

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19

5,084 kluster tabligh belum buat saringan

PUTRAJAYA - Seramai 5,084 orang daripada kluster perhimpunan tabligh di Masjid Sri Petaling, Kuala Lumpur belum menjalani ujian saringan Covid-19 sehingga kini.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, jumlah itu terdiri daripada peserta, ahli keluarga dan kontak rapat.

"Kami perlu mencari 5,084 yang belum jalani ujian Covid-19.

"Kami sedang bekerja rapat dengan pihak berkuasa khususnya polis untuk menjejaki individu yang berkait dengan kluster tabligh itu," katanya di sini semalam.

Pesakit bunuh diri diuji negatif Covid-19

PUTRAJAYA - Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) mengesahkan seorang pesakit yang membunuh diri di Hospital Serdang semalam tidak dijangkiti Covid-19.

Ketua Pengarahnya, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, pesakit itu didapati negatif.

"Dia bukan pesakit Covid-19. Ujian yang dilakukan adalah negatif.

"Ya, ia kes membunuh diri. Bukan pesakit Covid-19," katanya.

Terdahulu, media melaporkan seorang pesakit dalam pemantauan (PUI) Covid-19 yang dirawat di Hospital Serdang ditemui mati di dalam tandas wad hospital berkenaan.

KKM jangka kes bertambah

Pertambahan
dijangka berlaku
pertengahan April

Oleh **NURUL HUDA HUSAIN**

PUTRAJAYA

Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) menjangkakan berlaku pertambahan mendadak bagi kes wabak koronavirus (Covid-19) pada pertengahan bulan depan.

Ketua Pengarahnya, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, jangkakan kemungkinan berlakunya pertambahan kes itu mengambil kira perkembangan semasa.

Bagaimanapun, katanya, pelbagai langkah dan perancangan telah diambil bagi memastikan perkara itu tidak berlaku.

"Tetapi setakat ini tindakan dari segi pembersihan, nyahkuman dan nyahjangkitan telah dilaksanakan oleh semua Kementerian, pihak berkuasa tempatan (PBT), majlis daerah dan lain-lain.

"Proses kedua, kita kenal



DR NOOR HISHAM

pasti dengan mencari dan menguji mereka yang positif untuk dikuarantin.

"Bagi mereka yang mendapat keputusan negatif pula, mereka perlu membuat kuarantin secara sukarela," katanya di sini semalam.

Sementara itu, dalam perkembangan berkaitan, Dr Noor Hisham turut mengingatkan rakyat Malaysia yang baru pulang dari luar negara supaya menjalani pemeriksaan kesihatan dan melakukan kuarantin secara sukarela selama 14 hari.

Katanya, ada sejumlah kes Covid-19 melibatkan rakyat Malaysia yang baru pulang dari luar negara telah direkodkan sejak kebelakangan ini.

Seorang lagi disahkan meninggal dunia

PUTRAJAYA - Angka kematian akibat Covid-19 di negara ini meningkat kepada 27 kes selepas seorang lagi disahkan meninggal dunia semalam.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, mangsa yang meninggal dunia itu merupakan kes ke-2,162.

Menurutnya, mangsa korban terbaharu akibat wabak itu merupakan lelaki tempatan berumur 61 tahun.

"Beliau mempunyai latar belakang penyakit kencing manis dan darah tinggi dirawat di Hospital Tangkak pada 24 Mac dan kemudian dipindahkan ke Hospital Pakar Sultanah Fatimah, Muar pada 25 Mac.

"Beliau disahkan meninggal dunia pada 28 Mac pada jam 10.50 pagi," katanya di sini semalam.

Mengulas lanjut, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, dengan pertambahan itu, kadar kematian akibat wabak tersebut adalah 1.1 peratus.

Katanya, setakat jam 12 tengah hari semalam, terdapat 159 kes baharu yang telah dilaporkan.

"Ini menjadikan jumlah kes positif Covid-19 di Malaysia adalah sebanyak 2,320 kes.

"Sehingga kini, seramai 73 kes positif Covid-19 sedang dirawat di Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU). Daripada jumlah tersebut, 54 kes memerlukan bantuan pernafasan," katanya.

"KKM memandang serius kepatuhan rakyat Malaysia dalam mengikuti nasihat yang telah dikeluarkan.

