

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 11

RUANGAN : KOMENTAR

Perketat saringan warga asing

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Pada 12 Januari lalu, Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO) mengeluarkan pernyataan berkenaan ancaman penularan wabak coronavirus baharu di daerah Wuhan, China.

Sehingga hari ini, 570 orang dijangkiti dan 17 meninggal dunia disebabkan jangkitan coronavirus baharu ini.

Negara seluruh dunia mula meningkatkan tahap kesiapsiagaan menghadapi ancaman wabak dengan membuat saringan kesihatan di pintu masuk seperti lapangan terbang, pelabuhan dan sempadan.

Klinik dan hospital juga digerak untuk melaporkan kes yang mempunyai gejala seperti demam, lelu, sakit tekak, batuk kering dan mempunyai sejarah perjalanan pergi dan pulang dari China. Ini bagi memastikan sebarang jangkitan awal dapat dikesan melalui

ujian diagnostik, pengesanan kes dan tindakan kuarantin dapat dilakukan.

Jangkitan coronavirus disebabkan sejenis virus yang biasanya ada pada haiwan seperti anjing, babi, kucing, kelawar, burung dan unta. Virus ini boleh menjangkiti sesama haiwan berkenaan, namun atas sebab tertentu boleh berjangkit kepada manusia melalui cecair badan seperti mukus, air liur, air kencing dan najis.

Pekerja veterinar dan penternak lebih mudah dijangkiti kerana banyak terdedah dengan haiwan sebegini. Pada suatu masa, virus ini bermutasi dan menjadikan tubuh manusia sebagai perumah untuk membiak, seterusnya menyebarkan virus kepada manusia lain.

Wabak jangkitan coronavirus bukan baharu berlaku kerana dua jenis jangkitan pernah berlaku sebelum ini, iaitu sindrom nefras akut teruk (SARS) pada 2002 hingga 2003 dan sindrom nefras Timur Tengah (MERS-CoV) pada 2012 hingga kini.

SARS menyebabkan 8,096 kes jangkitan dan 774 kematian, manakala MERS-CoV menyebabkan 2,494 jangkitan dan 858 kes kematian sehingga hari ini.

Melihat jumlah kes berkaitan

penyakit berjangkit, pastinya tindakan lebih berkesan diperlukan untuk mencegah penularan wabak ini dalam dan luar negara.

Bermula daripada kes SARS, WHO pada 2005 mewartakan undang-undang antarabangsa, iaitu *International Health Regulations (IHR)* untuk melindungi nyawa manusia dan hidupan daripada ancaman penyakit yang boleh merebak secara meluas melalui lautan dan pintu antarabangsa.

Melalui IHR, WHO akan mengeluarkan amaran terkini berkenaan wabak antarabangsa dan garis panduan untuk mencegah, melindungi, mengawal dan menyediakan respon kesihatan awam terhadap risiko serta ancaman itu.

Di bawah IHR, WHO juga akan mewartakan amaran kesihatan awam untuk kes yang boleh menyebabkan risiko kesihatan awam disebabkan penularan wabak antarabangsa ini.

Sejak 2007, WHO mewartakan amaran bagi lima kes penyakit berjangkit antaranya pandemik H1N1 influenza (2009), kegagalan penghapusan polio antarabangsa (2014), epidemik ebola di Afrika Barat (2014), wabak virus zika (2016) dan wabak kivu ebola (2018).

Semua negara mesti mematuhi arahan IHR ini dan melakukan tindakan sewajarnya pada peringkat negara masing-masing, bagi mencegah penularan penyakit berjangkit dan melindungi rakyat daripada bahaya penyakit dan komplikasinya.

Melihat situasi terkini seperti isu influenza dan terbaru coronavirus, Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) melakukan yang terbaik dengan meningkatkan kesiapsiagaan menghadapi wabak dengan meningkatkan saringan kesihatan seperti *In-*

fluenza Like Illness (ILI) di pintu masuk antarabangsa seperti lapangan terbang dan pelabuhan, selain pengesanan penyakit berjangkit dan *Severe Acute Respiratory Infections (SARI)* di klinik dan hospital kerajaan serta swasta.

Selain itu, pendidikan kesihatan dan kempen kesedaran untuk rakyat menjaga kebersihan dan mengamalkan etika batuk serta bersin yang betul adalah antara pencegahan yang berkesan.

Namun, negara akan sentiasa terdedah ancaman penyakit berjangkit antarabangsa selagi kita membuka pintu masuk kepada pelancong dan pekerja asing.

Dicadangkan tindakan sinergi antara Kementerian Luar, Kementerian Dalam Negeri dan Kementerian Tenaga Manusia diperlukan untuk memperketatkan saringan warga asing yang masuk ke negara kita.

Pemberian visa percuma diharapkan dapat dinilai semula untuk melindungi kebanjiran warga asing khususnya dari China, India dan negara berpotensi membawa penyakit berjangkit ke negara kita.

Bukankah mencegah itu lebih baik daripada merawat? Maka sama-samalah kita mencegah sebelum parah.

