

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 1

RUANGAN : MUKA DEPAN

Sultan Selangor
bimbang masih
ada rakyat berdegil,
tak patuh PKP

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Polis tahan 28 orang
yang ingkar Perintah
Kawalan Pergerakan

AS berpotensi
jadi pusat wabak
Covid-19, kata WHO

11

KLUSTER TABLIGH TERUS JADI ANCAMAN COVID-19

KES COVID-19 DI MALAYSIA

1,624 JUMLAH KES	106 KES BAHARU	15 KES KEMATIAN	183 KES PUJUH
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“Janganlah kita persalahkan jemaah tabligh. Janganlah kita diskriminasikan jemaah tabligh. Janganlah kita stigamkan jemaah tabligh. Apa yang penting adalah kita bantu mengesan dan merawat jangkitan Covid-19 di kalangan jemaah tabligh, keluarga dan kontak mereka.” - **Kata Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah** pada sidang media di Putrajaya semalam

Daripada 106 kes baharu koronavirus (Covid-19) yang dilaporkan semalam, sebanyak 43 kes adalah berkaitan dengan kluster perhimpunan tabligh di Masjid Sri Petaling, Kuala Lumpur.

Sebanyak 15 kematian akibat Covid-19 direkod sehingga semalam dan daripada jumlah itu, sembilan daripadanya adalah kluster perhimpunan tabligh.

Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) sebelum ini turut memaklumkan kluster jemaah tabligh yang menghadiri Ijtimak di Masjid Sri Petaling menjadi penyumbang besar iaitu kira-kira 62 peratus daripada keseluruhan kes positif Covid-19 di negara ini.

Setakat ini seramai 10,500 peserta perhimpunan berkenaan sudah menjalani ujian saringan oleh KKM dan daripada jumlah itu, sebanyak 743 dikesan positif Covid-19.



LAPORAN PENUH 18 HALAMAN

Tiga beranak rentung
dalam
kebakaran di Kamunting

23

Sarung tangan untuk
petugas
kesihatan
sumbangan
Tabung CovidSinar

18

Arab Saudi
laksanakan
perintah
berkurang
11 jam
selama
21 hari

10

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 2

RUANGAN : MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19

RABU 25 MAC 2020 • SINAR HARIAN

MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19

Kluster tabligh tidak ingkar

Akan terus beri kerjasama dan patuh arahan kerajaan supaya jalani saringan untuk tangani Covid-19

Oleh MOHD HAZRIZAL
MOHD HANAPIAH

SHAH ALAM

Malaysia mencatatkan 106 kes terbaharu wabak koronavirus (Covid-19) semalam menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan 1,624 kes.

Daripada jumlah 106 kes itu, sebanyak 43 kes berkaitan dengan Ijtimak Tabligh di Masjid Jamek Sri Petaling, Kuala Lumpur pada 27 Februari hingga 1 Mac lalu, manakala 63 kes lagi adalah berkaitan dengan lain-lain kluster yang masih lagi dalam siasatan untuk kepastian.

Berdasarkan statistik, dianggarkan

sebanyak 62 peratus daripada 1,624 jumlah keseluruhan kes Covid-19 di Malaysia merupakan kluster tabligh.

Menjelaskan mengenai perkara itu, wakil jurucakap jemaah tabligh Masjid Jamek Sri Petaling, Dr Mohd Fauzi Othman berkata, pihaknya sentiasa mematuhi arahan daripada kerajaan dengan melakukan saringan seperti yang dikehendaki.

Beliau berkata, setakat semalam sebanyak 90 peratus jemaah tabligh telahpun hadir membuat ujian saringan.

"Semua jemaah telahpun dimaklumkan untuk mematuhi arahan kerajaan. Kami berharap baki 10 peratus akan hadir esok membuat ujian saringan termasuklah ada jemaah yang dipanggil semula membuat ujian," katanya ketika dihubungi *Sinar Harian* di sini semalam.

Mohd Fauzi berkata, Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) juga akan membuat ujian



DR MOHD FAUZI OTHMAN

saringan di pusat kesihatan daerah seluruh negara khusus untuk jemaah tabligh mulai hari ini.

Ditanya mengenai jumlah jemaah yang terabit dalam saringan, kata Mohd Fauzi, beliau tidak dapat memberikan jumlah angka yang tepat, namun yakin hanya kira-kira 10 peratus yang masih belum hadir melakukan saringan.

Kelmarin, Polis Diraja Malaysia (PDRM) mengemukakan akan mula memburu baki kira-kira 3,800 jemaah tabligh yang dikenal pasti seluruh negara yang masih belum menjalani ujian saringan Covid-19.

Menteri Kanan (Kluster Keselamatan), Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob berkata, pihak polis sudah mempunyai senarai nama lengkap jemaah tabligh yang menghadiri perhimpunan di Masjid Sri Petaling itu.

Ismail Sabri berkata, lebih 3,800 je-

Bagaimana Covid-19 mula merebak dari Masjid Sri Petaling

- Kementerian Kesihatan Brunei mengesahkan kes pertama positif Covid-19 di negara itu dijangkiti ketika hadir satu majlis keagamaan di Masjid Sri Petaling, Kuala Lumpur pada 27 Februari hingga 1 Mac lalu.
- Individu terabit dikatakan pulang ke Brunei dengan rakannya pada 3 Mac lalu melalui Miri, Sarawak sebelum menyedari mengalami simptom jangkitan dan membuat pemeriksaan di Hospital Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha, Brunei pada 8 Mac lalu.
- Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) kemudian meminta semua rakyat Malaysia yang menyertai perhimpunan itu dan mengalami gejala supaya menghubungi Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah berhampiran untuk pemeriksaan.

maah tabligh itu bukan sahaja rakyat Malaysia tetapi terdiri daripada rakyat Rohingya dan pendatang tanpa izin.

Dr Noor Hisham minta rakyat Malaysia tidak salahkan jemaah tabligh



NOOR HISHAM

PUTRAJAYA - Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah semalam merayu kepada orang ramai agar tidak menyalahkan jemaah tabligh berikutan peningkatan kes positif koronavirus (Covid-19) di negara ini.

Malah, beliau turut menasihatkan semua pihak supaya tidak mendiskriminasi golongan berkenaan.

Sebaliknya, katanya, perkara

yang penting ketika ini ialah membantu kerajaan menangani wabak Covid-19 di negara ini daripada terus merebak.

"Janganlah kita persalahkan dan diskriminasi jemaah tabligh. Jangan kita stigmakan jemaah tabligh. Apa yang penting ialah kita bantu mengesan dan merawat jangkitan Covid-19 dalam kalangan jemaah tabligh, keluarga dan kontak mereka," katanya pada

sidang akhbar mengenai perkembangan terkini Covid-19 di kementerianannya di sini semalam.

Noor Hisham berkata, kesemua jemaah tabligh yang menyertai perhimpunan di Masjid Jamek Sri Petaling baru-baru ini boleh membuat saringan Covid-19 bermula esok.

"Ini termasuklah mereka yang tidak bergejala juga perlu melakukan ujian saringan," katanya.

Menurutnya, arahan telah dikeluarkan kepada Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri dan Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah bagi tujuan itu.

"Mereka telah dimaklumkan mengenai hal ini. Insyaa-ALLAH esok (hari ini) boleh datang buat saringan," katanya.

>> Berita mengenai kes terbaharu Covid-19 di Malaysia di muka 8

Etnik Rohingya sertai Ijtimak Tabligh digesa buat saringan

KUALA LUMPUR - Dalam usaha membendung penularan wabak koronavirus (Covid-19) di Malaysia, Mercy Malaysia semalam menasihati etnik Rohingya di negara ini khususnya yang menghadiri Ijtimak Tabligh di Masjid Sri Petaling, Kuala Lumpur pada 27 Februari hingga 1 Mac lalu, tampil membuat saringan.

Pengurus Besar Operasi Program Mercy Malaysia, Mohammad Said Al-hudzari Ibrahim berkata, pihaknya menganggarkan kira-kira 500 etnik Rohingya menyertai Ijtimak Tabligh berkenaan dan telah mengenal pasti sebahagian daripada mereka.

Bagaimanapun, katanya, tiada kes positif Covid-19 dikesan melibatkan masyarakat itu setakat ini.

"Bagi mereka yang takut membuat saringan, Mercy Malaysia akan berhubung dengan Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah yang berdekatan untuk tindakan selanjutnya setelah mendapat maklumat," katanya ketika dihubungi di sini semalam.

Beliau berkata, jika terdapat etnik Rohingya yang positif, Mercy Malaysia akan memastikan keluarganya juga dikuarantin dan bantuan makanan disampaikan kepada mereka.

Setakat ini, terdapat 178,990 etnik Rohingya di seluruh negara. - Bernama

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19

6

MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19

RABU 25 MAC 2020 • SINAR HARIAN

Malaysia mohon bantuan China

Minta hantar pakar perubatan, bantu barisan depan negara

KUALA LUMPUR

Kerajaan sedang berunding dengan pemerintah China untuk memohon negara berkenaan menghantar pakar perubatan mereka ke Malaysia bagi membantu petugas barisan depan negara memerangi koronavirus (Covid-19) habis-habisan.

Menteri Luar, Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein berkata, ini adalah antara peranan dimainkan Wisma Putra dalam menggunakan hubungan baik negara dengan pemerintah di luar negara bagi mendapatkan bantuan dalam memerangi wabak berkenaan.

"Susulan perbincangan ini, saya difahamkan pakar perubatan daripada 26 buah hospital di Malaysia akan mengadakan persidangan menerusi video dengan pakar-pakar perubatan yang berada di China pada Khamis ini (esok) bagi berkongsi kaedah serta strategi terbaik dalam melawan Covid-19," katanya pada sidang akhbar yang diadakan secara langsung melalui akaun Facebook beliau semalam.

Selain itu, Hishammuddin berkata, melalui hubungan Malaysia-Emiriyah Arab Bersatu



HISHAMMUDDIN

(UAE), Wisma Putra juga sedang berusaha mendapatkan bantuan peralatan perubatan dari negara berkenaan.

"Kami berbual terutama mengenai peralatan perubatan, peralatan perubatan kritikal dan saya percaya UAE mempunyai beberapa keupayaan untuk

membantu kita dalam hubungan ini.

"Beberapa peralatan perubatan yang diperlukan itu kritikal dan ini sesuatu yang kadangkala anda juga jika mempunyai wang tidak dapat memperolehnya. Saya tidak bercakap hanya mengenai penutup mulut dan hidung atau pakaian perlindungan, terdapat perkara yang lebih kritikal yang kita tidak sepatutnya mempunyai rasa cemas, ego dan sombong untuk meminta bantuan.

"Ini sesuatu yang ditunjukkan oleh UAE, dan apa jua yang mereka hendak bantu kita berhubung peralatan kritikal yang diperlukan, mereka akan membantu kita, mereka melihatnya sangat menggalakkan dan masih dalam rundingan," katanya. - *Bernama*

Pesawat sewa khas berlepas ke Dhaka

KUALA LUMPUR - Satu penerbangan khas akan berlepas ke Dhaka, Bangladesh hari ini untuk membawa pulang kumpulan pertama seramai 270 daripada 367 rakyat Malaysia susulan penularan koronavirus (Covid-19) di negara itu.

Menteri Luar, Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein berkata, buat masa ini, kerajaan Bangladesh telah menyuarakan jaminan akan memberi kebenaran khas kepada pesawat ini untuk mendarat serta berlepas dari Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa Hazrat Shahjalal, Dhaka.

"Kesemua mereka akan dibawa pulang menggunakan sebuah pesawat sewa khas jenis Airbus 332 milik syarikat penerbangan Malaysia Airlines yang dibiayai penuh MIC sepertimana enam penerbangan sewa khas untuk membawa pulang rakyat Malaysia yang terkandas di India sebelum ini," katanya pada sidang akhbar yang diadakan secara langsung di akaun Facebook beliau semalam. - *Bernama*

PM terima sumbangan lima syarikat korporat untuk Tabung Covid-19



Muhyiddin (kanan) menerima sumbangan daripada Syed Faisal Albar pada Majlis Penyerahan Sumbangan Tabung Covid-19 di Bangunan Perdana Putra, Putrajaya semalam.

PUTRAJAYA - Perdana Menteri, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin semalam menerima sumbangan berjumlah RM5 juta daripada lima syarikat korporat untuk Tabung Covid-19.

Sumbangan itu menjadikan jumlah terkumpul Tabung Covid-19 kini sebanyak RM8.125 juta tidak termasuk barangan yang diterima.

Replika cek untuk Tabung Covid-19 disampaikan oleh wakil syarikat korporat kepada Muhyiddin di Perdana Putra di sini semalam.

Selain wang tunai, Perdana Menteri turut menerima sumbangan berupa 520,000 topeng muka daripada Titijaya Land Berhad untuk digunakan petugas barisan hadapan.

Sumbangan Titijaya Land Berhad itu disampaikan kepada Perdana Menteri oleh pengasasnya, Tan Sri SP Lim.

Antara yang menyampikan sumbangan semalam ialah Spanco Sdn Bhd yang diwakili pemiliknya, Tan Sri

Robert Tan Hua Choon yang menyumbang sebanyak RM2 juta.