"Setiap lapisan masyarakat perlu memainkan peranan masing-masing secara ber-

tanggungjawab.

"Pematuhan kepada ketetapan ini adalah amat penting bagi mengelakkan berlakunya penularan jangkitan yang meluas dalam kalangan masyarakat," katanya.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19

Produk pembasmi kuman ruqyah tiada kelulusan KKM



Produk pembasmi kuman yang tidak mendapat kelulusan KKM.

SHAH ALAM - Orang ramai dinasihatkan untuk tidak membeli produk pembasmi kuman yang diruqyah kerana tidak mempunyai kelulusan Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM).

KKM menerusi satu kenyataan di Facebooknya berkata, semua produk pembasmi kuman perlu dirujuk kepada kementerian itu sebelum dipasarkan bagi memastikan kualiti dan selamat digunakan.

"Oleh itu, jadilah pengguna yang bijak dan berhati-hati semasa membeli produk *hand sanitizer* di pasaran.

"Semakan status produk boleh dibuat di laman web Bahagian Regulatori Farmasi Negara (NPR) di pautan www.npra.gov.my," katanya di sini semalam.

Kenyataan itu turut menjelaskan, penjualan

produk tidak berdaftar dan kosmetik tidak bernotifikasi merupakan satu kesalahan di bawah Peraturan-Peraturan Kawalan Dadah dan Kosmetik 1984 dan boleh dihukum di bawah Seksyen 12(1) Akta Jualan Dadah 1952.

Katanya, syarikat yang melakukan kesalahan boleh dikenakan denda sehingga RM50,000 untuk kesalahan pertama dan denda sehingga RM100,000 untuk kesalahan berikutnya.

"Iklan produk dengan tuntutan perubatan tanpa kelulusan Lembaga Iklan Ubat merupakan satu pelanggaran di bawah Seksyen 4B, Akta Ubat (Iklan & Penjualan 1956).

"Jika sabit kesalahan boleh didenda sehingga RM 3,000 atau penjara tidak melebihi satu tahun atau kedua-duanya sekali," katanya.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19

Malaysia tangani Covid-19 bersama Menteri Kesihatan sedunia

KUALA LUMPUR

- Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba berkongsi usaha Malaysia menangani Covid-19 dengan menteri-menteri kesihatan seluruh dunia dalam satu sesi telesidang mereka bersama Ketua Pengarah Pertu-

buhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO), Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus malam kelmarin.

Dalam sesi *Virtual Information Session On Covid-19 By WHO* itu, Dr Adham turut mengambil peluang memperjelaskan tahap kesiapsiagaan yang diambil kementeriannya dalam membendung penyebaran COVID-19 di Malaysia.

"Saya mengadakan telesidang *Virtual Information Session On #Covid-19 By WHO* dengan Menteri-Menteri



ADHAM BABA

Kesihatan seluruh dunia, perjelaskan langkah-langkah yang telah, sedang dan kesiapsiagaan @ KKMPutrajaya," katanya menerusi akaun Twitternya semalam.

Sementara itu, KKM dalam satu kenyataan di

Facebook memaklumkan sesi tersebut memberi peluang kepada kementerian untuk berkongsi maklumat situasi terkini wabak Covid-19 dan langkah-langkah yang telah, sedang dan kesiapsiagaan KKM menghadapi kemungkinan jangkitan menjadi lebih buruk.

Turut serta pada sesi tersebut ialah Ketua Setiausaha KKM, Datuk Seri Dr Chen Chaw Min dan Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah. - *Bernama*

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19



AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 19

RUANGAN : PERSPEKTIF

Keprihatinan PM, komitmen Noor Hisham

DUGAAN petugas barisan hadapan negara kini semakin mencabar. Apa tidaknya, sehingga Khamis lalu, 80 anggota KKM disahkan positif wabak Covid-19.

Pengumuman itu dibuat Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah. Sedar akan risiko tinggi dihadapi anak buahnya yang bekerja keras bagi memutuskan rantaian wabak tersebut, beliau sentiasa menitipkan kata semangat kepada semua warga kesihatan barisan hadapan.