Pemberian visa percuma diharapkan dapat dinilai semula untuk melindungi kebanjiran warga asing khususnya dari China, India dan negara yang berpotensi membawa penyakit berjangkit ke negara kita.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO
 MUKA SURAT : 10
 RUANGAN : LOKAL

Tingkat pengawasan di sekitar KKIA

Kota Kinabalu: Kerajaan negeri meningkatkan pengawasan di Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa Kota Kinabalu (KKIA), di sini, susulan penularan wabak koronavirus di Wuhan, China. Menteri Kesihatan dan Kesejahteraan Rakyat Sabah, Datuk Frankie Poon Ming Fung berkata, langkah itu termasuk membuat ujian saringan terhadap semua penumpang terutamanya membabitkan penerbangan antarabangsa. "Pada masa ini, tiada kes koronavirus dilaporkan di Sabah. "Orang ramai dinasihatkan tidak panik, tetapi perlu berhati-hati dalam kehidupan seharian seperti memakai topeng muka, mencuci tangan secara kerap dan elak kawasan yang sesak," katanya. Sebelum itu, beliau bersama Pengarah Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri (JKN) Sabah, Datuk Christina Rundi membuat kunjungan ke KKIA jam 3 petang bagi me-

lakukan pemantauan rapat terhadap ujian saringan *Thermal Scanner* yang ditempatkan di lapangan terbang berkenaan. Mengulas mengenai langkah peningkatan pengawasan di KKIA, Poon berkata, pengasingan segera akan terus dilakukan jika ada penumpang dalam keadaan mencurigakan. Sementara itu, berikutan perayaan Tahun Baharu Cina tidak lama lagi, pihaknya menjangkakan ramai penduduk tempatan kembali untuk meraikan sambutan itu dari luar negara termasuk kemasukan pelancong China ke Sabah. "Sebelum ini, langkah pengawasan lebih tinggi adalah perlu memandangkan kejadian penularan wabak koronavirus baru-baru ini. "Pengasingan akan dilakukan sebaik keadaan yang disyaki ditemui atau dikesan dalam penumpang untuk mencegah atau mengelakkan penyebaran mana-mana virus," katanya.



FRANKIE (dua dari kanan) memantau ujian saringan yang dilakukan.

Malindo gantung operasi antarabangsa Wuhan

Kuala Lumpur: Malindo Air menggantung serta-merta penerbangan antarabangsanya di antara Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa Kuala Lumpur (KLIA) dengan Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa Wuhan Tianhe, China. Syarikat penerbangan berkenaan dalam kenyataan berkata, penggantungan penerbangan itu adalah sebagai tindak balas terhadap larangan perjalanan yang dikeluarkan pegawai di Wuhan berikutan penularan wabak koronavirus bagi menjamin keselamatan dan

keselesaan perjalanan udara dalam kalangan kru penerbangan serta penumpang. "Penumpang yang menempah perjalanan dari 23 Januari hingga 8 Februari 2020 boleh menghubungi pusat panggilan di +603-78415388 atau datang ke kaunter tiket untuk bantuan lanjut. "Sementara itu, kami akan sentiasa memantau keadaan terkini di Wuhan dan memaklumkan perkembangan terkini kepada penumpang di laman web kami," katanya.



AirAsia batal semua penerbangan dari Kota Kinabalu, Bangkok dan Phuket ke wilayah tengah China

Kuala Lumpur

Berdasarkan situasi semasa di Wuhan, AirAsia mengumumkan pembatalan semua penerbangannya dari Kota Kinabalu, Bangkok dan Phuket ke Wuhan, China sehingga 28 Januari ini. AirAsia dalam kenyataan berkata, langkah berkenaan diambil sebagai mengikut nasihat dan peraturan pihak berkuasa kesihatan tempatan dan global, termasuk Pertubuhan Kesihatan Dunia (WHO). Syarikat penerbangan itu dalam kenyataan berkata, penumpang AirAsia yang

kini berada di Wuhan perlu mematuhi pengumuman yang dibuat kerajaan China serta perlu menghubungi kedutaan masing-masing di negara berkenaan. Bagi pelanggan yang ingin membuat pertukaran perjalanan, mereka boleh memilih untuk menukar mana-mana laluan di China ke Kota Kinabalu, Bangkok dan Phuket tanpa sebarang kos tambahan, bergantung kepada kekosongan tempat duduk. Ia tertakluk untuk penerbangan sehingga 29 Januari ini. Selain itu, penumpang juga boleh mengekalkan

harga tiket dalam akaun AirAsia BIG Loyalty untuk perjalanan akan datang dan boleh ditukar untuk tempahan dalam tempoh 90 hari. Ia juga tertakluk untuk semua penerbangan sehingga 29 Januari ini. Sekiranya enggan membuat pilihan berkenaan, penumpang boleh mendapatkan pulangan bayaran penuh sekiranya penerbangan mereka dibatalkan. Pilihan ini tertakluk untuk penerbangan sehingga 15 Februari 2020 dan penerbangan balik dari 16 hingga 29 Februari 2020.

11 juta penduduk kena kuarantin

Putrajaya: Kerajaan China mengenakan perintah kuarantin kepada rakyatnya di wilayah Wuhan susulan penularan wabak koronavirus atau dikenali sebagai 2019-nCoV. Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) dalam ciapan di Twitter berkongsi perkara berkenaan dengan memaklumkan 11 juta penduduk di daerah terbabit tidak dibenarkan keluar. Menurut perkongsian kementerian itu, semua pengangkutan awam seperti bas, subway dan feri dihentikan sementara bermula 10 pagi semalam. Selain itu, lapangan terbang ditutup dan semua penerbangan dari Wuhan dibatalkan. Terdahulu media melaporkan sehingga kini sembilan mangsa maut akibat virus itu dan 400 lagi dilaporkan di-

