

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 1

RUANGAN : MUKA DEPAN

WHO isytihar COVID-19 pandemik

Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO) meminta semua negara mengambil tindakan segera dan agresif untuk mengekang serta memerangi COVID-19. Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba memberi jaminan Malaysia masih berada pada tahap awal jangkitan dan tidak perlu membuat pengisytiharan berada pada zon oren. *Muka 4, 5, 6, 55, 56*



Medan St Peter di Rome lengang susulan langkah kerajaan Itali melaksanakan sekatan pergerakan rakyatnya bagi mengekang penularan COVID-19 di negara itu.

(Foto REUTERS)

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Penularan COVID-19

WHO gesa semua negara bertindak segera, agresif

Malaysia berada pada kesiapsiagaan tertinggi hadapi sebarang kemungkinan peningkatan kes

Oleh Wartawan BH
bhnews@bh.com.my

Kuala Lumpur: Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO) semalam, mengisytiharkan COVID-19 sebagai pandemik berikutan penularan wabak itu ke 125 negara dan wilayah di seluruh dunia.

Pandemik diisytiharkan apabila wabak sesuatu penyakit itu tersebar dengan begitu meluas merentasi sempadan malah hingga ke seluruh dunia.

Ketua Pengarah WHO, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, berkata pengisytiharan itu dibuat selepas virus itu sudah menjangkiti lebih 126,100 orang dan meragut 4,717 nyawa di seluruh dunia setakat kelmarin dan angka itu dijangka terus meningkat.

"Kami sangat kluatir dengan tahap penularan dan keadaan wabak ini yang teruk, serta ada keseimbangan tindakan yang diambil setakat ini tidak mencukupi."

"Sehubungan itu, kami telah membuat penilaian bahawa COVID-19 boleh disifatkan sebagai satu pandemik," katanya semalam.

Berikutan itu, Tedros meminta semua negara mengambil tindakan segera dan agresif untuk mengekang serta memerangi virus berkenaan.

"Kami tidak pernah melihat pandemik dicituskan oleh coronavirus sebelum ini," katanya.

Jumlah kes COVID-19 di luar China meningkat 13 kali ganda dalam tempoh dua minggu lalu, manakala bilangan negara yang terkesan bertambah tiga kali ganda.

Iran dan Itali muncul negara paling teruk di Asia Barat serta Eropah dengan masing-masing mencatatkan 354 dan 827 kematian, setakat ini. Malah, Itali mencatatkan 197 kematian dalam tempoh 24 jam lalu, tertinggi sehari di luar China.

Tedros memberi amaran negara lain akan turut berada dalam situasi sama tidak lama lagi.

Di sebelah perkembangan terkini itu, Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba memberi jaminan Malaysia masih lagi berada pada tahap awal jangkitan COVID-19 dan tidak perlu membuat pengisytiharan berada pada zon oren seperti dilakukan Singapura.

"Kesiapsiagaan kita berada pada tahap yang tertinggi bagi

menghadapi sebarang kemungkinan peningkatan kes yang mendadak.

"Hospital Sungai Buloh menjadi hospital khusus jangkitan penyakit dan mempunyai 772 katil serta kemudahan dan kakitangan yang mencukupi jika kes terus meningkat," katanya pada sidang media selepas melawat Hospital Sungai Buloh di sini, semalam.

Kementerian Kesihatan juga melabel perhimpunan tabligh di Masjid Seri Petaling di sini pada 28 Februari hingga 1 Mac lalu sebagai kluster baharu selepas lima peserta majlis itu disahkan positif COVID-19, masing-masing dua rakyat Malaysia, Singapura dan seorang warga Brunei.

Serentak itu masjid berkenaan akan ditutup untuk pembersihan dan disinfeksi, kata Dr Adham.

Kementerian Kesihatan juga menjejaki kira-kira 5,000 jemaah tabligh Malaysia yang berhimpun di masjid itu.

Penularan virus itu juga menyebabkan dua kilang multinasional di Pulau Pinang, Motorola Solutions dan Keysight Technologies Malaysia Sdn Bhd terpaksa

menutup operasinya sementara.

Semalam, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) turut menanggukan istiadat konvoquesyennya di kampus Shah Alam dan semua kampus cawangan yang dijadual bermula 24 Mac ini.

Serentak itu, Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, meminta semua aktiviti perhimpunan membabitkan kehadiran ramai ditangguhkan.

Kementerian Kesihatan memaklumkan sebanyak sembilan kes baharu direkodkan semalam menjadikan kes terkumpul ialah 158, manakala sebanyak 32 kes sudah pulih.

Dalam pada itu, Bursa Malaysia ditutup rendah semalam di tengah-tengah pasaran saham global yang tidak menentu, dengan COVID-19 menjadi punca utama yang diburukkan lagi oleh penurunan harga minyak.

Penanda aras FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI) susut 24.40 mata atau 1.69 peratus kepada 1,419.43 mata daripada penutup 1,443.83 pada Rabu.

Malaysia Aviation Group



(MAG), syarikat induk Malaysia Airlines Bhd pula menawarkan pilihan cuti tanpa gaji kepada 13,000 kakitangannya berkuat kuasa bulan depan berikutan perniagaan yang lembap.

Persatuan Ejen-ejen Pelancongan dan Pengembaraan Malaysia (MATTA) menjangkakan industri pelancongan akan lebih meruncing bermula Jun ini jika penularan COVID-19 tidak dapat dibendung.

Perangkaan semasa menunjukkan ketibaan pelancong asing, khususnya dari China, Korea Selatan, Jepun dan Eropah merosot kira-kira 70 peratus sejak virus dikesan akhir tahun lalu.

Pada peringkat global, Britain dan Itali yang semakin bimbang akan impak COVID-19 terhadap bidang ekonomi, mengumumkan peruntukan berbilion dolar untuk memerangi penyakit itu.

Situasi itu menyebabkan 'keadaan kalam-kabut di seluruh dunia' dengan Itali mengarahkan semua pasar raya, kecuali farmasi dan kedai makanan, ditutup sejak kelmarin.

Australia turut memperkenalkan pakej kesihatan A\$2.4 bilion (RM6.62 bilion) bagi memerangi penyebarannya di negara itu.

Wabak itu juga semakin mengancam Eropah dengan Ireland, Albania, Belgium, Sweden dan Bulgaria mencatat kematian pertama, kelmarin.

India pula menggantung semua visa pelancong hingga 15 April depan. Denmark mengarahkan semua sekolah dan universiti ditutup hari ini selepas negara itu mencatatkan 514 kes.

Kematian akibat virus itu di Perancis pula meningkat 50 peratus kepada 48, manakala kes positif naik kepada 2,281.

Arab Saudi mengambil langkah menggantung sementara perjalanan rakyat dan penduduk serta menghentikan penerbangan membabitkan beberapa negara.

Presiden Donald Trump turut mengumumkan penggantungan semua perjalanan dari Eropah ke Amerika Syarikat (AS) selama 30 hari untuk mengekang pandemik itu.

Penularan virus itu yang semakin membimbangkan juga menimbulkan tanda tanya mengenai status pelbagai acara membabitkan perhimpunan besar-besaran yang akan berlangsung, termasuk ibadat haji di Makkah pada penghujung Julai depan.

Setakat ini, lebih lima acara antarabangsa terpaksa ditangguh atau dibatalkan, termasuk Kejuhan Olahraga Dalam Dewan Dunia di Nanjing, China yang ditunda setahun, selain perlumbaan motosikal MotoGP di Qatar.

Malah, Sukan Olimpik Tokyo yang dijadual pada bermula 22 Julai berkemungkinan turut ditunda.

Endemik, Epidemik dan Pandemik

Endemik

Kejadian penyakit yang sentiasa wujud dalam masyarakat atau tempat. Penyakit ini dijangka sentiasa ada kes dan pada kadar yang stabil serta rendah.

Contoh situasi:
Denggi adalah penyakit endemik di Malaysia

Epidemik

Kejadian penyakit naik mendadak melebihi kadar biasa dan dilihat jelas dalam komuniti dalam tempoh masa tertentu. Ia juga dikenali sebagai 'wabak'. Sebagai contoh, jangkitan demam kepala pada 2 kes yang saling berkait dianggap wabak/epidemik.

Contoh situasi:
Wabak COVID-19 yang sedang berlaku di beberapa buah negara dan kejadian penyakit polio di Sabah

Pandemik

Kejadian wabak besar-besaran ke seluruh dunia. Merentasi wilayah dan membabitkan populasi yang besar. Kebiasaannya membabitkan jangkitan penyakit baharu (Novel).

Cirinya adalah membabitkan kadar serangan yang tinggi dalam masa singkat dengan sebaran yang pantas dan menyebabkan kadar kematian yang tinggi.