Turut memberikan sumbangan ialah DRB Hicom Berhad. Replika cek RM1 juta disampaikan oleh Pengarah Urusan Kumpulan DRB Hicom, Datuk Seri Syed Faisal Albar Syed Ali Rethza Albar.

Syarikat lain ialah MMC Corporation Berhad yang menyumbang RM1 juta dan disampaikan oleh Pengarah Urusan Kumpulannya, Datuk Seri Che Khalib Mohamad Noh.

Satu lagi syarikat yang menyumbang kepada Tabung Covid-19 ialah YTL Corporation Berhad sebanyak RM1 juta dengan replika cek disampaikan kepada Perdana Menteri oleh Pengerusi Eksekutifnya, Tan Sri Francis Yeoh.

Tabung Covid-19 dilancarkan kerajaan pada 11 Mac lepas sebagai usaha kerajaan membantu rakyat yang terjejas ekoran wabak itu. - *Bernama*

Kementerian Kesihatan terima bantuan peralatan perubatan daripada CCC-ECRL



Chaw Min (kanan) mewakili Kementerian Kesihatan menerima sumbangan peralatan perubatan daripada Bai Tian (kiri) pada majlis penyerahan di Kuala Lumpur semalam.

SHAH ALAM - Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) semalam menerima bantuan peralatan perubatan daripada kontraktor utama projek Laluan Rel Pantai Timur (ECRL) iaitu China Communications Construction Sdn Bhd (CCC-ECRL) yang berpangkalan di negara ini.

Bantuan untuk kegunaan 26 hospital khusus bagi rawatan wabak koronavirus (Covid-19) itu terdiri daripada 5,000 topeng muka jenis N95 dan KN90, 20,000 topeng muka pembedahan serta 1,200 kaca mata pelindung perubatan.

Sumbangan itu diserahkan oleh Duta Besar China ke Malaysia, Bai Tian kepada Ketua Setiausaha KKM, Datuk Seri Dr Chen Chaw Min pada satu majlis penyerahan di Pharmaniaga Berhad di sini semalam.

Bai Tian berkata, peralatan perubatan itu disediakan sejurus pihaknya memohon semua syarikat dari China yang berpangkalan di Malaysia untuk menyalurkan bantuan.

"Saya amat bimbang setelah membaca laporan berita mengenai kekurangan peralatan perlindungan bagi petugas perubatan di

sini. Jadi Kedutaan China di sini mendapatkan pertolongan daripada seluruh China dan kami juga meminta syarikat China di Malaysia menghulurkan sumbangan.

"Saya amat gembira apabila CCC-ECRL adalah antara syarikat yang pertama tampil untuk membantu dan syarikat dari China di sini juga sudah digerakkan. Banyak bantuan kini dalam perjalanan," katanya di sini semalam.

Turut hadir pada majlis itu ialah Pengarah Urusan CCC-ECRL, Bai Yinzhan dan Pengarah Urusan Kumpulan Pharmaniaga, Datuk Farshila Emran. - *Bernama*

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 7

RUANGAN : MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19

SINAR HARIAN • RABU 25 MAC 2020

MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19

'Kita hadapi malapetaka dahsyat'

Covid-19 beri kesan besar terhadap ekonomi seluruh dunia

Oleh HIDAYAH HAIROM

SHAH ALAM

Bekas Perdana Menteri, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad berkata, apa yang sedang rakyat Malaysia dan penduduk dunia hadapi ketika ini merupakan malapetaka yang dahsyat.

Beliau berkata, wabak koronavirus (Covid-19) akan memberi kesan besar terhadap ekonomi seluruh dunia yang terkecuali negara kaya.

Menurutnya, banyak sektor industri seluruh dunia yang akan terjejas disebabkan penu-

laran wabak tersebut.

Bagi Malaysia, katanya, industri pelancongan yang merupakan sumber pendapatan asing kedua terbesar selepas Petronas turut akan terjejas teruk dan akan menyebabkan kerajaan kehilangan banyak hasil.

"Syarikat penerbangan akan menderita. Industri pelancongan akan menderita. Pengangkutan darat hotel, restoran akan menderita. Pekerja akan menderita kerana mereka boleh dibuang. Majikan mereka tidak akan mendapat cukup wang untuk membayar (gaji) mereka.

"Orang yang bekerja dalam industri pelancongan akan kehilangan pekerjaan dan pendapatan. Ini merisaukan kerana mereka memerlukan makanan dan minuman," katanya menerusi tulisan di blog beliau kelmarin.

Dr Mahathir berkata, hasil kerajaan mungkin menurun se-

hingga RM30 bilion akibat penurunan harga minyak sebanyak 50 peratus daripada harga yang dianggarkan.

Untuk tahun 2020, katanya, kerajaan menganggarkan satu tong minyak mentah ditetapkan pada harga AS\$63 (kira-kira RM280) setong namun ia kini menurun.

"Di Malaysia, industri petroleum tidak besar, tetapi ia memberi sumbangan besar kepada hasil kerajaan," katanya.

Selain itu, Ahli Parlimen Langkawi itu turut berkata, kerajaan berdepan cabaran apabila pakej rangsangan yang diumumkan kerajaan melibatkan peningkatan dalam perbelanjaan dan penurunan cukai.

Menurutnya, hasil kerajaan juga akan terjejas dengan pelaksanaan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan kerana ia akan mengurangkan aktiviti perniagaan serta keuntungan.

"Bagi perusahaan kecil, kerugian akan menjadi sangat teruk. Mereka mendapat hari ini untuk hari ini. Sekalipun mereka mampu melakukan perniagaan, ia tidak akan cukup untuk menampung makan dan minum mereka. Kerajaan mungkin memberi mereka bantuan kewangan.

"Apa yang berlaku di Malaysia juga berlaku di seluruh dunia.

Industri mungkin perlu berhenti atau sekurang-kurangnya mengurangkan pengeluaran. Eksport dan import akan terjejas. Ekonomi akan meng-

alami kemelesetan di seluruh dunia. Malah negara terkaya akan menderita," katanya.

Meskipun telah disahkan negatif Covid-19, Dr Mahathir kini masih menjalani tempoh kuarantin di rumah selama 14 hari.



TUN MAHATHIR

Dr Adham beri semangat kepada rakyat Malaysia untuk terus menangani Covid-19

KUALA LUMPUR - Menteri Ksihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba semalam memberikan kata-kata semangat kepada rakyat Malaysia agar terus mematuhi Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan untuk memutuskan rantaian virus koronavirus (Covid-19).

Menyeru satu video berdurasi 53 saat di Facebook rasmi beliau, dalam nada positif, Dr Adham menyeru rakyat meneruskan langkah duduk di rumah, memastikan penjarakan sosial dan mengamalkan kebersihan.



DR ADHAM

"Langkah kerajaan Malaysia melaksanakan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan mula mendapat kerjasama baik daripada rakyat.

"Ini usaha kita bersama, duduk rumah, penjarakan sosial, amalkan kebersihan, kita mesti menang (dalam menangani Covid-19)," katanya.

Semalam merupakan hari ketujuh Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan dan sehingga kini kadar pematuhan rakyat meningkat kepada 95 peratus berbanding 92 peratus sebelum ini hasil kerjasama bersepadu yang dilakukan oleh Polis Diraja Malaysia, Angkatan Tentera Malaysia, Rela dan pihak berkuasa tempatan. - Bernama

UMNO Sabah derma RM1 juta barangan keperluan

KOTA KINABALU - Prihatin dengan nasib penduduk Sabah yang terkejut akibat penularan wabak koronavirus (Covid-19), UMNO Sabah mendermakan barangan keperluan bernilai RM1 juta.

Bekas Pengerusi Badan Perhubungan UMNO Sabah, Tan Sri Musa Aman ber-UMNO Sabah akan mengedarkan barangan keperluan seperti bekalan makanan, ubat-ubatan termasuk topeng muka, tisu basah kepada orang ramai terutamanya golongan kaum, agama dan politik.

"Saya telah berbincang perkara ini dengan Ketua Perhubungan UMNO Sabah, Datuk Seri Bung Moktar Radin yang akan menyelia agihan bekalan melalui Sekretariat UMNO negeri.

"UMNO Sabah juga akan berbincang dengan Parti Bersatu Rakyat Sabah, Parti Solidariti Tanah Airku dan Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (Bersatu) untuk menggabungkan sumber masing-masing bagi membantu rakyat negeri ini," katanya dalam satu kenyataan semalam.

Perkhidmatan Pandu Lalu

UJIAN COVID-19



MELALUI TEMUJANJI SAHAJA

Untuk pertanyaan, sila hubungi caroline kami

012-577 1889
017-578 2899

Masa jam di pejabat

Isnin - Jumaat: 8:30 pagi - 5:00 petang
Sabtu: 8:30 pagi - 1:00 petang
(Tidak termasuk Ahad dan Cuti Umum)



RAMAI HADIR
RM 650
(tidak termasuk)

Untuk Ujian rPCR**
Kahariza Perkhidmatan Casa
Pulau Lompas, Pulau Lompas, Pulau Lompas
sempena satu sesi khusus

SEMARAI KRITERIA

Pesakit secara sukarela ingin melakukan ujian ATAU sejarah perjalanan semasa tanpa gejala



BERPUASA

Sila elakkan makanan berat 2 jam sebelum ujian



KRITERIA DIKECUALIKAN

- Mereka yang ada sejarah perjalanan DENGAN baki/diambil/sakit tebak
- Mereka yang tidak ada sejarah perjalanan TETAPI mengalami baki/diambil/sakit tebak
- Sesapa yang ada KONTAK RAPAT dengan lori yang disahkan positif COVID-19
- Mereka yang diarahkan KUARANTIN RUMAH

*Berdasarkan data adalah berdasarkan arahan Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) (https://www.bumamta.com/whatsapp/976-8199632)

Imbas Untuk Lokasi Ujian Pandu Lalu



*Terma & syarat dikenakan

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN
 MUKA SURAT : 8
 RUANGAN : MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19

8

MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19

Satu lagi kematian dicatat

Menjadikan jumlah kematian akibat Covid-19 di Malaysia sebanyak 15 kes

Oleh **TUAN BUQHAIRAH**
TUAN MUHAMAD ADNAN

PUTRAJAYA

Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) merekodkan satu kematian dan 106 kes baharu positif koronavirus (Covid-19).

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, kematian terbaharu itu melibatkan lelaki tempatan yang disyaki mempunyai kontak dengan kes positif yang ke-703 (yang menghadiri perjumpaan tabligh di Masjid Sri Petaling, Kuala Lumpur) semasa solat Jumaat.

"Pesakit yang merupakan kes ke-1519 mengalami gejala sesak nafas selama tiga hari," katanya.

Menurutnya, bantuan pernafasan diberikan dan pesakit itu disahkan meninggal dunia jam 5.35 pagi tadi (semalam).

"Dia yang berumur 71 tahun mempunyai penyakit kencing manis dan darah tinggi," katanya.

Beliau berkata, sebanyak 106 kes positif Covid-19 dicatatkan setakat jam 12 tengah hari semalam.

"Berdasarkan siasatan, daripada jumlah itu, 43 kes berkaitan dengan kluster tabligh manakala Kementerian sedang mengenal pasti punca kluster kepada 63 yang lain," katanya.



Dr Noor Hisham (kanan) pada sidang media harian berkenaan Covid-19 di Kementerian Kesihatan di Putrajaya semalam.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, jumlah pesakit yang dimasukkan ke Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU) turut meningkat kepada 64 kes.

"Daripada jumlah itu, 27 kes memerlukan bantuan pernafasan," katanya.

Menurutnya, sebanyak 24 kes telah pulih dan dibenar discaj, menjadikan kumulatif kes pulih sebanyak 183.

Setakat semalam, jumlah keseluruhan kes positif dilaporkan sebanyak 1,624 kes dan jumlah kumulatif kes kematian Covid-19 di Malaysia adalah sebanyak 15 kes.

Pramugari hilang ketika saringan

IPOH - Polis sedang mengesan seorang wanita mengalami simptom wabak koronavirus (Covid-19) yang menghilangkan diri ketika menjalani saringan kesihatan di Hospital Parit Buntar (HPB) kelmarin.

Wanita berusia 21 tahun dan bekerja sebagai pramugari itu dikatakan hadir ke hospital berkenaan pada Ahad lalu sebelum diarahkan ke Hospital Taiping bagi menjalani pemeriksaan lanjut.

Bagaimanapun, pesakit itu menolak untuk dihantar ke Hospital Taiping sebelum dikesan menghilangkan diri.

Pesakit itu dikatakan baru pulang dari Singapura dan telah transit di Thailand. Dia mula mengalami demam sejak 12 hari lepas.

