 31 were aged 5 to 11. There has also been an increase in cases among children since school reopened this year."

Khairy said the Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty paediatric dose, which is a smaller dose of the vaccine approved for children aged 5 to 11, was proven to be 90.7 per cent effective in increasing immunity against Covid-19.

The dose for children, which was given conditional approval by the Drug Control Authority on Jan 6, is one-third of the dosage given to individuals aged 12 and above.

FAKE VACCINATION

OVER 1,000 MySEJAHTERA ACCOUNTS SUSPENDED

Health Ministry will probe authenticity of their jab status, says Terengganu police chief

ZATUL IFFAH ZOLKIPLY AND SHARIFAH MAHSINAH ABDULLAH
KUALA TERENGGANU
news@nst.com.my

THE MySejahtera accounts of more than 1,000 people who had engaged the services of a private clinic in Marang involved in the sale of fraudulent Covid-19 vaccinations have been suspended.

Terengganu police chief Datuk Rohaimi Md Isa said this would allow the Health Ministry to conduct an investigation into these individuals' accounts to determine the authenticity of their vaccination status.

He said checks showed that about 1,900 people had sought the clinic's services, with 1,223 applications already sent to the app's vendor to update their status on MySejahtera.

"Of the total, we are unsure how many have been updated on MySejahtera. This will be announced by the Health Ministry soon."

"Nevertheless, all MySejahtera status from the clinic have been barred by the Health Ministry."

"We are waiting for the ministry to conduct a review before taking further action," he said at a



Terengganu police chief Datuk Rohaimi Md Isa speaking at the state contingent police headquarters in Kuala Terengganu yesterday. PIC BY GHAZALI KORI

press conference at the state contingent police headquarters here yesterday.

Rohaimi said police had recorded statements from 23 people who did not receive vaccination jabs yet were marked as having been vaccinated.

He said their vaccination status on MySejahtera was determined to be false.

"Based on investigations, some of them claimed they received jabs, but the syringes were filled with saline or salt water."

"All I can say for now is that most people who dealt with the clinic did not get vaccine jabs. Even if they did, I don't think the number exceeds 10 people."

State police had previously uncovered the sale of fake Covid-19 vaccination certificates and seized almost 100 vaccine appointment

cards.

Meanwhile in Kelantan, state police chief Datuk Shafien Matam said investigations into a similar case was half complete.

He said no new arrests under the case had been made.

"We have not received any fresh reports regarding the case. No new arrests have been made after the last ones," he said after attending the state police monthly gathering here yesterday.

He urged those with information on fake vaccination certificates to alert the police.

On Sunday, Kelantan police arrested three people who had obtained fake vaccination certificates from a private clinic in Kota Baru.

The clinic's owner, a doctor in his 60s, was arrested on Wednesday in a raid at the clinic.



Covid-19 vaccination certificates that are believed to be fake seized by Terengganu police. FILE PIC

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

PERLIS MUFTI'S CALL

EXPERTS: DON'T POSTPONE BOOSTERS

'This will delay the provision of antibody protection to the community'

ADIB POVERA
KUALA LUMPUR
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HEALTH experts are not in favour of the call by Perlis Mufti Datuk Dr Mohd Asri Zainul Abidin to postpone Covid-19 booster shots.

They said postponing booster jabs would delay the restoration and development of antibodies to protect the community against the virus, more so in the wake of more contagious variants, such as Omicron, or future variants.

One expert, however, agreed that the Health Ministry should look into concerns raised by Asri and others over side-effects or adverse events following immunisation (AEFI) after receiving their booster jab.

Volunteers for Community Engagement and Empowerment for Covid-19 organisation chairman Datuk Dr Zainal Ariffin Omar added the ministry should also be more transparent and update incidences involving AEFI.

"I agree with the Perlis mufti's proposal for the ministry to relook the policy of booster doses, especially for certain groups, but not (for calls to) postpone the booster dose programme."

"So far, the public's acceptability is very good," Dr Zainal, an epidemiologist, said.

Associate Professor Dr Malina Osman, a Universiti Putra Malaysia epidemiologist and biostatistician, said postponing the vaccination would delay the pro-



Datuk Dr Zainal Ariffin Omar

vision of antibody protection to the community, particularly those who were at high risk.

This, she said, would expose them to infections and possible complications linked to Covid-19.