Contoh situasi:
Kejadian 'Black Death' di antara kurun ke-14 hingga kurun ke-17 yang membabitkan kematian 2/3 penduduk dunia (penyakit hawar/Yersinia pestis)

Sumber: Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia

TABUNG COVID-19

BANK MUAMALAT

TABUNG BANTUAN BENCANA NEGARA

1601-000 1138-71-4

Agensi Pengurusan Bencana Negara
Aras B1, 6 dan 7, Blok DS
Kompleks D
Pusat Pentadbiran Kerajaan Persekutuan
62502 W.P. Putrajaya

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NATION

Pembersihan, nyahkuman di Masjid Sri Petaling

Sungai Buloh: Kerja-kerja pembersihan dan nyahkuman di Masjid Jamek Sri Petaling, Kuala Lumpur akan dilaksanakan susulan kes positif jangkitan COVID-19 membabitkan peserta ijtimaq tabligh di masjid berkenaan.

Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba, ketika memaklumkan perkara itu, berkata kes jangkitan COVID-19 membabitkan peserta perhimpunan tabligh pada 28 Februari hingga 1 Mac lalu itu adalah kluster baharu.

"Setakat ini, ada tiga kes positif COVID-19 berkaitan perhimpunan keagamaan itu, iaitu masing-masing satu kes di Kuantan, Tawau dan Brunei. Serentak itu, masjid berkenaan ditutup untuk pembersihan dan disinfeksi," katanya pada sidang media selepas melawat Hospital Sungai Buloh, di sini semalam.

Dianggarkan, lebih 10,000 orang terbabit dalam perhimpunan di masjid itu membabitkan jemaah dari pelbagai negara. Daripada jumlah itu, difahamkan lebih separuh terdiri daripada jemaah Malaysia.

Dr Adham merayu mereka yang menghadiri majlis berkenaan supaya tampil membuat saringan kesihatan di 57 hospital kerajaan atau mana-mana hospital swasta yang mempunyai kemudahan saringan.

Sementara itu, *Harian Metro* yang membuat tinjauan di masjid terbabit semalam, mendapati kebanyakan jemaah majlis ijtimaq berakhir 1 Mac lalu, hadir membuat ujian saringan kesihatan se-



Jemaah tabligh menghadiri perhimpunan di Masjid Jamek Seri Petaling, pada 28 Februari hingga 1 Mac lalu diminta tampil membuat saringan kesihatan di hospital kerajaan atau swasta. (Foto Asyraf Hamzah/BH)

perti disarankan Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM).

Bakri Che Muhamad, 57, dari Taman Maluri, Cheras, berkata sebaik mengetahui gesaan KKM supaya jemaah menghadiri majlis berkenaan perlu melakukan ujian saringan COVID-19, beliau berasa bertanggungjawab untuk melakukan saringan itu.

"Alhamdulillah, hasil ujian sudah diketahui dan saya negatif virus berkenaan berdasarkan beberapa ujian dilakukan doktor," katanya sambil menambah, ramai dalam kalangan jemaah dihubungnya turut ke klinik kesihatan terdekat untuk membuat saringan.

Dalam perkembangan berkaitan, Timbalan Pengerusi masjid, Mohd Salleh Abd Mubin dalam reaksinya ketika tinjauan *BH*,

memaklumkan pengurusan masjid sudah meminta peserta ijtimaq menjalani saringan kesihatan di klinik atau hospital berhampiran, jika ada menunjukkan gejala.

Kes jangkitan COVID-19 membabitkan peserta perhimpunan tabligh pada 28 Februari hingga 1 Mac lalu itu adalah kluster baharu.

Dr Adham Baba,
Menteri Kesihatan

"Kita sudah minta 12,000 peserta buat saringan kesihatan, tetapi ia tanggungjawab mereka, sama ada mahu melakukannya atau tidak. Kita tak boleh paksa kerana mereka datang dari 25 negara berlainan.

"Sebahagian besar peserta sudah balik ke kawasan masing-masing, cuma dua yang juga warga asing masih terbabit dalam aktiviti tabligh di negara ini," katanya turut memuji langkah KKM menjalankan kerja pembersihan dan ujian saringan di masjid itu sejak kelmarin.

Katanya, selepas perhimpunan terbabit, tiada lagi program membabitkan kehadiran ramai diadakan di masjid berkenaan dan pihaknya turut menyediakan cecair pembasmi kuman pada tangan untuk kegunaan jemaah.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 1

RUANGAN :

WHO ISYTIHARKAN SEBAGAI PANDEMIK



COVID-19

127.750
DIJANGKITI

4.635
KEMATIAN

123
NEGARA DIJANGKITI

158
KES DI MALAYSIA

- Malaysia catat 9 kes baharu
- Khutbah Jumaat dipendekkan
- Jemaah disaran berwuduk di rumah
- Mereka ada gejala Covid-19 dikecualikan solat Jumaat
- KKM sahkan peserta ijtimaq Tabligh positif virus
 - Semua perhimpunan disaran ditangguh
- Malaysia Airlines gantung penerbangan ke Seoul

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 16A

RUANGAN : LOKAL



Shah Alam: Mahkamah Majistret di sini, semalam mengeluarkan waran tangkap terhadap ahli perniagaan kontroversi, Nur Sajat kerana tidak hadir tanpa sebarang alasan bagi pendakwaan kes di mahkamah itu.

Dia dituduh memiliki untuk tujuan jualan 11 produk yang bukan keluaran berdaftar dengan Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) mengikut Peraturan 7(1)(a) Dadah dan Kosmetik 1984.

Jika sabit kesalahan boleh dihukum iaitu denda tidak melebihi RM 25,000 atau 3 tahun penjara atau kedua-duanya sekali.

Sumber berkata, malangnya Nur Sajat atau nama sebenarnya Muhammad Sajjad Kamaruz Zaman tidak hadir semasa pengurusan kes berkenaan pagi semalam.

“Waran tangkap itu dikeluarkan terhadap Nur Sajat kerana tidak hadir tanpa sebarang alasan bagi pendakwaan kes di mahkamah itu.

“Pendakwaan dilakukan Pegawai Pendakwa Nor Aini Suzila Zakariah dari Cawangan Penguatkuasa Farmasi (CPF) Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Selangor,” katanya. - *Oleh Mohd Jamilul Anbia Md Denin*

Waran tangkap buat Nur Sajat

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 2A

RUANGAN : LOKAL



SOLAT JUMAAT DITERUSKAN

Jabatan Perdana Menteri saran tempoh khutbah dipendekkan elak risiko dijangkiti virus

Oleh Samadi Ahmad
am@hmetro.com.my

Putrajaya

Khutbah solat Jumaat perlu dipendekkan saran Jabatan Perdana Menteri ketika negara sedang berdepan dengan penularan wabak Covid-19.

Menteri Di Jabatan Perdana Menteri (Hal Ehwal Agama), Datuk Seri Dr Zulkifli Mohamad Al-Bakri berkata, saranan itu antara lima kertas kerja yang akan dikemukakan kepada Majlis Fatwa untuk dibincang dan mendapatkan solusi berkenaan situasi yang berlaku ketika ini.

Menurut Dr Zulkifli, melalui kertas kerja itu, beliau menyarankan jemaah mengambil wuduk di rumah dan pihak masjid diminta menyediakan penutup mulut dan cecair pembasmi kuman sebagai langkah pencegahan.

Menurut beliau, mereka yang mengalami simptom Covid-19 tidak perlu hadir solat Jumaat kerana termasuk dalam golongan orang yang sakit.

"Individu yang disahkan positif Covid-19 dibolehkan tidak mengerjakan solat

Jumaat, tetapi diganti dengan solat Zuhur di rumah masing-masing," katanya selepas menghadiri majlis Tausiyah AM agensi agama di Masjid Tuanku Mizan Sultan Zainal Abidin di sini, semalam.

Turut hadir, Timbalannya, Ahmad Marzuki Shaary dan Pengarah Jabatan Kemajuan Islam Malaysia (Jakim), Datuk Paimuzi Yahya.

Dr Zulkifli hadir di Masjid Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin pada jam 8.45 pagi bagi memulakan tugasnya dengan melakukan solat dhuha dan bacaan doa selepas selesai solat.

Beliau berkata, situasi semasa penularan virus Covid-19 yang masih terkawal di negara ini tidak memerlukan solat Jumaat dihentikan.

Mufti Pulau Pinang Datuk Seri Dr Wan Salim Wan Mohd Noor baru-baru ini dilaporkan berkata kerajaan wajib mengambil apa juga langkah untuk mencegah penyakit berjangkit daripada tersebar dan mengancam kesihatan serta nyawa rakyat termasuk tindakan menghentikan buat sementara solat berjemaah di masjid dan solat Jumaat.