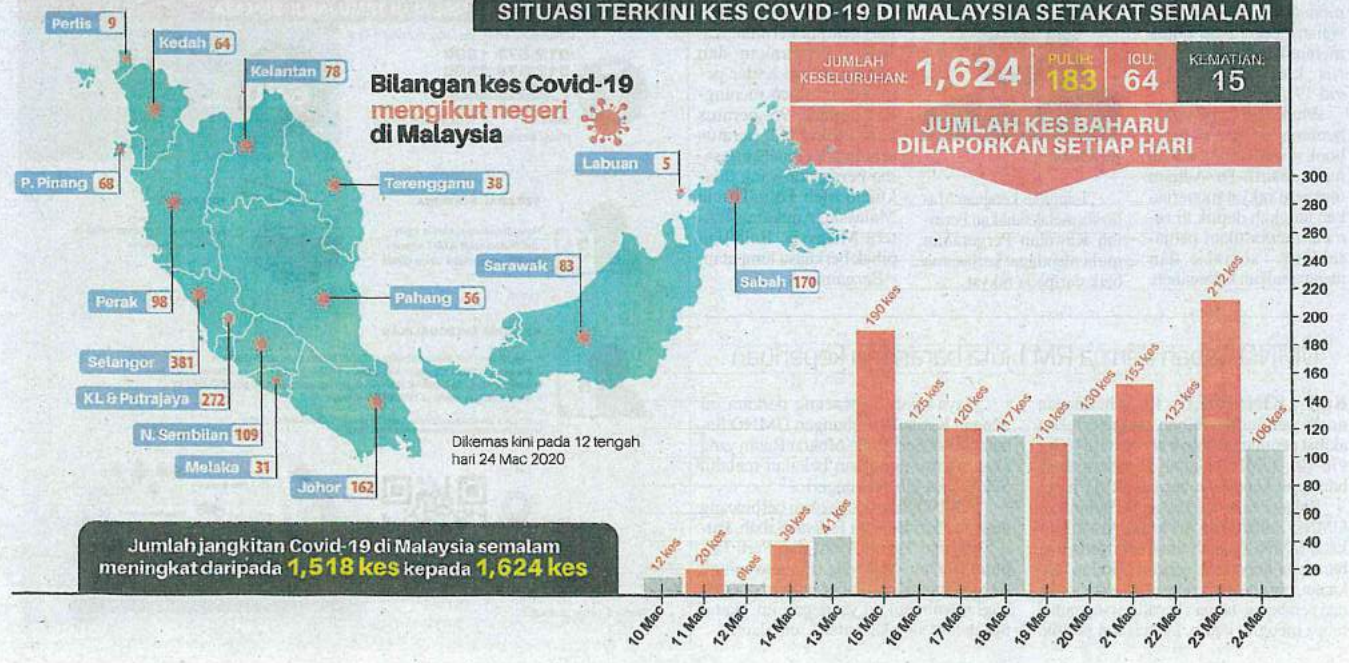
Laporan kehilangan wanita itu dibuat oleh seorang kakitangan hospital terbabit di Balai Polis Parit Buntar pada jam 10.27 malam kelmarin.

Ketua Polis Daerah Kerian, Superintendan Omar Bakhtiar Yaacob ketika dihubungi mengesahkan laporan berkenaan.

"Daripada maklumat dikongsi, wanita yang beralamat dari Bukit Mertajam, Pulau Pinang itu telah diletakkan di dalam bilik isolasi HPB untuk saringan.

Abang pesakit memberitahu pihak hospital akan cuba memujuknya ke Hospital Taiping, namun selepas itu kedua-duanya didapati telah menghilangkan diri.

SITUASI TERKINI KES COVID-19 DI MALAYSIA SETAKAT SEMALAM



AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 9

RUANGAN : MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19

SINAR HARIAN • RABU 25 MAC 2020

MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19

9

RTK tidak dapat kesan Covid-19

KKM saran orang ramai tidak jalani ujian guna kit ujian pantas

Oleh **TUAN BUQHAIKHAH**
TUAN MUHAMAD ADNAN

PUTRAJAYA

Kit ujian pantas (RTK) yang dijual di pasaran tidak dapat membantu pengesanan awal jangkitan Covid-19.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, RTK digunakan untuk mengesan antibodi yang terhasil dalam badan akibat jangkitan dialami.

"Antibodi muncul dalam badan sekitar lima hingga lapan hari selepas jangkitan.

"Ujian RTK yang mengesan antibodi tidak disarankan untuk tujuan diagnosis Covid-19.

"Justeru, KKM menggesa orang ramai untuk tidak menjalani ujian RTK dengan sewenang-wenangnya tanpa menda-

pat khidmat nasihat daripada Pengamal Perubatan kerana ia berpotensi untuk menimbulkan salah tafsir dan keresahan terhadap keputusan ujian," katanya pada sidang media harian di KKM di sini semalam.

Beliau berkata, ujian Covid-19 yang dijalankan di makmal fasiliti KKM adalah menggunakan teknik *real time Reverse Transcription-Polymerase Chain Reaction* (rRT-PCR).

"Ujian rRT-PCR Covid-19 yang positif bermaksud individu tersebut telah dijangkiti oleh

wabak berkenaan.

"Keputusan ujian yang tepat melalui teknik rRT-PCR adalah amat penting dalam pengurusan pesakit Covid-19 yang berke-saan," katanya.

Kelmarin, sebuah syarikat penyedia perkhidmatan e-kerajaan mengumumkan akan membawa masuk RTK yang dibangunkan oleh syarikat bioperubatan China terkemuka.

Bagaimanapun, syarikat berkenaan masih menunggu kelulusan KKM.

Dalam perkembangan lain,

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, KKM sedang mencari jalan penyelesaian termasuk kemungkinan akan berkunjung ke rumah penderita darah berikutan kekurangan bekalan tersebut di hospital.

"Memandangkan kita sedang dalam Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan, kami merancang untuk membuat kempen penderita darah dari rumah.

"Kami akan hantarkan pasukan ke rumah anda untuk mendapatkan bekalan," katanya.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 20

RUANGAN : MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19

20

RABU 25 MAC 2020 • SINAR HARIAN

MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19



Kebanyakan hospital terputus bekalan Peralatan Perlindungan Diri

Oleh HASNIZA HUSSAIN

SHAH ALAM

Penularan wabak koronavirus (Covid-19) memberi impak yang cukup besar buat negara, ekonomi serta rakyat. Tambahan lagi apabila berlaku peningkatan lebih banyak kes jangkitan yang kini mencecah 1,624 kes-serta angka kematian seramai 15 orang di Malaysia.

Namun begitu yang lebih terkesan sudah tentu pasukan yang berada di barisan hadapan iaitu petugas kesihatan termasuk doktor dan jururawat yang sanggup mengambil risiko untuk merawat dan mengekang wabak ini dari hari pertama ia menular ke negara.

Kini lebih membimbangkan apabila banyak dilaporkan bekalan peralatan perubatan seperti Peralatan Perlindungan Diri (PPE) serta beberapa keperluan lain termasuk cecair pembersihan dan keperluan makmal tidak mencukupi, malah tidak dapat menampung keperluan di hospital dalam menangani pesakit Covid-19.

Menurut seorang petugas kesihatan yang enggan dikenali, keperluan peralatan perubatan di setiap hospital adalah berbeza bergantung kepada jumlah kes yang diterima.

Katanya, masalah bekalan tidak mencukupi ini kebanyakannya lebih dirasai petugas-petugas kesihatan di hospital besar.

"Ada yang mengalami masalah



Contoh pemakaian PPE sebenar oleh petugas kesihatan di Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah (PKD) Hillir Perak.

'Plastik sampah' ganti PPE

kekurangan peralatan perubatan ini sejak awal gelombang kedua Covid-19 dan ada juga yang baru seminggu ini terkesan.

"Kebanyakan hospital terputus bekalan PPE sehingga terpaksa menjadi kreatif dengan membuat *face shield* sendiri iaitu menggunakan span, plastik lutsinar dan plastik sampah untuk perlindungan di bahagian kepala, muka/mata serta leher.

"Petugas kesihatan terlibat biasanya akan buat lebih untuk dipakai dalam tempoh beberapa hari bagi menggantikan PPE sebenar, tambah lagi ia hanya boleh digunakan untuk sekali pakai," katanya.

Katanya, walaupun petugas kesihatan terpaksa memakai 'plastik sampah' yang tidak menjamin perlindungan, dalam keadaan terdesak ia tetap membantu dan itu saja pilihan yang mereka ada.

"Ada antara kami sampai kena mandi sekurang-kurangnya sembilan kali sehari bagi memastikan kebersihan diri serta untuk elak jangkitan selepas merawat atau mengendalikan pesakit Covid-19, malah ada juga yang demam kerana mandi berlebihan," katanya.

Menurut petugas itu lagi, di sesetengah hospital lain pula ada yang sangat memerlukan peralatan makmal seperti alat untuk membuat ujian swab (kapas kesat) iaitu mengambil sampel dari kerong-

kong serta hidung.

"Alat ini paling penting kerana ia menentukan sama ada seseorang itu positif atau negatif Covid-19," katanya.

Menurut seorang lagi petugas kesihatan, cecair pembasmi kuman, sarung tangan serta penutup mulut dan hidung semakin berkurangan di tempatnya bertugas.

Katanya, itu adalah antara peralatan asas yang sangat diperlukan ketika ini dan beliau berharap bekalan baharu akan sampai segera.

Peruntukan tambahan

Pengumuman oleh Perdana Menteri, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin kelmarin memaklumkan Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) akan diberi peruntukan tambahan RM500 juta bagi membiayai pembelian peralatan perubatan seperti ventilator dan peralatan ICU (unit rawatan rapi), PPE tambahan bagi kakitangan awam serta keperluan makmal untuk saringan Covid-19 dijangka memberi sinar baharu kepada para petugas barisan hadapan ini.

Selain itu, kerajaan juga akan menyalurkan peruntukan RM100 juta khusus untuk pelantikan 2,000 kakitangan baharu KKM secara kontrak.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah pula memberitahu, KKM berjaya memperoleh stok bekalan PPE sebanyak 33 juta unit dan ia sekali gus dapat menampung penggunaan di semua fasiliti kesihatan. Stok itu akan diedarkan dalam minggu ini.

Seorang sumber memberitahu *Sinar Harian*, kakitangan baharu terdiri daripada jururawat difahamkan sudah mula melaporkan diri di hospital-hospital yang kekurangan kakitangan mulai semalam.

Dalam pada itu, Pakar Perubatan Keluarga KKM, Dr Suhazeli Abdullah ketika dihubungi *Sinar Harian* berkata,

Guna saluran farmasi edar kepada pengguna

SHAH ALAM - Pengalihan 10 juta penutup muka percuma kepada rakyat negara ini yang memerlukan dan terjejas dengan penularan wabak koronavirus (Covid-19) perlu dibuat secara teratur oleh kerajaan.

Presiden Persatuan Farmasi Malaysia, Amrahi Buang berkata, antara yang boleh dibuat kerajaan ialah dengan menjadikan farmasi sebagai salah satu saluran untuk mengedarkan penutup muka tersebut.

"Sebagai contoh apabila pengguna datang ke farmasi untuk beli ubatan atau sebagainya, ahli farmasi boleh mainkan peranan dengan membuat saringan awal ke atas mereka, sediakan tempat basuh tangan sebelum masuk, beri penerangan tentang bahaya Covid-19 dan setelah mereka bayar barangan dibeli, baru kita berikan penutup muka percuma itu.

"Dengan cara ini, pemberian penutup muka itu adalah lebih bersasar. Jika main diri saja, ia ibarat kerajaan buang duit begitu saja, tiada kesan," katanya.

Sebelum ini, kerajaan mengumumkan akan mengagihkan 10 juta penutup muka percuma kepada rakyat negara ini yang memerlukan dan terjejas dengan penularan Covid-19.

Selain itu, Amrahi berkata, kerajaan juga perlu melindungi doktor dan kakitangan di klinik swasta, ahli dan kakitangan farmasi untuk memastikan perkhidmatan mereka berterusan.

"Kemudahan seperti peralatan perlindungan diri (PPE) umpamanya bukan perlu diberi kepada hospital kerajaan saja tapi harus juga diberikan kepada klinik swasta dan farmasi kerana mereka ini adalah pusat-pusat rawatan utama primer.

"Ramai yang datang buat pemeriksaan di sini sebelum dirujuk ke hospital, jadi perlindungan harus diberikan kepada mereka juga," katanya.

semua pihak diminta bersabar kerana kerajaan sudah memberi jaminan bahawa bekalan PPE mencukupi.

"Ya baru sahaja diumumkan semalam (kelmarin) dan prosesnya akan mengambil sedikit masa.

"KKM kini sedang bertungkus-lumus melakukannya bagi memastikan alat PPE itu dapat diedarkan secepat mungkin untuk kegunaan hospital," katanya.

Ketika mengulas tentang alternatif yang boleh dilakukan pihak hospital atau petugas kesihatan sementara menunggu bekalan peralatan perubatan tiba, Dr Suhazeli berkata, ia bergantung kepada kreativiti mereka sendiri.

"Terpulang kepada mereka tetapi ia perlu mematuhi prosedur standard ditetapkan," katanya.

