AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 16
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

*Penularan COVID-19*

# Lima lagi positif jangkitan

## Laporan terbaru jadikan 55 kes keseluruhan di Malaysia

*Dr Noor Hisham pada sidang media selepas Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Kerja Kluster Penyakit COVID-19, di Putrajaya, semalam.* (Foto Mohd Fadli Hamzah /BH)

Oleh Mohd Nasaruddin Parzi
dan Oleh Noor Atiqah Sulaiman
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**Putrajaya:** Lima lagi individu dilaporkan positif COVID-19 iaitu kontak rapat kepada kes ke-26, menjadikan keseluruhan 55 kes di Malaysia.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata setakat ini, seramai 26 individu kontak rapat kes ke-26 disahkan positif COVID-19.

"Kes terbaru itu menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes positif COVID-19 di Malaysia sehingga 12 tengah hari semalam adalah 55 kes. Daripada jumlah ini, seramai 22 orang sudah sembuh dan dibenarkan pulang. Semua kes baharu ini berhubung kait dengan satu kluster COVID-19 yang dikenal pasti sebelum ini iaitu individu dari kes ke-26.

"Siasatan dan pengesanan kontak bagi kluster terbabit masih diteruskan," katanya pada sidang media selepas Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Kerja Kluster Penyakit Coronavirus (COVID-19) yang dipengerusikan Ketua Setiausaha Negara, Datuk Seri Mohd Zuki Ali, di sini semalam.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, individu yang dilaporkan positif COVID-19 adalah generasi kedua bagi kes ke-26.

"Dari lima yang dilaporkan, tiga daripadanya ialah generasi kedua terdiri daripada ahli keluarga dan kakitangan kepada kes generasi pertama.

Generasi pertama ialah individu yang dijangkiti oleh kes ke-26, manakala generasi kedua pula ialah keluarga atau kakitangan bagi generasi pertama yang tidak berhubung terus dengan kes-26 itu," katanya.

Selain itu Dr Noor Hisham berkata, Malaysia menyekat sementara kemasukan pelawat dari Hokaido di Jepun, Itali (Lombardy, Veneto dan Emilia-Romagna) serta Iran (Tehran, Qom dan Gilan), berkuat kuasa serta-merta.

Katanya, pelawat yang mempunyai sejarah perjalanan ke bandar dan negara berkenaan dalam tempoh 14 hari sebelum ketibaan di Malaysia tidak dibenarkan memasuki negara ini.

"Mengambil kira status semasa penularan COVID-19 yang kini memasuki gelombang kedua, kerajaan memutuskan supaya rakyat Malaysia menangguhkan perjalanan ke bandar berkenaan.

"Bagi rakyat Malaysia yang sudah berada di bandar atau wilayah berkenaan, mereka dinasihatkan mengambil langkah berjaga-jaga seperti meningkatkan penjagaan kesihatan diri dan sentiasa mematuhi arahan yang dikeluarkan pihak berkuasa tempatan.

"Rakyat Malaysia di luar negara turut digalakkan mendaftar dengan Kedutaan Malaysia berhampiran," katanya.

Sebelum ini Malaysia menyekat sementara kemasukan semua pelawat dari bandar Daegu dan daerah Cheongdo , Korea Selatan bagi mengekang penularan COVID-19.

Sementara itu, FELCRA Berhad (FELCRA) meneruskan operasi pembersihan sanitasi secara menyeluruh membabitkan enam tingkat di Wisma FELCRA, sehingga hari ini bagi mencegah COVID-19.

Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif FELCRA, Mohd Nazrul Izam Mansor, berkata persekitaran dan kawasan dalaman premis Wisma FELCRA dibersihkan mengikut Prosedur Operasi Standard (SOP) bagi meningkatkan keyakinan kakitangan apabila kembali bertugas, Isnin depan.

Katanya, bagi memperkasakan lagi usaha pencegahan itu, semua kakitangan di ibu pejabat dan pelawat akan menjalani saringan suhu sebelum dibenarkan memasuki bangunan pejabat Isnin depan.