"KKM akan meneruskan strategi pengesanan kes aktif, 'mencari, menguji, mengasingkan dan merawat' semua pesakit yang dijangkiti. Semua langkah kesihatan awam dan meningkatkan sistem penjagaan kesihatan sedia ada akan diambil," itu komitmennya.

Terdahulu, memahami keperluan 'senjata' yang dipertukan petugas barisan hadapan, Perdana Menteri, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin mengumumkan kerajaan bersetuju menyalurkan peruntukan tambahan sebanyak RM600 juta kepada KKM bagi menyokong usaha menangani Covid-19.

Daripada peruntukan itu, sebanyak RM500 juta bagi membiayai pembelian peralatan perubatan, perlindungan diri (PPE) tambahan bagi kakitangan perkhidmatan perubatan awam serta keperluan makmal untuk saringan Covid-19.

Sejumlah RM100 juta pula disediakan kepada KKM untuk melantik 2,000 kakitangan baharu secara kontrak terutamanya jururawat.



DR NOOR HISHAM

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Penularan COVID-19

Satu lagi kematian akibat virus

Jumlah maut meningkat kepada 27 kes, 61 orang pulih dibenar keluar wad

Oleh Muhammad Yusri Muzamir dan Noor Atiqah Sulaiman
bhnews@bh.com.my

Putrajaya: Satu lagi kematian akibat COVID-19 dilaporkan di Pusat Kesiapsiagaan dan Tindakan Cepat Krisis Kebangsaan (CPRC) menjadikan jumlah kumulatifnya meningkat kepada 27 kes, semalam.

Sebanyak 61 kes sudah pulih dan dibenarkan keluar wad semalam menjadikan jumlah kumulatif sebanyak 320 kes.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata kes kematian ke-2,162 itu membabitkan seorang lelaki warga tempatan berusia 61 tahun.

"Beliau mempunyai latar belakang penyakit kencing manis dan darah tinggi, selain dirawat di Hospital Tangkak, pada 24 Mac lalu, sebelum dipindahkan ke Hospital Pakar Sultanah Fatimah, Muar sehari kemudian.

"Beliau disahkan meninggal dunia pada 28 Mac jam 10.50 pagi tadi (semalam)," katanya pada sidang media di sini, semalam.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, sebanyak 159 kes baharu COVID-19 direkodkan sehingga jam 12 tengah hari semalam, menjadikan

jumlah kumulatif kes positif meningkat kepada 2,320 kes.

Sehingga kini, katanya, seramai 73 kes positif COVID-19 sedang dirawat di unit rawatan rapi (ICU) dengan 54 daripadanya memerlukan bantuan pernafasan.

Dalam perkembangan lain, Dr Noor Hisham berkata kementerian menjangka akan ada pertambahan secara mendadak kes positif COVID-19 menjelang pertengahan April ini.

Tanpa memberikan perincian, beliau berkata justeru, pihaknya sudah membuat pelbagai perancangan bagi mengelakkan perkara berkenaan terjadi.

Katanya, kementerian sudah menerima sejumlah kit saringan COVID-19 dari Korea dan China malam kelmarin.

Sekiranya kit saringan berkenaan berkesan pihaknya akan menepah 200,000 lagi.

"Dari segi pembersihan, kita adakan proses nyah kuman dan jangkitan di semua tempat. Selain itu kita bekerjasama dengan pihak kementerian, Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur (DBKL) serta majlis daerah.

"Selain itu, kita turut mencari serta menguji mereka yang positif ini untuk dikuarantin. Bagi mereka yang mendapat keputusan



Kakitangan Hospital KPJ Damansara Specialist mengambil sampel daripada pemandu untuk saringan COVID-19 di lorong pandu lalu di Petaling Jaya, semalam. (Foto Aizuddin Saad/BH)



Petugas pembersihan melakukan operasi nyah cemar di sekitar Kompleks Kejurangan Presint 16, Putrajaya. (Foto BERNAMA)

negatif pula, perlu adakan kuaran tin secara sukarela," katanya. Beliau juga menyatakan penghargaan kementerian terhadap mereka yang menghulurkan pelbagai sumbangan kepada petugas dan hospital yang merawat kes COVID-19.

Katanya sumbangan yang di-

terima setakat ini tidak terhad kepada bantuan kewangan tetapi turut membabitkan alat kelengkapan perubatan, barangan keperluan di peringkat makmal, bahan pakai buang dan keperluan perubatan lain yang berkaitan.