INFO PPE

- Pakaian khas yang perlu dipakai oleh petugas kesihatan yang mengendalikan pesakit Covid-19
- Pakaian ini menutupi keseluruhan badan, tangan serta bahagian kepala dan muka bagi mengelakkan dijangkiti wabak itu.
- Dilengkapi pelindung kepala, pelindung pernafasan iaitu penutup muka pembedahan atau jenis N95, alat pelindung mata/muka (*goggles* *face shield*), seluar khas, sarung tangan, but/sarung kaki khas serta *gaun* yang melepasi pialawan ditetapkan, kalis cecair dan pakaikan buang.
- PPE tidak boleh dikongsi dengan orang lain
- Penggunaan untuk sekali pakai



AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 7

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

BH RABU, 25 MAC 2020

7

Nasional

Penularan COVID-19

24 kes pulih, dibenar pulang

106 kes baharu dengan satu kematian dicatat semalam

Oleh Samadi Ahmad
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Putrajaya: Satu lagi kematian akibat COVID-19 dilaporkan semalam, menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan 15 kes kematian disebabkan wabak berkenaan di negara ini, setakat ini.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata kematian ke-15 membabitkan kes ke-1,519, lelaki berusia 71 tahun berasal dari Melaka yang disyaki mempunyai kontak dengan kes positif COVID-19, kes ke-703 yang menghadiri perjumpaan tabligh di Masjid Seri Petaling.

"Lelaki itu mempunyai sejarah penyakit kronik dan dirawat di Hospital Pakar Sultanah Fatimah, Muar, Johor, mulai 18 Mac lalu. Beliau disahkan meninggal dunia

pada jam 5.35 pagi ini," katanya melalui kenyataan, semalam.

Pada sidang media kemudian, beliau berkata, sebanyak 106 kes baharu membabitkan 43 kes berkaitan kluster perhimpunan tabligh di Seri Petaling dan 63 kes berkaitan lain-lain kluster dilaporkan semalam, menjadikan jumlah kes positif COVID-19 1,624 kes.

"Sehingga kini, seramai 64 kes positif COVID-19 sedang dirawat

di Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU), termasuk 27 kes memerlukan bantuan pernafasan. Terdapat 24 kes sudah pulih dan dibenarkan keluar hari ini (semalam), menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes pulih sepenuhnya dan discaj dari wad adalah 183 kes," katanya.

Mengenai kekurangan bekalan darah, beliau memaklumkan, petugas kesihatan akan digerakkan ke kediaman untuk mengambil

darah mereka yang ingin menderma yang boleh juga menghubungi talian hotline KKM supaya petugas dapat ke rumah mereka dalam tempoh Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP).

Selain itu, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, pihaknya sudah mengenal pasti 3,000 jururawat bersara untuk dipanggil bertugas bagi menampung kekurangan petugas kesihatan ketika ini.



Sehingga kini, seramai 64 kes positif COVID-19 sedang dirawat di Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU), termasuk 27 kes memerlukan bantuan pernafasan. Terdapat 24 kes sudah pulih dan dibenarkan keluar hari ini (semalam).

Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan

5 rakyat kita dirawat di Brunei

Kuala Lumpur: Lima rakyat Malaysia yang berada di Brunei dan dijangkiti COVID-19 kini dijaga rapi oleh Kerajaan Brunei, kata Menteri Luar, Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein.

Menerusi satu kenyataan semalam, beliau berkata, perkara itu dimaklumkan Menteri Hal Ehwal Luar Negeri Brunei II, Datuk Seri Setia Erywan Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Mohd Yusof dalam perbincangan mereka melalui sidang video semalam, yang turut menyentuh usaha kedua-dua negara dalam menangani COVID-19.

Perbincangan juga menyentuh mengenai kes pertama di Brunei membabitkan seorang lelaki

yang hadir ijtimaq tabligh di Masjid Seri Petaling dengan sekitar 49 peratus kes berkaitan COVID-19 di negara berkenaan adalah berkaitan perhimpunan terbabit, rendah sedikit berbanding 62 peratus di Malaysia.

"Saya turut berkongsi dengan Erywan, Polis Diraja Malaysia (PDRM) sudah tubuhkan 'task force' bagi menjejaki semua peserta dan setakat ini, 13,000 dikenal pasti. Saya juga maklumkan, sudah bercakap dengan Menteri Luar Negeri Indonesia, Retno Lestari Priansari Marsudi untuk berkongsi maklumat mengenai perhimpunan tabligh di Gowa, Sulawesi Selatan," katanya.

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 12

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

12

RABU, 25 MAC 2020 BH

Nasional

Penularan COVID-19

Topeng muka N95, 3 lapis paling sesuai

Mampu halang 95 peratus virus daripada tersebar melalui pengudaraan

Oleh Mohd Iskandar Ibrahim
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Kuala Lumpur: Topeng muka kategori tiga lapisan dan N95 paling sesuai digunakan sebagai langkah pencegahan wabak coronavirus (COVID-19) kerana mampu menapis kira-kira 95 peratus virus.

Pakar kesihatan awam, Dr Hanafiah Bashirun, menjelaskan topeng muka kategori berkenaan boleh menghalang virus terbahit tersebar melalui pengudaraan jika individu terkena titisan cecair daripada hidung atau mulut dijangkiti COVID-19.

"Topeng muka tiga lapisan boleh didapati pada harga lebih murah berbanding N95. Walaupun topeng muka N95 paling baik, topeng muka tiga lapisan sudah memadai, selain harganya berpatutan. Jenis N95 lebih mahal dan lebih sesuai bagi menghalang jangkitan menerusi airborne (udara).

"Topeng muka tiga lapisan

adalah jenis yang selalu digunakan pegawai perubatan dan kesihatan," katanya sambil menambah, topeng muka jenis N95 boleh menapis virus pada kadar 95 peratus, bakteria (100 peratus), debu (100 peratus) dan debunga (100 peratus).

Katanya, fungsi topeng jenis tiga lapis pula sama seperti N95, iaitu boleh menapis virus pada kadar 95 peratus, namun hanya menapis bakteria pada kadar 80 peratus, debu (80 peratus) dan debunga (80 peratus).

Beliau tidak menggalakkan penggunaan topeng muka jenis dua atau satu lapisan mahupun jenis karbon yang boleh dibasuh dan digunakan semula kerana hanya boleh menapis virus pada kadar 10 peratus, bakteria (50 peratus), debu (10 peratus) dan debunga (50 peratus).

"Malah, topeng muka jenis karbon hanya sesuai bagi menghalang bau. Topeng muka juga tidak boleh digunakan berulang kali kerana dikhuatiri tercemar dengan virus yang boleh mengancam penggunanya.

"Saya faham keadaan kini amat mendesak lebih-lebih lagi dengan kekurangan bekalan topeng muka di pasaran akibat penularan wabak COVID-19. Jika hanya mampu mendapatkan topeng muka jenis dua atau satu lapisan, saya menyarankan supaya memakainya sebanyak

tiga topeng dalam satu masa.

"Berdasarkan cara penggunaan, topeng efektif digunakan dalam tempoh enam jam sahaja dan selepas itu, topeng baharu perlu digunakan, topeng lama perlu dibuang," katanya.

Mengenai topeng muka jenis kain, Dr Hanafiah berkata, ia tidak sesuai digunakan langsung kerana kadar tapisan bagi menghalang virus dan debu adalah sifar peratus, manakala topeng muka jenis span yang banyak digunakan sebagai perhiasan pakaian juga tidak boleh menghalang virus.

Dalam pada itu, beliau mengingatkan orang ramai penggunaan topeng muka amat penting dan tujuan utamanya adalah menghalang virus daripada memasuki tubuh melalui mulut atau hidung.

"Kita kena sentiasa berwaspada kerana virus tidak boleh dilihat dengan mata kasar. Wajib pakai topeng muka bagi mengelak kita menyentuh mulut atau hidung," katanya tidak bersetuju dengan pendapat bahawa hanya individu sakit atau mempunyai gejala perlu memakai topeng muka.

"Dalam keadaan kini, semua orang perlu memakai topeng muka apabila berada di tempat awam kerana kita tidak tahu siapa yang dijangkiti virus berkenaan," katanya.

KENAPA PERLU PAKAI TOPENG PENUTUP HIDUNG DAN MULUT

- ✓ YA. Jika anda membezakan jarak antara individu yang mempunyai pelbagai sistem respiratori.
- ✓ YA. Jika anda seorang pegawai pengurusan kesihatan yang berdepan pesakit.
- ✓ YA. Jika anda seorang pegawai bekalan makanan.
- ✓ YA. Jika anda menghadapi simptom respiratori (batuk, cirit, dsb).

BUKAN KEPERLUAN BAGI YANG TIDAK DISEBUTKAN DI ATAS

FUNGSI PELBAGAI JENIS TOPENG

Jenis Topeng	Virus	Bakteria	Debu	Debunga
N95 (Perlindungan terkuat)	>95%	100%	100%	100%
Topeng bedah (Kegunaan medikal)	>95%	>80%	>80%	>80%
FFPI (mengasingkan partikel halus)	>95%	>80%	>80%	>80%
Topeng karbon (Menghalang bau)	10%	>50%	10%	>50%
Topeng kain (mengekal haba)	0%	>50%	0%	>50%
Topeng span (fesyen)	0%	5%	0%	5%

Sumber: Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia

'Usah diskriminasi, salahkan jemaah tabligh'

Putrajaya: Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Noor Hisham Abdullah menasihatkan rakyat agar tidak mendiskriminasi dan menyalahkan jemaah tabligh, sebaliknya membantu mengesan mereka serta kontak dalam usaha membendung penularan COVID-19.

Bercakap pada sidang media semalam, beliau berkata, Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) bersedia dan sudah memaklumkan kepada Jabatan Kesihatan negeri untuk menerima jemaah tabligh yang tidak bergejala menjalani ujian saringan di klinik dan hospital kerajaan terdekat.

"Setakat ini, KKM telah menjalankan 13,000 saringan ke atas jemaah tabligh dan sebanyak 8,000 kes didapati bergejala, 986 positif COVID-19. Kita harap jemaah tabligh tampan membuat ujian saringan kerana daripada 1,624 kes positif COVID-19, risi-

ko adalah lebih tinggi dari kalangan mereka," katanya.

Di **Kuala Terengganu**, Ketua Polis negeri, Datuk Roslee Chik, berkata pihaknya sudah selesai mengesan 380 individu dari negeri itu yang menyertai ijtimak tabligh di Masjid Seri Petaling dan daripada jumlah itu, empat disahkan positif COVID-19, selebihnya negatif dan diarah kuarantin di rumah masing-masing.

"Empat individu positif itu kini dirawat di Hospital Sultanah Nur Zahirah (HSNZ), di sini," katanya.

Di **Georgetown**, Ketua Polis Pulau Pinang, Datuk Sahabudin Abdul Manan, berkata pihaknya sedang mengesan lebih 100 individu dari negeri itu yang dipercayai menghadiri perhimpunan tabligh di Masjid Seri Petaling dan belum menjalani ujian saringan COVID-19.

"Polis akan bantu Jabatan

Kesihatan mengesan mereka. Sebelum ini, kebanyakan mereka sudah buat ujian saringan di klinik berhampiran, namun diminta pulang dan kuarantin sendiri di rumah kerana tiada simptom COVID-19 dan tiada sampel diambil.

"Berikutan itu, kami akan membantu pihak berkuasa kesihatan mencari semua individu berkenaan yang belum melakukan pemeriksaan dengan teliti, supaya datang semula untuk diambil sampel," katanya.

Di **Kota Bharu**, Timbalan Ketua Polis Kelantan, Senior Asisten Komisioner Abdullah Mohammad Piah, berkata pihaknya mengesan kira-kira 60 jemaah tabligh dari negeri itu yang menghadiri perhimpunan di Masjid Seri Petaling.

"Polis tidak akan tangkap dan tahan mereka dalam lokap, kita hanya ingin mereka hadir ke hospital untuk jalani ujian sa-

ringan," katanya.

Di **Kota Kinabalu**, Ketua Menteri, Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal pada sidang media selepas Mesyuarat Majlis Keselamatan Negara (MKN) Sabah, berkata sembilan individu dijangka pulang ke Sabah dalam masa terdekat dari Gowa, Sulawesi Selatan, iaitu lokasi Ijtimak Tabligh Dunia Zon Asia pada 18 hingga 19 Mac lalu.

"Semalam (kelmarin), seramai 17 individu termasuk lima jemaah tabligh sudah tiba di Tawau menggunakan pengangkutan air dan kini dikuarantin di pusat kuarantin daerah berkenaan.

"Mereka mungkin dikuarantin lebih dua minggu supaya dapat dipastikan benar-benar bebas jangkitan.

"Kita minta Jabatan Imigresen perketatkan pengurusan supaya tiada yang masuk ke negeri ini guna jalan tikus.

"Jika itu berlaku, mereka pasti pulang ke kampung tanpa kuarantin, membahayakan keluarga serta orang sekeliling," katanya memaklumkan, sebahagian besar jemaah itu berasal dari Beaufort, Kuala Penyu dan Tawau.

Di **Kuching**, Pesuruhjaya Polis Sarawak, Datuk Aidi Ismail, memaklumkan seramai 477 jemaah tabligh dari negeri itu diarahkan menyertai program di Masjid Seri Petaling dan pihaknya masih mengesan 30 daripada mereka yang belum tampil membuat saringan kesihatan.