jangkiti virus berkenaan. Sebelum ini, pihak berkuasa China melaporkan, wabak koronavirus yang bermula di Wuhan kini merebak ke wilayah lain termasuk Beijing dan Shanghai. KKM sebelum ini meningkatkan langkah pencegahan, terutama di pintu masuk berikutan penyebaran wabak koronavirus di Wuhan, China. Malaysia dijangka menerima kehadiran 30 juta pelancong sempena Tahun Melawat Malaysia 2020 dan jumlah pelancong China dijangka bertambah dengan pelepasan visa 15 hari diberi kerajaan, baru-baru ini. Sebelum ini, media melaporkan satu virus baharu daripada kumpulan virus sama yang mencetuskan Sindrom Pernafasan Akut Teruk (SARS) dikesan tersebar di luar sempadan China buat kali per-

tama dengan satu kes muncul di Thailand, minggu lalu. Bagaimanapun Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah memaklumkan tiada kes membabitkan koronavirus baharu dilaporkan di negara ini namun kerajaan mengambil langkah siap sedia bagi menghadapi potensi penularan penyakit itu. Katanya, antara langkah ke-siapsiagaan dilaksana ialah memaklumkan kepada semua anggota KKM di semua peringkat termasuk pintu masuk antarabangsa negara bagi mengambil langkah pencegahan dan kawalan infeksi. "Kita beri penekanan dan memperkukuhkan aktiviti saringan demam sedia ada dalam kalangan pengembara oleh anggota yang bertugas di pintu masuk antarabangsa negara," katanya.



PAPAN tanda menunjukkan penerbangan yang dibatalkan di Lapangan Terbang Tianhe, Wuhan, China.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 11

RUANGAN : LOKAL

SEORANG penumpang berdiri selepas tiba di stesen kereta api Wuhan yang lengang akibat kemunculan wabak koronavirus.



KORONAVIRUS (2019-nCoV)

Jangkitan virus telah meningkat melebihi 500 kes
17 kematian dilaporkan berlaku di China.
(sehinggal 23 Jan 2020)

Bermula di Wuhan, China

JEPUN
KOREA SELATAN
AS
HONG KONG
TAIWAN
THAILAND

Fakta penting

- 2019-nCoV merupakan keluarga koronavirus
- Gejala adalah demam dan sesak nafas
- Merupakan virus yang tidak pernah dijumpai pada manusia (novel virus)

Bagaimana mencegah/dari dijangkiti virus ini?

- Ketap mencuci tangan
- Elakkan dari mengambil iaitu memakan atau meminum/sebarang produk haiwan yang mentah/ tidak dimasak dengan sempurna seperti telur, susu, daging & sebagainya
- Menutup mulut dan hidung ketika bersin dan batuk
- Elakkan sentuhan torso dengan haiwan liar, daging & kandang
- Elak sentuhan dengan individu yang mempunyai gejala

Sumber: CHRC, Wikipedia dan WHO

Tiga daripada 4 diuji negatif

Kuala Lumpur: Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) mengesahkan tiga daripada empat pesakit yang disyaki menghidap wabak koronavirus atau dikenali sebagai 2019 n-CoV di negara ini didapati negatif jangkitan itu.

Ketua Pengarahnya Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, mereka dimasukkan ke wad pengasingan bagi membolehkan rawatan dan siasa-

tan lanjut dijalankan.

"Ujian makmal dijalankan ke atas sampel milik tiga pesakit iaitu dua dari Selangor dan seorang dari Sabah didapati negatif jangkitan itu.

"Kita belum menerima laporan ujian makmal bagi seorang lagi pesakit dari Sabah. Namun pesakit terabit stabil," katanya.

Noor Hisham berkata, berdasarkan statistik, 448 kes disahkan dijangkiti koronavirus dengan kebanyakannya dilaporkan di China sehingga kelmarin.

Beliau berkata, sembilan daripadanya dilaporkan dilaparkan dari luar China, tetapi ada sejarah perjalanan melawati Wuhan.

"Sehingga kini, cara jangkitan masih tidak diketahui dengan jelas. Kes yang dikesan didapati mempunyai gejala jangkitan saluran pernafasan seperti demam, batuk dan sukar bernafas.

"Ada kemungkinan berlaku penularan daripada individu kepada individu lain khususnya yang rapat.

"Namun siasatan dijalankan Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO) masih tidak dapat memberikan jawapan jelas dan mengenal pasti cara jangkitan," katanya.

Menurutnya, buat masa ini WHO belum mengeluarkan larangan lawatan dan perdagangan dengan China.

Beliau berkata, pihaknya menyarankan orang ramai yang ingin melawat Wuhan supaya menangguhkan perjalanan kecuali untuk urusan penting yang tidak boleh dielakkan.



"Kita belum menerima laporan ujian makmal bagi seorang lagi pesakit dari Sabah"
Dr Noor Hisham

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 13
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Wabak coronavirus baharu

4 disyaki kena virus disahkan negatif

Kes berkenaan masing-masing dua di Sabah, Selangor

Oleh Ahmad Suhael Adnan
 ahmad.suhael@bh.com.my

Kuala Lumpur: Ujian makmal terhadap empat individu yang disyaki dijangkiti coronavirus baharu dikenali sebagai 2019-nCoV, disahkan negatif.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata Pusat Kesiapsiagaan dan Tindak Cepat Krisis (CPRC) Kebangsaan menerima laporan empat kes, dua di Sabah dan Selangor.

Katanya, semua empat individu itu dimasukkan ke wad pengasingan sebaik dikeksa, bagi membolehkan rawatan dan siasatan dijalankan.

"Ujian makmal pada sampel empat individu berkenaan mendapati negatif bagi jangkitan 2019-nCoV," katanya dalam satu kenyataan, semalam.