"Sumbangan dalam bentuk kewangan boleh disalurkan ke

akau 2-66016-0002347-5 (RHB Bank) atas nama 'Sumbangan Perubatan KKM'.

"Bagi sumbangan berbentuk barangan atau peranti perubatan boleh berhubung lanjut melalui talian 03-8983 3111 setiap Isnin hingga Jumaat, antara jam 8 pagi hingga 5 petang.

"Orang ramai juga boleh maklumkan kita melalui e-mel sumbangancovid19@moh.gov.my, untuk perhatian Setiausaha Bahagian, Bahagian Perolehan dan Penswastaan Kementerian Kesihatan," katanya.

Dalam perkembangan lain, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, seorang lelaki dijumpai mati di tandas Hospital Serdang, malam kelmarin pernah menjalani saringan COVID-19, tetapi keputusannya negatif.

"Betul, ada kes kematian di hospital berkenaan namun ia bukan membabitkan pesakit COVID-19. Setiap pesakit yang dimasukkan di dalam Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU) secara automatik mereka akan dibuat saringan COVID-19," katanya.

Kementerian tubuh jawatankuasa khas audit kes

Kuala Lumpur: Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) menubuhkan jawatankuasa khas bagi melakukan audit terhadap pengurusan kes pesakit COVID-19 yang membabitkan kematian di hospital.

Ketua Pengarahnya, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata jawatankuasa itu akan meneliti semula butiran pengurusan dan rawatan diberikan kepada setiap kes kematian COVID-19 oleh pakar berkaitan dengan hasilnya diharapkan dapat membantu pengurusan pesakit lain.

Beliau berkata penubuhan jawatankuasa berkenaan diputuskan dalam mesyuarat Pusat Kesiapsiagaan dan Tindakan Cepat Krisis Kebangsaan (CPRC), kelmarin.

Jawatankuasa diketuai Pakar Perunding Penyakit Berjangkit yang juga bekas Timbalan Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan (Penyelidikan dan Sokongan Teknikal), Datuk Dr Christopher Lee serta dibantu pakar pelbagai disiplin.

Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan

"Jawatankuasa akan diketuai Pakar Perunding Penyakit Berjangkit yang juga bekas Timbalan Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan (Penyelidikan dan Sokongan Teknikal), Datuk Dr Christopher Lee serta dibantu ahli daripada pakar pelbagai disiplin berkaitan.

"Cawangan Kualiti Penjagaan Perubatan, Bahagian Perkembangan Perubatan bertindak sebagai Sekretariat Teknikal bagi 'National COVID-19 Mortality Review Committee' ini.

"Terima kasih juga diucapkan kepada Dr Christopher yang sudi membantu walaupun sudah bersara daripada perkhidmatan awam, Januari lalu," katanya dalam kenyataan di Facebook semalam.



Dr Noor Hisham pada sidang media di Putrajaya, semalam. (Foto Mohd Fadli Hamzah/BH)

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
 MUKA SURAT : 6
 RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Penularan COVID-19

Persiapan hadapi gelombang ketiga hampir selesai

Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan COVID-19 Berisiko Rendah di MAEPS

Oleh Muhammad Yusri Muzamir dan Noor Atiqah Sulaiman
 bhnews@bh.com.my

Putrajaya: Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) dalam proses akhir menyiapkan Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan COVID-19 Berisiko Rendah di Taman Ekspo Pertanian Malaysia Serdang (MAEPS) yang

menyediakan 600 katil, termasuk 200 katil untuk pesakit wanita.

Kemudahan itu antara persiapan KMM jika berlaku gelombang ketiga penularan wabak berkenaan, akan menempatkan pesakit yang mempunyai gejala berisiko tinggi, terutama yang mempunyai sejarah penyakit kronik ditempatkan di hospital

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata persiapan lain yang dilakukan, termasuk proses nyah kuman di kawasan lokaliti panas dan penyediaan lebih banyak katil.

"Katil yang disediakan memadai, tetapi bak kata orang, kita bersedia untuk situasi lebih buruk. Kalau perlu, kita ada 600 katil di MAEPS, iaitu 400 di Dewan A

dan 200 di Dewan B. Jika kita kurang bersedia, maknanya tidak bersedia. Ia boleh dijadikan model contoh penggunaan dewan atau stadium tertutup jika diperlukan kelak," katanya.

