

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

## Maxis bantu hospital sedia komunikasi tambahan

**Kuala Lumpur:** Maxis menyumbang perkhidmatan jalur lebar tetap tanpa wayar, jalur lebar tanpa wayar dan peranti kad SIM Hotlink Prepaid Flex percuma kepada Hospital Sungai Buloh dan Hospital Kuala Lumpur untuk menyokong keperluan komunikasi tambahan semasa COVID-19.

Syarikat telekomunikasi itu juga memperkukuhkan lagi liputan prestasi rangkaian di hospital berkenaan untuk manfaat semua pengguna di lokasi berkenaan.

Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba, berkata kemudahan internet sangat penting bagi doktor dan pasukan perubatan, serta pekerja barisan hadapan di pusat arahan hospital, wad sementara dan kecemasan, serta bilik operasi, ketika semua pihak bekerjasama untuk melawan pandemik itu.

"Kami menghargai sokongan daripada Maxis dalam membantu kami dengan keperluan komunikasi di hospital ketika menghadapi cabaran besar COVID-19. Semua pihak perlu bersatu padu untuk memutuskan rantaian penularan COVID-19, kita mesti menang!" katanya dalam satu kenyataan yang dikeluarkan Maxis.

Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Maxis, Gokhan Ogut, berkata pihaknya berterima kasih kepada semua pekerja barisan hadapan yang terus mendedikasikan masa untuk melawan penyebaran COVID-19.

Penularan COVID-19

# Keputusan PKP 10 April

## Lanjutan bergantung jumlah kes positif direkod setiap hari

**Putrajaya:** Keputusan untuk melanjutkan tempoh Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP) atau sebaliknya akan ditentukan pada 10 April ini.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata keputusan bergantung kepada jumlah kes positif COVID-19 yang direkodkan setiap hari.

"Dalam tempoh enam hari lalu, kita nampak ada peningkatan dua hari lalu iaitu lebih 200 kes dan ini besar kemungkinan kerana kita melaksanakan penganjakan kes akut di kawasan PKP Diperketatkan (PKPD) seperti di Sungai Lui dan Simpang Renggam.

"Hari ini (semalam) kes yang direkodkan kurang berbanding dua hari lalu, maka kita memantunya setiap hari.

"Saya mungkin boleh jangka, tapi realitinya perlu berdasarkan sains dan fakta. Kita harap pada 10 April, kita ada data untuk membuat keputusan sama ada perlu melanjutkan PKP atau tidak," katanya pada sidang media harian di sini, semalam.

Fasa pertama PKP dilaksana-

kan bermula 18 Mac hingga 31 Mac lalu, manakala fasa dua bermula 1 April hingga 14 April ini.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, semua kes Jangkitan Pernafasan Akut Teruk (SARI) akan dikategorikan sebagai positif COVID-19 sehingga ujian saringan membuktikan sebaliknya.

Katanya, ia berikutan 12 petugas kesihatan dijangkiti COVID-19 daripada pesakit yang mempunyai simptom SARI.

"Kita maktumkan kepada petugas kesihatan, mereka yang datang dengan simptom seperti batuk dan selesema atau simptom dan tanda radang paru-paru, mereka mesti dirawat seperti pesakit COVID-19 sehingga terbukti sebaliknya," katanya.

Sementara itu, beliau berkata, vaksin untuk COVID-19 dijangka berada di pasaran dalam masa setahun, manakala kajian mengennainya masih di peringkat awal.

Katanya, Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO) masih meneliti beberapa sebatian dan melakukan penyelidikan membangunkan vaksin penyakit ini.

"Ya mungkin mengambil masa kira-kira setahun atau setahun setengah sebelum kami memperoleh vaksin itu di pasaran.

"Penyelidikan masih berjalan dan diharap memerusi penyelidikan, kita akan memperoleh vaksin secepat mungkin," katanya.

Dalam perkembangan berkaitan, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) memutuskan kit ujian antibodi

melalui pengambilan sampel darah tidak boleh digunakan untuk melakukan diagnosis COVID-19.

Jika kit ujian saringan itu memerlukan sampel darah, katanya, besar kemungkinan ia menggunakan kaedah serologi bagi mengukur respons antibodi.