"Seramai 427 jemaah tabligh sudah menjalani proses kuarantin dengan 26 daripada mereka disahkan positif COVID-19, 297 lagi negatif, manakala 104 masih menunggu keputusan ujian makmal," katanya sambil meminta baki 30 jemaah tabligh itu tampil bekerjasama menjalani ujian saringan kesihatan.

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 17

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

RABU, 25 MAC 2020

17

Nasional

Penularan COVID-19

Virus disebar melalui titisan cecair

Penjarakan sosial penting elak terkena percikan air liur

Oleh Muhammad Yusri Muzamir
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Kuala Lumpur: Penjarakan sosial penting kerana virus COVID-19 disebar melalui titisan cecair atau *droplet* yang terhasil daripada percikan air liur ketika bercakap atau batuk dan bukannya secara bawahan udara atau *airborne*.

Pakar Perubatan Keluarga, Klinik Kesihatan Jinjang, Kepong, Dr Siti Khamsiah Abd Shukor, berkata *air droplet* bersifat agak berat dan tidak akan berterbangan bagi jarak lebih satu meter.

Sehubungan itu, katanya, orang ramai perlu mematuhi penjarakan sosial supaya terhindar daripada risiko dijangkiti virus itu.

"Kalau anda terlalu dekat dengan pesakit COVID-19, khususnya ketika mereka bercakap atau batuk dan *droplet* itu terkena pada

mata atau mulut, itu berisiko dijangkiti.

"*Airborne* lebih kepada petugas kesihatan kerana mereka perlu melakukan proses intubasi dengan prosedur untuk menyelamatkan pernafasan pesakit. Itu mungkin menghasilkan keadaan *airborne*," katanya di Facebook Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM), semalam.

Ditanya sama ada disinfektan berasaskan garam boleh membunuh virus COVID-19, beliau menegaskan, tiada kajian klinikal yang membuktikan perkara berkenaan.

"Hanya penggunaan disinfektan berasaskan alkohol dengan kepekatan 70 peratus yang terbukti secara klinikal dapat membunuh virus, selain sabun.

"Bagaimanapun, bahan mengandungi *sodium hypochlorite* (agen peluntur) boleh digunakan untuk kerja menyahjangkit kawasan rumah atau pejabat," katanya.

Dalam perkembangan lain, beliau berkata temujanji warga emas menjalani rawatan susulan penyakit kronik tetapi dalam keadaan stabil dan bayi untuk suntikan vaksin, boleh dipinda bagi mengurangkan risiko jangkitan



Orang ramai perlu mematuhi penjarakan sosial supaya terhindar daripada risiko dijangkiti COVID-19. (Foto Hassan Omar/BH)

COVID-19 terhadap dua kelompok umur itu.

Katanya, ahli keluarga perlu menghubungi petugas kesihatan di hospital atau klinik kesihatan terbabit untuk memaklumkan perkara itu.

"Tiada halangan ibu mengandung menghadiri pemeriksaan berjadual di hospital atau klinik kesihatan. Untuk urusan pengam-

bilan ubat ahli keluarga warga emas boleh meminta petugas kesihatan di hospital atau klinik kesihatan supaya ia dilakukan secara pandu lalu atau pengeposan.

"Tetapi, mereka perlu segera dibawa ke hospital, jika mengalami masalah kesihatan baharu dan akut," katanya menerusi siaran langsung khas 'Kenali COVID-19'



Hanya penggunaan disinfektan berasaskan alkohol dengan kepekatan 70 peratus yang terbukti secara klinikal dapat membunuh virus, selain sabun.

Dr Siti Khamsiah Abd Shukor, Pakar Perubatan Keluarga, Klinik Kesihatan Jinjang, Kepong

Teknik rapid test kit tak disaran untuk diagnosis

Putrajaya: Penggunaan teknik rapid test kit (RTK) tidak disarankan untuk tujuan diagnosis COVID-19, kata Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

Sebaliknya, katanya, keputusan ujian yang tepat melalui teknik *Real-Time Reverse Transcription-Polymerase Chain Reaction* (rRT-PCR), yang dijalankan Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) adalah amat penting dalam pengurusan pesakit COVID-19 berkesan, berikutan ia mampu mengesan virus yang masih berada dalam badan pesakit.

Beliau berkata, ujian melalui teknik rapid test kit (RTK) yang kini ada di pasaran pula bertujuan mengesan antibodi yang terhasil di dalam badan akibat jangkitan dialami.

Beliau berkata, antibodi muncul di dalam badan antara lima hingga lapan hari selepas jangkitan.

Katanya, teknik rRT-PCR digunakan untuk ujian makmal dijalankan di makmal fasiliti kesihatan kerajaan bagi mengesan jangkitan COVID-19.

"Ujian rRT-PCR dijalan-



Ujian melalui teknik rapid test kit bertujuan mengesan antibodi yang terhasil di dalam badan. (Foto hiasan)

kan akan mengesan kehadiran virus COVID-19 di dalam badan pesakit.

"Justeru, ujian rRT-PCR COVID-19 yang positif ber-

“Ujian rRT-PCR dijalankan akan mengesan kehadiran virus COVID-19 yang terdapat di dalam badan pesakit.”

Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan

maksud individu itu dijangkiti virus COVID-19.

"Ujian RTK yang mengesan antibodi, tidak dapat mengesan virus dan membuat pengesanan pantas jangkitan. Ini menyebabkan ia tidak membantu pengesanan awal kes COVID-19," katanya pada sidang media di sini, semalam.

Justeru, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, KKM mengesakan orang ramai tidak menjalani ujian RTK dengan sewenang-wenangnya tanpa mendapat khidmat nasihat pengamal perubatan, kerana ia berpotensi menimbulkan salah tafsir dan keresahan terhadap keputusan ujian yang diperoleh.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO
MUKA SURAT : 14
RUANGAN : LOKAL

lokal

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Putrajaya

Sebanyak 14 kes tahanan reman didaftarkan di mahkamah bagi kesalahan berkaitan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP) yang bermula 18 Mac lalu termasuk mengingkar PKP dan perhimpunan.

Mengikut statistik pendaftaran kes di mahkamah, bermula 19 Mac sehingga semalam, 14 kes dicatatkan masing-masing satu di Negeri Sembilan, Johor dan Selangor, dua kes di Wilayah Persekutuan serta masing-masing tiga kes di Pulau Pinang, Perak dan Kedah.

Sebanyak 10 kes tahanan reman mengikut Seksyen 186 Kanun Keseksaan iaitu menghalang tugas polis, didaftarkan di mahkamah di mana tiga kes sudah dituduh iaitu masing-masing satu kes di Johor, Perak dan Wilayah Persekutuan.

Menurut kenyataan media yang dikeluarkan Unit Komunikasi Korporat, Pejabat Ketua Pendaftar Mahkamah Persekutuan (PKPMP), daripada 10 kes itu, dua orang sudah mengaku bersalah masing-masing di Mahkamah Majistret Johor Bahru, Johor dan Mahkamah Majistret Sungai Siput, Perak.

Kedua-dua tertuduh masing-masing didenda RM5,000 atau masing-masing 12 dan 10 bulan penjara jika gagal membayar denda. Sementara itu, Mahka-



ANGGOTA polis melakukan sekatan jalan raya berikutan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan.

mah Majistret Kuala Lumpur menjatuhkan hukuman penjara dua bulan terhadap seorang tertuduh yang mengaku bersalah atas kesalahan mengikut Seksyen 353 Kanun Keseksaan iaitu kesalahan menggunakan kekerasan jenayah bagi menamatkan penjawat awam menjalankan tugas.

Selain itu, empat lagi kes reman adalah bagi membantu siasatan mengikut beberapa seksyen iaitu - satu kes reman bagi kesalahan mengikut Seksyen 500 Kanun Keseksaan (kesalahan fitnah jenayah) atau Seksyen 233 Akta Komunikasi dan Multimedia 1998 bagi kesalahan penggunaan tidak wajar kemudahan rangkaian atau perkhidmatan rangkaian.

Dua kes tahanan reman bagi kesalahan mengikut Seksyen 509 Kanun Keseksaan (mengeluarkan perakuan atau isyarat mengabaikan kehormatan seseorang atau Seksyen 233 Akta Komunikasi dan Multimedia 1998 dan satu kes reman bagi kesalahan di bawah Peraturan 3 Peraturan-Peraturan Pencegahan dan Pengawalan Penyakit Berjangkit (Langkah-Langkah Di Dalam Kawasan Tempat Berjangkit) 2020 iaitu mengingkar perintah kawalan pergerakan dan perhimpunan.

Sebanyak 10 kes tahanan kerana menghalang tugas polis

Ambil keterangan lima suspek sebar berita palsu

Putrajaya: Kementerian Komunikasi dan Multimedia dengan kerjasama Polis Diraja Malaysia (PDRM) mengambil rakaman percakapan lima suspek atas tuduhan menyebarkan berita palsu mengenai Covid-19.

Menterinya Datuk Saifuddin Abdullah berkata, ia tambahan kepada enam individu yang didakwa sebelum ini. "Semua suspek disiasat mengikut Seksyen 233 Akta Komunikasi dan Multimedia (AKM) 1998.

"(Suruhanjaya Komunikasi dan

Multimedia Malaysia) SKMM dan PDRM akan terus berganding bahu melalui Jawatankuasa Jenayah Siber untuk menangani penyebaran berita palsu secara berterusan terutamanya mengenai Covid-19 yang boleh mengelirukan serta menimbulkan suasana tidak tenteram dalam kalangan rakyat Malaysia," katanya menerusi laman Twitter rasminya semalam.

Sebelum ini, Saifuddin berkata, sesiapa yang menyebabkan ketakutan awam atau kepada mana-mana golongan

awam, hukuman penjara sehingga dua tahun atau denda atau kedua-duanya sekali, boleh dikenakan mengikut Seksyen 505(b) Kanun Keseksaan.

Tindakan diambil kepada sesiapa yang menyebarkan kandungan bersifat lucah, palsu dan mengancam orang lain.

Saifuddin berkata, kesalahan itu boleh didenda tidak melebihi RM50,000 atau dipenjarakan selama tempoh tidak melebihi satu tahun atau kedua-duanya sekali, di bawah Seksyen 233 Akta Komunikasi dan Multimedia 1998.

PM terima sumbangan lima syarikat korporat

Putrajaya: Perdana Menteri Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin menerima sumbangan berjumlah RM5 juta daripada lima syarikat korporat untuk Tabung Covid-19, semalam.

Sumbangan yang diterima itu menjadikan jumlah terkumpul Tabung Covid-19 kini sebanyak RM5.125 juta tidak termasuk barangan yang diterima.

Replika cek dan sumbangan untuk Tabung Covid-19 disampaikan wakil syarikat korporat kepada Muhyiddin di Perdana Putra di sini.

Selain wang tunai, Perdana Menteri turut menerima sumbangan berupa 520,000 penutup hidung dan mulut dari-

pada TiGjaya Land Berhad untuk digunakan petugas barisan hadapan dalam menangani wabak Covid-19.

Sumbangan TiGjaya Land Berhad itu disampaikan kepada Perdana Menteri oleh pengasasnya Tan Sri SP Lim.

Antara yang menyumbangkan adalah Spanco Sdn Bhd yang diwakili pemilikinya Tan Sri Robert Tan Hua Choon yang menyumbangkan sebanyak RM2 juta.

Turut memberikan sumbangan DRB HiCom Berhad. Replika cek RM1 juta disampaikan oleh Pengarah Urusan Kumpulan DRB HiCom Datuk Seri Syed Faisal Albar Syed Ali Rethya Albar.

Kedutaan China serah bantuan ubat

Shah Alam: "Saya mewakili China dan CCC-ECRL berbesar hati menyumbang sebanyak 3,000 penutup hidung dan mulut jenis N95, 2,000 penutup hidung dan mulut KN90, 20,000 topeng muka pembedahan dan 1,200 kacamata perubatan manakala sejumlah 2,000 kit ujian dalam proses penghantaran dalam masa terdekat," ujar Duta Besar China ke Malaysia, Bai Tian.

Menurutnya, Kedutaan Besar China di Malaysia, China Communications Construction Projek Landasan Kereta Api Pantai Timur (ECRL) Sdn Bhd (CCC-ECRL) menyedari kesulitan dialami dan menyumbangkan 28,200 pebagai bekalan perubatan kepada Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM).

Beliau berkata, sumbangan itu bagi membantu Malaysia dalam usaha memerangi dan sebagai per-



DR Chen (kanan) menerima sumbangan perubatan daripada Bai Tian, semalam.

lindungan kepada barisan hadapan yang sangat terdedah kepada wabak Covid-19.

"Kit pengesan RT-PCR ini dibangunkan dan dihasilkan oleh Shenzhen's BGI Genomics dan diguna pakai secara meluas oleh barisan hadapan negara China dalam memerangi situasi epidemik baru-baru ini.

"Sumbangan bekalan pe-

rubatan ini lebih kepada barisan hadapan terutamanya kakitangan perubatan yang sangat memerlukan kerana mereka berhadapan dengan pesakit sepanjang masa," katanya selepas menyerahkan sumbangan kepada Setiausaha Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia, Datuk Seri Dr Chen Chaw Min mewakili KKM di Pharmaniaga Berhad di sini, semalam.