Bercakap pada sidang media hariannya di sini, semalam, Dr Noor Hisham, berkata jika melebihi 1,000 kes sehari, pasti memerlukan lebih banyak katil dengan kapasiti sekarang adalah 5,292 katil di hospital seluruh negara.

"Jadi apa kita lakukan sekarang adalah bersedia untuk keadaan lebih buruk. Esok petang (hari ini), boleh siap (susunan katil di MAEPS). Kita jangkakan pertengahan April, akan ada peningkatan mendadak kes COVID-19," katanya.



Persiapan Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan COVID-19 Berisiko Rendah di MAEPS, semalam. (Foto Mohd Fadli Hamzah/BH)

Dalam aspek pembersihan pula, beliau berkata, pihaknya menjalankan proses nyah kuman dan jangkitan di semua tempat, selain bekerjasama dengan Kementerian, Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur (DBKL) dan pihak berkuasa tempatan.

"Kita turut mencari serta menguji mereka yang positif untuk dikuarantin. Bagi mereka yang

mendapat keputusan negatif pula, perlu kuarantin secara sukarela. "Ada pihak menjangkakan peningkatan kes, justeru orang ramai perlu main peranan masing-masing bagi membendung wabak ini. Kita perlu bersatu supaya dapat menurunkan ramalan ini, selain buktikan kepada mereka jangkakan itu tidak tepat," katanya.

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 9

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Penularan COVID-19



Hishammuddin (kiri) pada Majlis Penyerahan Bantuan Bekalan Perubatan kepada Dr Noor Hisham dan Mohtar (dua dari kanan) sambil disaksikan Bai Tian di Wisma Putra, semalam. (Foto Mohd Huzaini Daud/BH)

'Segera keluar AS, United Kingdom'

Rakyat Malaysia digesa bertindak sebelum 2 negara sekat penerbangan

Oleh Samadi Ahmad
bhnews@bh.com.my

Putrajaya: Rakyat Malaysia di Amerika Syarikat (AS) dan United Kingdom (UK) perlu pulang seberapa segera sebelum negara berkenaan menguat kuasa perintah berkurang, berikutan penularan COVID-19.

Menteri Luar, Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein, berkata mereka mesti berbuat demikian

ketika syarikat penerbangan kedua-dua negara itu masih beroperasi.

Katanya, kos membawa pulang rakyat Malaysia di AS sangat tinggi, kira-kira RM50 juta.

"Sekiranya mereka pulang sendiri, kos ini dapat dimanfaatkan kerajaan untuk membeli keutamaan lain seperti peralatan perubatan di hospital," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian pada sidang media Majlis Penyerahan Bantuan Bekalan Perubatan dari Kerajaan China kepada Kerajaan Malaysia disampaikan Duta Besar China ke Malaysia, Bai Tian di sini, semalam.

Pada program itu Kerajaan China menyumbang kira-kira 100,000 kit diagnostik asid; kit ujian (100,000 unit); topeng muka N95 (500,000 unit); topeng muka pembedahan (50,000 unit) dan

peralatan perlindungan peribadi (200 unit).

Yang turut hadir, Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah dan Ketua Pengarah Agensi Pengurusan Bencana Negara (NADMA), Datuk Mohtar Mohd Abdul Rahman.

Hishammuddin berkata, kerajaan perlu berhadapan dua perkara jika ada rakyat Malaysia yang terkandas disebabkan perintah berkurang itu.

Menurut beliau, pertama kerajaan harus ada hubungan baik dengan negara berkenaan bagi membawa pulang rakyat yang terkandas

Katanya, perkara kedua kerajaan berhadapan dengan kos yang tinggi bagi membiayai penerbangan membawa pulang ke negara ini.

AKHBAR : SUNDAY STAR

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NATION

Malaysia to run trials for new drug

Health DG: Ministry will monitor all side effects and efficacy of Remdesivir

PETALING JAYA: Malaysia has been chosen by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as one of the countries to run trials on the effectiveness of a drug called Remdesivir to treat Covid-19 patients, according to the National Security Council (NSC).

