

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

KKM masih lakukan ujian tentu ketepatan jangkitan lebih tepat

Putrajaya: Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) masih melakukan ujian untuk menentukan pengesanan ketepatan jangkitan COVID-19 yang lebih tepat.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata ketika ini pihaknya sedang berusaha ke arah itu, namun perlu berwaspada untuk mengelak kesilapan yang akhirnya akan membebaskan semua pihak.

"Ketika ini, kita sedang membuat penilaian dari semasa ke semasa untuk memastikan ujian yang tepat dan lebih dipercayai. Ujian itu tidak cukup dengan sekadar memada, tetapi ia perlulah tepat bagi membolehkan pengesanan COVID-19 nanti dilakukan dengan pantas dan tidak memakan masa," katanya.

Beliau memaklumkan, KKM sudah menerima kit ujian pantas yang canggih dari Korea Selatan dan akan membuat ujian pengesanan dalam masa terdekad bagi melihat keberkesanan dan ketepatan alat berkenaan.

Katanya, KKM tidak mahu terburu-buru membeli alat 'rapid test' seperti dilakukan oleh beberapa negara seperti United Kingdom dan Sepanyol yang menggunakan peralatan berkenaan, tetapi ia tidak menungkan ketepatan sebenar.

"KKM tidak mahu berlaku keputusan 'false positive' atau 'false negative' yang boleh menyebabkan keadaan lebih buruk," katanya.

Dalam perkembangan berkaitan, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, Malaysia kini mempunyai 43 makmal untuk melakukan ujian ke atas 10,329 kes sehari dengan keupayaan boleh mencecah 11,546 saringan, namun apa yang diperlukan adalah ujian yang pantas dan tepat.

Beliau juga menegaskan, data KKM berhubung kadar jangkitan dan penularan COVID-19 adalah lebih tepat kerana membabitkan situasi semasa, berbanding data dikeluarkan agensi penyelidikan, JP Morgan yang hanya membabitkan ramalan jangkitan.

"KKM lebih bergantung kepada realiti dan setepat yang mungkin. Ia juga lebih baik berbanding ramalan. Seperti yang kita jangka sebelum ini, minggu lalu adalah kemuncak (kes jangkitan) dan kita sudah melakukan jangkaan itu," katanya.

Beliau juga memaklumkan, KKM bakal menerima bantuan perkongsian pengalaman menangani COVID-19 daripada pasukan perubatan China yang dijangka tiba di negara ini dua minggu lagi.

Penularan COVID-19

222 kes pulih jangkitan

Jumlah kumulatif 1,830 direkod semalam, 3 kematian

Putrajaya: Sebanyak 222 kes pulih jangkitan COVID-19 dilaporkan semalam, menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes adalah 1,830 atau 42.11 peratus daripada jumlah keseluruhan.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata sehingga jam 12 tengah hari semalam, terdapat 118 kes baharu dilaporkan, menjadikan jumlah kes positif COVID-19 di Malaysia adalah sebanyak 4,346 kes.

"Ini bermakna, bilangan kes yang discaj hari ini (semalam) juga adalah melebihi bilangan kes baharu yang dilaporkan. Sehingga kini, seramai 69 kes positif COVID-19 sedang dirawat di unit rawatan rapi (ICU). Daripada jumlah itu, 40 kes memerlukan bantuan pernafasan," katanya pada sidang media di Putrajaya, semalam.

Sementara itu, katanya, tiga lagi kematian berkaitan COVID-19 direkodkan semalam, menjadikan jumlah kumulatif sebanyak 70 kes atau 1.61 peratus daripada jumlah keseluruhan kes positif.

Dr Noor Hisham memaklumkan, kes kematian ke-68 (kes ke-694) adalah lelaki warganegara berumur 62 tahun dengan latar belakang penyakit kencing manis dan mempunyai sejarah kontak rapat dengan kes positif COVID-19 daripada kluster Seri Petaling (kes ke-159).

Beliau dirawat di Hospital

Ini bermakna, bilangan kes yang discaj hari ini (semalam) juga adalah melebihi bilangan kes baharu yang dilaporkan. Sehingga kini, seramai 69 kes positif COVID-19 sedang dirawat di ICU.

Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan



Queen Elizabeth, Sabah pada 17 Mac dan disahkan meninggal dunia jam 8.21 pagi, manakala kematian ke-69 (kes ke-4,229) lelaki warganegara berumur 77 tahun yang ada latar belakang penyakit kencing manis dan dimasukkan ke Hospital Kuala Lumpur pada 27 Mac sebelum meninggal dunia jam 4 pagi.

