

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN  
MUKA SURAT : 13  
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

## Penularan COVID-19

# KKM digesa kembali fokus isu kesihatan awam lain

**Kuala Lumpur:** Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) disaran mengambil langkah sama dilaksanakan Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO), yang memutuskan COVID-19 bukan lagi dikategori sebagai kecemasan kesihatan antarabangsa.

Beberapa pakar epidemiologi berpandangan, KKM lebih wajar menumpukan seluruh perhatian kepada isu kesihatan awam lain, berbanding kepada COVID-19 semata-mata.

Profesor Epidemiologi dan Biostatistik, Kuliyyah Perubatan, Universiti Islam Antarabangsa (UIAM), Prof Dr Jamalludin Ab Rahman, berkata dalam tahap liputan dan keberkesanan vaksin

COVID-19 yang baik ketika ini, KKM perlu mengembalikkan fokus kepada isu berkaitan nikotin dan kawalan peraturan sedia ada, yang nampak semakin longgar.

"Ini adalah yang sebaiknya jika KKM mahu dilihat mementingkan kesihatan dan pihak terbabit wajar menunjukkan ketegasan melaksanakan undang-undang sedia ada," katanya kepada *BH*.

Kelmarin, KKM memutuskan SOP sedia ada berkaitan COVID-19 akan diteruskan seperti biasa walaupun WHO memutuskan wabak itu bukan lagi dikategori sebagai kecemasan kesihatan antarabangsa.

Menteri Kesihatan, Dr Zaliha

Mustafa, dilaporkan berkata, KKM akan meneruskan langkah perlindungan kawalan atau SOP sedia ada sehingga keputusan muktamad dibuat sama ada untuk mengikut saranan WHO atau sebaliknya.

Sementara itu, Pakar Perubatan Kesihatan Awam dan Epidemiologi, Jabatan Perubatan Masyarakat dan Pencegahan, Fakulti Perubatan Universiti Malaya, Prof Dr Noran Naqiah Hairi, berkata pengisytiharan oleh WHO itu tidak bermakna COVID-19 tidak lagi menjadi ancaman.

Beliau berkata, ia dibuat atas beberapa kriteria, iaitu ia peristiwa luar biasa dan peristiwa

itu menimbulkan risiko kesihatan awam yang memerlukan tindak balas segera yang diselaraskan antarabangsa.

"Persoalan mengapa COVID-19 bukan lagi Kecemasan Kesihatan Awam Kebimbangan Antarabangsa (PHEIC) dan sebab WHO memutuskannya bukan lagi kecemasan berikutan COVID-19 tidak lagi memenuhi kriteria itu.

"Bagaimanapun dengan pengisytiharan itu COVID-19 atau SARS-Cov2 bukan tidak berbahaya lagi. Memandangkan COVID-19 adalah *novel disease*, banyak tidak diketahui mengenai penyakit ini," katanya.

Prof Noran Naqiah berkata, walaupun COVID-19 tidak lagi

diisytihar kecemasan kesihatan global, setiap individu tetap perlu mengambil semua langkah bagi mencegah jangkitan.

Pakar Perubatan Kesihatan Awam Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Prof Madya Dr Halimatus Sakdiah Minhat, berkata COVID-19 perlu ditangani seperti penyakit berjangkit yang lain kerana keadaan sekarang menunjukkan tahap yang baik.

"Keadaan sekarang bukan seperti era pandemik yang liputan vaksin belum meluas. Jadi, apabila keadaan yang kini endemik, kerajaan wajar menumpukan isu lain seperti nikotin, strok haba dan isu denggi serta lain-lain yang serius," katanya.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 10

RUANGAN : LOKAL

## Kes denggi di Melaka meningkat 103 peratus

**Alor Gajah:** Waspada berikutan kes demam denggi di Melaka menunjukkan peningkatan mendadak melebihi 103 peratus dalam tempoh empat bulan pertama tahun ini.