"Bagi mereka yang merekodkan suhu badan melebihi 38 darjah Celsius tidak akan dibenarkan memasuki pejabat dan akan diaturkan untuk mendapatkan pemeriksaan lanjut," katanya dalam satu kenyataan.

Beliau berkata, gerak kerja harian FELCRA berjalan seperti biasa menggunakan teknologi komunikasi terkini yang menghubungkan ibu pejabat, semua pejabat wilayah dan kawasan.

"Di dalam tempoh ini juga, semua peserta, kontraktor dan pembekal boleh berurusan seperti biasa dengan mana-mana bahagian di ibu pejabat menggunakan kemudahan komunikasi sedia ada," katanya.

*Pengurusan FELCRA Berhad melaksanakan operasi pembersihan sanitasi secara menyeluruh membabitkan enam tingkat di Wisma FELCRA bagi menangani penularan jangkitan COVID-19.* (Foto BERNAMA)

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO
MUKA SURAT : 8-9
RUANGAN : LOKAL

## Gesa segera keluar Makkah

**Kuala Lumpur:** Rakyat Malaysia yang mengerjakan umrah di Makkah diarahkan keluar dalam tempoh tiga hari mulai semalam.

Perkara itu didedahkan melalui satu arahan dalam bentuk pekeliling yang diterima pengendali ibadat umrah atau muassasah yang berada di Jeddah, Arab Saudi.

Pekeliling yang dikongsi kepada wartawan BH menyebut jemaah yang berada di luar Makkah perlu ke kota itu untuk menyempurnakan ibadat umrah dan meninggalkan Arab Saudi dalam tempoh tiga hari.

Arahan itu dikeluarkan oleh Kementerian Haji dan Umrah Arab Saudi dalam pekeliling bernombor 14410709 dan diletakkan dengan notis *top urgent*.

Seorang muassasah, Erdie Nasrullah mengesahkan dirinya dan beberapa ejen pembimbing lain sudah menerima notis itu sejak kelmarin.

RINGKAS

## Ibu pejabat SKMM ditutup dua hari

**Cyberjaya:** Ibu pejabat dan bangunan lama Suruhanjaya Komunikasi dan Multimedia Malaysia (SKMM) di sini ditutup selama dua hari bermula semalam hingga hari ini.

SKMM dalam kenyataannya turut memaklumkan perkhidmatan kaunter pembayaran di ibu pejabat SKMM juga akan digantung buat sementara waktu bermula dari semalam hingga Ahad, 8 Mac.

Jelas kenyataan itu, tindakan penutupan dan penggantungan sementara itu diambil sebagai langkah proaktif ekoran penularan wabak Covid-19 dan ia mencerminkan keprihatinan SKMM terhadap keselamatan serta kesihatan semua pihak.

Bagaimanapun, orang ramai masih boleh membuat urusan permohonan dan pembayaran melalui saluran permohonan secara elektronik melalui https://espectra.mcmc.gov.my/.

## Felcra terus operasi sanitasi menyeluruh

**Kuala Lumpur:** Felcra Berhad (Felcra) akan meneruskan pelaksanaan operasi pembersihan sanitasi secara menyeluruh membabitkan enam tingkat di Wisma Felcra sehingga hari ini bagi menangani penularan Covid-19.

Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Felcra Mohd Nazrul Izam Mansor berkata, persekitaran dan kawasan dalaman premis Wisma Felcra dibersihkan mengikut prosedur operasi standard (SOP) bagi meningkatkan keyakinan kakitangan apabila kembali bertugas, Isnin ini.

Bagi tujuan memperkasakan lagi usaha pencegahan ini, katanya, semua kakitangan di ibu pejabat dan pelawat akan menjalani ujian suhu sebelum dibenarkan memasuki bangunan pejabat Isnin ini.

"Bagi mereka yang merekodkan suhu badan melebihi 38 darjah Celsius, mereka tidak dibenarkan memasuki pejabat dan akan diaturkan untuk pemeriksaan lanjut," katanya.