Kes kematian ke-70 (kes ke-4,230) pula membabitkan wanita 88 tahun dan mempunyai latar belakang penyakit darah tinggi, penyakit jantung dan demensia. Beliau mempunyai sejarah kontak rapat dengan kes positif COVID-19 (kes ke-1,684), dirawat di Pusat Perubatan Universiti Malaya (PPUM) pada 20 Mac dan disahkan meninggal dunia pada jam 2.38 pagi.

Dalam perkembangan berkaitan, Dr Noor Hisham ber-

kata, Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) tidak membiarkan pesakit yang sudah pulih terus pulang, sebaliknya memberikan kaunseling terlebih dahulu bagi memastikan jangkitan COVID-19 tidak berulang.

"Setiap pesakit COVID-19 yang pulih akan diberikan kaunseling supaya mereka mengamalkan cara hidup yang baharu. Kaunseling itu termasuk memastikan mereka mengamalkan penjarakan sosial, mencuci tangan dan elak daripada berkumpul bagi memastikan mereka tidak dijangkiti kembali dengan virus itu," katanya.

Mengenai pesakit yang sudah pulih tetapi kembali dijangkiti seperti kes yang dilaporkan di luar negara, beliau menjelaskan, ia disebabkan daya tahan badan pesakit tidak mencukupi

untuk melawan dan melindungi daripada sakit itu.

"Ada kemungkinan untuk mereka (pesakit pulih dijangkiti), tetapi peraturan itu tidak tinggi," katanya sambil menambah, KKM akan memantau tahap pesakit yang bebas daripada COVID-19 bagi mengelak kes jangkitan berulang.

"Mereka boleh dijangkiti kembali walaupun biasa kita lihat antigen mereka negatif. Adakalanya antibodi tak cukup, ada tapi tak cukup untuk mereka kalau dijangkiti semula, (manakanya) antibodi bukan melindungi lagi. Peraturan jangkitan semula mungkin tidak tinggi, jadi kita harap mereka cegah daripada dijangkiti," katanya.

Sementara itu, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, Institut Perubatan Forensik Negara melakukan bedah siasat terhadap satu mayat kes COVID-19 dan mengesan virus itu pada permukaan badan mayat melalui analisis 'Real-time Polymerase Chain Reaction' (rt-PCR) yang dijalankan oleh Institut Penyelidikan Perubatan (IMR).

"Penemuan ini selaras pandangan dikemukakan KKM sebelum ini dan dipersetujui Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Muzakarah Khas Majlis Kebangsaan Bagi Hal Ehwal Ugama Islam Malaysia yang bersidang pada 15 Mac serta Majlis Perundingan Malaysia, Agama Buddha, Kristian, Hindu, Sikh, dan Tao (MCCBCHST) pada 16 Mac," katanya.

Katanya, ia selaras dengan tatacara pengurusan jenazah Islam pesakit COVID-19 yang hanya dibenarkan untuk ditayammum di atas permukaan beg jenazah, manakala bagi mayat bukan Islam, apa-apa upacara keagamaan dan tradisi hanya dibuat di atas permukaan beg mayat.

Individu dikuarantin perlu bekerjasama

Putrajaya: "Mereka yang dikuarantin perlu bekerjasama dengan petugas kesihatan kerana apa yang kami lakukan ini adalah usaha untuk melindungi, bukan sahaja masyarakat, tetapi lebih penting adalah keluarga mereka," kata Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

Menurut Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan itu, apabila semua pihak memainkan peranan masing-masing dan diberikan penerangan, hasilnya akan mengembirakan.

"Petugas kesihatan perlu menerangkan secara terperinci arahan dan tanggungjawab mereka ketika rawatan diberikan,

mereka yang dikuarantin pula perlu bekerjasama dengan petugas kesihatan. Saya fikir, apabila masing-masing memainkan peranan dan diberikan penerangan, semua pihak akan bergembira.

"Situasi ini (gembira) berlaku apabila ramai menulis perkara baik-baik di media sosial apabila mereka selesai dirawat," katanya ketika ditanya dakwaan ada sesetengah individu yang diarah menjalani kuarantin selepas pulang dari luar negara, sukar bekerjasama malah memberi pelbagai gelaran kurang menyenangkan kepada doktor dan jururawat.

Sementara itu, beliau berkata, pelaksanaan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP) masih di peringkat pertengahan dan memerlukan tindakan pencegahan serta kawalan yang berterusan, selain perlu dipesatkan lagi bagi memutuskan rantaian jangkitan.

Katanya, PKP membantu Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) membendung penularan penyakit itu kepada satu tahap sedikit stabil yang dapat diperhatikan daripada trend kes COVID-19 dan trajektori yang diunjurkan melalui kajian dijangkakan oleh Kementerian.

"KKM menyambut baik pe-

lanjutan dua minggu PKP seperti diumumkan Perdana Menteri. Ini akan memberi ruang kepada kerajaan memerangi penularan COVID-19 ini sebelum kita dapat menilai semula tahap keberkesanan serta keadaan semasa jangkitan COVID-19," katanya.