Exco Kesihatan, Sumber Manusia Dan Perpaduan Melaka, Ngwe Hee Sem, berkata, sehingga minggu epidemiologi (ME) 17 berakhir pada 29 April lalu, sebanyak 322 kes demam denggi direkodkan berbanding hanya 158 kes dalam tempoh sama pada tahun lalu.

Beliau berkata, secara purata Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri (JKN) merekodkan kes antara 60 hingga 90 kes setiap bulan dalam tempoh empat bulan ini.

"Daerah Melaka Tengah merekodkan jumlah kes demam denggi tertinggi dengan 241 kes, diikuti Jasin dengan 52 kes dan bakinya 29 kes di Alor Gajah.

"Sehingga berakhirnya

ME-17 juga terdapat 14 wabak dilaporkan di seluruh negeri ini dan tiada kematian dilaporkan," katanya di Kompleks Japerun Mahcap Jaya, semalam.

Beliau yang juga Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri (Adun) Machap Jaya berkata, sepanjang ME-17 yang bermula pada 23 April 19 kes direkodkan berbanding hanya 16 kes pada ME-16.

"Malah JKN mengesan empat lokaliti wabak aktif iaitu di Taman Perkota dan Jalan Sekolah, Kampung Padang Temu di daerah Melaka Tengah; Batu 21 1/2 Kampung Solok Dekat, Alor Gajah dan Taman Merlimau Baru di Jasin.

"Justeru itu JKN bersama-sama dengan agensi yang terbabit termasuk pihak berkuasa tempatan (PBT) akan mengaktifkan gotong-royong bagi membersihkan persekitaran premis dari tempat pembiakan nyamuk aedes," katanya.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO  
MUKA SURAT : 17  
RUANGAN : LOKAL

**Kuala Lumpur:** Pengusaha kedai makan atau restoran di negara ini mengakui berdepan kesukaran untuk menegur pelanggan yang masih berdegil dan tidak mengendahkan larangan merokok di premis mereka.

Presiden Persatuan Pengusaha Restoran Muslim Malaysia (Presma), Datuk Jawahar Ali Taib Khan berkata, pihaknya mendapati pelanggan masih gagal mematuhi larangan merokok di premis makanan sejak dikuatkuasakan pada 2019.

Menurutnya, pemilik premis sudah mengambil pendekatan melaksanakan arahan itu seperti meletakkan papan tanda larangan merokok dan tempat abu rokok namun segelintir pelanggan masih berdegil.

"Pekerja sudah banyak kali menegur dan memberi nasihat, tetapi pelanggan masih ada yang berdegil. Pergaduhan mulut dan dimarahi itu sudah biasa, malah pernah ada kejadian pekerja ditampar.

## Merokok: Teguran tauke restoran cetus perang mulut



"Boleh cakap semua premis sudah mematuhi apa yang disarankan kerajaan, namun kesedaran sivik di kalangan pelanggan (perokok) masih kurang," katanya.

Katanya, disebabkan itu, pihaknya berdepan masalah apabila mereka turut dikom-

pauan oleh Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) atas kesalahan gagal melarang pelanggan merokok di premis seperti berlaku kepadanya, baru-baru ini.

"Kita sudah tegur banyak kali tetapi tak diendahkan jadi saya hubungi pihak berkuasa. Apabila mereka da-

tang bukan saja perokok itu dikenakan saman, malah saya juga sebagai pemilik premis disaman.

"Jadi di mana kewajaran-nya dalam perkara ini dan apa bidang kuasa kami untuk menegur pelanggan yang degil. Bagi saya ini agak keterlaluan untuk peniaga



*Pergaduhan mulut dan dimarahi itu sudah biasa, malah pernah ada kejadian pekerja ditampar"*

**Jawahar Ali**

yang sudah patuhi semua apa yang disuruh kerajaan," katanya.

Katanya, kerajaan turut disarankan memberi kuasa kepada polis dan pihak berkuasa tempatan (PBT) dalam usaha menguatkuasakan larangan ini selain melakukan pemantauan menyeluruh secara berkala setiap hari.