Segera hubungi Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah

Putrajaya: Menteri di Jabatan Perdana Menteri Senator Datuk Seri Dr Zulkifli Mohamad Al-Bakri meminta peserta yang menghadiri ijtimaq tabligh di Masjid Seri Petaling, Kuala Lumpur pada 27 Februari lalu supaya segera menghubungi Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah.

Dalam satu kenyataan semalam, Zulkifli berkata ia seiring dengan saranan Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) bagi membendung penularan jangkitan Covid-19.

Mereka yang berkenaan diminta menghubungi Pusat Kesiapsiagaan dan Respon Krisis (CPRC) Kebangsaan KKM atau Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah, katanya.

Kelmarin, Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan Datuk

Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah dilaporkan berkata seorang warga tempatan berusia 60 tahun disahkan positif Covid-19 selepas menghadiri perhimpunan itu yang berlangsung pada 28 Februari hingga 1 Mac lalu.

Sebelum ini, Kementerian Kesihatan Brunei dalam kenyataannya mengesahkan kes pertama positif Covid-19 di negara itu dijangkiti ketika hadir satu majlis keagamaan di Malaysia.

Sehubungan itu, semua jabatan Kesihatan Negeri kini giat mengesan lebih 5,000 peserta Malaysia yang menyertai perhimpunan yang dijangkakan dihadiri oleh 10,000 peserta dari beberapa buah negara.

ENDEMIK, EPIDEMIK DAN PANDEMIK?

Tiga perkataan ini kerap digunakan untuk menunjukkan betapa seriusnya sesuatu penyakit menular, namun ia membawa maksud yang berbeza.

ENDEMIK (En-demi-k)

Di dalam-daerah/orang

Kejadian penyakit yang sentiasa wujud dalam masyarakat atau tempat. Penyakit ini dijangka sentiasa ada kes dan pada kadar yang stabil serta rendah.

Contoh: Denggi adalah penyakit endemik di Malaysia.

EPIDEMIK (Epi-demi-k)

Di kalangan-daerah/orang

Kejadian penyakit naik mendadak melebihi kadar biasa dan dilihat jelas dalam komuniti dalam tempoh masa tertentu. Ia juga dikenali sebagai 'wabak'. Sebagai contoh, jangkitan demam kepala pada dua kes yang saling berkait di anggap wabak/epidemi.

Contoh: Kejadian polio di Sobah pada tahun 2019.

PANDEMIK (Pan-demi-k)

Semua-daerah/orang

Kejadian wabak besar-besaran ke seantero dunia. Merentasi wilayah dan melibatkan populasi yang besar. Kebiasannya melibatkan jangkitan penyakit baharu (novel).

Ciri pandemik adalah melibatkan kadar serangan yang tinggi dalam masa yang singkat. Ia melibatkan sebaran yang pantas dan menyebabkan kadar kematian yang tinggi.

Contoh: Kejadian Black Death dari kurun ke-14 hingga kurun ke-17 yang melibatkan kematian 2/3 penduduk dunia (penyakit hawar/yersinia pestis).

SUMBER: Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia



Ramai hadir buat saringan kesihatan

Kuala Lumpur: Kebanyakan jemaah Majlis Ijtimaq Tabligh di Masjid Jamek Sri Petaling, Kuala Lumpur hadir membuat ujian saringan kesihatan seperti disarankan Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) bagi mengelak penularan wabak Covid-19 dalam komuniti.

Seorang jemaah, Bakri Che Muhamad, 57, berkata, sebaik mengetahui gesaan KKM supaya jemaah yang menghadiri majlis pada 28 Februari hingga 1 Mac itu perlu melakukan ujian saringan Covid-19, dia rasa bertanggungjawab untuk melakukan perkara itu.

"Saya menaik Grab datang dari Taman Mahuri ke masjid ini yang diberitahu ujian saringan akan dibuat di sini. "Alhamdulillah, hasil ujian sudah diketahui dan saya negatif virus berkenaan berdasarkan beberapa ujian

dilakukan doktor," katanya.

Katanya, ramai dalam kalangan jemaah yang dihubunginya menunaikan tanggungjawab masing-masing pergi ke klinik kesihatan daerah terdekat untuk membuat saringan.

"Orang ramai jangan risau, kami tahu tanggungjawab dan datang untuk membuat saringan kesihatan.

"Tiada siapa akan melarikan diri, contoh seperti hari ini ramai yang datang melakukan ujian kesihatan," katanya.

Katanya, ramai rakannya yang hadir disahkan negatif Covid-19.

"Alhamdulillah semoga Allah memelihara kami daripada sebarang penyakit berbahaya," katanya.

Menurutnya, majlis ijtimaq itu adalah program tahunan yang dihadiri lebih 10,000 jemaah Malaysia.



DR Zulkifli membacakan doa pada majlis di Masjid Tuanku Mizan Sultan Zainal Abidin.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : A3

RUANGAN : LOKAL



PENGGUNA kemudahan awam memakai penutup mulut sebagai langkah pencegahan penularan wabak Covid-19 di Stesen Masjid Jamek, Kuala Lumpur.



KELABAHAN di Masjid Seri Petaling semalam.

9 LAGI KES DILAPORKAN

Jumlah kumulatif kes positif adalah sebanyak 158

Oleh Redzuan Muharam
am@hmetro.com.my

Kuala Lumpur

Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) mengesahkan sembilan lagi kes Covid-19 dilaporkan kepada Crisis Preparedness and Response Centre (CPRC) Kebangsaan setakat ini.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan Malaysia Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, ia menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes positif Covid-19 di Malaysia adalah sebanyak 158.

Menurutnya, daripada jumlah itu, 127 kes dikesan dari kontak rapat, 26 kes dikesan dalam kalangan pesakit dalam siasatan (PUI), dua kes membabitkan Jangkitan Pernafasan Akut Teruk (SARI), dua kes dari Misi Bantuan Kemanusiaan dan satu lagi adalah Influenza-Like-Illness (ILI) melalui surveilans Covid-19.

"Hari ini (semalam), terdapat enam kes sudah pulih dan semuanya (kes) negatif Covid-19 sebanyak dua kali berturut-turut sebelum dibenarkan pulang.

"Dengan jumlah baru discaj ini menjadikan

jumlah kumulatif kes yang telah pulih sepenuhnya setakat ini dari Covid-19 dan telah discaj daripada wad adalah sebanyak 32 kes.

"Pada masa ini terdapat tiga kes sedang dirawat di Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU) yang memerlukan bantuan alat pernafasan dan mereka dalam keadaan stabil," katanya.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, KKM mengambil maklum kenyataan Pertubuhan Kesihatan Antarabangsa (WHO) bertarikh 11 Mac mengenai situasi terkini Covid-19 di peringkat global membabitkan 114 negara.

"Kita juga maklum dengan pengumuman WHO yang mengisytiharkan Covid-19 sebagai pandemik dengan mengambil kira ada peningkatan kes yang ketara di negara selain China.

"Jumlah kes di negara selain China dijangka terus meningkat. WHO juga memaklumkan bahawa langkah pencegahan dan kawalan yang dijalankan masih relevan dan dicadangkan untuk dipertingkatkan.

"Dengan pengumuman ini, KKM akan terus memastikan langkah kawalan dan

pencegahan jangkitan Covid-19 yang dijalankan dikaji mengikut situasi semasa di negara kita dan akan dipertingkatkan," katanya dalam satu kenyataan, semalam.

Dalam pada itu, Dr Noor Hisham mengingatkan jemaah tabligh yang terlibat dalam perhimpunan di Masjid Seri Petaling untuk menghubungi Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah (PKD) berhampiran untuk penilaian risiko jangkitan Covid-19 dan tindakan selanjutnya.

"Orang awam yang terlibat dengan perhimpunan itu diminta untuk memberi kerjasama dan mematuhi nasihat yang diberikan KKM demi memastikan tiada penularan jangkitan Covid-19 dalam masyarakat umum.

"KKM juga sudah memaklumkan mengenai kejadian itu kepada International Health Regulations (IHR) Focal Point (FP) negara-negara yang mempunyai peserta dalam majlis berkenaan.

"Orang awam diminta tidak menyebarkan maklumat tidak sahih berkaitan jangkitan Covid-19 yang membabitkan perhimpunan tabligh ini demi menjaga keharmonian umum," katanya.

Jumlah kes di negara selain China dijangka terus meningkat

Seorang peserta ijtihad tabligh sah positif Covid-19

Kuala Lumpur:

Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) mengesahkan seorang peserta ijtihad tabligh di Masjid Jamek Seri Petaling, Kuala Lumpur pada 28 Februari hingga 1 Mac lalu positif Covid-19.

Pesakit yang dikenal pasti warga tempatan berusia 60 tahun itu adalah kes ke-131 yang dikesan KKM dan mula mempunyai gejala demam, batuk serta sesema pada 4 Mac lalu.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, pesakit itu sesak nafas pada 8 Mac dan dimasukkan ke Hospital

Bentong pada hari yang sama.