# Lima lagi dijangkiti

*Individu dikenal pasti kontak rapat pesakit ke-26*

Oleh Noor Atiqah Sulaiman
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**Putrajaya**

Lima lagi individu dikesan positif dijangkiti virus Covid-19 semalam dan kesemua mereka dikenal pasti kontak rapat kepada individu dijangkiti ke-26.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM), Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, sehingga kini, kontak rapat bagi kes ke-26 yang disahkan positif Covid-19 adalah seramai 26 individu.

"Ini menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes positif Covid-19 di Malaysia sehingga 12 tengah hari semalam adalah sebanyak 55 kes.

"Daripada jumlah ini, seramai 22 pesakit sudah sembuh dan dibenarkan pulang. Semua kes baharu ini berhubung kait dengan satu kluster Covid-19 yang dikenal pasti sebelum ini iaitu individu daripada kes ke-26.

"Siasatan dan pengesanan kontak bagi kluster berkenaan masih diteruskan," katanya, semalam.

Kelmarin beliau memaklumkan Malaysia sedang memasuki gelombang kedua Covid-19 dan ia bermula dengan kes ke-26 yang kebanyakan kes jangkitan tempatan dan dalam kalangan rakyat tempatan.

Beliau kelmarin mengesahkan 14 lagi kes baharu positif Covid-19 menjadikan keseluruhan kes sebanyak 50 dikesan Rabu lalu.

Menurutnya, satu

## Sekat pelawat dari tiga negara 'panas'

**Putrajaya:** Kerajaan memutuskan untuk menyekat sementara semua pelawat tanpa mengira warganegara yang berkunjung ke tiga negara 'panas' berkuat kuasa serta-merta.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, antara bandar dan negara yang disekat membabitkan Jepun (Hokkaido), Itali (Lombardy, Veneto dan Emilia-Romagna) serta Iran (Teheran, Qom dan Gilan).

Katanya, sekatan itu termaktub kepada pelawat yang mempunyai sejarah perjalanan ke bandar dan negara berkenaan dalam tempoh 14 hari sebelum ketibaan di Malaysia.

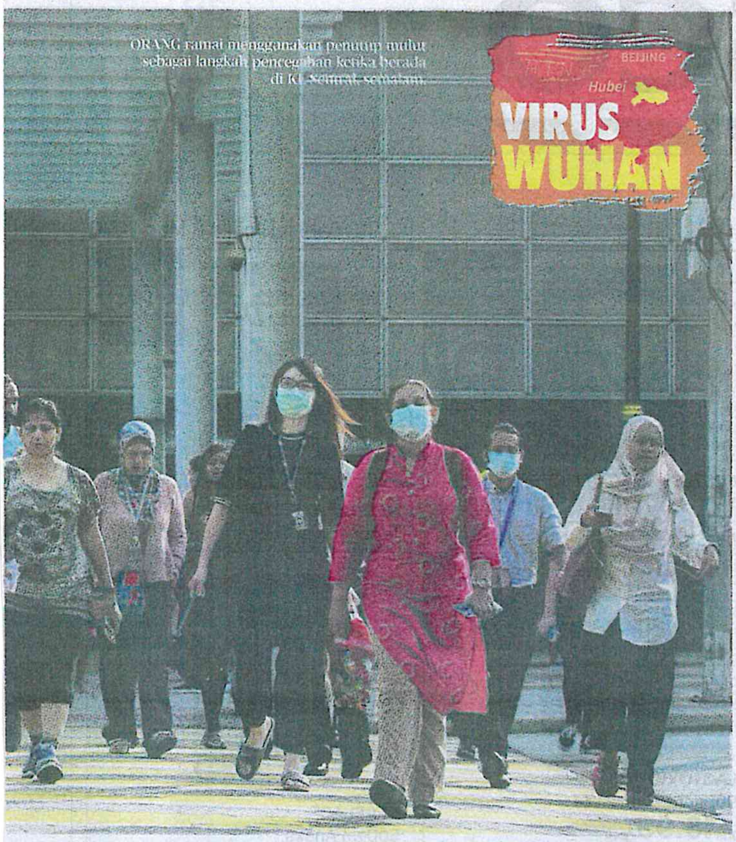
"Mengambil kira status semasa penularan wabak Covid-19 yang kini memasuki gelombang kedua, kerajaan memutuskan supaya rakyat Malaysia menangguhkan perjalanan ke bandar berkenaan.