"The administration of the vaccines follows clinical and ethical protocols.

"There is also substantial medical evidence to prove that vaccines, in general, are safe and effective.

"However, some adverse side-effects have been reported, but the incidence is very rare.

"Looking at the severity of the outbreaks on mortality and complications of those suffering from symptoms associated with long Covid (morbidity associated with Covid infection), the benefits of the vaccine outweigh its risk."

Echoing both experts was former Malaysian Medical Association president Datuk Dr N.K.S. Tharmaseelan.

He said data evidence collated by scientists and researchers supported giving a booster dose to those who had completed their primary vaccination, as the effect of the primary vaccine waned after a few months.

The administration of the booster dose, he said, was well-



People registering to get their booster shot at World Trade Centre Kuala Lumpur yesterday. PIC BY FATHIL ASRI

justified and it had received backing from the World Health Organisation and was adopted by all countries.

Dr Tharmaseelan added there were also studies being conducted, and awaiting results, on the safety and need for the fourth dose or second round of booster jab.

"Any drug or vaccine can cause side-effects, depending on the immune system and the person's health. There are some who even develop side-effects with common drugs like Panadol.

"The Drug Control Authority will vouch for the fact many approved drugs and vaccines may cause an occasional side-effect.

"The studies are scrutinised and analysed before drugs and vaccinations are approved for the safety and protection of the vast majority even if there are isolated incidences (of AEFI)."

Furthermore, he said, many countries were already widening the net by including teenagers in

their vaccination campaign.

"Thus, the call to postpone vaccine boosters is untimely and unwarranted."

It was reported that Asri had called on the ministry to consider postponing booster doses for fear of serious side-effects.

He had said that the postponement should take into account a clear statement on who or which group should receive the booster.

Asri's father had been hospitalised for the past week, with his health deteriorating after receiving the booster dose.

He had claimed that his father had vomited and became very weak following the shot.

Dr Zainal and Dr Malina said the ministry should continue educating the public to allay concerns among some groups about the side-effects of the booster jab.

Dr Zainal said: "The ministry should share more information on the definition of AEFI and the monitoring mechanism, includ-

ing reporting."

Dr Malina said educating the public on how to identify AEFI and ways to seek treatment clinically should be continuously done.

She said data on patients suffering from long Covid with multiple complications should be compared with data on AEFI, which should be made available to the public.

She highlighted an issue when the vaccinations were no longer administered at vaccination centres (PPV) but were decentralised to private clinics.

"Some of those who received the booster at private clinics describe the experience as very different compared with PPVs in which the explanation on the vaccine, particularly on side-effects, was not given at all.

"Constant reminders to medical practitioners to provide information should be carried out for those involved with vaccination."

Booster recipients 150 times less likely to die of Covid-19

KUALA LUMPUR: Those who received their Covid-19 booster shots are almost 150 times less likely to die of the virus compared with those who skipped their third shots.

Crisis Preparedness and Response Centre head of data Dr Mahesh Appanna said the death rates for those vaccinated were 25 times lower than those who were unvaccinated.

He added that for those who had received their boosters, the

number was 148 times lower compared with those who had not been boosted.

Dr Mahesh, tweeting the data on his social media account, shared a screenshot of the breakdown on Malaysia's deaths per population of 100,000, according to vaccination status.

The screenshot of the data tabulated on the Health Ministry's CovidNow portal showed that on Jan 12, the seven-day average for deaths among the unvaccinated

was 14.8 per cent.

The seven-day average death rate for those who received two doses and three doses were 0.6 per cent and 0.1 per cent respectively.

Up to Jan 19, 10,002,472 booster shots had been administered.

Around 40 per cent of the adult population had received their boosters, which is on track for 80 per cent of the segment to receive their third dose by the end of next month.

Dr Mahesh said close to half of the 10 million booster shots recipients comprised those who had received the two doses of Sinovac and a Pfizer booster shot combination.

This, he said, comprised 49.3 per cent of the total booster shot recipients.

This was followed by 30.2 per cent of those who took all three Pfizer shots.

A total of 7.8 per cent took only Sinovac shots while 4.4 per cent

took all AstraZeneca (AZ) shots.

A total of 4.4 per cent took a combination of first two doses of AZ followed by a Pfizer shot.