Beliau juga menasihatkan penghuni di kawasan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Diperketatkan (PKPD) termasuk warga asing yang diwajibkan menjalani ujian saringan agar tidak berasa diri terancam kerana apa yang dilakukan petugas kesihatan adalah untuk melindungi mereka daripada dijangkiti COVID-19.

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 24

RUANGAN : BISNES

Teknologi Huawei bantu kerajaan tangani COVID-19

Huawei Malaysia menyalurkan bantuan berbentuk teknologi kepada Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) untuk memerangi penularan COVID-19.

Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Huawei Malaysia, Michael Yuan, berkata berikutan peningkatan kes COVID-19, keberkesanan komunikasi dan pertukaran data adalah penting untuk memeriksa individu yang dijangkiti selain mengawal penyebaran jangkitan.

Beliau berkata, Penyelesaian Respon Kecemasan Kesihatan Awam Huawei akan membolehkan pakar penjagaan kesihatan bekerjasama dengan petugas barisan hadapan menjalankan perundingan dalam talian.

Ia juga, katanya, akan meningkatkan kecekapan dan keberkesanan diagnosis serta rawatan, selain memastikan terdapat komunikasi berterusan secara langsung antara kerajaan serta hospital awam, melalui sidang video dan keupayaan sambungan tanpa wayar.

"Huawei sentiasa bersedia untuk menyokong Malaysia dalam memerangi COVID-19. Huawei Malaysia telah mengambil langkah pencegahan yang ketat untuk meningkatkan keselamatan dan perlindungan pekerja.

"Operasi kami akan diteruskan bagi memberikan perkhidmatan



Michael Yuan

kepada pelanggan, menjamin operasi rangkaian yang lancar dalam masa kritikal ini," katanya dalam satu kenyataan.

Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba menghargai penyelesaian teknologi Huawei itu dalam membantu negara memerangi COVID-19.

"Penghargaan kepada Huawei Malaysia di atas penyelesaian teknologi ini. Melalui sumbangan mereka, kami meneruskan usaha untuk membanteras pandemik ini dengan seberapa segera," katanya dalam pertemuan dengan Huawei Malaysia, baru-baru ini.

KKM menerima empat jenis bantuan daripada Huawei yang dapat mengurangkan kesukaran petugas barisan hadapan.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NATION/NEWS

'A GOOD SIGN'

FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19 ON RIGHT TRACK

Higher number of recoveries for 3 consecutive days as signs look positive, says Health D-G

PUTRAJAYA

THE fight against Covid-19 by Malaysia's frontliners seems to be heading in the right direction with a higher number of recoveries recorded for the third day running.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said 222 of those hospitalised with the infection were discharged yesterday, compared with 118 new patients who were warded on the same day.

"This is a good sign as it means the number of cases discharged today (yesterday) exceeded the new ones warded," he said at the ministry's daily Covid-19 update.

On Thursday, 121 patients were discharged while 109 new cases were recorded, while on Wednesday, 166 were allowed to return



Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah speaking at a press conference in Putrajaya yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

home compared with 156 new infections.

Dr Noor Hisham said the total number of discharged patients was now 1,830, bringing the Covid-19 recovery rate in Malaysia to 42.11 per cent out of the total number of positive cases or 4,346 overall cases nationwide.

Currently, there are 69 patients being treated at Intensive Care Units (ICUs), with 40 of them requiring ventilators.

The ministry, however, report-

ed three new deaths yesterday, which brought the Covid-19 death toll in Malaysia to 70 cases.

The 68th fatality was a 62-year-old Malaysian man with a history of diabetes.

He had a history of close contact with an attendee of the Sri Petaling Mosque tabligh gathering earlier this year.

He was treated at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Sabah on March 17 and was confirmed dead at 8.21am.

The 69th death was that of a 77-

year-old Malaysian man with a history of diabetes. He was treated at Kuala Lumpur Hospital on March 27 and was confirmed dead at 4am.

The 70th death was that of a 88-year-old Malaysian woman with a history of hypertension, heart disease and dementia.

She had a history of close contact with case 1,684 and was treated at the Universiti Malaya Medical Centre. She was reported dead at 2.38am.

Dr Noor Hisham said

Malaysia's Covid-19 infectivity rate (the number of people an infected person can spread the virus to) was showing positive signs, which meant Phases 1 and 2 of the Movement Control Order (MCO) was effective.

"When everyone stays at home, the infection and infectivity rates will become lesser and we have brought it down to one. We expect that the rate can be brought down to 0.9 on April 14, which means one infected person will be infecting fewer than one person."