"Bagi rakyat Malaysia yang sudah berada di bandar atau wilayah berkenaan, mereka dinasihatkan untuk mengambil langkah berjaga-jaga seperti meningkatkan penjagaan kesihatan diri dan sentiasa mematuhi arahan yang dikeluarkan oleh pihak berkuasa tempatan," katanya.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, maklumat mengenai Kedutaan Malaysia di luar negara boleh dirujuk di laman web Kementerian Luar Negeri di www.kln.gov.my.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO
MUKA SURAT : 8-9
RUANGAN : LOKAL






ORANG ramai menggunakan penutup mulut sebagai langkah pencegahan ketika berada di KL Sentral semalam.

Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Kerja Kluster Penyakit Coronavirus (Covid-19) 2020 yang dipengerusikan Ketua Setiausaha Negara diadakan bersama pelbagai agensi berkaitan di Putrajaya semalam.

"Untuk mengelak keadaan panik di pejabat apabila terdapat kes positif atau disyaki dalam kalangan anggota agensi.

"KKM menasihatkan kepada organisasi yang dikesan mempunyai kes positif Covid-19 supaya tidak perlu membuat penutupan pejabat namun memadai menjalankan pembersihan dan nyahkuman dengan kerap di kawasan yang selalu disentuh.

"Anggota yang dikenal pasti sebagai kontak rapat oleh KKM akan dibuat saringan kesihatan. KKM berharap mereka yang dikenal pasti dapat bertenang dan sentiasa bekerjasama dengan memberi maklumat yang tepat apabila dihubungi atau dikenal pasti sebagai kontak rapat.

"Pada masa yang sama, semua pihak diminta tidak menularkan sebarang maklumat yang boleh menyebabkan kebimbangan kepada orang awam," katanya.

TINJAUAN mendapati orang ramai memakai topeng muka ketika berada di sekitar ibu kota, semalam.

KONTRAKTOR melakukan kerja menyahkuman pada kenderaan milik pengurusan kanan Uda Holdings.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES
MUKA SURAT : 2
RUANGAN : NEWS/STORY OF THE DAY

*Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah (third from left) speaking at a press conference in Putrajaya yesterday.* PIC BY MOHD FADLI HAMZAH

STILL IN EARLY CONTAINMENT PHASE

# 'OUTBREAK IN MALAYSIA UNDER CONTROL'

## No restrictions on public events, conferences, says Health D-G

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THERE are no restrictions on public events or gatherings although the Covid-19 outbreak was entering its second wave in the country with five new cases being recorded by the Health Ministry yesterday.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the outbreak was under control locally and Malaysia was still in the "early containment" phase.

"The situation is under control. We are in the early containment phase.

"Hence, we have no restrictions on the people to participate in any conference.

"If the situation is in the late containment phase, we will issue an advisory (for organisers and people who want to attend) conferences," he said after attending the Covid-19 Cluster Working Committee meeting here yesterday.

The three-hour meeting, chaired by Chief Secretary to the Government Datuk Seri Mohd Zuki Ali, included National Disaster Management Agency (Nadma) director-general Datuk Mohtar Mohd Abd Rahman and Foreign Ministry secretary-general Datuk Seri Muhammad Shahrul Ikram Yaakob.

Dr Noor Hisham said despite the global outbreak and increasing numbers of confirmed Covid-19 cases in Malaysia, the authorities had not decided to put a stop to public gatherings.

"It is up to organisers to make such a decision (whether to proceed or postpone conferences or events).