He said almost 50 per cent of original AZ vaccine recipients had agreed to take an AZ booster.

This, he said, demonstrated the confidence the people in the Health Ministry, whose decisions were based on scientific data.

A total of 78.7 per cent of the population have received both their shots.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES
MUKA SURAT : 10
RUANGAN : NEWS / OPINION

BOOSTER JABS

There must be better explanation for fatal cases



DATUK YONG SOO HEONG

“UNREASONABLE-haste is the direct road to error” was a quote that came to mind when I read that some clear-minded thinkers in our local medical fraternity were cautioning against the rollout of a second booster shot under the Covid-19 National Immunisation Programme.

That quote belonged to 17th century French playwright Jean-Baptiste Poquelin, better known by his stage name Moliere, as he expounded the virtues of deliberation before acting in haste.

The *New Straits Times* had cited several people well-versed in medical science that Malaysia ought to study all relevant data on the efficacy of the booster shot, which has yet to reach the arms of many.

I subscribe to that view as many cases unpleasant to the ears had surfaced of late with

regard to casualties after getting the booster shot, elegantly classified as Adverse Event Following Immunisation (AEFI).

It is not a cold or inanimate event. It's a human being at the receiving end. What if he or she is snuffed out by the needle or circumstances following the jab?

There has to be greater clarity as I believe all authorised Covid-19 vaccines must have the highest degree of efficacy and safety.

What if the lines of safety are blurred because we've not undertaken a serious study ourselves and had blindly kept in step with the Joneses?

Datuk Dr N.K.S. Thermaseelan, a former Malaysian Medical Association president, said more data was needed and even the World Health Organisation (WHO) had yet to endorse a global rollout of booster shots.

WHO says: “Safe and effective vaccines are a game-changing tool; but for the foreseeable future we must continue wearing masks, cleaning our hands, ensuring good ventilation indoors, physical distancing and avoiding crowds.

“Being vaccinated does not mean that we can throw caution to the wind and put ourselves and others at risk, particularly because research is still ongoing into how much vaccines protect not only



Someone must explain convincingly the reason behind adverse reactions to vaccines.
PIC BY DANIAL SAAD

against disease but also against infection and transmission.”

We've to probe deeper, especially our own environment. As things stand, 26 million or close to 80 per cent of our population had received the first dose and 25.6 million or 79.6 per cent had taken the second. Nearly 30 per cent or 9.7 million had the third dose.

I'm drawn to morbidity or mortality cases following the third dosage.

There have been several high-profile cases of late. The usual culprit is often blamed on heart attacks. As easy as that? Clarity on how these fatal cases came about is sorely lacking.

Now we have been alerted to

another high-profile case involving the father of a state-level religious figure. The authorities told us that the National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency is investigating after the religious official revealed that his father vomited, became weaker and even had a stroke after the third dose.

Why is this so when medicines are supposed to fortify one's body? Perhaps as a layman I wouldn't know why.

I'm just asking like any normal person why a trip to the clinic or hospital has to end like that. Someone must explain convincingly.

While we're bent on achieving herd immunity, I suppose not ev-

eryone can be corralled into that herd. Although there's compensation from a fund for extended AEFI cases between RM50,000 and RM500,000, no amount of money will placate the loss of a dear one.

I support the proposal by Dr Zainal Ariffin Omar, chairman of the Volunteers for Community Engagement and Empowerment for Covid-19, who called for the formation of an independent technical committee to address vaccine hesitancy.

There's still 20 per cent of the population who have yet to be jabbed and another 70 per cent to go for the booster.

Amidst all these, I'm terribly amused by a recent father and son conversation. Daddy told his son that he was better off getting Covid-19. His son was non-plussed at the sudden remark.

His dad then said he had at least a fighting chance of staying in conversation and be alive for three weeks or so in combating the virus before he succumbs. And, if he is lucky, he will get to stay alive.

But with the booster shot, it may boost his chances of meeting his Maker faster! It's a sobering matter we've to consider seriously.

The writer is a former Bernama chief executive officer and editor-in-chief

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 6
RUANGAN : NATION

Some willing to be jabbed with water for fake vaccination certs

KUALA TERENGGANU: There have been individuals who were willing to be injected with distilled water just to get fake Covid-19 vaccination certificates from a doctor at a private clinic in Marang.