"Jika antibodi Immunoglobulin M (IgM), respons mungkin mengambil masa antara lima hingga tujuh hari dan jika Immunoglobulin G (IgG), mungkin selepas tujuh hari (respons) diperolehi, bergantung kepada individu.

"Bagaimanapun, kita sudah memutuskan kit ujian antibodi tidak boleh digunakan untuk diagno-

sis," katanya.

Beliau diminta mengulas mengenai sejenis kit ujian COVID-19 yang didakwa boleh mengesan penyakit itu dengan ketepatan 99 peratus melalui pengambilan sampel darah yang tular di media sosial.

Ketika ini, KKM melakukan ujian saringan COVID-19 melalui ujian swab iaitu pengambilan sampel air liur dari mulut.

Sementara itu, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, plasma bekas pesakit COVID-19 mungkin digunakan untuk merawat pesakit yang dijangkiti virus berkenaan.

Setakat ini, katanya, beberapa pesakit yang sudah sembuh tampil secara sukarela bagi membolehkan kajian dibuat ke atas mereka.

"Mereka mendermakan darah dan sebelum itu, kita akan membuat saringan bagi melihat jangkitan kuman.

"Jika mereka sihat, kita akan laksanakan ujian semula. Jika ujian negatif, kita akan ambil darahnya. Kita akan asingkan darah merah dan plasma, dan plasma itu akan dihantar ke Institut Penyelidikan Perubatan (IMR) bagi melihat kepekatan antibodi.

"Dua minggu selepas itu, kita akan ambil darah (bekas pesakit) lagi untuk diambil plasmanya, dan plasma ini akan dikaji. Jika kepekatan antibodi bekas pesakit itu tinggi, besar kemungkinan kita akan menggunakan plasma bekas pesakit itu untuk merawat pesakit lain," katanya.

**Saya mungkin boleh jangka, tapi realitinya perlu berdasarkan sains dan fakta. Kita harap pada 10 April, kita ada data untuk membuat keputusan sama ada perlu melanjutkan PKP atau tidak.**

**Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah,**  
Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan

## Kapasiti makmal ujian sampel saringan dipertingkatkan



Dr Adham melawat Makmal Mikrobiologi di Jabatan Patologi HKL pada taklimat gerak kerja pemrosesan spesimen serta sampel COVID-19 di Jabatan Patologi, HKL, semalam.

**Kuala Lumpur:** Kementerian Kesihatan akan memastikan kapasiti makmal ujian sampel saringan dan penganjakan COVID-19 di seluruh negara dipertingkatkan ke tahap maksimum.

Menterinya, Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba, berkata ketika ini Kementerian giat mengumpul dan menguji sebanyak mungkin sampel daripada kontak bagi penganjakan virus berkenaan.

"Ketika ini kita ada isu menguji banyak sampel. Kita perlu mengambil seberapa banyak drop (titisan) kerana ia berkaitan mengesan kontak dan perlu diselesaikan dengan cepat.

"Sekarang kita akan memastikan kapasiti makmal ujian mencukupi dan diselesaikan dengan cepat. Kita mampu menguji maksimum 11,468 sampel sehari di 23 makmal di seluruh negara," katanya ketika dihubungi Radio Televisyen Malaysia (RTM) dalam rancangan *Selamat Pagi Malaysia* (SPM), semalam.

Dr Adham berkata, kementerian akan mencari jalan menyediakan

makmal ujian di kawasan terpencil bagi memastikan keputusan ujian diperolehi dengan cepat.

"Sebagai contoh, ketika ini sampel yang diambil di Tawau di Sabah perlu dihantar ke Kota Kinabalu. Sebagai menteri, saya perlu fikir bagaimana untuk memastikan Tawau memiliki makmal ujian pada masa depan," katanya.

Beliau berkata, seramai 220 pegawai makmal dan 70 pegawai mikrobiologi dipertanggungjawab menjalankan ujian makmal setiap hari di seluruh negara.

Berhubung kemampuan petugas barisan hadapan berdepan tugas menangani wabak ini, beliau berkata, kementerian mempunyai pasukan sukarelawan merangkumi golongan bersara dan pakar swasta.