2019-nCoV mula tersebar di Wuhan sejak awal bulan ini apabila beberapa individu memiliki simptom seperti pneumonia, sebelum Pertubuhan Kesihatan Se-

dunia (WHO) mengesahkan ia adalah wabak koronavirus yang baharu.

Beberapa kes di luar Wuhan mula dikeksa kemudian, termasuk di Beijing, Shanghai dan Guangdong, selain Thailand, Jepun, Korea Selatan, Taiwan dan Amerika Syarikat. Pihak berkuasa China mengesahkan 571 kes dan 17 kematian dicatatkan setakat semalam.

Sebuah pasar makanan laut dan haiwan eksotik di Wuhan dipercayai menjadi punca wabak itu, manakala beberapa media antarabangsa melaporkan ia berkemungkinan tersebar kepada manusia daripada ular, yang turut dijual di pasar berkenaan.

Mengulas langkah siap siaga dilaksanakan Kementerian Kesihatan selaras saranan WHO, Dr Noor Hisham memaklumkan, aktiviti saringan di pintu masuk antarabangsa kini diperkukuh dan individu disyaki akan dirujuk untuk pemeriksaan lanjut.

Jelasnya, saringan pesakit di klinik kesihatan dan hospital turut diperkukuh, manakala tatacara pengurusan kes disyaki wabak 2019-nCoV membabitkan fasiliti kesihatan dan swasta turut dikeluarkan.

Sementara itu, beliau turut menyarankan rakyat Malaysia menanggukkan perjalanan ke Wuhan, China bagi mencegah pe-

nularan wabak 2019-nCoV, namun jika terpaksa, mereka perlu mengelak mengunjungi tempat tumpuan umum atau bergaul rapat dengan individu yang memiliki gejala wabak berkenaan.

Jelasnya, mereka juga perlu mengamalkan tahap kebersihan yang tinggi, selain membawa penutup mulut dan hidung serta pencuci tangan untuk digunakan apabila perlu.

"Semasa dalam tempoh lawatan, elakkan daripada melawat ladang haiwan, pasar yang menjual haiwan hidup, tempat sembelihan haiwan atau menyentuh sebarang jenis haiwan serta mengelak memakan sebarang produk haiwan yang mentah atau tidak dimasak dengan sempurna," katanya.

"Mereka juga perlu segera mendapatkan rawatan perubahan sekiranya mengalami gejala jangkitan saluran pernafasan seperti demam, batuk mahupun sukar bernafas, dalam tempoh 14 hari selepas pulang daripada lawatan itu.

"Maklumkan mengenai sebarang perjalanan berkenaan kepada doktor yang merawat," jelasnya.

China kuarantin dua bandar. Muka 40

Kedah, Sabah pertingkat saringan

Kuala Lumpur: Kedah dan Sabah mengambil langkah berjaga-jaga berikutan penularan kes coronavirus.

Di Alor Setar, EXCO Kesihatan, Pembangunan Luar Bandar, Agama dan Syarikat Berkaitan Kerajaan Negeri, Datuk Dr Ismail Salleh, berkata kerajaan negeri mengambil langkah berjaga-jaga di pintu sempadan Malaysia-Thailand berikutan laporan penularan coronavirus di negara gajah putih itu.

Katanya, ia termasuk melakukan pemeriksaan rapi (imbasan suhu badan) terhadap penumpang yang memasuki negeri ini melalui Kompleks Kastam, Imigrasi, Kuarantin dan Keselamatan (ICQS) Bukit Kayu Hitam.

"Apabila kita diberitahu mengenai penularan virus, kakitangan Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri (JKN) yang bertugas di pintu sempadan akan lebih berjaga-jaga, kita mungkin akan kurangkan suhu saringan kepada 36 Celsius. Suhu badan manusia akan menurun apabila berada di tempat penghawa dingin, kita tidak mahu terlepas pandang individu yang berisiko.

"Jika individu dikeksa ada tanda-tanda demam maka dia akan menjalani pemeriksaan lanjut dan jika didapati demam dia akan dikuarantin.

"Pegawai kesihatan bertugas akan membuat ujian dan siasatan terperinci. Kita akan tanya sudah berapa hari dia demam, batuk, dari mana dia datang, dia pernah pergi mana dan sebagainya," katanya ketika ditemui di Wisma Darul Aman di sini, semalam.

Mengulas lanjut, Dr Ismail berkata, pihaknya akan menambah kakitangan dan pegawai peruba-

tan di ICQS sekiranya terdapat penambahan kes demam semasa saringan di kompleks berkenaan.

Kelmarin, Thailand mengesan empat kes coronavirus termasuk seorang wanita warga tempatan.

Di Kota Kinabalu, Menteri Kesihatan dan Kesejahteraan Rakyat Sabah, Datuk Frankie Poon Ming Fung berkata, pengawasan di Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa Kota Kinabalu (KKIA), ditingkatkan.

Katanya, langkah berjaga-jaga itu termasuk membuat ujian saringan kepada semua penumpang terutamanya membabitkan penempatan antarabangsa.

"Pada masa ini, tiada kes coronavirus dilaporkan di Sabah. Orang ramai diingatkan tidak panik tetapi perlu berhati-hati dan mengamalkan langkah pencegahan dalam kehidupan seharian seperti memakai topeng muka, mencuci tangan secara kerap dan elakkan daripada kawasan yang sesak," katanya dalam kenyataan semalam.

Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri meletakkan *Thermal Scanner* di KKIA dan pengasingan segera akan dilakukan sekiranya terdapat penumpang yang berada dalam keadaan mencurigakan.

Sementara itu, berikutan perayaan Tahun Baharu Cina tidak lama lagi, kerajaan negeri menjangkakan ramai penduduk tempatan kembali untuk meraikan sambutan itu dari luar negara termasuklah kemusakan pelancong China ke Sabah.

Sementara itu, Ketua Pengarah Kastam Diraja Malaysia, Datuk Paddy Abd Halim, berkata pihaknya akan membantu saringan pelancong asing.

Syarikat gantung penerbangan ke Wuhan

Kuala Lumpur: Malindo Air dan AirAsia menangguhkan penerbangan ke Wuhan, China berikutan penularan virus coronavirus di negara berkenaan.

Malindo Air dalam kenyataan berkata, ia menggantung serentak penerbangan antarabangsanya di antara Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa Kuala Lumpur (KLIA) dengan Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa Wuhan Tianhe, China.

Penggantungan penerbangan itu adalah sebagai tindak balas terhadap larangan perjalanan yang dikeluarkan oleh pegawai di Wuhan berikutan penularan wabak coronavirus, bagi menjamin keselamatan dan kesesuaian perjalanan udara dalam kalangan krew penerangan serta penumpang, lapor BERNAMA.

Sementara itu, AirAsia juga membatalkan penerbangan dari Kota Kinabalu, Bangkok dan Phuket ke Wuhan sehingga Selasa ini.

AirAsia Bhd dalam satu kenyataan berkata, mereka yang berada di Wuhan dinasihatkan mematuhi pengumuman yang dibuat kerajaan China dan pihak berkuasa kesihatannya serta menghubungi wakil misi diplomatik atau kedutaan masing-masing di negara itu untuk mendapatkan bantuan.

"AirAsia mematuhi nasihat dan peraturan pihak berkuasa kesihatan global dan tempatan, termasuk Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO)," katanya, semalam.

AirAsia berkata, pihaknya mengawasi keadaan itu dengan teliti dan akan terus memberikan maklumat mengenai perkembangan terkini.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NEGERI

KKM ambil langkah segera

Nasihatkan orang ramai supaya tangguhkan perjalanan ke Wuhan

Oleh MOHAMMAD FAIRUZ JUMAIN

SHAH ALAM

Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) menasihatkan orang ramai supaya menangguhkan perjalanan ke Wuhan, China kecuali untuk urusan yang tidak boleh dielakkan berikutan penularan wabak coronavirus.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, bagi memastikan wabak berkenaan tidak menular di Malaysia, KKM telah mengambil langkah pencegahan awal seperti bekerjasama dengan agensi-agensi kerajaan berkaitan untuk memperkukuhkan aktiviti saringan kesihatan di semua

Jumlah kes coronavirus yang disyaki di Malaysia

Jumlah: 4 KES

3 kes adalah NEGATIF

- 2 di Selangor
- 1 di Sabah

1 lagi kes masih menunggu laporan makmal

- di Sabah

Ujian makmal dijalankan dengan mengambil sampel pesakit yang disyaki ada simptom jangkitan.

FOTO: FB KETUA PENGARAH KESIHATAN



NORHISHAM

pintu masuk negara.

Menurutnya, saringan pesakit di klinik kesihatan dan jabatan kecemasan hospital turut diperkukuhkan bagi memastikan kes yang disyaki dirujuk serta dikendalikan segera dengan memenuhi langkah-langkah pencegahan dan kawalan infeksi.

“Terdapat 26 buah hospital KKM yang telah dikenal pasti di seluruh negara bagi mengendalikan kes-kes yang disyaki tersebut.

“Sampel yang diperolehi daripada pesakit akan dihantar untuk menjalani ujian pengesanan dan pengesahan di Institut Penyelidikan Peruba-

tan (IMR) serta Makmal Kesihatan Awam Kebangsaan (MKAK) yang merupakan makmal sedia ada yang berkeupayaan untuk menjalankan ujian.

“Sekiranya terdapat kes disyaki coronavirus yang dikesan daripada mana-mana fasiliti kesihatan, kes akan dilaporkan dengan segera kepada pihak Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah, Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri dan Pusat Kesiapsiagaan dan Tindak Cepat Krisis (CPRC) Kebangsaan,” katanya dalam satu kenyataan semalam.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, setakat ini pihak CPRC Kebangsaan telah menerima empat kes yang disyaki dijangkiti coronavirus dan pesakit berkenaan telah dimasukkan ke wad pengasingan bagi membolehkan rawatan dan penyiasatan lanjut dijalankan.

“Ujian makmal dijalankan ke atas sampel milik tiga orang pesakit pertama didapati negatif bagi jangkitan coronavirus,” katanya.

Kastam bantu bendung potensi wabak coronavirus

PETALING JAYA - Kastam Diraja Malaysia akan membantu saringan kemasukan pelancong asing ke negara ini dalam usaha membendung kemungkinan penularan wabak coronavirus.

Ketua Pengarahnya, Datuk Paddy Abd Halim berkata, pihaknya terlibat secara tidak langsung bukan sahaja melakukan saringan

terhadap pelancong asing malahan makanan yang dibawa masuk atau diimport dari luar negara.

“Kementerian Kesihatan mempunyai sistem saringan, cuma Jabatan Veterinar telah meminta bantuan melakukan pemantauan terutama ke atas makanan yang mungkin mengandungi virus itu,” katanya di sini semalam.