"Satu siasatan teliti dilakukan terhadap pesakit ke-131 itu dan mendapati dia mempunyai sejarah menghadiri perjumpaan ijtihad tabligh di Masjid Seri Petaling.

"Berdasarkan maklumat awal, perhimpunan tabligh itu membabitkan anggaran 10,000 orang dari beberapa negara termasuk Malaysia dengan penyertaan melebihi 5,000 orang," katanya dalam satu kenyataan di Facebook, semalam.

Menurutnya, pesakit kemudiannya dirujuk ke Hospital Tengku Ampuan

Afzan (HTAA) Kuantan pada 9 Mac dan ujian pengesanan Covid-19 yang diambil bagi kes ini disahkan positif pada keesokan hari.

"Ketika ini pesakit ini sudah ditingkatkan dalam wad isolasi dan sedang menerima rawatan," katanya.

Katanya, KKM menasihatkan mereka yang menghadiri ijtihad tabligh di Masjid Seri Petaling dari 28 Februari hingga 1 Mac lalu segera menghubungi pejabat kesihatan daerah untuk membendung penularan jangkitan COVID-19 dan berhubung terus CPRC hotline atau Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 4A

RUANGAN : LOKAL

FOTO: AIZUDDIN SAAD

Elak perhimpunan

KKM gesa perkumpulan umum ditangguhkan serta-merta



Oleh Suraya Roslan
suraya@hmetro.com.my

Kuala Lumpur

Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) menggesa semua perhimpunan membabitkan orang ramai (*mass gathering*) ditangguhkan bagi mencegah kemungkinan jangkitan Covid-19.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, sekiranya mengalami gejala jangkitan sahurah pernafasan, dinasihatkan supaya tidak menghadiri program yang membabitkan orang ramai atau

Penerbangan ke Seoul digantung

Kuala Lumpur: Malaysia Airlines menggantung sementara penerbangan ke Seoul membabitkan laluan dua hala bermula hari ini hingga 31 Mac.

Syarikat penerbangan itu dalam satu kenyataan berkata, berkuatkuasa hari ini, kerajaan Malaysia mengenakan sekatan perjalanan kepada semua rakyat Iran, Itali dan Korea Selatan manakala rakyat Malaysia yang pulang dari negara berkenaan akan dikenakan kuarantin selama 14 hari.

"Disebabkan oleh sekatan itu, Malaysia Airlines menggantung sementara penerbangan 12 kali seminggu antara Kuala Lumpur dan Seoul sehingga 31 Mac 2020.

"Malaysia Airlines akan mengendalikannya penerbangan terakhirnya pada hari ini (semalam) melalui pesawat MH66 dari Kuala Lumpur ke Incheon dan pulang pada 13 Mac 2020 melalui MH67 dari Incheon ke Kuala Lumpur.

"Penumpang yang terjejas berhak meminta tarikh perjalanan alternatif lain sehingga 31 Disember 2020, meminta bayaran balik sepenuhnya atau memilih untuk dialihkan ke destinasi lain di China (Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou, Hong Kong atau Xiamen) atau Jepun (Narita dan Osaka)," katanya.

tempat yang padat termasuk aktiviti keagamaan.

"Individu yang bergejala dinasihatkan menjauhi diri (*social distancing*) sekurang-kurangnya satu meter apabila berdepan dengan individu lain.

"KKM menasihatkan orang ramai tidak melangkah ke luar negara terutama ke negara yang mengalami wabak jangkitan Covid-19," katanya dalam satu kenyataan di Facebook.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, rakyat Malaysia yang bergejala jangkitan saluran pernafasan tidak melawat kawasan lain di Malaysia ketika cuti sekolah.

"Amalkan langkah-langkah pencegahan dan jaga kebersihan diri," katanya. Sementara itu, Dr

Noor Hisham berkata, Jabatan Perdana Menteri (JPM) menyiapkan kertas kerja berkaitan Covid-19 bagi solat Jumaat dan aktiviti keagamaan susulan penularan jangkitan virus itu.

"Perbincangan bersama diadakan pada minggu lalu untuk kesiapsiagaan menbendung penularan gelombang kedua Covid-19.

"Kertas kerja itu termasuk panduan bersalaman, kenduri kahwin dan pengurusan jenazah," katanya.

Semalam, Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO) mengisytiharkan Covid-19 sebagai pandemik iaitu penularan dan keadaan wabak yang sangat membimbangkan.



TEH (kiri) bersama bapanya dan Pegawai Khas Menteri Besar Kedah, Teh Kok Soo (kanan) menunjukkan gambar yang tersebar di laman sosial kononnya mereka sekeluarga dijangkiti Covid-19.

'Kenapa fitnah kami?'

Alor Setar: "Kami semua sihat dan bekerja seperti biasa, malah tidak dirawat di Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU) sekarang ini," kata Teh Chao Sin, 26.

Wanita itu adalah individu yang menjadi mangsa maklumat palsu di media sosial apabila dikatakan dia dan ahli keluarga dikuarantin di Hospital Sultanah Bahiyah (HSB) kerana dijangkiti Covid-19.

Malah, Teh berkata, individu terbahit turut menularkan gambar kononnya dia dan ibu berada di luar negara sebelum ini, sedangkan mereka tidak pernah pergi ke mana-mana.

Menurutnya, maklumat mengenai mereka sekeluarga dijangkiti Covid-19 mula tular melalui WeChat, Facebook dan Instagram sejak 10 Mac lalu namun dia hanya mengetahuinya kelmarin.

"Individu terbahit turut meminta orang ramai supaya jangan menghampiri kedai makan bapa di Jalan Pintu 10 di sini, kononnya bimbang dijangkiti wabak ini.

"Berikutan penyebaran maklumat palsu itu, kami kehilangan ramai pelanggan tetap dan perniagaan bapa turut terjejas sejak dua hari lalu," katanya ketika ditemui di sini, semalam.

Singgang, kari bukan penawar Covid-19

Kuala Nerus: Orang ramai diminta supaya menghentikan segala spekulasi yang tidak berasas berkaitan Covid-19 di negara ini termasuk dakwaan kononnya ikan singgang mampu merawat penyakit berkenaan.

Pengarah *Tropical Infectious Diseases & Education Centre* (Tidrec) Universiti Malaya (UM) Prof Dr Sazaly Abu Bakar berkata, bukan sahaja ikan singgang, tetapi kari juga antara menu yang kini tular didakwa mempunyai potensi merawat Covid-19 itu.

"Ikan singgang didakwa mempunyai potensi merawat Covid-19 kerana alasan mengandungi bahan tertentu seperti kunyit dan

lengkuas yang boleh melawan mikroob.

"Masakan kari pula didakwa berkhasiat dan mampu mencegah dan merawat Covid-19 kerana penduduk di India yang suka makan kari setakat ini tiada kes dijangkiti penyakit berkenaan," katanya ketika ditemui pada Forum Covid-19 antara Spekulasi dan Realiti di Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) di sini, semalam.

Dr Sazaly berkata, tiada sebarang kajian dan penyelidikan yang dibuat ke atas ikan singgang atau kari bagi membuktikan keberkesanan masakan itu melawan penyakit.

PENUMPANG memakai topeng muka sebagai langkah berjaga-jaga penularan Covid-19 dan baki perlepasan kolaborasi lengan ketika tujuan di Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa Kuala Lumpur (KLLA), Sepang.



“KKM menasihatkan orang ramai tidak melangkah ke luar negara”
Dr Noor Hisham

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 1

RUANGAN : NASIONAL



COVID-19

DIISYTIHAR SEBAGAI PANDEMIK SELURUH DUNIA



MAS
tawar cuti
tanpa gaji
kepada
13,000
kakitangan



UiTM ambil
langkah
tunda
istiadat
konvokesyen
2020



Kes TMDB
ditangguh,
peguam Najib
dikuarantin
kerana
Covid-19

Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO) mengisytiharkan koronavirus (Covid-19) sebagai pandemik sekali gus menegaskan penularan dan keadaan wabak itu yang teruk amatlah membimbangkan.

Ketua Pengarah WHO, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus berkata, virus berkenaan telah menjangkiti lebih 126,144 orang di 118 negara dan meragut 4,630 nyawa setakat ini, bahkan angka terbabit dijangka terus meningkat.

Sementara itu, Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba memberitahu, keadaan di Malaysia masih lagi terkawal dan kerajaan tidak perlu membuat pengisytiharan berada pada zon oren seperti dilakukan pemerintah Singapura.

Bagaimanapun, katanya, Kementerian Kesihatan mengambil maklum perkara itu dan meningkatkan lagi kesiapsiagaan dalam menghadapi wabak berkenaan.