"Saya berharap kerajaan dapat melihat semula dan memperhalusi akta sedia ada yang membolehkan pemilik premis turut disaman kerana bukan kita tidak pa-

tuhi arahan, malah sudah melarang juga," katanya.

Sementara itu, Penasihat Sahabat Tomyam Prihatin Semalaysia Che Mamad Che Mod berkata, biarpun pihaknya tiada kejadian pekerja dipukul pelanggan, tetapi situasi sama turut berlaku apabila pelanggan masih tidak mengendahkan larangan merokok.

Katanya, sebagai peniaga, mereka gembira dengan usaha kerajaan yang melarang aktiviti merokok di tempat awam termasuk premis makanan tetapi kedegilan pelanggan menyebabkan mereka berada dalam dilema.

"Merokok ini lebih banyak buruk daripada baik termasuk dalam aspek kebersihan apabila mereka membuang puntung dan abu rokok merata-rata, malah asap rokok juga mengganggu dan tidak baik untuk pelanggan lain terutama kanak-kanak," katanya.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN  
MUKA SURAT : 25  
RUANGAN : NEGERI

## Kes demam denggi di Melaka meningkat 100 peratus

**ALOR GAJAH** - Kes demam denggi di Melaka meningkat sebanyak 103.8 peratus kepada 322 kes dalam tempoh 1 Januari hingga 29 April atau sehingga minggu epid ke-17 berbanding 158 kes dalam tempoh sama tahun lalu.

Exco Kesihatan, Sumber Manusia dan Perpaduan negeri, Ngwe Hee Sem berkata, daripada jumlah itu, Melaka Tengah mencatatkan kes demam denggi tertinggi iaitu sebanyak 241 kes diikuti Jasin (52 kes) dan Alor Gajah (29 kes).

Beliau berkata, sebanyak 89 kes dilaporkan berlaku pada Januari, Februari (61 kes), Mac (85 kes) dan April (87 kes).

"Pada minggu ke-17 iaitu dalam tempoh 23 hingga 29 April lepas, sebanyak 19 kes demam denggi direkodkan di Melaka, meningkat tiga kes berbanding 16 kes pada minggu epid ke-16.

"Daripada jumlah itu, sebanyak 14 kes direkodkan di Melaka Tengah, Jasin (tiga kes) dan Alor Gajah (dua kes)," katanya kepada pemberita di sini pada Sabtu.

Beliau yang

juga Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri (ADUN) Machap Jaya berkata demikian, ketika ditemui pada Majlis Rumah Terbuka Aidilfitri Dewan Undangan Negeri (DUN) Machap Jaya.

Mengulas lanjut, Hee Sem berkata, sehingga minggu epid ke-17, tiada kematian direkodkan dan sebanyak 14 lokaliti wabak keseluruhan dilaporkan di negeri itu dalam tempoh tersebut.

"Daripada jumlah itu, empat lokaliti wabak aktif direkodkan iaitu dua di Melaka Tengah dan masing-masing satu lokaliti di Jasin dan Alor Gajah," katanya.

Dalam pada itu, katanya, Jabatan Kesihatan negeri akan bekerjasama dengan pihak berkuasa tempatan di tiga daerah berkenaan untuk melaksanakan program gotong-royong bagi mengekang pembiakan nyamuk aedes khususnya di kawasan perumahan dan industri.

Beliau berkata program berbentuk advokasi bagi meningkatkan kesedaran dan pendedahan berkaitan isu demam denggi dalam kalangan masyarakat setempat juga akan dipertingkatkan. - Bernama



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Empat lokaliti wabak aktif direkodkan iaitu dua di Melaka Tengah dan masing-masing satu di Jasin dan Alor Gajah.”