Terengganu police chief Deputy Commr Datuk Rohaimi Md Isa said so far, 23 individuals of various backgrounds have had their statements taken to assist in investiga-

tions into the matter.

He said all had admitted they did not receive the actual Covid-19 vaccine shots.

"Some admitted to taking injections of distilled water or salt water," he told a press conference at the Terengganu police headquarters here yesterday.

He was updating the media on investigations into a case involving

a doctor at a private clinic in Marang, who was nabbed for allegedly issuing fake Covid-19 vaccination certificates.

DCP Rohaimi said investigations found the names of 1,223 individuals had been sent to the vendor for the issuance of vaccination certificates through MySejahtera.

"However, we believe that not all

of these individuals have been administered with the actual dose," he said.

DCP Rohaimi said he was informed that the Health Ministry had blocked the issuance of vaccination certificates by the clinic.

"The certificates issued by the clinic are not valid and the police have also received cooperation from employers who suspect their

employees were involved in the activity carried out by the clinic," he said.

On Jan 8, a 51-year-old male doctor was nabbed on suspicion of selling fake vaccination certificates.

The suspect was released on police bail pending further action by the public prosecutor. — Bernama

Shorter quarantine for some travellers

Only five days for those with booster shots

By JUNAID IBRAHIM
and JOSEPH KAOS Jr
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PETALING JAYA: Travellers who have received booster shots are only required to undergo a five-day quarantine upon arrival in Malaysia effective Monday, says Khairy Jamaluddin.

He added that the travellers with booster shots would need to undergo Covid-19 polymerase-chain reaction (PCR) test two days prior to travelling, on the arrival day and on the fourth day of quarantine; or using rapid test kit (RTK) on the fifth day supervised by health officers.

Travellers will be released from the quarantine period if the results of the PCR on the fourth or RTK on the fifth day are negative.

He added that the quarantine period for fully vaccinated travellers without booster shots would be seven days, while quarantine for travellers that are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated would be 10 days.

"The decision was made based on data, science and the experience of the other countries that have been managing international travellers," Khairy said at a press

conference yesterday.

The Health Minister also said that all travellers who entered the country would not be required to wear the pink surveillance wristbands.

However, he added that travellers from high risk countries, who were allowed to do home quarantine, would still be required to wear a digital surveillance bracelet.

Temperature checks at premises are set to be a thing of the past in the country, added Khairy.

He said that soon, individuals only need to do MySejahtera check-ins upon entering premises.

The ministry has agreed to remove temperature checks from the Covid-19 SOP (standard operating procedures). This proposal will be brought to the weekly Quartet Ministers meeting and the National Security Council (MKN) for endorsement, he said.

Khairy said individuals, however, are still required to show their vaccination certificates before entering shops and restaurants.

"As per the MKN SOP, you will still be required to show you are fully vaccinated when asked by premises owners, and you can be refused entry."

"And premises owners will also

be ensuring that physical distancing is observed and that people wear masks when not eating.

"The ministry also recommends that people switch on the MySejahtera bluetooth tracing feature which will be very useful for contact tracing."

"It is not compulsory but highly recommended. The feature will inform you if you are a casual contact. It does not mean you have to be quarantined, you just monitor yourself for symptoms," said Khairy.

Malaysian Indian Muslim Restaurant Owners Association (Presma) president Datuk Jawahar Ali Taib Khan said that the association welcomes the latest SOP updates by the ministry.

"The removal of the temperature screening at restaurants will mean less hassle for the patrons," he said.

He added that the restaurants under Presma would also ensure no compromise towards unvaccinated individuals as an effort to curb the spread of the virus.

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He added that the restaurants under Presma would also ensure no compromise towards unvaccinated individuals as an effort to curb the spread of the virus.

He added that the government has procured more than six million doses of Pfizer's vaccine for children and they are expected to arrive in Malaysia starting from Jan 31.

"In terms of supply, it is adequate. But we will not make vaccines for children mandatory. Our approach will be more of education where we convince parents to see the benefits of vaccination for children," said Khairy.

On another matter, Khairy said investigations on the fake vaccination certificates have revealed that the cases were linked to paid vaccinations under the Private Purchase Vaccination.