It said Malaysia was chosen due to the ability of the Health Ministry to undertake the research.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the ministry would treat Covid-19 patients with the new drug

Remdesivir and monitor all side effects and its efficacy.

In a Facebook post, he explained that on Friday, WHO had announced a large global trial called Solidarity to find out whether any drugs could treat infections with the new coronavirus.

"It's an unprecedented effort – an all-out, coordinated push to collect robust scientific data rapidly during a pandemic. The study, which could include many thousands of patients in dozens of countries, has been designed to be as simple as possible

so that even hospitals overwhelmed by an onslaught of Covid-19 patients can participate.

"WHO is focusing on what it says are the four most promising therapies: an experimental antiviral compound called Remdesivir; the malaria medications chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine; a combination of two HIV drugs, lopinavir and ritonavir; and that same combination plus interferon-beta, an immune system messenger that can help cripple viruses," Dr Noor Hisham added in the post.

Meanwhile, Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba shared Malaysia's efforts to address Covid-19 with health ministers around the world in a teleconference with WHO director-general Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on Friday night.

"I held a Virtual Information Session on #COVID-19 by WHO with health ministers around the world, explaining the steps that have been taken, and are being carried out and the preparedness of @KKMPutrajaya," he said via his

Twitter account yesterday.

The ministry, in a statement on Facebook, said the session on Covid-19 by WHO provided the ministry with the opportunity to share information on the latest Covid-19 outbreak and measures that were and are being taken, as well as the ministry's preparedness to handle the possibility of the infection becoming worse.

The session was also joined by Dr Noor Hisham and his ministry's secretary-general Datuk Seri Dr Chen Chaw Min.

Test kits from S. Korea being evaluated



PETALING JAYA: Covid-19 test kits from South Korea are being evaluated by the Health Ministry at the Sungai Buloh Hospital, says Datuk Seri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

The Health director-general said there were no reports yet on the kits that arrived on Friday night.

"We are testing the first batch. If the accuracy is good, we will order 200,000 sets," he said yesterday.

On the cost, he said it could be within the US\$5 to US\$6 (RM21.60-RM26) range.

He also said that they had received 100,000 test kits from China.

"This is a different brand. We will also try to test this new test kit, which is approved by the FDA (United States Food and Drug Administration).

"I was assured by the ambassador that this is more accurate. So we will test it out soon," he added.

Previously, Dr Noor Hisham said Malaysia would be able to test up to 16,500 samples per day from next week from the current capacity of 7,000 samples.



Extra measure: Malaysia is preparing a temporary Covid-19 facility with 3,400 beds at the Malaysia Agro Exposition Park Serdang. — Picture courtesy of the Health Ministry

He also said that the Malaysia Agro Exposition Park Serdang would be converted into a Covid-19 facility with 3,400 beds.

"Along with our health training institute which has 5,292 beds, we feel the preparations of beds are adequate," he added.

Dr Noor Hisham said another 600 additional beds would be made available in the venue should there be a need.

"We will use a hall or indoor stadium, for example, if we need more beds.

"Right now, we are seeing 150 to 200 new cases a day. But if the surge goes up to 1,000 cases a day, we have to look for more beds.

"It is better to over-prepare than to under-prepare," he said.

Authorities, he added, were still looking for 5,084 participants of the tabligh event at the Sri Petaling mosque.

The government has tested 17,584 people linked to the tabligh cluster and their relatives.

"Out of the samples taken, 1,207 are positive, 6,648 negative while

another 4,645 results are still pending," he said.

Dr Noor Hisham also said that a 62-year-old patient, under investigation for Covid-19, who was found dead in Serdang Hospital, was not a carrier of the virus.

"His tests came back negative. There is a report of suicide but he is not a confirmed Covid-19 case.

"We now conduct Covid-19 tests for all those who are warded in the intensive care unit in case they have other illnesses or cross-infection," he added.

Another 159 new cases, one death reported

PETALING JAYA: Another 159 new Covid-19 cases have been reported, bringing the total in the country to 2,320 cases, says Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

There was also one reported death due to the respiratory disease, bringing the tally in Malaysia to 27 deaths or a death rate of 1.1%.

The latest death was that of a 61-year-old Malaysian man who had a history of diabetes and high blood pressure.