Turut hadir, Pengarah Urusan CCC-ECRL Bai Yinzhan dan Pengarah Urusan Pharmaniaga, Datuk Farshila Emran.

Tian berkata, pasukan barisan hadapan yang berjuang adalah tulang belakang kepada negara dalam usaha mengengkang penularan wabak itu, jadi mereka perlu sentiasa dilindungi dan diberi sokongan.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 1

RUANGAN : FRONT PAGE

COVID-19 CASES

TOTAL **1,624** (UP TO MARCH 24)

NEW **106**

RECOVERED **183**

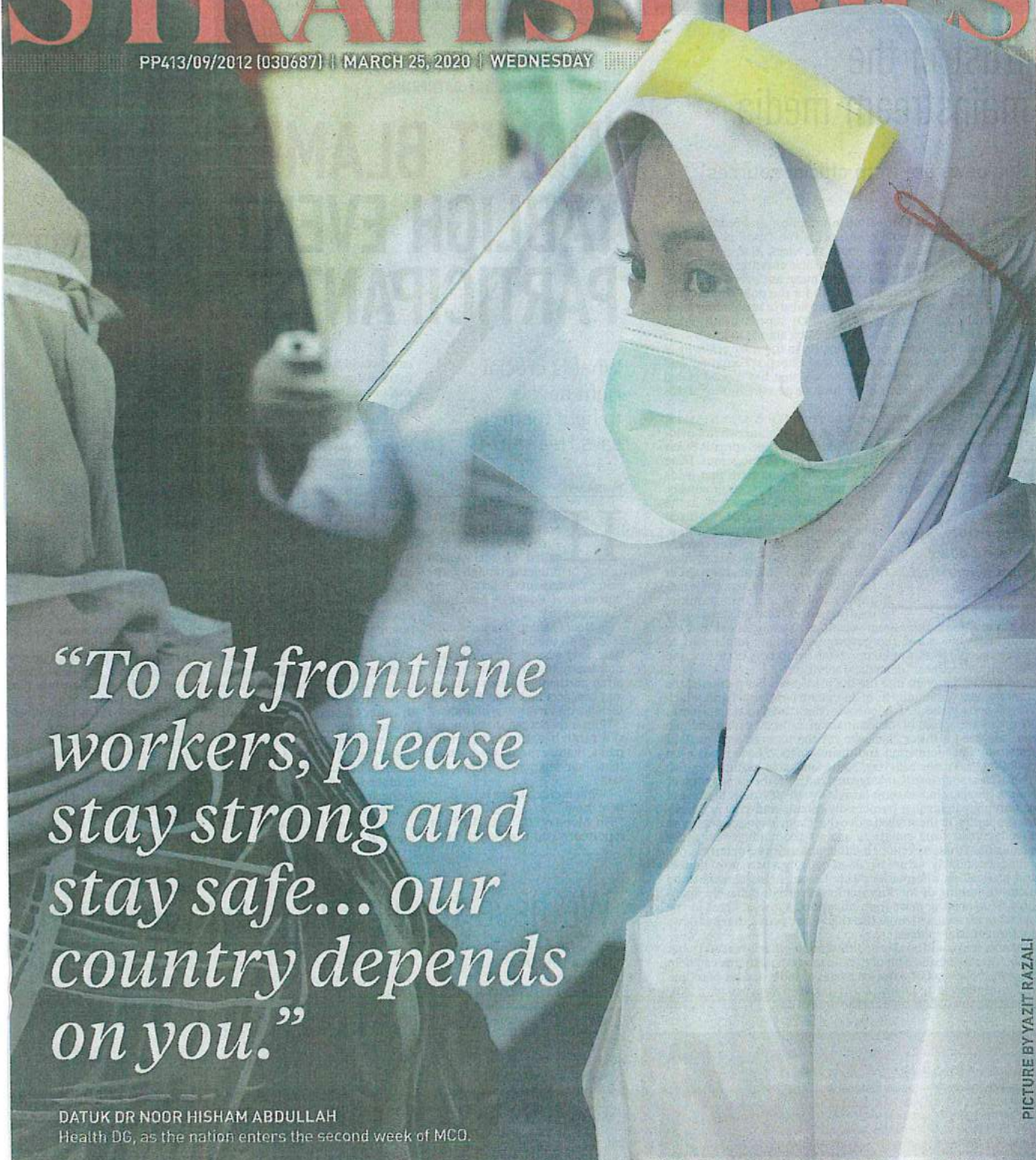
DEATHS **15**

RMI.50

NEW STRAITS TIMES

ESTABLISHED 1845

PP413/09/2012 (030687) | MARCH 25, 2020 | WEDNESDAY



“To all frontline workers, please stay strong and stay safe... our country depends on you.”

DATUK DR NOOR HISHAM ABDULLAH
Health DG, as the nation enters the second week of MCO.

PICTURE BY YAZIT RAZALI

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 2

RUANGAN : NEWS/STORY OF THE DAY

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2020 • NewStraitsTimes

NEWS / *Story of the day*

REPORTS BY: Adib Povera, Veena Babulal, Dawn Chan, Audrey Dermawan, Hana Naz Harun, Nor Ain Mohamed Radhi, Kalbana Perimbanayagam, Esther Landau, Teoh Pei Ying, Khairah N. Karim, Rahmat Khairulrijal, Azdee Amir, T.N. Atagesh, Avila Geraldine, Zahratulhayat Mat Arif and Mohamed Bashir

SRI PETALING MOSQUE GATHERING

'DON'T BLAME TABLIGH EVENT PARTICIPANTS'

What is crucial right now is to help them, says Health D-G

PUTRAJAYA

HEALTH director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah has called on Malaysians to stop blaming the tabligh gathering participants following the outbreak of Covid-19 infections in the country.

Dr Noor Hisham, at a press conference on the daily Covid-19 update, said what was needed right now was to trace the tabligh gathering participants, their families and contacts and treat those infected with Covid-19 symptoms.

"Please do not put the blame on the tabligh gathering participants, neither should we discriminate nor stigmatise them," he said.

"What is crucial now is for us to help them."

On Monday, Dr Noor Hisham reportedly said the Health Min-

istry would work with the police to track down all attendees of the gathering, which was held from Feb 27 to March 1 at Masjid Jamek Sri Petaling in Kuala Lumpur.

Of the total number of positive cases in Malaysia, he said, 60 per cent were from the tabligh gathering cluster.

Participants in the gathering, with and without symptoms, should visit district healthcare centres starting today to be screened for the coronavirus as the ministry had decided to test all of them.

On the latest number of new Covid-19 cases, Dr Noor Hisham said Malaysia had recorded 106 new cases, bringing the tally to 1,624.

Of these new cases, Dr Noor Hisham said 43 were from the tabligh gathering cluster, whereas the other 63 cases were related to other clusters and still being investigated.

"We recorded one fatality today involving a 71-year-old man (Case 1519), believed to have had close contact with Case 703, a tabligh gathering participant.

"The victim had a history of chronic illness and started treatment at Sultanah Fatimah Spe-



cialist Hospital in Muar on March 18. He was pronounced dead at 5.35am today (yesterday)."

Dr Noor Hisham said 24 people had been cured and discharged, bringing the total number of cured cases to 183.

"So far, 64 Covid-19 patients are being treated at Intensive Care Units, with 27 of them needing ventilators to aid breathing."

Selangor still has the highest number of Covid-19 cases at 381, followed by Kuala Lumpur (257), Sabah (170), Johor (162), Negeri Sembilan (109), Perak (98), Sarawak (83), Kelantan (78),

We have to win this, says Dr Adham

KUALA LUMPUR: Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba yesterday gave words of encouragement to Malaysians to continue abiding by the Movement Control Order (MCO).

In a 53-second video uploaded on his Facebook page, Dr Adham called on people to stay at home, keep up with the social distancing measures and practise good hygiene.

"Malaysians are now giving

their cooperation and complying with the MCO rules," he said.

"This is a joint effort. We have to do this together. Stay at home, distance ourselves and maintain good hygiene. We have got to win this (in fighting Covid-19)."

The MCO was in its seventh day yesterday.

It was reported that the rate of compliance among the public

had increased to 95 per cent from 92 per cent previously, with help from the police, armed forces, People's Volunteer Corps and local authorities.

Defence Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said towns and cities were now less congested as roads were getting more deserted as the compliance rate improved.

Bernama

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES
 MUKA SURAT : 3
 RUANGAN : NEWS/STORY OF THE DAY

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2020 • NewStraitsTimes

Story of the day / NEWS 3

Husin Long, 75, veteran UK migrant, succumbs to virus

LONDON: One of the oldest Malay migrants in the United Kingdom, Husin Long, who died at the age of 75 from Covid-19 at the Royal Free Hospital here on Sunday, was buried at the Gardens of Peace Muslim Cemetery yesterday.

Following the announcement by British Prime Minister Boris Johnson for a nationwide lockdown on Monday, people were not allowed to leave their homes except for certain circumstances, including funerals.

It was understood that Husin's funeral would be limited to 10 people.

Husin's son, Mohammad Ali, 28, told the *New Straits Times* that his father tested positive just before he died.

"When he was admitted two days ago for breathing difficulties, they were not too sure why because he had several health issues. His lungs had collapsed. They suspected it (to be Covid-19 related), but they were not sure then."

Husin is survived by his wife, Zauyah Embi, 66, four children and several grandchildren.

Zauyah said she was the one who felt ill a few days earlier. However, she recovered after taking painkillers.

"A few days later, Husin became ill. So I told him to drink lots of water. Not long after that, he became pale and had difficulty breathing.

"I asked Ali to call an ambulance and he was taken to the hospital. I wanted to visit him the next day, but was told not to because of risk of infection," said Zauyah, better known as Joyah to the Malay community here.

Husin was an active member of the Malay community club here, the Kelab Melayu London, of which he was one of the earlier members. As a member, he had attended funerals of his friends from the club.

Due to the social restrictions following the lockdown, only a few people were allowed to see Husin laid to rest.

His family had expressed great relief that he was allowed to be buried in a timely manner according to Muslim rites.

Husin, who is from Melaka, had worked at the British Naval Base in Singapore before migrating here. As the British left Singapore, workers were given a choice to come to the UK and be naturalised.

Husin, together with seven other friends, came to London in 1970. He landed his first job at



Husin Long migrated to London in 1970.

Ford Motor factory in Dagenham, before joining The Dorchester hotel as a boiler man. He retired in 2005.

Husin had also worked as a mini cab driver here.

Together with Zauyah, who also worked at The Dorchester hotel as a chef, the couple were active members of Kelab Melayu London, which was set up in the early 1960s for seafarers, students and travellers.

According to the Kelab Melayu London Facebook page, Husin had been in poor health for the past 10 years, with pre-existing medical issues, such as diabetes and high blood pressure. By Zaharah Othman



Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah at a press conference on the Covid-19 daily update in Putrajaya yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

Penang (68), Kedah (64), Pahang (56), Terengganu (38), Melaka (31), Putrajaya (15), Perlis (nine) and Labuan (five).

Dr Noor Hisham also cautioned that the rapid test kit (RTK) being sold in the market could not help in early detection of Covid-19 infection since antibodies would only appear in the body after five to eight days following infection.

"Hence, the RTK, which is currently available in the market to detect antibodies produced due to infection, cannot detect virus or confirm infection quickly."

He urged the public not to use the RTK without consulting medical practitioners as it might cause misunderstanding and worries over the outcome of the test.

It was reported that a company was set to bring Covid-19 test kits for the Malaysian market, pending approval from the government.

The test kit enables the detection of the Covid-19 virus through the use of blood samples obtained from finger-pricking, specifically by detecting the presence of antibodies.

Dr Noor Hisham urged those experiencing breathing difficul-

ties to seek treatment at hospitals.

He said most patients sought treatment when they were already at the third stage of the Covid-19 illness.

"There are five stages. Stage Three is where the patients have some form of pneumonia, but do not need oxygen supplement. At Stage Four, they will require oxygen supplement.

"At Stage Five, the patients won't be able to breathe well and we need to intubate and put them on ventilators," he said, adding that nine people from the tabligh gathering cluster came at later stages.

On the Movement Control Order's (MCO) implementation, Dr Noor Hisham said it would be too early to gauge its effectiveness in the first week.

He said the MCO period would provide an opportunity to break the infection chain.

On whether stricter enforcement was needed to ensure adherence to the MCO, Dr Noor Hisham said: "We are trying to use the 'carrot' (approach) first.

"I have been using the carrot (approach) for the last couple of weeks, but perhaps it is a time for us to use the 'stick'."

Cambridge International scraps May, June exams

KUALA LUMPUR: Cambridge International has decided not to proceed with examinations for the May/June 2020 series in countries outside the United Kingdom due to the Covid-19 outbreak.

The papers are Cambridge IGCSE, Cambridge O Level, Cambridge International AS and A Level, Cambridge AICE Diploma and Cambridge Pre-U.

"In recent days, many more countries have decided to extend school closures into May and June, making it impossible for many of our schools to hold examinations.