Fakta mengenai coronavirus

Apa itu coronavirus?

- Virus ini masih belum diketahui secara salins. Terdapat ratusan kes telah disahkan dijangkiti virus ini yang menyebabkan pesakit mengalami radang paru-paru. Pakar menjangkakan jumlah itu akan terus meningkat sehingga menjadi keblimbangan di seluruh dunia.

Dari mana asalnya virus ini?

- Virus baharu sentiasa dikesan sepanjang masa dan ia merebak dari satu spesies ke spesies yang lain termasuk manusia tanpa disedari.

Apakah kesan daripada virus ini?

- Sindrom Pernafasan Akut Teruk (SARS) yang juga disebabkan oleh coronavirus telah membunuh 774 daripada 8,098 mangsa yang dijangkiti dalam wabak yang bermula di China pada 2002.

Apakah tanda-tanda gejala ini?

- Ia bermula dengan demam, diikuti oleh batuk kering dan selepas seminggu, pesakit akan mengalami sesak nafas dan sesetengah daripada mereka perlu mendapatkan rawatan di hospital. Gejala-gejala daripada virus keluarga coronavirus ini bermula dengan selesema ringan namun boleh membawa maut.

Bahayakah virus ini?

- Sehingga kini 17 orang sudah meninggal dunia akibat virus ini iaitu lebih dari tiga peratus kes yang dilaporkan, namun mereka yang dijangkiti coronavirus mengambil sedikit masa untuk membunuh, jadi lebih ramai pesakit mungkin mati.

Bagaimana virus ini tersebar?

- Virus ini menjangkiti paru-paru. Batuk dan bersin adalah laluan penghantaran wabak tersebut.

Bagaimana virus boleh dihentikan?

- Tidak ada vaksin. Satu-satunya cara menghentikan penyebaran virus adalah untuk mendiagnosis pesakit dan merawatnya secara berasingan.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 2

RUANGAN : NEWS/STORY OF THE DAY

HIGH ALERT

3 PEOPLE TEST NEGATIVE FOR WUHAN VIRUS

4th person isolated in KK hospital while samples undergo tests

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FLIGHTS to Wuhan, China, have been cancelled amid fears of Wuhan virus transmission, but the National Crisis Preparedness and Response Centre (CPRC) has already received four suspected cases of 2019-nCoV.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said samples from three patients were found to be negative for 2019-nCoV infection.

On the latest suspected case involving an air traveller, he said the individual had been taken to the isolation ward at a hospital in Sabah on Wednesday and was reported to be in stable condition.

"The samples from these cases have been sent to the Institute for Medical Research to undergo detection and validation tests.

"Test results will be available soon," he said yesterday.

He said upon detection of suspected patients, they would be placed in isolation wards for treatment and investigation.

It was reported yesterday that a

man was rushed to Queen Elizabeth Hospital here from Kota Kinabalu International Airport (KKIA).

Dr Noor Hisham told the *New Straits Times* that the patient had influenza-like symptoms.

Although the mode of viral transmission had yet to be determined, he said there was a possibility of the virus being transmitted from one person to another.

On Wednesday, the World Health Organisation held its first International Health Regulations Emergency Committee for Pneumonia due to the Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) to find out if a global health emergency could be issued.

The Public Health Emergency of International Concern could be declared only after committee members reached a consensus.

"WHO has been working with Chinese authorities and global experts from the day we were informed, to learn more about the virus, how it affects the people who are sick with it, how they can be treated and what countries can do to respond," WHO said.

The meeting resumed yesterday.

Sabah authorities yesterday put KKIA on high alert. Crews and visitors were required to undergo screenings upon arrival on international flights at the aerobridge before heading for Immigration clearance.

Passengers with symptoms of coronavirus infections would be



placed in an isolation room.

The Foreign Ministry advised Malaysians to defer non-essential travel to Wuhan and other areas that might be affected by the coronavirus outbreak.

Following China's decision to suspend outbound travel from Wuhan effective yesterday, the ministry said Malaysians residing in or travelling to affected areas were advised to prioritise their health and safety by taking precautions and adhering to instructions from local authorities.

"The ministry has also taken note of the decision by several airlines to suspend flights to and from Wuhan starting from Thursday until further notice," Wisma Putra said.

Malaysians seeking consular assistance and services could contact the nearest Malaysian diplomatic missions in China.

AirAsia and Malindo Air, which have direct flights between Kuala Lumpur and Kota Kinabalu to Wuhan, temporarily suspended their services to the Chinese city.

The suspension concerned flights from Kuala Lumpur International Airport, KKIA and Wuhan Tianhe International Airport.

Malindo Air said the flight suspension was in response to the travel ban in Wuhan and was aimed at ensuring the safety, security and comfort of the flight crew and passengers.

It said passengers who hold a booking for travel between Jan 23 and Feb 8 could contact its call centre (03-7841 5388) or walk-in to a ticketing office for help.



A Health Department employee monitoring a thermal scanner at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport. PIC BY AHMAD IRHAM MOHD NOOR

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



Sabah Health and People's Wellbeing Minister Datuk Frankie Poon (second from right) and Sabah Health director Datuk Dr Christina Rundi (right) monitoring travellers at the Kota Kinabalu International Airport yesterday. PIC COURTESY OF SABAH HEALTH AND PEOPLE'S WELLBEING MINISTRY

Studies suggest role of bats, snakes in outbreak

BEIJING: A new strain of coronavirus that emerged in China may have originated in bats or snakes, according to genetic analysis of the virus that has killed 17 people.