Dr Noor Hisham also said there were 61 recovered Covid-19 patients who had been discharged yesterday, bringing the total to 320 cases or a recovery rate of 13.8%.

He added that 73 cases were being treated in the intensive care unit (ICU); of these, 54 needed ventilators.

He reiterated that those who have just returned from overseas are required to undergo health screening and self-quarantine for 14 days.

Watch the video [thestartv.com](https://www.thestartv.com)



Keeping frontliners safe vital in virus fight

By LOH FOON FONG
foonfong@thestar.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR: Monitoring the health of healthcare workers, giving training and daily briefings to them as well as to cleaners and food handlers are now crucial to prevent Covid-19 from spreading to frontliners and patients, says Datuk Prof Dr Adeeba Kamarulzaman.

Universiti Malaya Medical Centre (UMMC), for instance, has formed a task force made up of members from various medical disciplines including waste disposal managers, said the Universiti Malaya medical

faculty dean.

Dr Adeeba, who is also a Selangor Covid-19 task force member, said that UMMC also had a guideline on managing suspected Covid-19 cases, and the Covid-19 hospital team had been giving training daily to healthcare workers.

"They are taught, for instance, to put on surgical gowns properly, to avoid accidentally infecting themselves," she said, admitting that fears of Covid-19 existed among hospital staff too.

On Thursday, Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said 80 healthcare work-

ers had been infected with Covid-19.

Dr Adeeba was asked the measures hospitals should adopt to minimise infection. She said healthcare workers faced the challenge of seeing patients who appeared not to be a risk factor but test positive later.

"We have to contact trace patients and staff members," she said, adding that risk assessments were carried out to assess their level of contact and if needed, they would be isolated.

Hospitals too needed to be extensively cleaned and disinfected, she added.

In view of the challenge, Dr Adeeba said the hospital categorised patients into Covid-19 confirmed cases, suspected cases and not likely a case but the person needed to stay home.

She added that doctors were to suspect Covid-19 if a patient showed symptoms of pneumonia.

To minimise the risk of infection, Dr Adeeba said they should wear proper protective gear and be constantly aware of their surroundings and possible Covid-19 cases.

Due to the high rate of infection now, Dr Adeeba said she would recommend GPs wear a mask and a

face shield.

Dr Adeeba said UMMC had cleared half the hospital to isolate Covid-19 patients.

Former Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Ismail Merican said doctors must wear masks, goggles and gloves when examining patients in the clinic, especially if patients have symptoms, while those in ICU should take extra care when they used the nebuliser (for treating asthma or other respiratory diseases/disorders).

Dr Ismail said hospital directors should also ensure doctors were regularly rotated to prevent fatigue.

AKHBAR : SUNDAY STAR

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : NATION

China donates test kits, ventilators, face masks

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia has received a huge consignment of medical equipment and items from China to battle Covid-19.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein received the consignment from China's Ambassador to Malaysia Bai Tian in a ceremony at Wisma Putra in Putrajaya yesterday.

The consignment comprises 100,008 units of novel coronavirus nucleic acid diagnostic (PCR-Fluorescence Probing) test kits, 100,000 pieces of N95 face masks, 500,000 pieces of surgical masks, 50,000 units of personal protective equipment (PPE) and 200 ventilators.

The consignment is to help Malaysia's frontliners fight the spread of the deadly disease.

Bai Tian said China was committed to helping Malaysia counter the pandemic.

"Both our countries have stood



Life-saver: Hishammuddin (second from left) and Bai Tian (right) at the presentation ceremony held at Wisma Putra yesterday. Also present are Wisma Putra secretary-general Datuk Seri Shahrul Ikram Yaakob (left) and Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah (centre). — Bernama

side by side for decades. We will stand by you in this time as well," the envoy said, adding that Chinese

doctors would also arrive to lend a helping hand. Expressing gratitude,

Hishammuddin said the Malaysian government and people would always remember the assistance rendered by China.

"We are touched by your gesture of kindness. China is indeed a true friend of Malaysia," he added.

On March 19, the embassy announced its first batch of donation of medical aid, delivering 5,000 face masks and 10,000 surgical face shields for medical personnel at the Sungai Buloh Hospital.