Dr Noor Hisham said the ministry's public health experts had concluded that the overall trend of cases was "quite stable" as there was no exponential surge after a possible peak that was observed last week. He said the ministry had earlier advised the prime minister to extend the MCO by two weeks or more for mitigation plans that have been put into action to take effect.

"The extension will buy us vital time to fight the pandemic.

"However, it will need to be complemented with new approaches for target groups. We are worried that if we end the MCO too soon the rate of infections will resurge."

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 25

RUANGAN : NATION/NEWS

CORE CLOUD SERVICES

Huawei contributes technology solutions to Health Ministry

KUALA LUMPUR: Huawei Technologies (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd (Huawei Malaysia) has donated four technology solutions to the Health Ministry to support the country's fight against the Covid-19 pandemic.

Huawei Malaysia said the solutions would enable healthcare experts to work with medical frontliners to conduct remote online consultations with Covid-19 patients and boost the effectiveness of diagnosis and treatment.

The solutions would ensure there was continuous real-time communication between the government and public hospitals via its video conferencing and wireless connectivity capabilities, said Huawei Malaysia yesterday.

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba said the ministry was grateful for Huawei Malaysia's help, especially to medical frontliners during this trying times.

"With its (Huawei Malaysia) donation, we can continue to press forward in curbing this pandemic as fast as possible," said the minister.

Huawei Malaysia chief executive officer Michael Yuan said the



Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba (third from right), his deputy Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali (second from right), and Huawei Malaysia chief executive officer Michael Yuan (centre) at a handover ceremony in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. With them are (from left) Huawei Technologies (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd managing director (Enterprise Business Group) David Li, Health Ministry secretary-general Datuk Seri Dr Chen Chaw Min and Huawei Cloud vice-president Lim Chee Stong.

technology solutions were Huawei Telemedicine Video Conference, Hospital Wireless Network Communication Solution, AI Cloud Auto Detection Solution and 200 units of its Nova 7i smartphones.

Yuan said the video conference solution would provide secure, professional and reliable audio transmission at all Covid-19 des-

ignated hospitals and enable them to hold a real-time video conference with the ministry.

The Hospital Wireless Network Communication Solution will provide wireless network coverage for hospitals, wards and emergency medical tents.

"With Huawei's 5G-powered unique antenna and algorithm technologies, Huawei's wireless

network communication can provide services with no waiting time and no packet loss during roaming.

"This will allow users, including doctors in diagnostic rooms, nurses in wards and epidemic emergency teams, to use its high-speed network connection in their fight against Covid-19," said Yuan.

The AI solution leverages core cloud services such as cloud-network synergy, Big Data and artificial intelligence of Huawei Cloud and its partners.

It will enable early detection and diagnosis so that hospitals can swiftly identify infected patients for early quarantine and provide early treatment. **By Azanis Shahita Aman**

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 3
RUANGAN : NATION

Recoveries exceed new cases for three days

By JOSEPH KAOS Jr and CHOW ZHI EN
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PUTRAJAYA: For the third day in a row, Malaysia has recorded more Covid-19 recoveries than new cases.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said 222 patients have recovered from the disease and were allowed to be discharged yesterday.

The latest recoveries bring the number up to 1,830 patients or a recovery rate of 42.11% of the total positive cases since the outbreak began in January.

Dr Noor Hisham said over the last 24 hours, 118 new cases were reported, bringing the accumulated cases to 4,346.

With three new deaths, the Covid-19 death toll was now at 70, which translated to 1.61% in fatality rate.

Dr Noor Hisham attributed the positive

development to the effectiveness of the movement control order (MCO), which was enforced since March 18.

"Based on the current situation, we can see that the MCO has managed to help in containing the spread of the disease to a somewhat stable level.

"This can be seen from the trend in Covid-19 cases and the trajectory, which is projected from the ministry's research," he said in his daily Covid-19 media briefing yesterday.

Dr Noor Hisham said the extension of the MCO by another two weeks was crucial to help "break the chain" of infection through various measures by the ministry.

He said Malaysia has so far managed to dispel several modelling predictions by third parties such as a surge in the number of cases by mid-April.

"JP Morgan predicted that by April 14, the country's cases would peak to about 6,900

positive patients.

"The Malaysian Institute of Economic Research too predicted between 8,000 and 9,000 cases in the next one week.

"But our own prediction is based on daily data and we try to make sure it is as accurate as possible. We have seen that the number of cases is quite stable without any exponential surge," he said.

Dr Noor Hisham said the number of cases was declining now and that it might have even reached the peak last week.

"This is a good sign for us," he said.

He also confirmed that a team of medical professionals from China would be in the country to provide a helping hand in managing the pandemic.

"They will share their experiences with us because they have been through the process of handling the disease back home," Dr Noor Hisham said, adding that some of their prac-