The theories are based on examination of the genome sequence of the virus released by authorities in the wake of the outbreak, with two studies pointing to the likely role of bats in the outbreak.

One study, published on Tuesday in the journal *Science China Life Sciences*, which is sponsored by the Chinese Academy of Sciences, looked at relations between the new strain and other viruses.

It found the coronavirus that emerged from Wuhan city was closely related to a strain that exists in bats.

"Bats being the native host of the Wuhan CoV (coronavirus) would be the logical and convenient reasoning, though it remains likely there was intermediate host(s) in the transmission cascade from bats to humans," researchers from several institutions in China wrote in the paper.

That study did not speculate about which animal could have been an "intermediate host", but a second study published on Wednesday in the *Journal of Medical Virology* identifies snakes as the possible culprit.

"To search for (a) potential virus reservoir, we have carried out a comprehensive sequence analysis and comparison. Results from our analysis suggest that snake is the most probable wildlife animal reservoir," the paper said.

Researchers caution that their conclusions required "further validation by experimental studies in animal models".

Neither study explained how the virus might have been transmitted from animals to humans.

But they could offer clues to Chinese authorities as they hunt for the source of the outbreak.

The food market where the virus surfaced offered a range of exotic wildlife for sale, including live foxes, crocodiles, wolf puppies, giant salamanders, snakes, rats, peacocks, porcupines, camel meat and other game.

Gao Fu, director of the Chinese centre for disease control and prevention, on Wednesday said authorities believed the virus likely came from "wild animals at the seafood market" though the exact source remains undetermined. **AFF**

China locks down 21m people in 3 cities

AirAsia said it cancelled flights from Kota Kinabalu, Bangkok and Phuket to Wuhan until Jan 28.

"We are monitoring this situation and will continue to provide information on the latest developments."

It said guests who wish to change their travel plans to or from Wuhan could reroute, retain credit or request for a full refund.

It said travellers returning to Malaysia could reroute to any destination in China for flights to Kota Kinabalu, Bangkok and Phuket without additional cost, subject to seat availability, applicable for all flights until Feb 29.

Sabah Health and People's Wellbeing Minister Datuk Frankie Poon and state Health director Datuk Dr Christina Rundi visited KKIA following the installation of thermal screening devices at 3am yesterday.

It is learnt that a AirAsia Flight AK2139, a commercial direct flight from Wuhan, arrived at 3.55am.

It was reported that Wuhan Tianhe International Airport and the city's mass transit system had been suspended indefinitely to curb the spread of the disease. Measures at railway stations and airport had been put on hold. Authorities urged people to avoid leaving Wuhan unless for a "special reason".

More than 570 people have been infected since the virus was first reported in Wuhan on Jan 23.

WUHAN: China locked down nearly 20 million in two cities at the centre of a deadly virus outbreak yesterday, banning planes and trains from leaving in an unprecedented move aimed at containing the disease that has already spread to other countries.

The virus has claimed 17 lives since emerging from a seafood and animal market in Wuhan, infected hundreds of other people nationwide and been detected as far away as the United States.

Streets and shopping centres in Wuhan, a major port city in central Hubei province with a population of 11 million people, were eerily quiet after authorities told residents not to leave town "without a special reason".

Trains and planes out of here were indefinitely suspended, tolls on roads out the city were closed, leading to fear and panic for those who were trapped.

Hours later, the authorities in neighbouring Huanggang announced that public transport and train services would be suspended at midnight, while people were told to not leave the city of 7.5 million.

All of Huanggang's cinemas, Internet cafes and the central market were closed.

A third city, 1.1 million-popu-

lation Ezhou, announced that train station had been temporarily closed earlier in the day.

"We are feeling as though it is the end of the world," said one Wuhan resident on China's Twitter-like Weibo platform, voicing concerns about shortages of food and disinfectant.

Another described being on the "verge of tears" when the quarantine was announced, with the misery compounded by it coming on the eve of the Lunar New Year.

In Beijing, the government cancelled massive gatherings that usually attract throngs at temples during the New Year holiday.

Wuhan's train station and airport, which should have been packed with people travelling home for family reunions, were almost empty except for workers yesterday afternoon.

More than 570 people have been infected with the virus in China, with most cases in Wuhan, where a seafood market that illegally sold wild animals had been identified as the epicentre of the outbreak.

The coronavirus has caused alarm because of its similarity to Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), which killed nearly 650 people in mainland China and Hong Kong in 2002 and 2003.

The first case of the new virus was confirmed on Dec 31, and it has since been detected in Japan, Hong Kong, Macau, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and the US.

The 17 people who died in China were aged 48 to 89 and had pre-existing health conditions, Chinese health authorities said.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) on Wednesday delayed a decision on whether to declare a global health emergency. The emergency committee met again yesterday after experts were split over declaring a public health emergency.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said "more information" was needed, but he also praised China's "very, very strong measures" that would help control the epidemic and "minimise the chances of this outbreak spreading internationally".

The National Health Commission announced measures to curb the disease, including sterilisation and ventilation at airports and bus stations, as well as inside planes and trains. **AFF**

Page 1 pic: A train passenger standing at the nearly-deserted Wuhan train station, usually full of passengers ahead of the Lunar New Year, yesterday.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 8

RUANGAN : NATION

'Take legal action against anti-vaccine groups'

by RASHVINJEET S. BEDI
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KUALA LUMPUR: A group of healthcare experts and NGOs want the government to take legal action against anti-vaccine groups, saying that their action posed serious health risks.