"The government has not imposed any restriction."

On the Covid-19 situation in the country, he said five new cases were reported to National Crisis Preparedness and Response Centre (CPRC) yesterday, raising the tally to 55.

The new cases, he said, were first- and second-generation cases linked to Patient 26.

"Two of the patients (cases 54 and 55 ) are first-generation cases as they had (continuous) direct contact with Patient 26.

"Cases 51, 52 and 53 are second-generation cases that had indirect contact with Patient 26.

"Investigation and tracing of contacts for the cluster (linked to Patient 26) are ongoing."

On the outcome of yesterday's meeting, Dr Noor Hisham said the ministry had issued a temporary travel ban for Malaysians to three countries.

He said Malaysians should postpone travel plans to Lombardo, Veneto and Emilia-Romagna in Italy; Hokkaido in Japan; and Teheran, Qom and Gilan in Iran.

The meeting decided for a temporary entry restriction to be imposed on all visitors (with the exception of citizens, permanent residents, social pass holders and Malaysian student pass holders) who have visited the cities and territories within the last 14 days.

He said the government would gazette face masks as a controlled item under the Control Support Regulations (Prohibition of Exports) 2020 to ensure sufficient supply for domestic use.

He urged the public to refer to the ministry for updates on the outbreak.

He said the public could get information by contacting CPRC's hotline numbers at 03-88810200, 03-88810600 or 03-88810700.

He urged the public to stop circulating and sharing unverified or fake news about Covid-19.

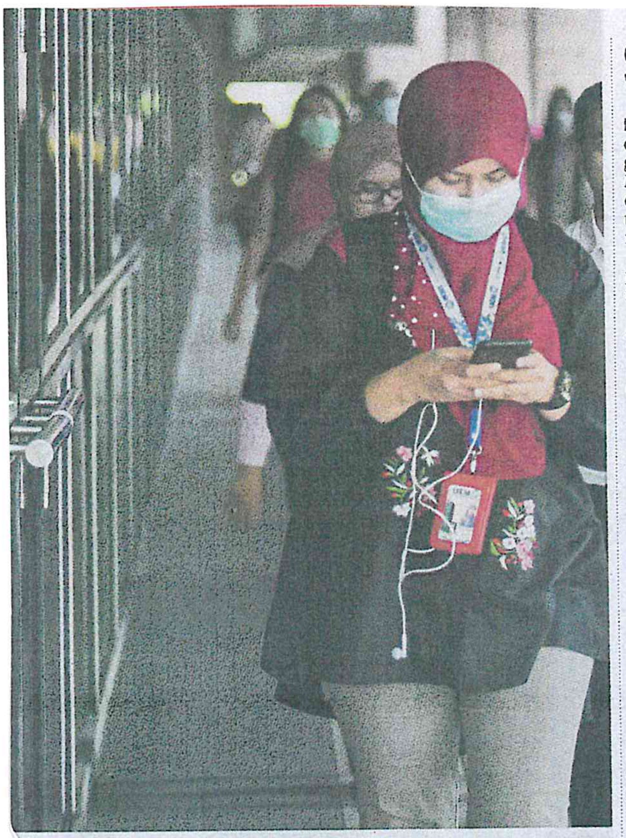
"There is a lot of fake news (on Covid-19).

"If you are unsure or need verification, get in touch with the ministry through the hotline numbers."

**AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES**

**MUKA SURAT : 4-5**

**RUANGAN : NEWS/STORY OF THE DAY**



# Study: Outbreak has led to better hygiene

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Covid-19 outbreak has led to positive hygiene among global citizens, with Malaysians taking the lead in increased handwashing, according to a recent survey involving 11 nations.

The global study found that 95 per cent of the world's population is aware of the outbreak.

It further revealed that 50 per cent of those surveyed had "changed one or more behaviours" to cope with the threat of Covid-19, including increasing handwashing and sanitising, as well as avoiding public places and cutting back on travel.