TEDROS ADHANOM

MUKA 2, 3, & 4

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 2
RUANGAN : ANCAMAN COVID-19

WHO isytihar Covid-19 pandemik

Koronavirus kini menyerang 118 negara, catatkan 126,144 kes jangkitan dan 4,630 kematian

GENEVA

Wabak coronavirus (Covid-19) diisytiharkan sebagai pandemik oleh Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO) selepas ia kini menyerang 118 negara.

Berdasarkan laporan WHO, jumlah jangkitan Covid-19 telah direkodkan sebanyak 126,144 kes manakala 4,630 kematian dicatatkan di seluruh dunia setakat semalam.

Kelmarin, Ketua WHO, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus berkata, sejak dua minggu lalu, angka jangkitan Covid-19 di luar China telah meningkat 13 kali ganda manakala jumlah negara terjejas menyaksikan peningkatan tiga kali ganda walaupun kes virus tersebut semakin menurun di Beijing.

Menurutnya, beliau sangat bimbang dengan tahap ketidakpastian virus tersebut.

"Keputusan melabel wabak itu sebagai pandemik tidak berakna WHO mengubah nasihat tentang langkah pembenahan yang perlu diambil segera," ujarnya.



TEDROS ADHANOM GHEBREYESUS

Beliau turut menggesa negara antarabangsa menukar langkah dengan mengambil tindakan segera dan agresif.

"Sesetengah negara telah membuktikan wabak itu boleh dibendung dan dikawal. Ini ialah cabaran yang perlu dihadapi oleh negara yang berdepan kluster lebih besar atau penyebaran tempatan.

"Kita akan menghadapi secara bersama dengan tenang dan melindungi penduduk seluruh dunia. Ia pasti boleh dilaksanakan," tambahnya.

Sementara itu, Ketua Program Kecemasan WHO, Mike Ryan menyifatkan situasi di Iran adalah sangat serius.

"Kita perlu bertindak sekarang. Itali dan Iran berada pada tahap kritikal pada masa ini. Negara lain mungkin mengalami nasib sama tidak lama lagi," ujarnya. - Agensi

SEKILAS WABAK COVID-19

Jumlah keseluruhan kes:
Total cases:

126,144

Jumlah kematian keseluruhan:
Total deaths:

4,630
(3.67%)

Jumlah kes sembuh
Total recovered cases:

68,216
(54.08%)

Negara yang terlibat:
No. of countries involved:

118

26
(17.45%)

Negara Country	Bil. kes No. of cases	Bil. kematian No. of deaths	Negara Country	Bil. kes No. of cases	Bil. kematian No. of deaths	Negara Country	Bil. kes No. of cases	Bil. kematian No. of deaths
China	80,980	3,191	India	62	0	Afrika Selatan	13	0
Itali	12,462	827	San Marino	62	3	Serbia	12	0
Iran	9,000	354	Lubnan	61	1	Azerbaijan	11	0
Korea Selatan	7,755	61	Mesir	60	1	Brunei	11	0
Perancis	2,284	48	Finland	59	0	Latvia	10	0
Sepanyol	2,277	47	Portugal	59	0	Slovakia	10	0
Jerman	1,966	3	Thailand	59	1	Belarus	9	0
Amerika Syarikat	1,311	31	Slovenia	57	0	Colombia	9	0
Switzerland	652	3	Brazil	52	0	Maldives	8	0
Jepun	639	14	Filipina	49	1	Mexico	8	0
Norway	629	0	Romania	47	0	Panama	8	1
Denmark	516	0	Arab Saudi	45	0	Afghanistan	7	0
Belanda	503	5	Ireland	43	1	Bosnia Herzegovina	7	0
Sweden	500	8	Vietnam	38	0	Bulgaria	7	0
United Kingdom	459	6	Indonesia	34	1	Luxembourg	7	0
Belgium	314	3	Poland	31	0	Makedonia Utara	7	0
Qatar	262	0	Georgia	24	0	Tunisia	7	0
Austria	246	0	Chile	23	0	Cyprus	6	0
Bahrain	195	0	Costa Rica	22	0	Malta	6	0
Singapura	178	0	Algeria	20	0	Maghribi	6	1
Malaysia	158	0	Rusia	20	0	Republik Dominika	5	0
Australia	128	0	Argentina	19	1	Guiana Perancis	5	0
Kanada	117	1	Croatia	19	0	New Zealand	5	0
Israel	109	0	Pakistan	19	0	Paraguay	5	0
Greece	99	1	Oman	18	0	Senegal	4	0
Republik Czech	94	0	Ecuador	17	0	Bangladesh	3	0
Iceland	85	0	Estonia	16	0	Kemboja	3	0
UAE	74	0	Albania	15	0	Lithuania	3	0
Kuwait	72	0	Hungary	13	0	Martynique	3	0
Iraq	71	8	Peru	13	0	Moldova	3	0

Jumlah negara dengan satu kes **15** Jumlah negara dengan dua kes **7**

Sumber: CPKC Kebangsaan dan WHO UKK MOH

Lain: Bil. kes (Masa pandemik) **696** **7**
 (Dikemaskini jam 11.00 pagi, 12 Mac 2020)
 (Updated at 11.00 am, 12 March 2020)

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : ANCAMAN COVID-19

Buat saringan Covid-19

Semua peserta himpunan tabligh diminta buat pemeriksaan

Oleh MOHD HAFIZ ISMAIL

SUNGGAI BULOH

Semua peserta himpunan Ijtima Tabligh di Masjid Jamek Bandar Baru Seri Petaling pada 28 Februari lalu diharap segera tampil membuat saringan Covid-19.

Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba berkata, pihaknya kini sedang menjejaki peserta himpunan tabligh berkenaan susulan seorang peserta dari Brunei dikesan positif virus itu selepas pulang daripada majlis tersebut.

Menurutnya, dua peserta himpunan berkenaan telah dikesan positif Covid-19 masing-masing dari Tawau, Sabah dan Kuantan, Pahang.

"Kita merayu kepada semua yang pergi ke himpunan itu untuk datang membuat saringan. Kita ada 57 hospital yang boleh membuat saringan," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian pada sidang akhbar selepas mengadakan lawatan di Hospital Sungai Buloh di sini semalam. Dr Adham berkata, Masjid Jamek Bandar Baru Seri Petaling itu akan ditutup sementara dalam masa terdekat bagi membolehkan proses disinfeksi dilakukan.

"Saya harap mereka yang ada simptom-simptom demam, selesema, batuk



Dr Adham Baba (duduk di tengah) pada sidang akhbar selepas melakukan lawatan kerja di Hospital Sungai Buloh semalam.

dan sesak nafas agar menjauhi orang ramai. Ini demi kebaikan bersama," katanya.

Ditanya mengenai rakyat Malaysia yang mahu pulang dari negara-negara yang disekat seperti Itali, Korea Selatan dan Iran, Dr Adham berkata, itu tidak menjadi masalah kerana setiap pintu masuk negara mempunyai pengimbas haba.

"Sekiranya ada simptom Covid-19, kita bawa ke hospital untuk saringan dan jika positif, rawatan akan diberikan," katanya.

Mengulas lanjut, Covid-19 telah memasuki fasa kedua di Malaysia dan pihak KKM kini berada dalam keadaan bersedia siaga.

"Tahap siap siaga berada di tahap

tertinggi. Kita boleh menerima kes-kes sekiranya ia menular dengan pantas.

"Fasa pertama Covid-19 di mana pesakit dari luar negara yang dijangkiti berjaya dikekang. Apa yang kita lalui sekarang ialah kontak dalam negara dan penularan antara kontak selepas mereka bertemu," katanya.

Ditanya mengenai keadaan Malaysia selepas ia diisytiharkan sebagai pandemik oleh Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO), beliau menjelaskan ia masih di peringkat awal bagi negara ini.

Menyentuh soal topeng muka yang dikatakan tidak mencukupi bagi kegunaan rakyat Malaysia, beliau turut menjelaskan kerajaan akan berusaha memastikan ia cukup dalam masa terdekat.

Ringkasan kes Covid-19 di Malaysia (12 Mac setakat jam 9 malam)

Kes disahkan positif
158

Jumlah keseluruhan pulih
32

Apakah pandemik?

Istilah tersebut digunakan untuk penyakit berjangkit yang menyaksikan penyebaran antara manusia secara berterusan di beberapa negara.

Menurut WHO, pengisytiharan pandemik akan dilakukan apabila wabak baharu yang tiada vaksin dan rawatan yang tersebar melangkaui jangkauan.

Kali terakhir pandemik diisytiharkan adalah ketika serangan wabak selesema babi pada 2009 yang dipercayai meragut sehingga 400,000 nyawa.

Sebelum ini, ia digelar sebagai epidemik kerana kes jangkitan yang dilaporkan melebihi jangkauan biasa.