On March 24, the embassy together with China Communications Construction (ECRL) Sdn Bhd donated 5,000 N95 grade face masks, 20,000 medical masks and 1,200 goggles to the Health Ministry.

A day later, the embassy and China Enterprises Chamber of Commerce in Malaysia (CECCM), ECRL, Chinese humanitarian group Mammoth Foundation and BGI Group donated 5,500 Covid-19 test kits to the ministry.

AKHBAR : NEW SUNDAY TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 2

RUANGAN : NATION

REPORTS BY: Adib Povera, Veena Babulal, Dawn Chan, Nor Ain Mohamed Radhi, Kalbana Perimbanayagam, Arfa Yunus, Tharanya Arumugam, Olivia Miwil and Rizalman Hammim

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

MAKESHIFT HOSPITAL READY TODAY

It has 600 beds to house patients if there is spike in Covid-19 cases, says Health D-G

PUTRAJAYA

THE Malaysia Agro Exposition Park Serdang (MAEPS) is being converted into a makeshift hospital to house Covid-19 patients if there is a significant increase in the number of cases.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said

steps to turn the park into a temporary hospital, which were being coordinated by the National Disaster Management Agency, would be completed by today.

The makeshift hospital would have 600 beds for Covid-19 patients who were asymptomatic or have mild symptoms, he said.

"Hall A in MAEPS can accommodate 400 beds, while Hall B can house 200 beds. There are enough beds in our hospitals.

"We expect a surge in cases by the middle of next month. It is better to be overprepared than underprepared," he said here yesterday.

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba visited the quarantine and Covid-19 treatment centre at MAEPS yesterday.



There are 3,400 beds for Covid-19 patients at hospitals and 1,892 beds at the Health Ministry's training institutes.



Political adviser to the Chinese embassy in Malaysia, Yu Jun (right), handing over boxes of face masks to Umno Supreme Council member Datuk Mohd Razlan Rafii in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. PIC BY SYADA ABDULLAH

AKHBAR : NEW SUNDAY TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : NATION



The Malaysia Agro Exposition Park Serdang in Selangor is being converted into a makeshift hospital. PIC BY MOHD FAULI HAMZAH

159 new cases, death toll rises to 27

PUTRAJAYA: A 61-year-old man from Johor became the country's latest Covid-19 fatality, bringing the total number of deaths to 27.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the man died at 10.50am yesterday after he was transferred from Tangkak Hospital in Tangkak, Johor, to Sultanah Fatimah Specialist Hospital in Muar this week.

He said up to yesterday, there were 159 new Covid-19 cases, bringing the total number of infections to 2,320.

He said 61 people were discharged yesterday, bringing the total number of those who had recovered from Covid-19 to 320.

"A total of 73 Covid-19 cases are being treated in the intensive care unit and 54 of those cases require respiratory aid," he said here yesterday.

He said there was an increase in the number of positive cases involving Malaysians who recently returned from abroad.

He urged the public to practise social distancing and stay at home to break the chain of infections.

On cases related to tabligh members who attended a mass



Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah

gathering at Seri Petaling Mosque last month, he said 5,084 of them had yet to test for the virus.

"We have screened 17,584 tabligh members.

"There are 1,207 positive cases, 6,648 negative cases and 4,645 are waiting for their results.

"We need to find the remaining 5,084.

"They have yet to be tested and we hope they will come forward soon."

It was reported that 16,000 participants, of which 14,500 were

Malaysians, attended the gathering that was held from Feb 27 to March 3 in Sri Petaling, Kuala Lumpur.

Dr Noor Hisham said a significant increase in the number of Covid-19 cases was expected next month.

He said there were 5,292 beds available in hospitals and more would be added by today.

"We are seeing about 150 to 200 new cases a day.

"But if the number goes up to 1,000 a day, we will have to look for more beds.

"We are expecting a dramatic increase around mid-April. We have made preparations to get more beds.

"It is better for us to be over-prepared. Let us prepare for the worst and hope for the best."

Earlier, in a Facebook post, Dr Noor Hisham said the Health Ministry had set up a special committee to conduct an audit on Covid-19 deaths in hospitals.

He said the National Covid-19 Mortality Review Committee would be chaired by infectious disease consultant Datuk Dr Christopher Lee, who is former Health deputy director-general (research and technical support).