Malaysian Public Health Medicine Specialist Association president Dr Zainal Ariffin Omar said that while there was freedom of speech, there was a need to prioritise the health of the public.

He said that the first step would be education, but that if it didn't work, he hoped the government would take action against them.

"They benefited from the vaccines themselves.

"But now as parents, they want to expose their children to these risks. Is it fair?"

"It is the impact on public health that we are worried about," he said during a press conference at the International Medical University yesterday.

Representing 22 healthcare groups and NGOs, Dr Zainal said they want the government to enact relevant legislation for mandatory vaccination.

The group hopes the government subsidises vaccines in the National Immunisation Programme (NIP) for children, regardless if they are indigenous or otherwise.

"No child should be left behind,"



Showing support: Members of the IMU and other NGOs holding placards supporting the need to vaccinate children against preventable diseases at the International Medical University, Bukit Jalil.

said Dr Zainal, adding that the government should review and amend the Fee Act 2015 so that non-citizens could also get the vaccinations without being charged high costs.

"Vaccinations are one of the most cost-effective ways of reducing preventable diseases and its consequences."

He said that in the last two centuries, vaccines had contributed to the eradication of smallpox, reduced child mortality rates and prevented countless birth defects and lifelong

disabilities, such as paralysis from polio.

He added that despite the overwhelming evidence on the benefits of immunisation, there were still widespread misconceptions about the efficacy and safety.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) in 2019 identified vaccine hesitancy as one of the top 10 global public health threats.

Dr Zainal said that the anti-vaccine movement in the country was getting more organised and vocal,

becoming a threat in the control of vaccine preventable diseases.

Under the NIP, vaccinations are given free at all government clinics for 12 major preventable childhood diseases such as diphtheria, polio and measles.

In December last year, a three-month-old boy from Tuaran was admitted to the intensive care unit with polio, the first reported case in 27 years in Malaysia.

Malaysia was declared polio-free by WHO in 2000.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 10

RUANGAN : NATION

Ministry: MOs contracts extended

'Decision was made after discussions between Guan Eng and Dr Dzulkefly'

By SHARON LING
and ANDY CHUA
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SIBU: The Health Ministry has decided to extend the service of medical officers who had their contracts terminated abruptly, it was announced.

Sarawak Pakatan Harapan chairman Chong Chieng Jen, who disclosed this yesterday, said the ministry made the decision following discussions between Finance

Minister Lim Guan Eng and Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad.

"I brought up the matter with Lim, who then spoke with Dr Dzulkefly.

"The ministry made the decision to extend the contracts of all the affected medical officers," he said in a statement yesterday.

With this, Chong said the issue was considered resolved and thanked the media for highlighting

the matter.

The plight of four doctors came to light on Jan 18 when the Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP) education bureau gave details on the issue.

Two of them, Dr Bong Ing Hui and Dr Wong Woan Hui, were serving at Sibu General Hospital while the other two served at Hospital Sultanah Nora Ismail in Johor and Hospital Tengku Ampuan Afzan in Pahang.

On Wednesday, two more medical officers and four dental officers wrote to the SUPP on their contract terminations.

SUPP took up the matter, questioning the terminations at a time when there was a shortage of specialists.

Dr Wong and Dr Bon, when contacted, said they were pleasantly surprised. They thanked the SUPP education bureau and the press for highlighting their plight.

"I have not heard the news officially. I want it in black and white," said Dr Bong, 29.

Dr Wong, 30, said she wanted to know the term of the extension.

Dudong SUPP chairman Wong Ching Yong welcomed the development but said there was a need to conduct a probe on the terminations.

"The Health Ministry must do an internal investigation as to why this issue had been swept under the carpet for years," he said.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 16

RUANGAN : NATION

Three negative, one waiting for test results

PETALING JAYA: Three out of four suspected cases of the novel coronavirus in the country have been found to be negative, says the Health Ministry.

Two of the cases were in Selangor and the third is in Sabah.

The result of the fourth case, which was also detected in Sabah, is still pending as at press time.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the ministry's national Crisis Preparedness and Response Centre (CPRC) received a report of four suspected cases of the virus 2019-nCoV.

Upon detection, the four people were placed in isolation wards to

allow for treatment and further investigation.

"The laboratory test done on three of the patients was found to be negative for the coronavirus infection. Based on the latest suspected case of a warded patient in a Sabah hospital on Wednesday, the patient is in stable condition.

"Samples have been sent to the Institute of Medical Research (IMR) for thorough testing and confirmation.

"The test results will be available as soon as possible," he said.

Dr Noor Hisham urged the public to delay their travels to Wuhan, China, unless it was unavoidable.

He also advised travellers to take

precautionary measures in Wuhan and upon their return to Malaysia.

Dr Noor Hisham said Malaysians in Wuhan should practise high hygiene standards such as frequent washing of hands using water and soap or hand sanitisers.

He added that masks as well as hand sanitisers should be used when needed, adding that the people should avoid public places and not mingle with those having influenza symptoms.

"Avoid visiting farms, markets that sell live animals, abattoirs or touch any animals. During visits, avoid consuming raw animal produce or those that are not fully cooked," he said.

Dr Noor Hisham advised the public to seek immediate medical care if they displayed symptoms such as fever, cough or breathing difficulties within 14 days of return from Wuhan, and they should inform the attending doctor of their travel history.

He said the ministry will continue to monitor the situation through information obtained from the World Health Organisation.

Dr Noor Hisham pointed out that the ministry has, among other measures, strengthened its health screening activities at all international entry points and is working together with agencies that monitor international entry points.