Mengapa istilah itu baru digunakan sekarang?

Pada akhir Februari lalu, Ketua WHO, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus berkata Covid-19 berpotensi menjadi pandemik, namun tidak diisytiharkan kerana belum menyaksikan penyebaran secara tidak terkawal.

WHO menegaskan pengisytiharan pandemik tidak bermakna virus itu tidak boleh dikawal.

Penggunaan istilah pandemik menjadi penggera kepada negara seluruh dunia bagi mengambil tindakan segera untuk bertindak balas terhadap wabak itu kerana ia kini telah menjadi tanggungjawab bersama.

Peserta himpunan tabligh harap keputusan negatif

KUALA LUMPUR - "Doakan saya negatif, bagi sesiapa yang tak nak jumpa dalam 14 hari, tidak jadi masalah." Demikian kata salah seorang peserta yang dipercayai menyertai perhimpunan tabligh di Masjid Jamek Bandar Baru Seri Petaling pada 27 Februari hingga 1 Mac lalu.

Ahmad Abdullah Mustaffa Rashidi mencoret luahan tersebut di Facebook miliknya semalam susulan pengumuman Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) mengenai lebih 5,000 peserta Malaysia setelah laporan International Health Regulations (IHR) Focal Point (FP) Brunei mengesahkan positif wabak koronavirus (Covid-19) di negara terbabit mempunyai sejarah perjalanan ke Malaysia.

Lelaki berusia 42 tahun itu berkata, dia tampil melakukan pemeriksaan tersebut pada jam 11.30 pagi dan meminta



Paparan status Facebook Ahmad Abdullah tular di laman sosial.

orang ramai bertenang dan tidak panik.

"Jadi saya nak maklumkan, tenang sahaja, jangan menggelabah akan hal ini. Kami ke markas untuk lakukan pemeriksaan.

"Alhamdulillah telah periksa, bagi yang takut dan kalut, sila kuarantin diri

sendiri, jangan ke mana-mana selama 14 hari. Keputusan belum keluar, doakan saya negatif," kongsinya.

Dia turut menasihatkan kepada orang ramai agar tidak menyebarkan berita palsu yang boleh mengundang panik masyarakat.

"Jangan pandai jadi pemberita dan jangan macam-macam. Kami semua dah periksa, dah ikhtiar.

"Kalau risau bimbang, kita pindahkan risau ini kepada al-Quran, solat kita hari-hari, umat dan keluarga, langkah baiknya.

"Beginilah Nabi Muhammad SAW mahukan umatnya risau bimbang akan hal iman, umat yang lain dengan kasih sayang," katanya.

Luahan tersebut menarik perhatian netizen yang mendoakan agar mereka terlibat negatif daripada wabak tersebut.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 2

RUANGAN : NEWS

STATUS UPGRADE

WHO DECLARES CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK A PANDEMIC

Countries scramble to stem spread of Covid-19 infections

THARANYA ARUMUGAM
AND TEOH PEI YING
KUALA LUMPUR
news@nst.com.my

THE World Health Organisation (WHO) on Wednesday declared the Covid-19 outbreak a pandemic, three months after the first case was detected in Wuhan, China.

With the number of cases across the globe rising to more than 124,000 with 4,500 deaths, including a jump in fatalities particularly in Iran and Italy according to an AFP tally, countries were scrambling to adopt measures to stem the spread of infections.

AFP reported that the United States banned travellers from Europe, while India yesterday suspended all tourist visas until April 15 and said it would quarantine travellers arriving from seven virus-hit countries.

As Italy tightened its nationwide lockdown yesterday, with restaurants and many shops ordered shut following a spike in death toll in the country, Austria had suspended imposed border controls on neighbouring Italy and suspended all school lessons.

Denmark, which saw its death toll climb to 514 yesterday, ordered all schools in the country, including universities, to close.

Ukraine will also close schools, kindergartens and universities and suspend flights to Italy.

Switzerland's Ticino region also ordered all places of higher learning and leisure closed and banned most public gatherings.

"Pandemic is not a word to be used lightly or carelessly," WHO director-general Tedros Ad-



...a pandemic does not change WHO's assessment of the threat posed by the virus.

TEDROS ADHANOM GHEBREYESUS
World Health Organisation
director-general

hanom Ghebreyesus said at a press conference in Geneva.

He said "describing the situation as a pandemic does not change WHO's assessment of the threat posed by the virus".

In Malaysia, nine new Covid-19 cases were recorded yesterday, bringing the total cases to 158.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said one of the new cases was related to the first cluster, Case 26 and Case 33, while the remaining were persons under investigation (PUIs) and linked to Case 131, who was the participant of a religious gathering at Masjid Seri Petaling.

He said participants who tested positive were from Sabah, Pahang, Johor, Perak and Kelantan.

"Those who were at the gathering have already gone back to their states, but we urge them to come forward and get tested," he said at the Prime Minister's Office after attending a meeting on Covid-19 here yesterday.

He said there was no sporadic case in the country.

"After investigation, we have established that Case 131 attend-



A hospital staff member screening visitors' temperature at Sungai Buloh Hospital, Selangor, yesterday. PIC BY HAIRUL ANUAR RAHIM

ed the religious gathering (at Masjid Seri Petaling), so it's not a sporadic case as we have managed to trace the history."

On whether the ministry would reveal states with Covid-19 patients, Dr Noor Hisham said the ministry was conducting investigations and once the analysis was completed, it would be made public.

"The majority of cases in the second wave are in the Klang Valley. Now, with the new cluster (linked to the religious gathering), let us investigate first."

He added that six more patients had been discharged.

The Covid-19 outbreak in Malaysia, he said, remained under control as the country was in its "early containment stage".

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba said while the WHO had declared Covid-19 a pandemic, the situation in Malaysia did not warrant the government to upgrade its response mechanism to "heightened risk".

"We are in the early containment stage. We haven't had sporadic Covid-19 cases. We only have cluster cases (origin of transmission couldn't be traced).

"Our level of preparedness is at the highest. We are able to receive and handle a large number of cases should there be a sudden surge," he said at Sungai Buloh

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : NEWS



Hospital yesterday.

He said there were 57 hospitals that could carry out screening tests, with 12 hospitals equipped with laboratories and treatment facilities.

He said Sungai Buloh Hospital could handle Covid-19 cases, including PUIs, and resources at the facility were in place to accommodate up to 772 Covid-19 patients at any one time.

On possible extension of travel bans to cover more affected countries, Dr Adham said the government had no immediate plans to do so.

He said the cabinet had issued a directive to bar foreign nationals who came only from Iran, Italy and South Korea as the countries recorded high number of cases and mortality rate.

The ban on travellers from Hubei, Zhejiang and Jiangsu in China and Hokkaido in Japan was still being enforced.

He said Malaysians returning from these countries would be screened at the airport and quarantined for 14 days.

"We have successfully contained the first wave (transmission by those from abroad).

"Now, we see an rise in the second wave, where there is spread between contacts and others they have met, hence the sudden spike. But we can still control the situation.

"We did not issue instructions to ban mass gatherings or participation in crowded event. We have only issued advisory."

He said the religious gathering at Masjid Seri Petaling from Feb 27 to March 1 had sparked a new cluster transmission of Covid-19.

Three people, namely individuals from Kuantan, Tawau and a Brunei citizen, who were at the gathering, had tested positive for Covid-19, he said.

Some 10,000 people, including more than 5,000 Malaysians, attended the four-day gathering.

Dr Adham urged attendees to come forward and get tested to prevent community transmission of Covid-19.

"We do not know who they are and this is why we are pleading for them to come forward, especially if they have symptoms like flu, fever, cough and difficulty breathing.

"They should also avoid crowded areas for their own safety. We recommend social distancing."

He said Masjid Seri Petaling would be temporarily closed for cleaning and sanitation.

On the Covid-19 fund launched to help ease burdens faced by those infected by the virus, he said self-employed patients (with no monthly salary) would be entitled to receive aid.

"We will give them RM100 per day, which is RM1,400 for 14 days. The ministry and The National Disaster Management Agency will manage the distribution of funds."

On the shortage of face masks, Dr Adham said the government would ensure there would be sufficient stock in place soon.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : NEWS

Cuepacs urges civil servants to contribute to Covid-19 fund

KUALA LUMPUR. Civil servants are encouraged to contribute to the Covid-19 fund to ease the burden of those affected by the virus and in need of financial aid.

"The Covid-19 outbreak has impacted so many sectors, especially tourism. We encourage civil servants to contribute whatever they can to support affected parties," Congress of Unions of Employees in the Public and Civil Services (Cuepacs) president Adnan Mat told Bernama yesterday.

On Wednesday, Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin

launched a special fund to provide financial aid to those in need following the virus outbreak.