Mengenai keperluan kelengkapan peribadi (PPE) untuk petugas barisan hadapan, Dr Adham bangga dengan kakitangan yang kreatif menghasilkan PPE sendiri walaupun bekalannya mencukupi.

"Bekalan PPE yang kita ada

mencukupi. Ada hospital yang cepat habis bekalannya tetapi kita segera tambah," katanya.

Sementara itu, Unit Kawalan Infeksi, Hospital Canselor Tuanku Muhriz (HCTM) kini meningkatkan kapasitinya membuat ujian sampel COVID-19 daripada 30 ujian sehari kepada 150 ujian.

Ketuanya, Dr Sharifah Azura Salleh, berkata jumlah ujian itu meningkat selepas Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) meminta mereka membantu membuat ujian susulan pertambahan jumlah kontak wabak berkenaan.

"Mulai semalam (kelmarin), kami menerima sampel daripada kementerian untuk ujian terhadap sampel yang tertangguh dan setiap ujian mengambil masa enam jam untuk diketahui keputusannya.

"Biasanya, kita membuat 30 ujian tetapi hari ini kami perlu melakukan 150 ujian. Jika sampel itu diterima hari ini, ia boleh diketahui dalam tempoh 24 jam," katanya dalam rancangan SPM di saluran RTM, semalam.

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Penularan COVID-19

# Kuarantin elak risiko gelombang ketiga

## KKM ambil langkah proaktif saring, asing rakyat pulang dari luar negara

**Kuala Lumpur:** Rakyat negara ini yang pulang dari luar negara, berupaya mencetuskan peningkatan mendadak kes positif COVID-19 mulai pertengahan bulan ini, jika tidak keputungan mereka ditangani sebaiknya.

Menyedari kemungkinan itu, Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata Kementerian Kesihatan menasihati kerajaan menempatkan semua individu yang pulang dari luar negara, sama ada menerusi pintu masuk darat, laut atau air, di pusat kuarantin.

Katanya, kementerian turut menjangkakan kepulangan lebih ramai rakyat Malaysia dari luar negara, khususnya dalam kalangan penuntut institusi pengajian tinggi (IPT), sekali gus mengundang risiko kes import COVID-19.

"Gelombang pertama COVID-19 di Malaysia adalah menerusi pelancong dari China, manakala gelombang kedua ialah kes diimport, justeru sekarang ini kita ambil pendirian untuk saring siapa sahaja yang masuk.

"Kalau ikutkan maklumat yang sedia ada, termasuk menerusi Pameran Persatuan Ejen-Ejen Pelancongan dan Pengembaraan Malaysia (MATTA Fair), jumlah kemasukan mungkin sekitar 8,000 orang (rakyat Malaysia yang melancong ke luar negara).

"Bagaimanapun, kita jangkaan perangkaan sebenar adalah lebih daripada itu kerana ia kini turut membabitkan penuntut IPT dari seluruh dunia yang ingin ba-

lik ke Malaysia.

"Jadi, kita kena kawal risiko kes import ini bagi mengelak ramalan peningkatan kes menjelang pertengahan bulan ini tidak menjadi kenyataan," katanya pada sidang media harian COVID-19, di Putrajaya, semalam.

Mengemukakan mekanisme kuarantin, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, pengasingan di setiap unit, dekat pusat kemudahan berkaitan akan dibuat berteraskan kohort atau kumpulan kecil.

Katanya, pendekatan itu dilaksanakan kerana setiap kumpulan kecil mempunyai corak pendedahan risiko jangkitan COVID-19 yang sama.

"Contohnya, kita tidak akan asingkan satu keluarga yang mempunyai tiga orang, sebaliknya mereka ditempatkan dalam sebuah bilik kerana masing-masing mempunyai corak pendedahan risiko jangkitan sama.

"Ingin ditekankan bahawa mere-



Dr Noor Hisham pada sidang media situasi semasa jangkitan COVID-19 di Putrajaya, semalam. (Foto Mohd Fadli Hamzah/BH)

**Kita kena kawal risiko kes import ini bagi mengelak ramalan peningkatan kes menjelang pertengahan bulan ini tidak menjadi kenyataan.**

Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan

ka tidak boleh bergaul bebas meskipun ditempatkan di pusat kuarantin yang sama kerana kita ingin kurangkan risiko jangkitan dengan menjaga penjarakan sosial.