- Hee Sem

AKHBAR : THE STAR  
MUKA SURAT : 5  
RUANGAN : NATION

## Council: Only locally made, sealed vape liquid should be sold here

By MARTIN CARVALHO  
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**PETALING JAYA:** Only locally manufactured vape liquid in sealed bottles should be allowed to be sold in the country, says Malaysian Substance Abuse Council (Masac) secretary-general Raja Azizan Suhaimi.

"Masac proposed that only flavoured vape liquid made in the country be allowed to be sold using bottles whose seals cannot be opened to prevent other substances from being added," he said in statement yesterday.

He said the vape liquid must be sold in glass bottles to prevent other substances from being injected into the bottle.

On April 26, three 13-year-old girls who were offered to try out a "new vape flavour" ended up being gang raped by four teen suspects at a lodging house in Kg Air, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.

Raja Azizan said there was a likelihood the vape liquid used in the incident derived from a type of magic mushroom, which is from the psilocybin family that is hallucinogenic in nature, that could cause a person to faint.

He said a joint study by Masac, Asian Centre for Research on Drug Abuse and Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia found that there was a growing tendency among schooling teenage girls to use vape liquid which are flavoured with the mushroom drug.

He said that so far, only 10 manufacturers producing liquid nicotine were registered with the Customs Department since the registration deadline ended on April 30, although a large number of flavoured vape liquid sold currently are imported.

Raja Azizan also suggested that

the age limit to allow vaping should be raised from 18 to 21 and above to minimise the abuse of vape liquid which may contain drugs by the young.

In October 2022, the previous government attempted to regulate the use of vape among youth by tabling the Generational End Game (GEG) Bill in the Dewan Rakyat.

Under the Bill, children born in 2007 and subsequent years will be banned from smoking, buying or possessing any type of smoking product, including electronic cigarettes or vape products, even

after reaching the age of 18.

However, the Bill met with some resistance and was referred to a Special Parliamentary Select Committee (PSSC) for refinement.

When tabling the revised Budget 2023 on Feb 24, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said nicotine vape liquids are still illegally sold in the country with an estimated RM2bil or more in sales.

In March this year, Health Minister Dr Zaliha Mustafa said the retabling of the Tobacco and Smoking Control Bill, or GEG Bill, would be expedited.

# Reforming our healthcare system

## Better service, wait times among improvements over 15 years, says MOH

By RAGANANTHINI  
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**PETALING JAYA:** The Health White Paper, which will be tabled in the Dewan Rakyat in the coming Parliament session, promises high quality services at affordable rates and acceptable waiting times as among the reforms to the healthcare sector to be implemented in phases over 15 years.

The Health Ministry's top officials have been conducting townhall sessions in various parts of the country to gather feedback from stakeholders for the proposals to reform the sector that came under immense pressure during the Covid-19 pandemic.

So far, five townhall sessions have been held, with the first in Kuala Lumpur on April 18 and most recently in Muar yesterday.

Three other sessions were held in Sarawak, Sabah and Penang.

From photos posted on the ministry's Facebook, the sessions looked to be fully attended with doctors, nurses, pharmacists and other healthcare workers.

Pharmaceutical Association of Malaysia (PhAMA) executive



**Talking it through:** Zaliha (centre) speaking during a Health White Paper townhall session with other top MOH officials at the Pagoh Higher Education Hub in Muar, Johor. — Bernama

director Chan Li Jin, who attended one of the sessions, said there was a long line of people waiting to ask questions or provide feedback.

"What differentiates this session from previous ones is the openness and inclusivity."

"Previous ones never got all the stakeholders to the table like this," she said, adding that it made her hopeful that "they would finally see something moving."

According to the White Paper's website, funding constraints,

manpower concerns, facilities and equipment shortages, disease burden, ageing society, mental health issues, climate change and deterioration of the planet as well as the lack of emphasis on the social determinants of health are among the challenges faced by the healthcare system.

Members of the public, said the website, would be able to enjoy high quality services at affordable rates with acceptable waiting hours, e-services, the ability to consult the same doctor and team

each time, as well as access their health records online once the reforms are implemented.