"We have consulted our global community of schools, which need as much certainty as possible at an uncertain time.

"Our priority is to protect the safety and wellbeing of our students and teachers, ensure fairness for all our students and support them in continuing with their education.

"Today, therefore, we have taken the difficult decision not to run our international examinations in the May/June 2020 series in any country," Cambridge International said.

It said it would work with schools to assess students'

achievements using the best available "evidence".

"Students will receive a grade and a certificate from Cambridge International given the knowledge and skills they have acquired in their programmes of study.

"This will ensure students do not face a disadvantage as a result of these extraordinary circumstances. We will guide schools on how students will receive those grades."

Cambridge International said it was engaging universities and the institutions were factoring in the unprecedented circumstances into admission decisions to allow students to resume their education as soon as possible.

"We are aware of the impact the situation may have on students' motivation and learning. Many schools are working hard to deliver teaching online to support their students' learning.

"We will continue to offer a wide range of support and resources for schools, teachers and students on our dedicated pages on our website at www.cambridgeinternational.org

An update was expected to be provided for schools on Thursday (the UK) or Friday (Malaysia), to-

gether with regular follow-ups.

"We know that schools will need clear guidance very soon, and we are working around the clock on how to deliver valuable outcomes to students in many countries where we work."

Last week, England and Wales' summer GCSE and A Level exams scheduled in May and June were cancelled. Scotland followed suit.

This followed the UK's decision to close schools as announced by Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

Taylor's College campus director Josephine Tan said as the cancellation would have an extensive impact on students, the team was expecting a detailed guideline from Cambridge International.

"A preliminary announcement has been made to our students and we will continue to update them accordingly."

Dr Elizabeth Lee, chief executive officer of Sunway Education Group and Sunway College, said it would wait for detailed updates.

"We understand the concerns of students and parents and our staff are working with Cambridge International and will provide an update in due course."

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES
 MUKA SURAT : 4
 RUANGAN : NEWS/STORY OF THE DAY

NewStraitsTimes . WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2020

4 NEWS / Story of the day

FIRST LINE OF DEFENCE

'FAILURE NOT AN OPTION FOR FRONTLINERS'

Health D-G tells hospital staff, medical officers to remain steadfast in their mission to defeat Covid-19

KUALA LUMPUR

THEY are regarded as the nation's first line of defence in the battle against Covid-19, which is gripping the world in unprecedented horror.

For the medical workers and hospital staff tasked with what seems to be the biggest challenge in their profession, failure is not an option.

In an interview with the *New Straits Times*, Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah reminded hospital staff and medical officers to be steadfast in their mission to defeat the virus.

"To all the frontline workers, please stay strong and safe. Failure is not an option here. It is up to us to take the lead in this battle ... our country depends on you," he said.

Dr Noor Hisham shared this heartfelt message as Malaysia entered the second week of the Movement Control Order (MCO).

Since the first two deaths were

reported on March 17, more people had succumbed to the virus with the death toll reaching 15 yesterday.

As the Covid-19 infection curve continues to rise, Dr Noor Hisham urged the people to do their part to break the chain of transmission.

"To the public, the government has implemented an unprecedented MCO. Each and every one of us can help to win this war — stay at home and break the chain of transmission, practise social distancing and wash hands frequently."

The ministry, he said, would continue with active case detection, as well as finding, testing, isolating and treating infected patients.

"We will continue to take public health measures and enhance our healthcare system. Let's do this together for our nation."

He shared the hashtags #DudukDiRumah and #StayAtHome, which are trending on social media.

Frontliners, through Rayuan Pengamal Perubatan, a Facebook group that advocates the importance of staying at home to fight Covid-19, urged Malaysians to do their part in the battle against Covid-19.

Some related how they have left their families and dependents behind to do their job, while others described being lied to by patients who have had close contact with Covid-19-positive patients.



Medical staff in personal protective equipment making their rounds at Kuala Lumpur Hospital yesterday. PIC BY FATHIL ASRI

Dr Harjun Singh, a medical officer with Kuala Lumpur Hospital's Radiotherapy Department, said he was stationed at the Emergency and Trauma Department during the second wave of the Covid-19 infection.

"I was selected by the department because I was not married, had no (underlying) health issues and no family burden. I couldn't argue much and be selfish, and refuse this calling."

"It reminded me of the movie, *Mulan*, in which the emperor of China asked each family to send one representative to defend the kingdom. Mulan answered the call to defend her family and kingdom."

"Our brothers and sisters are dying out there, we need all the help we can get, put your feet forward, keep your chin up, suit up in your personal protective equipment (PPE) and give them all you got."

Dr Then Moll, a medical officer at a public hospital, said patients who did not disclose their travel history exposed many of her colleagues to the virus.

"By telling us the truth, you can minimise the risk of exposure to healthcare providers, their families and everyone around you. Any healthcare provider who attends to you without PPE needs to be tested for Covid-19 and quarantined for 14 days."

"Remember, we have families too. I am also someone's daughter, wife, sister, family member and friend."

"It has been weeks since I visited my parents and siblings in fear of exposure at work and risking their lives."

Dr Nur Farihan Mukhtar, an obstetrics and gynaecology specialist from Kangar, said she left her home and five children, the youngest barely 3 months old, to carry out her duty.

"This is our responsibility. We



A nurse checking the temperature of a visitor at Putrajaya Hospital. PIC BY MOHD FAOLI HAMZAH



A team of medical staff examining a patient under investigation at Putrajaya Hospital. PIC BY MOHD FAOLI HAMZAH

pray that things will get better and we can fight this together.

"We need you to help us by staying home, telling the truth about your travel history, washing your hands and practising social distancing."

"Also do not spread false news and create panic."

Dr Richard Lim, the head of palliative medicine at the Health Ministry, recalled having an ex-

hausting day.

"I had an exhausting day yesterday caring for a patient, who just returned from China."

"Believe me, caring for a patient can be so challenging under the circumstances, with PPE and all."

"As the number of patients rises, you can only imagine how exhausted the healthcare workforce will be."



Frontliners at Kuala Lumpur Hospital appealing to the people to curb the spread of Covid-19. PIC BY FATHIL ASRI

THE STAR, WEDNESDAY 25 MARCH 2020

They get to enjoy Queen's cooking again

PETALING JAYA: Raja Permaisuri Agong Tunku Hajah Azizah Aminah Maimunah Iskandariah has continued to look after frontliners battling the Covid-19 pandemic by cooking for them.

"Today's dishes that I would be sending to the Sungai Buloh Hospital and the Crisis Preparedness and Response Centre (CPRC) are *ayam gulai tempoyak*, fried cabbage and salted egg," Tunku Azizah said on her Instagram account yesterday.

Tunku Azizah added that she also

cooked *sambal ikan bilis* and beef and potato stir fried dish for her children.

Her Instagram post was accompanied with pictures of the dishes that she cooked for her children as well as the medical personnel working at Sungai Buloh Hospital and the CPRC at the Health Ministry in Putrajaya.

Instagram comments on Tunku Azizah's account also praised her for her caring nature especially during a national crisis that is gripping the country.

"Alhamdulillah, we are blessed to have a caring queen," said Jedot.

Last Sunday, Tunku Azizah also treated medical personnel at the Sungai Buloh Hospital and the CPRC to her cooking.

Tunku Azizah, who is a cooking enthusiast, cooked white rice, curry chicken, fried vegetables, and omelette for those at the Sungai Buloh Hospital.

Those based at the CPRC got to enjoy Tunku Azizah's "cheminah-sayang fried rice" with *sambal tunis bilis* and a muffin.



Royal treat: One of the dishes cooked by Tunku Azizah for those battling the Covid-19 pandemic in the country.

Star Foundation to help frontliners

Readers urged to join hands to support medical staff working round-the-clock

PETALING JAYA: The Star Foundation and Star Media Group Bhd are urging readers to join hands to support our medical frontliners in these challenging times. We are pledging RM1mil towards "Star Front Liners Initiative" to raise funds for the purchase of medical supplies for hospitals and medical staff who work round-the-clock to keep us safe.

"Malaysians have always been at the heart of what we do at Star Foundation, and providing finan-

cial aid for medical purposes is one of the ways we reach out to those in need.

"With the help of our readers, we have sponsored many medical surgeries in the last five years.

"Now, we want to do more. These are trying times but we can come out stronger if we stand together," said Star Media Group and Star Foundation chairman Datuk Fu Ah Klow.

This, together with the funds raised, will be used to purchase

medical supplies that will be donated to the Health Ministry.

Star Media Group CEO Andreas Vogiatzakis said this is a way we can extend a helping hand to our frontliners from the safety of our homes.

"Our medical staff are battling Covid-19 at the front lines. As Malaysia's preferred English news source, we want to support these heroes in any way possible, with the help of our readers. It is the least we can do.

"Through this initiative, let them

know that they are not alone - the people are behind them," said Vogiatzakis.

Covid-19 has infected 1,624 persons while claiming 16 lives in Malaysia.

Donations can be made to Star Foundation-Medical Fund's Public Bank account (31-9984-9230) via bank transfer, credit or debit cards.

For a tax exemption receipt to be issued, donors need to fill in the Medical Fund-Donation Form avail-

able on the website listed below.

Established in 2004, Star Foundation is the charitable arm of Star Media Group, and is aimed at delivering meaningful initiatives with lasting outcomes to a diverse group of beneficiaries.

The Medical Fund programme was started in 2015 to help individuals and families in dire need of financial aid and medical attention.

For details, visit starfoundation.com.my



Battling Covid-19
Eye in the sky: Kuala Lumpur police chief Comm Datuk Seri Mazlan Lazim pointing at a drone while visiting areas near Pasar Borong Kuala Lumpur.

Drones to be used to monitor 12 hot spots

KUALA LUMPUR: Drones will be deployed to various locations, especially at 12 hot spots, during the movement control order (MCO) period.

The drones feature voice recordings in Malay, Mandarin and Tamil to remind people to comply with the MCO.

Armed Forces chief Jen Tan Sri Affendi Buang, who announced this, said while the drones could not cover the whole country, they would focus on the 12 hot spot areas.

"We will also target locations where people are still stubborn. We hope the use of the drones can enable a more efficient patrol and monitoring of the people during the MCO," he told reporters after attending a demonstration of the drone capabilities at the Brickfields district police headquarters yesterday.

Among others who attended the event were Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Abdul Hamid Bador and police and Armed Forces officers.

While not disclosing the exact number of the drones, Jen Affendi said some were government assets while some were lent by the local industry.

"The drones are able to record live footage. We will also be able to identify those captured

in the footages.

"If and when needed, personnel will be deployed to certain locations (after footages are captured)," he said.

The drones can operate between 40 minutes and an hour.

"At a highly populated area, it would be good enough if the drone can cover a radius of 3-5km.

"The MCO must reach its objective so that we can prevent Covid-19 from spreading. The best thing is for everyone to stay at home," said Jen Affendi.

On those who questioned why military personnel were armed while on duty during the MCO, he said not all personnel were armed.

"If five military personnel are deployed, only one is armed. Our enemy is not the people but Covid-19.

"I am satisfied with the deployment of my men in assisting the police to enforce the MCO," he said.

Watch the video thestartv.com



AKHBAR : THE STAR
 MUKA SURAT : 4
 RUANGAN : NATION

'Frontliners doing superb job'

Experts laud medical workers for excellent performance

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysians, medical associations and non-governmental associations agree frontliners are doing an excellent job. They also commend Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah (pic) for taking the lead in braving the crisis.



psychiatrists nationwide providing counselling via phone or web chat. Engage founding chairperson Thomas Fann said Dr Noor Hisham staying calm, professional and clear in his briefings of the situation helped alleviate unnecessary fears.



He said Malaysia lost time during the political crisis at the end of last month and political leaders were not on the ball in terms of Covid-19 global developments.

"Medical staff are affected by the increasing workload and stress as the crisis continues, as evident through personal postings on social media and other communications."

"The ministry has to look into this and mobilise expertise and resources from universities to look after our frontliners," she said.

For example in the United States, the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health and partners have launched an initiative called 'First Responders First' to provide access to online workshops, virtual training and coaching to support and sustain front-line care providers, she said.

Malaysian Pharmaceutical Society president Amrahi Buang

said the ministry has done an excellent job from the beginning of the outbreak in China.

"The second wave from the tabligh cluster has created havoc and with the recent number of positive cases, it will be a herculean task for it to face the widespread."

"After a week of the MCO, we are still seeing increasing numbers of positive cases and ICU cases. It will get worse in the coming days."

"The medical staff will be burnt out soon, and reinforcement is needed," he said.

He said Dr Noor Hisham was experienced with handling medical disasters such as MERS-CoV and H1N1 infections as well as the chemical spillage in Sungai Kim Kim in Johor and was well-versed with standard protocols under Crisis Preparedness and Response Centre.

"Like everyone else, he is near burn out too."

"Hope he will be able to get reinforcement from non-Health Ministry facilities and private sector healthcare facilities," he said, adding everyone must play their part, especially people by staying home.

"This is to flatten the curve of Covid-19 infection in the country," he said.