Muhyiddin said as a start, RM1 million had been channelled to the fund to help unemployed Covid-19 patients and those under 14-day quarantine.

Adnan said the setting up of the fund could be viewed as a continuation of the economic stimulus package announced by former interim prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Malaysian Public Health Medicine Specialist Association

president Datuk Dr Zainal Ariffin Omar urged more corporate firms to contribute to the fund.

"The initial RM1 million contribution is not very significant. It needs more, especially to help those who have lost their earnings because of the outbreak."

He said in other countries, like Australia, employees affected by Covid-19 and quarantined were given paid leave.

The Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) had raised concerns about the fund's effectiveness in cushioning the financial

problems affecting patients or those under quarantine.

MTUC president Datuk Abdul Halim Mansor said Covid-19 patients and those under 14-day quarantine had a social protection scheme.

He said the government should focus instead on strengthening the economy and solving retrenchment issues.

"While the special fund can be helpful, it is not a clear policy.

"MTUC has urged employers to take precautionary measures at the workplace to reduce the

spread of the outbreak. Employers should provide the facilities without reducing the income of those involved.

"Besides providing company buses as transportation for workers to go to work and checking employees' temperatures daily, employers should also allow workers to work from home.

"We are more concerned about the country's productivity, which is slowing down not only due to the outbreak, but at all angles, which may result in retrenchment."

PRECAUTIONS

'FRIDAY PRAYERS TO GO ON'

But keep sermon short, take wudhu at home, urges minister

HANA NAZ HARUN
PUTRAJAYA
news@nst.com.my

FRIDAY prayers at mosques can still be performed if precautions are taken and guidelines are followed to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department in charge of religious affairs Datuk Seri Dr Zulkifli Mohamad Al-Bakri said Friday prayers were *wajib* (obligatory), but mosques had been urged to take steps to ensure the health and safety of the congregation.

"Recommendations include shortening the sermon and for people to take *wudhu* (ablution) at home.

"We have asked mosques to prepare sanitisers and face masks," he said after a Tausiyah Am for staff of agencies under his wing at Masjid Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin here yesterday.

The former Federal Territories mufti said those with symptoms of Covid-19 need not go for Friday prayers as people who were ill were exempt from attending.

"For now, there is no need to cancel Friday prayers at mosques."

He said the issue of Friday prayers was among five working papers on Covid-19 that would be submitted to the National Fatwa Council.

Other issues include handshakes, the organising of wedding receptions and the handling of an infected person's remains.



Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Dr Zulkifli Mohamad Al-Bakri speaking at Masjid Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin in Putrajaya yesterday. PIC BY MOHD FADLI HAMZAH

He said the recommendations would be announced in two to three days.

He said if the Health Ministry announced that the Covid-19 situation had worsened, Friday prayers might be cancelled, but must be replaced with Zohor prayers at home.

He said in this regard, any ban or directive must come with guidelines, including a formal ban issued by the authorities, such as the Health Ministry.

"This ban must include any public gathering, whether formal or not. It must be proven that the outbreak has affected an area and that many people there have tested positive for the virus."

Earlier at his talk, Zulkifli urged staff to ensure good governance and integrity and to work towards

making religious agencies more professional and successful.

The Catholic Bishops of Peninsular Malaysia called for weekend and weekday public masses from March 14 to 29 to be suspended.

The bishops said Catholics would be temporarily exempt from fulfilling their Sunday obligation of assisting or attending mass.

"We will continue to monitor and review the situation to determine if the period of suspension needs to be extended beyond March 29.

"Please note that the Archdiocesan Social Communication Ministry of the Archdiocese of Kuala Lumpur is making arrangements to broadcast masses over the weekends in the various major languages and weekday

masses in English."

The statement was signed by Archbishop of Kuala Lumpur Most Reverend Julian Leow, Bishop of Penang Right Reverend Sebastian Francis and Bishop of Melaka-Johor Right Reverend Bernard Paul.

They said churches, chapels or prayer rooms should remain open for private and personal prayer and Eucharistic adoration according to the times scheduled by parishes.

"We also declare that March 19, Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, protector of the Church, be designated as a day of prayer and fasting to invoke Saint Joseph's intercession and God's intervention for an end to this crisis."

The suspension also applied to other church activities, such as catechism classes, meetings, gatherings, formations and fellowship sessions.

"Any weddings or funerals are to be conducted privately with guests limited to immediate family members and close friends," the statement said.

The bishops said with the suspension of public masses on Sundays and weekdays, watching televised masses could serve as a form of spiritual "devotion".

"The present crisis leaves us with only two choices, to either continue with our present measures of mitigation, or to implement the whole range of social distancing measures, which includes shutting down all mass gatherings of individuals to prevent further transmission of this virus," they said.

"The current measures we are taking are in accordance with the recommendation of the Health Ministry issued on March 11 to postpone all mass gatherings."

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NATION

Organisers postpone public events and concerts

By RAHIMY RAHIM
newsdesk@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: Public gatherings, including festivals and political programmes involving crowds, have been postponed in response to the Covid-19 outbreak.

Some organisers have even opted to use social media to connect with their audience.

Segambut MP and former Subang Jaya assemblyman Hannah Yeoh said organisers had taken the precautionary measure to cancel a talk at APW Bangsar.

"Do not go to APW Bangsar. Instead we will be hosting this talk on Facebook live," said her note on Facebook on the talk which included speakers Lembah Pantai MP Fahmi Fadzil and Kuala Selangor MP Datuk Seri Dr Zulkefly Ahmad.

A forum, featuring former law minister Datuk Zaid Ibrahim and moderation advocate Mokamed Tawfik Ismail, titled "Malaysia's New Political Economy: Politics, Patronage and Power Struggles" scheduled for yesterday was also postponed.

The forum organiser, Kuala Lumpur and Selangor Chinese Assembly Hall, apologised to those who had registered their attendance.

Another forum organised by Transparency International Malaysia and the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission called "Corporate Liability Provision - Are you at risk?" was also postponed due to Covid-19.

The event was aimed at explaining the latest amendment to the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Com-



mission (Amendment) Act 2018 which will be enforced in June.

Meanwhile, the annual rock festival - Rockaway Festival 2020 - which was scheduled to take place on March 14 and 15 at Stadium Bukit Jalil, has been postponed.

"The health and safety of our artistes, festival-goers and everyone who is working tirelessly for our event is our main priority.

"While we are disappointed that

the festival will not take place as planned, we will instead focus all our efforts towards announcing our new dates happening later this year," said its organiser in a Facebook post.

The organiser added that the festival - featuring Japanese heavy metal band Crossfaith, American rock band Atreyu and local music icon Datuk M. Nasir - will be rescheduled to a later date.

Another rock concert, Pichay Truux 3, on April 4 has also been postponed to August.

A weekend Kuala Lumpur concert featuring India's top Tamil movie music composer Ilaiyaraaja has been postponed to June.

The concert, scheduled for Saturday at the Malaysia International Trade and Exhibition Centre, will now take place on June

20 at the same venue, according to the organisers.

In Kota Kinabalu, health authorities are appealing to people who had attended a religious event at a mosque in Seri Petaling, Kuala Lumpur, to come forward for medical screening as one of the participants from Brunei had tested positive for Covid-19.

State Health Department director Datuk Christina Rundi said participants of the event may have returned to Sabah and urged them to undergo medical screening at a clinic or hospital.



For more stories:
See pages 19-23

'Postpone mass gatherings'

Health D-G: Those with symptoms advised to adopt social distancing

By LOH FOON FONG
foonfong@thestar.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR: With the World Health Organisation declaring a global pandemic, the Health Ministry has advised all mass gatherings be postponed to minimise the spread of Covid-19.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said those experiencing respiratory infection symptoms are advised not to attend programmes that involve crowded places, including religious activities.

"Those with symptoms are advised to adopt social distancing by standing at least 1m away from another individual," he said when asked how Malaysians should respond now that WHO has raised the threat level.

Meanwhile, Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba has assured Malaysians that the country is ready to face the Covid-19 pandemic.

He said that since March 6, Hospital Sungai Buloh has been earmarked for treating Covid-19 patients.

"I have also been informed that we have enough beds, wards, medical and security personnel at Hospital Sungai Buloh to handle 772 patients at any one time," he told a press conference after he visited the hospital yesterday.

Dr Adham said that there are 57 hospitals that could carry out Covid-19 screenings and there are 12 hospitals that could treat confirmed cases.

"We are prepared," he added.

The Health Ministry had on Wednesday revealed that some



"We are prepared": Dr Adham (centre) visiting Hospital Sungai Buloh, which has been earmarked for treating Covid-19 patients. - Bernama

10,000 people participated in a religious gathering from Feb 27 to March 1 at the Sri Petaling mosque in Kuala Lumpur, where a Bruneian man infected with Covid-19 was present.