Chan said it would take political will to push through the reforms encapsulated in the White Paper, adding that regular reviews should also be carried out to track whether the targets have been achieved.

"PhAMA is also hoping for an increased health budget as the country moves towards ageing society status in 2030. Investing in health is no longer an option if

we're hoping for a healthy, productive society in the following decades," she said.

Chan is also urging the government to increase access to innovative medicines to provide equity through the healthcare system.

PhAMA, she said, also hoped that the ministry would honour its pledge to strengthen public-private partnerships in reforming the complex yet dynamic healthcare system.

"Early and regular engagement with relevant stakeholders to co-create holistic, robust and sustainable solutions should be the way forward, instead of adopting a paternalistic approach," she added.

Meanwhile, in Muar, Health Minister Dr Zaliha Mustafa said the Health White Paper would be the beginning of the journey of reforming the country's health system towards making it more sustainable and competitive.

"The White Paper on 'Health will be tabled in Parliament next month," she added.

Members of the public can also provide their feedback via the ministry's website at <https://moh.gov.my/>

## MOH to conduct Covid-19 risk assessment next month

**MUAR:** The Health Ministry will carry out a risk assessment on Covid-19 in the middle of next month following the announcement by the World Health Organisation (WHO) that the epidemic is no longer categorised as a global health emergency.

Its minister Dr Zaliha Mustafa said the assessment was necessary to review the declaration of local areas of infection, which will expire on June 30, and to facilitate the government in determining the next direction involving the latest protection measures against Covid-19.

Although WHO no longer categorised Covid-19 as an international health emergency, she said the ministry needed to take into account local factors.

"We, at the technical committee, have given our views that we will continue with the existing

standard operating procedures (SOP) and maintain the local areas of infection.

"We want to see the developments because there are still Covid-19 cases, but they are under control."

"We will look at the situation in the country first before adopting WHO's recommendations," she said after attending a townhall session on the White Paper on Health for the Southern Zone at the Higher Education Hub in Pagoh yesterday, Bernama reported.

Dr Zaliha said the ministry would also review and update the Covid-19 guidelines with reference to the WHO's recommendations regarding the long-term management transition of the pandemic.

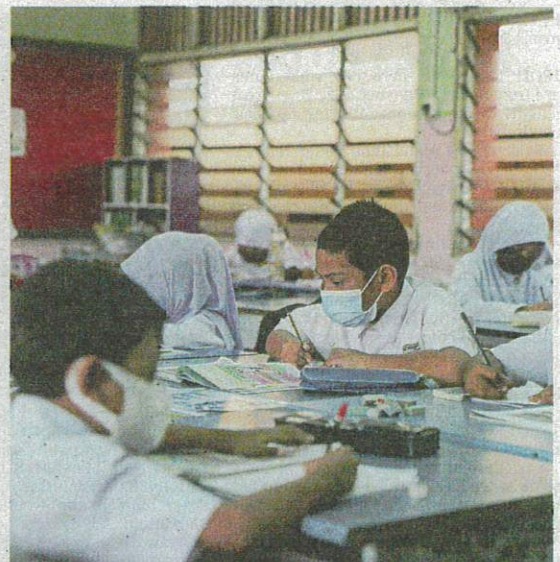
It was reported on Saturday that the WHO had lifted its

Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) status for Covid-19, but insists the disease continues to pose a global threat.

Meanwhile, in a statement regarding Covid-19 cases, Dr Zaliha said the number of cases increased by 53.1% to 7,596 in the 8th Epidemiology Week (ME 18/2023), which is from April 30 to May 6, from 4,963 the previous week.

"The admission rate of Covid-19 patients (including suspected patients) to public health facilities also showed an increase from 5.8% to 7.2% per 100,000 population in ME 18/2023 compared to ME 17/2023," she said.

The minister also added that the infection situation in Malaysia was still under control and did not affect the health services in hospitals.



**New normal:** Children seen masked up during the schooling session in a classroom at SK Ladang, Kuala Terengganu. — Bernama