Medical staff during outbreak have own set of problems

PETALING JAYA: While they are busy saving lives, medical frontliners are facing their own set of struggles when it comes to family life.

For consultant cardiologist Datuk Dr Sanjiv Joshi, quarantining himself after contact with a Covid-19 patient is sheer torture.

If not for video conferencing with his family, he said he would have gone crazy from looking at the four walls of the apartment he had isolated himself in.

Earlier this month, Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah praised Dr Sanjiv for his quick action in voluntarily distancing himself from the hospital, clinic and his family for 14 days.

But it also led to discrimination against his family.

"My face was splashed all over the news and social media, and my kids' schools found out. They were told not to come to school."

"I never went home, but isolated myself the moment I discovered my patient tested positive for Covid-19."

"Despite repeated explanation to their principals, one of my sons wasn't allowed to go to school," said Dr Sanjiv, who has two boys aged 14 and 11, and a daughter aged five.

His sons are in different schools and the younger boy was allowed to attend as his headmistress was more reasonable.

Dr Sanjiv tested negative, but chose to finish the quarantine as "prevention is better than cure".

"However, his (son's) friends wouldn't let him join their group and told him to stay away. That deeply affected him," he said.

As for medical officer Dr Samir Iman Asarudin, this father of two is concerned for his children too.

One of his tasks is to take nasal and throat swabs from patients to test for the virus.

"I'm covered from head to toe, but it doesn't mean I'm without risk; it's hard to tell if I'm fully protected. My fear of getting Covid-19 is not there, but I worry for my children, especially my newborn," he said.

"As much as I want to hug my children when I get home, I soap up thoroughly first."

"Then, I head to the shower after putting my clothes in the washing machine," he said.

"Only after I come out from the bathroom do I pick up my baby."

The workload may be overwhelming, but Dr Samir doesn't complain as he is now used to it.

"I try not to lose it, although it happens sometimes; I do try to take care of myself mentally and physically as much as I can," he said.

For more on the struggles faced by the frontliners and their families, see *StarHealth* this Sunday.

Spouses manage to hold the fort at home

IPOH: While medical frontliners are fighting hard to combat Covid-19, their other half is also working equally hard behind the scenes.

Housewife Natasha Zainal, 31, whose husband is a doctor at a health clinic, makes sure that anything he touches is sanitised.

"I help him sanitise his car and keys as our three-year-old daughter would sometimes grab them."

"She also has a habit of rushing to her father for a hug every time he comes home," she said.

"Since the movement control order (MCO), the first thing he does now is to clean up before hugging her," Natasha said, adding that she is not taking any chances.

"I mop the floor and clean the furniture near the door with disinfectant daily. It might sound paranoid but I think it is necessary."

Natasha said she was also concerned about the staff at her husband's clinic, as most do not have time to cook.

"If only I could get extra groceries, I would cook for them."

"With two children with me, it's been hard to get more ingredients and it has been a week that I've not gone to get groceries," she said, adding that her husband comes home as late as 9pm these days.

Pharmacist Saidatul Solehah Mohamad Nor, 33, said she would wash her husband's clothes immediately upon his return.

Saidatul Solehah said her husband, a health inspector, was required to trace people who had close contact with a Covid-19 positive person and to get them tested.

"We usually get to welcome each other home, but things are different now. The moment he is home, he has to take a bath and wash his clothes right away."

"We are not in self-quarantine, but it's to ensure we are both properly cleaned before we sit together," she said.

"And when we are outside, we try not to touch our face as the virus or germs could be everywhere."

Although she understood the risk her husband faces daily, Saidatul Solehah said she could not help but to worry about him.

"As someone from the medical field, I do know that such job comes with risks; but as a wife, I'm worried since he is in direct contact with those that have Covid-19."

"He told me that sometimes, it could go up to 40 persons per case, and it could take between 10 and 12 hours to complete tests for the entire group," she said.

"Although they work in shifts, sometimes they do not have enough manpower, causing them to work overtime," she said.

Saidatul Solehah advised people with symptoms to get themselves checked and to observe the MCO.

"When my husband goes to work,



Hanging on: Natasha Zainal said her daughter would cry as she needs to wait for her father to clean up first. (Inset) Saidatul worries about the her husband's safety.



he is required to wear personal protective equipment.

"It costs more than RM100 per person and stock is running low."

"The frontliners are risking their lives, so everyone else needs to play their part and adhere to the rules," she said.

WHO: Frontline health workers must be supported



KUALA LUMPUR: The frontline health workers must be given support as they are the backbone for response to Covid-19 cases, says the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The world faces an unprecedented crisis and is responding in an unprecedented manner.

There are many examples of Malaysia's efforts to respond

quickly and effectively, said its Western Pacific Region representative office for Malaysia, Brunei and Singapore Dr Jacqueline Lo Ying-Ru (pic).

"This includes contact isolation, testing, treating and tracing. Countries must continue to strengthen these areas while applying movement restrictions and social distancing

measures to slow the virus' spread and reduce the burden on the health system," she said.

Dr Lo acknowledged that Malaysia's capacity to manage communicable diseases and health emergencies has advanced considerably following its previous experience with H1N1, SARS, Nipah and other infectious threats.

Preparedness and responses to new threats, especially those that rise from human-animal interface, were always evolving and WHO worked with the ministry on this, she said.

WHO also shared technical guidance and gave suggestions to prepare for wide spread community transmission, she added.

"Efforts are underway to reinforce existing systems and mechanisms to be able to cope with an evolving situation," she said.

Dr Lo said that to respond to any cases quickly, national health authorities need to ensure that disease surveillance systems continue to be strengthened.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NATION

'A tough decision to make'

Health DG: We may have to choose who gets the ventilator

PETALING JAYA: Health director-general Datuk Seri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah has warned about the peril of a surge in Covid-19 cases, saying that it would lead to doctors having to decide on which patients to be given the ventilator.

"There are now 64 patients in the intensive care unit (ICU) with 27 of them on ventilators.

"The worry is if there is an exponential spike in cases. Our capabilities are limited.

"Then we have to choose which patient will have the 'privilege' of ventilators.

"We hope we do not come to that stage where we have to decide which patients can have ventilators and those who can't," he told a press conference yesterday.

The stark reminder from Dr Noor



Hisham came after Malaysia recorded 106 new cases, bringing the total number to 1,624 across the country. There are 16 deaths.

Of the 106 new cases, Dr Noor Hisham said 43 cases were linked to the tabligh cluster in Masjid Jamek, Sri Petaling.

He noted that it was important to identify and isolate those who attended the gathering as 986 participants had tested positive.

The ministry is tracking down the remaining participants of the gathering, who are responsible for second and third generation infections within the community.

On the possibility of an extension to the movement control order (MCO), Dr Noor Hisham said this would depend on the evaluation of the outcome of the MCO.

"What we are doing now will only be seen in about two weeks' time.

"I am throwing this back to you. If you follow the MCO, then you have an opportunity to break the chain of infection.

"Success and failure depend on each and everyone of us," he said.

"Now, we will just monitor and study the situation, and after 10 to 12 days, we will see if we need to extend the MCO.

"We have been using the carrot approach, but perhaps it's time for us to use the stick. The choice is really up to the public," he said.

On the wearing of face masks, he said: "Those who are not frontliners need not wear the mask. Practise social distancing."

As for do-it-yourself hand sanitiser sold online, he said people should buy verified products and "not those made at the back of homes".

On the question of blood supply at the blood bank, Dr Noor Hisham said the ministry would introduce an innovative way for the public to donate blood during the MCO.

"Instead of you coming to the blood bank or the hospital to donate blood, it will be possible for it to be done at home as we can send a team to do it," he said.

Noor Hisham: Early treatment helped to keep number of deaths low

PETALING JAYA: Another Covid-19 patient has died 7.40pm yesterday, bringing the total number of fatalities to 16.

In a Facebook post, Health director-general Datuk Seri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the 75-year-old Malaysian has a history of several chronic ailments.

The deceased had earlier shown symptoms for five days before he was admitted to the Tuanku Mizan Armed Forces Hospital on Mar 16, before he was moved to Hospital Kuala Lumpur on Mar 18.

The patient's condition deteriorated, and was admitted to the intensive care unit for assisted breathing, before the positive Covid confirmation came on Mar 21.

At a press conference, Dr Noor Hisham said despite the rise in new Covid-19 cases to 1,624, early treatment has helped to keep the number of deaths at about 1%.

He reiterated the importance of the movement control order (MCO) in breaking the chain of infection including early treatment of positive cases of those with early stages of illness.

"If we compare to the global fatality rate of 4.5% it is expected that we should have 45 deaths at the moment.

"It is important for those who have breathing difficulties to immediately come in to the hospital.

"Do not wait until it reaches the third to fifth stage," he said told a press conference at the ministry's headquarters yesterday.

Patients who are tested positive but without symptoms are categorised under stage 1 of infection while those under stage 2 showed only mild symptoms.

Those under stage 3 will have some form of pneumonia while those under stage 4 and 5 will require oxygen therapy and be put on ventilators.

Dr Noor Hisham said so far 80% of the patients are those under stage 1 and 2.

He announced that of the new 106 cases, 43 were linked to the tabligh cluster.

He added that 64 patients were admitted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), and 24 others were on ventilators.

He also cautioned the public against stigmatising those who attended last month's mass tabligh gathering in Kuala Lumpur.

He said the attendees should not be blamed for the uptick of Covid-19 cases, after nine deaths were linked to the event's cluster.

"Let us not discriminate against the tabligh followers," said Dr Noor Hisham.

Dr Noor Hisham added that tests, conducted at government lab facilities to detect Covid-19, uses the rRT-PCR.

"The result of the rRT-PCR technique is important in determining an effective treatment for Covid-19 patients.

"The tests using rapid test kits in the market only detects the amount of antibody produced by patients who get infected by Covid-19.

"The antibody will produce within five to eight days after infection. The rapid test kits that detects antibody does not detect the virus and confirm the infection. So, the rapid test kits to detect antibody is not recommended to diagnose Covid-19."

Tax exec and family caring for kids of frontliners

PETALING JAYA: A woman has opened a temporary childcare centre for medical professionals working at the Hospital Sultan Ismail (HSI) in Johor Baru to help care for their children during the movement control order (MCO).

Nurul Nabilah Mohd Zohar, 26, who is a former pre-school employee, said that her mother gave her the idea after the Prime Minister's announcement of the MCO on March 16.

Nurul Nabilah, who is now a tax executive, said the idea then became reality when her office also decided to stop work during the two-week MCO period.

"My house is only five minutes away from HSI and it was my mother who came up with the idea for the temporary childcare centre.

"She said other people had already donated money and food, so



Helping hand: Nurul Nabilah (centre) happy to care for children of frontliners at her temporary childcare centre in Johor Baru. — mStar

she asked if we could provide manpower.

"So, after I posted an advertisement on Facebook, 10 doctors and nurses approached us.

"There was even a police officer (who approached us) but in the end, only one family decided to send (their children) to us," she told mStar, The Star's Malay language online portal.

Following her advertisement, Nurul Nabilah said a nurse sent four of her children to her place.

"She sends them around 12.30pm

and picks them up at 10pm.

"I was only expecting about two families because we wanted to avoid the place from being too crowded as it may be risky for the children," she added.

Nurul Nabilah said that she and her three siblings, Izzati Nabillah, 28, Izzati Najihah, 21, and Nadzirah, 18, have offered to help for free as they were sympathetic towards medical professionals who have to handle Covid-19 patients.

She also said that her family sincerely wanted to run the temporary

childcare centre as they all had experience working in a pre-school.

"In the past, after I finished school, I worked in a pre-school that was run by my aunt. The four of us have experience working there.

"Now, we are taking care of the four children, and even our mother is helping out. The nurse too even brought food for her kids, but I told her that she did not have to as we would also cook for them.

"Our services are all free. We just feel a lot of sympathy for those working at the frontlines," she said.

Gas what? They are pretty scared too

KOTA KINABALU: Gas trader Chong Vui Siung would be lying if he said he was not worried or afraid every time he has to go out and deliver cooking gas cylinders to customers.

"I'm afraid of getting the virus, afraid of falling sick and even dying.

"But I know, if there is a need, I have to go out and deliver stock to my customers," said the 30-year-old.

To minimise the risk of being infected, he makes sure that he and his brother, who is his work partner, as well as workers, always take safety precautions such as wearing masks and gloves.

"We try to observe social distancing when delivering gas cylinders," he said.

For now, he limits his stock sending to just sundry shops and regular customers.

"I have to protect my family as

well, as we try to help keep the stock running and for people out there, we also try and make sure we won't fall ill," he said.

Banker Janice JC, 32, said during uncertain times such as this, she still has to work amid fears and concern for her health.

She is afraid of infecting others, especially her loved ones, if she gets infected.

"But what can I do? We bankers are considered essential services and I understand where our duty lies," she said.

She hopes all those who go to banks are those who really need to do so, and that they make sure they are clear of Covid-19 before going out anywhere.

"Be responsible, don't go out and mingle around without getting yourself medically examined if you know you could pose a health risk to others," she said.



Service above self: Chong sending gas cylinders to his customers around the city in Kota Kinabalu.