The findings are part of a new multinational public opinion poll by Harris Interactive and RB, the maker of Dettol and Lysol.

Globally, the study noted that 77 per cent of people are concerned about the virus outbreak. However, the levels of concern over personal risk of infection differ.

The survey showed that countries closer to the epicentre of the virus outbreak, including India, Malaysia, Thailand and China, have expressed the highest levels of concern about contracting the virus — 92 per cent, 91 per cent, 86 per cent and 84 per cent respectively.

These countries have reported the highest levels of personal actions taken to prevent exposure to infections, such as handwashing, with Malaysia recording the highest level of increased handwashing (76 per cent) compared with other countries surveyed.

Thailand came in second at 75 per cent, followed by China (74 per cent), Japan (60 per cent), India (58 per cent), South Africa (51 per cent), the United States (48 per cent), Saudi Arabia (47 per cent), Australia (41 per cent), Germany (40 per cent) and the United Kingdom (35 per cent).

The study found some differences in attitudes and behaviours between genders, with women (57 per cent) more likely to have adopted increased handwashing and hand sanitising, in contrast to men (51 per cent).

Older respondents (those aged 65 and above), who are at risk of complications from infections, are less likely to say that they have changed their handwashing behaviour.

Dr Lisa Ackerley, a chartered environmental health practitioner and hygiene expert, yesterday said the survey showed that the concern about the coronavirus was high, and that it was encouraging to see people practising good personal hygiene habits.

"Not only will this help protect against the virus, but it also helps protect us from respiratory and gastrointestinal diseases."

She advocated the practice of washing one's hands after arriving at a destination to help prevent the spread of Covid-19.

"When you arrive at home, at work, at a restaurant or at the gym, these are moments to trigger reminders for handwashing.

"Keeping your hands away from your face when travelling is a useful tip to reduce the risk of transferring viruses from dirty hands to the eyes, nose or mouth."

The global spread of Covid-19 has led to an epidemic of a different kind, the proliferation of inaccurate news about the virus, which has been called an "infodemic" by the World Health Organisation.

Dettol Malaysia said it was working to educate the public on the importance of good hygiene through its #HygieneStartsWithYou campaign.

RB (Health) Malaysia general manager Oguzhan Silivrili said Dettol Malaysia wanted to encourage more Malaysians to practise good personal hygiene habits.

"Good hygiene is important at all times, even more so during this time of uncertainty.

"Dettol Malaysia wants to play an active role in ensuring the circulation of accurate, credible and timely information to the public via our website, social media (platforms) and partnerships."

The study is the latest in ongoing efforts to support the fight against the spread of the virus and to boost consumers' knowledge.

The study involved 11,000 adults in Australia, China, Germany, India, Japan, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Thailand, the UK and the US.

*Health officers disinfecting a vehicle at Uda Holdings Bhd's building in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, following reports of a board member contracting the Covid-19 virus.* PIC BY MOHAMAD SHAHRIL BADRI SAALI

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that there was some hope on the horizon for the outbreak to dissipate.

Findings of the report said the development of new variations in the spike of Covid-19 cases were "likely caused by mutations and natural selection besides recom-[illegible]ination".

Researchers, however, cau-[illegible]ned that data examined in the study was "very limited", adding that follow-up studies of a larger set of data would be needed to gain a "better understanding" of the evolution and epidemiology of Covid-19.

*Page 1 pic: An illustration of the Covid-19 virus from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.*

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[illegible]vith you an alcohol-based [illegible]nitiser.

[illegible] virus is exposed to a tem-[illegible] of 26°C to 27°C, it will be [illegible]nking hot water and be-[illegible] to the sun will do the [illegible]oid eating ice-cream [illegible]

[illegible] warm salt water to [illegible]us from getting in-[illegible]

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[illegible]ain-[illegible]ash-[illegible]ith [illegible] hand [illegible]g proper [illegible]te and avoiding crowded areas.

In **Johor Baru**, the state Health Department dismissed a viral message about Plaza Angsana, a shopping centre here, being vacated due to two positive Covid-19 cases, as fake.