"As per stipulated procedure, all vaccination processes carried out by Covid-19 National Immunisation

New quarantine regime for travellers arriving in Malaysia

New quarantine regime for travellers arriving in Malaysia			
	Fully vaccinated adult with booster or adolescents travelling alone	Fully vaccinated without booster	Partially vaccinated or unvaccinated
Quarantine period	Five days	Seven days	10 days
Tests required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RT-PCR Covid-19, two days before departure with a negative Covid-19 result • RT-PCR Covid-19 on the day of arrival • RT-PCR on day four or supervised RTK-Ag on day five 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RT-PCR Covid-19, two days before departure with a negative Covid-19 result • RT-PCR Covid-19 on the day of arrival • RT-PCR on day eight or supervised RTK-Ag on day seven 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RT-PCR Covid-19 two days before departure with a negative Covid-19 result • RT-PCR Covid-19 on the day of arrival • RT-PCR on day eight or supervised RTK-Ag on day 10
Release from quarantine	Release on day five if RT-PCR on day four is negative or if supervised RTK-Ag test on day five is negative	Release on day seven if RT-PCR on day five is negative or if supervised RTK-Ag test on day seven is negative	Release on day 10 if RT-PCR on day eight is negative or if supervised RTK-Ag test on day 10 is negative

Source: Health Ministry (MOH)

The Star graphics

Vaccination for kids aged five to 12 to begin on Feb 3

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's Covid-19 vaccination programme for children aged five to 12 will begin on Feb 3, says the Health Ministry.

Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin said parents can book appointment slots via MySejahtera beginning Jan 31 and the process will be in phases starting with the Klang Valley.

Khairy said the programme will utilise a special vaccine formulation for children, which is by Pfizer, and it will be a two-dose regime with an eight-week interval.

Each dose will be 0.2ml and contains 10 micrograms of mRNA vaccine, which is one-third of what is given to adults.

"Based on current data, the eight-week interval will produce a strong immune response and has higher efficiency."

"This is because this group of children are more at risk of getting

risk of myocarditis and this is recommended by world health bodies including the United States, Canada and Australia," said Khairy, at a press conference held at Parliament yesterday.

Khairy said the vaccination programme for children will be launched on Feb 3 at Hospital Tunku Azizah in Kuala Lumpur.

He said the ministry will announce soon on how parents can book vaccination appointments for their children.

Khairy said the vaccine programme for five to 12-year-olds is not compulsory and would also prioritise children with underlying conditions such as chronic respiratory disease, cardiovascular disease, immunosuppression, diabetes, chronic kidney disease and nerve disease.

"This is because this group of children are more at risk of getting

severe Covid-19, including being put in intensive care units (ICU)," said Khairy.

He added that the government has procured more than six million doses of Pfizer's vaccine for children and they are expected to arrive in Malaysia starting from Jan 31.

"In terms of supply, it is adequate. But we will not make vaccines for children mandatory. Our approach will be more of education where we convince parents to see the benefits of vaccination for children," said Khairy.

On another matter, Khairy said investigations on the fake vaccination certificates have revealed that the cases were linked to paid vaccinations under the Private Purchase Vaccination.

"As per stipulated procedure, all vaccination processes carried out by Covid-19 National Immunisation

Programme (PICK) and Private Purchase must be reported to the ministry through the MyVAS system for the purpose of record and issuance of vaccination certificates," he said.

Khairy added that the private medical practitioners involved in the case had given fake vaccination reports to the ministry.

He added that the dealers of the vaccines involved under the private purchase vaccination, Sinopharm and Sinovac, should tighten their standard operating procedures to avoid similar cases.

"The ministry would also be doing random surveillance at clinics that give out vaccines to the public," he said, adding that the ministry is giving full cooperation to the police on its ongoing investigations.

Meanwhile, Khairy said there is no need to close all boarding schools

even after the emergence of 27 new Covid-19 clusters this year coming from these institutions.

"We have vaccinated 90% of our teenagers to date."

"Covid-19 infections are going to happen, this is something that we cannot avoid."

"Majority of the cases at the boarding schools are either mild or asymptomatic infections, and the positive ones can be isolated."

"So I see that there is no need to impose a blanket ruling and close all boarding schools."

"I think that is a backward move," he said.

Khairy said from the first epidemiology week of 2022 up to Jan 19, a total of 52 Covid-19 clusters involving the education sector had emerged.

Some 30 clusters (57.7%) involve secondary schools, of which 27 of them are boarding schools.