On Twitter, Dr Hisham urged all who had attended the gathering to cooperate with health officials to ensure Covid-19 did not continue to spread.

He urged them to contact the Crisis Preparedness and Response Centre (CPRC) hotline at 03-8881 0200 or the respective district health departments as soon as possible.

He also advised the public not to travel overseas, especially to countries affected by Covid-19.

"Malaysians who have respiratory infection symptoms should not visit other places in Malaysia dur-

ing the (upcoming) school holidays," he added.

Meanwhile, he urged people to adopt preventive measures and good hygiene.

Watch the video
thestartv.com



Friday prayers to proceed with minor adjustments

PUTRAJAYA: The obligatory Friday prayers for all Muslim males should proceed with minor adjustments, says Datuk Seri Dr Zulkifli Mohamad Al-Bakri.

The Minister in the Prime Minister's Department in charge of religious affairs said the adjustments included shortening the sermon.

"Members of the congregation are also advised to perform ablutions at home and wear face masks, while mosque committees are to provide hand sanitisers as part of preventive measures.

"Those showing symptoms of Covid-19 need not attend the prayers, as they are categorised as those who are sick," he said after delivering his inaugural message to all religious agencies under the Prime Minister's Department at Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin Mosque here yesterday.

Zulkifli said Friday prayers could only be cancelled and replaced by the Zohor prayers in a situation where the pandemic had spread uncontrollably in the country.

"It is also subject to the pandemic showing its impact on the area or having many of the members of the congregation being tested positive for Covid-19 and the restriction issued by the relevant authorities, such as the Health Ministry.

"The current situation in the country is still under control and it does not require Friday prayers to be suspended," he said.

Zulkifli said the department would issue a guideline on the matter to avoid any confusion.

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

Sungai Buloh hospital primary centre to handle outbreak: Minister

BY CINDILOO
 newsdesk@thesundaily.com

SUNGAI BULOH: Sungai Buloh Hospital has been designated as the hospital to handle the novel coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak. There are 12 other hospitals in the country that are also equipped to tackle the virus threat. Newly-minted Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba said these 12 hospitals have

laboratories to test for the virus and 57 hospitals that can handle screening for suspected cases. "If there is an increase in cases in all parts of Malaysia at the same time, we will refer them to Sungai Buloh Hospital as a priority," he said at a press conference after visiting Sungai Buloh Hospital yesterday. He said there are enough beds, wards and hospital staff in Sungai Buloh Hospital to cope in the event of a sudden surge in the number of

infected people, adding that the hospital can cater to 772 patients at any one time. He advised mass gatherings and events to be postponed or cut down to minimise the risk of the virus spreading. He said the situation is under control and there is no need to declare an alert like what Singapore has done, calling the Covid-19 situation an orange alert. On the recent gathering at a Seri Petaling

mosque, Adham said decontamination would be conducted at the premises. He said the government had collected RM1 million so far for the Covid-19 Fund, and each patient who is self-employed will receive RM100 in the event he or she is quarantined for 14 days. "The Health Ministry and the National Disaster Management Agency will handle the distribution of such funds."

Online travel agencies urged to lower commissions

➤ Proposal will enable hotels to offer rooms at bargain rates to boost local tourism: MAH

BY IAN MCINTYRE
 newsdesk@thesundaily.com

ALOR STAR: Online travel agencies have been urged to consider lowering their commissions to enable hotels to sell their rooms at lower rates in the wake of the Covid-19 epidemic.

Malaysian Association of Hotels (MAH) Kedah-Perlis chapter chairman Eugene Dass said more competitive rates could help encourage Malaysians to travel.

He said most online travel agencies' clients are hotels.

Dass was responding to Langkawi Business Association deputy president Datuk Issac Alexander's call to airlines and hotels to lower fares and room rates to bargain levels to help

boost domestic tourism. He said this was necessary given that inbound tourism has almost ground to a halt.

Airlines are reported to have asked employees to go on leave and perks and fringe benefits have been removed to help carriers cope with anticipated losses from the epidemic's impact.

Hotels are now also urging their staff to clear their leave.

The Asian Development Bank expects the Malaysian tourism industry to incur up to RM5.4 billion in losses as a result of the epidemic. That accounts for 0.36% of the gross domestic product.

Dass said hotels are already feeling the impact from the growth of the homestay

segment of the tourism industry and the emergence of Airbnb's online shared accommodation services.

Alexander said lowering airfares, room rates and entrance fees to amusement parks are the "right tonic to draw Malaysian tourists".

He said it is easier to take short holidays within the country so travel trade operators must offer bargains to boost domestic tourism.

On another matter, Alexander urged Tourism, Arts and Culture Minister Nancy Shukri to look beyond just addressing the impact of the Covid-19 epidemic but to deliver a long-term plan for the industry.

"Tourism was already reeling before Covid-19 came. Travel trade operators and medium enterprises are struggling."

He said the private sector will provide services for tourists but the government must do the marketing to woo visitors from abroad.

He said Tourism Malaysia should look to new markets such as Russia, Eastern Europe, New Zealand, the Americas and Asean.

CALL TO 'TABLIGH' ATTENDEES

PUTRAJAYA: Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Senator Datuk Dr Zulkifli Mohamad Al-Bakri has urged those who attended the "Itimak Tabligh" at the Seri Petaling Mosque in Kuala Lumpur on Feb 27 to immediately call the district health office. Zulkifli said this was in line with the recommendation of the Health Ministry to curb the spread of Covid-19. Those concerned are urged to contact the National Crisis Preparedness and Response Centre or the district health office, he said. On Wednesday, Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah confirmed that a 60-year-old Malaysian man, who had attended the religious gathering, had tested positive. - Bernama

PHARMACY FINED FOR OVERPRICED MASKS

KUALA LUMPUR: A pharmacy in Selayang was slapped with a compound fine of RM20,000 for selling face masks above the controlled price. Chief enforcement officer of the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry branch office in Gombak, Azli Aripin said inspection of the pharmacy was carried out yesterday evening following public complaints.

Catholic churches suspend public masses

KUALA LUMPUR: Following the World Health Organisation's declaration of the Covid-19 pandemic, a pastoral letter from the Catholic Bishops of Peninsular Malaysia was released yesterday, suspending all weekday and weekend public masses throughout the Catholic Archdiocese from March 13 to March 29.

All Catholics will be exempted from fulfilling their Sunday obligation during this period.

The temporary measure is in view of the current virus outbreak. The situation will be monitored and reviewed.

All catechism classes should be ceased and catechetical programmes and activities should be cancelled during the period, as well as meetings, gatherings, formations, Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults sessions, fellowships and events in churches or among the community, the letter said.

Weddings or funerals are to be conducted privately, with guests limited to immediate family members and close friends.

Catholics can contact their respective parishes for further details.

In the meantime, the Archdiocesan Social Communication Ministry of the Archdiocese of Kuala Lumpur is making arrangements to broadcast masses over the weekends in various major languages and on weekdays in English. Catholics are urged to continue with their daily readings, prayers and devotions.

VIRUS PHOBIA ...

A man wearing a mask cuts a lonely figure as he uses an escalator in Kuala Lumpur. People are keeping away from busy areas in the wake of the virus pandemic. As of yesterday evening, the Health Ministry has confirmed 149 Covid-19 cases in Malaysia. Of this, 26 have recovered and have been discharged. - EPIPIX



PNS takes proactive step by disinfecting premises

KUALA LUMPUR: Many offices, corporations, government-linked agencies and hospitals have been taking proactive measures to curb the spread of Covid-19.

Perbadanan Nasional Bhd (PNS) joins others in taking the initiative to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

Disinfection and cleaning works were carried out at its premises at Menara PNS in Bangsar South from March 5 to 8, before any infections among its employees, tenants or visitors.

The agency has also implemented body temperature screening of all employees,

tenants and visitors before they are allowed entry into Menara PNS.

Hand sanitisers have also been made available at the building's two main counters.

PNS has also briefed its Crisis Management Team, which is ready to deal with the virus situation.

Similarly, the Companies Commission of Malaysia (CCM) conducted a thorough disinfection of its headquarters at Menara SSM in Kuala Lumpur Sentral on Sunday.

To ensure a complete and optimum level of sanitisation, the public were advised not to visit the CCM premises from yesterday, and to use its

online facilities instead, it said in a statement.

Likewise, Tengku Ampuan Rahimah Hospital in Klang started imposing restrictions yesterday following the rise in Covid-19 cases in the country.

"Apart from imposing a limit on the number of visitors, children below the age of 12 were also prohibited from visiting the hospital.

"Visiting hours have been shortened. The visiting hours now are from 1 pm to 2 pm and 5 pm to 6.30 pm on work days and public holidays," it said in a statement.

The public will be notified should there be any further changes. - Bernama