State Health director Dr Aman Rabu advised the public to stop spreading unverified news as it could cause panic among the people.

"Those who spread fake news can be fined up to RM50,000 or jailed not more than a year, or both, under Section 233 of the Communications and Multimedia Act 1998.

"They can be fined RM1,000 each day for continuing the offence after conviction," he posted on Facebook.

The public can get information on Covid-19 by contacting the National Crisis Preparedness and Response Centre's hotlines at 03-88810200, 03-88810600 or 03-88810700.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES
MUKA SURAT : 4-5
RUANGAN : NEWS/STORY OF THE DAY

STUDY BY PEKING UNIVERSITY

# 'MORE STUDIES NEEDED ON VIRUS MUTATIONS'

Reports of new strains not proof of possible new wave in Covid-19 outbreak, says virologist

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THERE is no reason to panic over any mutation of Covid-19 following a report that Peking University has discovered two strains of the superspreading virus.

Virologist Dr Chee Hui Yee, who studied the report for the *New Straits Times*, said genetic variations commonly occurred when viruses spread from host to host.

"This is common. While the virus replicates itself and spreads from one host to another, there might be some mutations."

"But as far as how virulent or antigenic they are, that needs to be studied further."

Dr Chee said the variation or shift in amino acids documented in the findings was not proof of a new strain or the harbinger of a possible new wave in the Covid-19 outbreak.

"They used computer and bioinformatics to do the analysis and crunch data.

"It's suggesting two strains, but not conclusively stating that there is a new one."

"If you look at the summary, there is a difference in the amino acids, but more data is needed for a conclusive discovery."

CNBC reported that the university's School of Life Sciences and Institut Pasteur of Shanghai found two strains of the coronavirus that could be causing the worldwide outbreak.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the ministry must analyse the scientific journal detailing the university's study before using it as a basis in its research on the coronavirus.

"We need to read the journal before commenting," he told the NST in a WhatsApp message.

He said the Institute of Medical Research was isolating the virus and exploring its serology, as well as looking at its genomics and mapping, as part of a mission to assist the global community in coming up with a cure or vaccine.

"But 'novel' means new, so there is a lot we need to learn on this new virus."

It was reported that research indicated that a more aggressive type of the coronavirus had accounted for 70 per cent of analysed strains, while 30 per cent had been linked to a less aggressive category.

The more aggressive type of the virus was found to be prevalent in the early stages of the outbreak in Wuhan, the Chinese city where Covid-19 was first detected late last year.

However, the frequency of the emergence of the aggressive virus strain was found to have decreased from early January.

Virologist Dr Sazaly Abu Bakar from Universiti Malaysa's Tropical Infectious Diseases Research and Education Centre said the update was not surprising and it was typical of pathogens' evolutionary cycle to become less virulent to ensure their survival through that of their hosts.

"It is not in the interest of the virus to kill the host because it will die as well. Through their evolutionary process, viruses tend to accommodate the hosts to live in them.

"This means they want to cause mild diseases to propagate and that will ensure they can survive."

Dr Sazaly said as more people were infected, the virus became less virulent.

He said this was because it spread and purged faster from one's system, unlike virulent viruses such as Ebola and the Nipah virus.

"As more people survive Covid-19, I won't be surprised that the virus that survives is the one less virulent, as all viruses follow the same pattern. This is so it can exist in perpetuity."

He drew on the World Health Organisation's report that 82 per cent of the cases reported displayed very mild symptoms, which required little or no medical intervention.

He said if Peking University's report was true, it could indicate

*People wearing face masks at Kuala Lumpur Sentral yesterday.* PIC BY ASYRAF HAMZAH

# Fake news spikes following second wave of Covid-19

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Irresponsible quarters are causing panic among the people in the wake of what is dubbed the second wave of Covid-19 by circulating and sharing fake news on social media.

Among the unverified information is an advisory urging the people to exercise caution if they are visiting or within the nine buildings at Kuala Lumpur Sentral here.

The advisory that was dismissed as fake by the Health Ministry suggested that Covid-19 patients had visited the buildings, which included Hotel Ancasa, Pantai Hospital, Kuala Lumpur Sentral and Wisma Felcra.

The Health Ministry, via its Twitter handle @KKMPutrajaya, yesterday urged the people not to spread fake news.

"Do not spread fake news. You can be investigated."

The *New Straits Times* sighted a notice dated March 3 issued by Plaza Sentral Joint Management Body to its tenants.

"It has come to our attention that there is a message circulating concerning tenants of Plaza Sentral and surrounding areas, especially through WhatsApp.

"The message is: 'Guys, whoever coming to KL Sentral please wear your face mask. The Malakoff building has been quarantined and we are asked to work from home from tomorrow onwards. They are shutting down the north and east side of the building at KL Sentral, positive coronavirus for maintenance workers.

"On behalf of Plaza Sentral Joint Management Body and the building management, we would like to confirm that the news is fake. Malakoff is not ceasing operations and none of its workers have contracted coronavirus or Covid-19."

The Health Ministry said a viral message urging the people to contact its communicable disease control branch if they had symptoms of pneumonia was also fake.

It said the message came with a list of 26 hospitals that could handle suspected and confirmed cases of Covid-19.

The United Nations International Children Education Fund yesterday said it had not issued any advice or tips to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

"Fake news alert. Unicef has NOT issued any advice/tips about #coronavirus prevention through WhatsApp in #Malaysia!," it tweeted.

"Be wary of such messages claiming to be from us."

Unicef has urged Malaysians to visit its website for information on how to prevent Covid-19.

Unicef deputy representative in Malaysia, Radoslaw Rzehak, urged Netizens to get experts' advice and refrain from spreading fake news.

"Let experts speak about #COVID19. Stop fake news and improvising medical knowledge. It is too serious to misinform people.

"Follow what medical experts say! Don't listen to and spread fake news!" he tweeted.

On Wednesday, a message allegedly from Unicef made its rounds on social media, offering tips to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

It reads: "Coronavirus is large in size where the cell diameter is 400-500micro and for this reason, wearing any mask can prevent its entry (into the human body).

"The virus is not airborne. Coronavirus can live on surfaces for 12 hours, so wash hands with soap and water.

"It can survive on fabrics for nine hours, so wash clothes and dry them outdoors in the sun for two hours to kill the virus.

"The virus can survive on hands for 10 minutes, so always

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 10
RUANGAN : NATION

# Travel restrictions on more provinces in Italy, Japan and Iran

**PUTRAJAYA:** Malaysia has added travel restrictions on seven new provinces in Italy, Japan and Iran in light of the Covid-19 outbreak.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the areas are Lombardy, Veneto and Emilia-Romagna in Italy, Hokkaido in Japan, as well as Teheran, Qom and Gilan in Iran.

"The government has decided to temporarily restrict visitors, regardless of nationality, from entering Malaysia if they have been to these cities or provinces within 14 days of their arrival in our country.

"Malaysians are also advised to postpone travel to the areas for the time being," said Dr Noor Hisham at a press conference yesterday.

He was speaking after a high-level meeting on Covid-19 chaired by Chief Secretary to the Government Datuk Seri Mohd Zuki Ali.

Malaysia had already issued travel restrictions to visitors from Daegu city and Cheongdo district in South Korea, as well as China's Hubei, Zhejiang and Changdu provinces.

Malaysians in those areas will not be banned from returning, but they will be screened and be asked to self quarantine for 14 days.

Meanwhile, Dr Noor Hisham also announced five new Covid-19 cases in Malaysia, bringing the tally to 55 confirmed cases.

All the five new cases are from the cluster that originated from Malaysia's 26th patient, who is an UDA Holdings board member.

"These new cases are close contacts of the positive cases in the cluster. As of now, the total number of positive cases for this cluster is 26, with investigations and contact tracing still ongoing," he said.