"Oleh itu, semua harus kekal di bilik masing-masing ketika ditempatkan di pusat kuarantin selama 14 hari tempoh pengesanan, manakala semua makanan akan disediakan.

"Kita ambil purata 14 hari untuk tempoh pengesanan, meskipun ada satu atau dua kes yang menyaksikan ia lebih daripada itu, bermaksud gejala COVID-19 muncul pada hari ke-15 dan seterusnya," katanya.

## Jumlah kes positif harian susut, 88 lagi pulih

**Kuala Lumpur:** Kadar kes positif jangkitan wabak COVID-19 semalam, menyaksikan penyusutan apabila hanya membabitkan 150 orang, berbanding 217 orang semalam.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata pertambahan kes harian itu menjadikan jumlah pesakit positif wabak berkenaan di negara ini meningkat kepada 3,483 kes.

"Daripada 150 kes ini, sebanyak 80 kes adalah berkaitan dengan perhimpunan jemaah tabligh di Masjid Seri Petaling.

"Sehingga kini, seramai 99 kes positif COVID-19 sedang dirawat di Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU), daripada jumlah ini, 50 kes memerlukan bantuan pernafasan," katanya pada sidang media harian COVID-19, di Putrajaya, semalam.

Menerusi laporan Pusat Kesiapsiagaan dan Tindakan Cepat Krisis Kebangsaan (CPRC), Dr Noor Hisham berkata, empat lagi kes kematian dicatatkan, menjadikan angka korban meningkat kepada 57 orang atau 1.64 peratus.

Katanya, kes kematian ke-54, iaitu kes ke-2,149 membabitkan wanita tempatan berusia 85 tahun dengan latar belakang penyakit jantung.

"Beliau dirawat di Institut Jantung Negara pada 23 Mac lalu dan



Petugas hospital terus berusaha menunaikan tanggungjawab dalam menangani penularan COVID-19 yang melanda negara ketika ini. (Foto Mohamad Ahahri Badri Saali/BH)

disahkan meninggal dunia pada 28 Mac lalu pada jam 12.10 tengah hari.

"Kes kematian ke-55 (kes ke-960) ialah perempuan tempatan berusia 66 tahun dan mempunyai latar belakang penyakit darah tinggi. Beliau dirawat di Hospital Sultan Ismail Petra, Kelantan pada 18 Mac lalu dan disahkan meninggal dunia semalam (kelmarin) pada jam 4 petang.

"Kes kematian ke-56 (kes ke-2,850) adalah lelaki tempatan berusia 56 tahun dan mempunyai latar belakang penyakit jantung.

Beliau mempunyai kontak rapat dengan kes ke-1031 dan dirawat di Hospital Umum Sarawak, Sarawak pada 30 Mac lalu.

"Beliau disahkan meninggal dunia semalam (kelmarin) pada jam 4.16 petang, manakala kes kematian ke-57 (kes ke-1,575) membabitkan lelaki berusia 61 tahun dan mempunyai latar belakang penyakit kencing manis.

"Beliau dirawat di Hospital Tengku Ampuan Afzan, Kuantan, Pahang pada 23 Mac lalu dan disahkan meninggal dunia semalam (kelmarin) pada jam 10.25

malam," katanya.

Memperincikan perkembangan positif, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, sebanyak 88 kes didapati bebas daripada COVID-19 dan dibenarkan pulang semalam, sekali gus menjadikan jumlah yang pulih daripada wabak terbabit ialah 915 orang.

Menitipkan pesanan, beliau memohon orang ramai memberikan kerjasama kepada agensi berkaitan untuk memerangi penularan COVID-19 di Malaysia dalam tempoh dua minggu ini yang disifatkan sebagai penting bagi

memutuskan rantaian wabak itu.

"Sehingga kini, kebanyakan kes positif yang dikesan adalah berkait dengan mereka yang menghadiri perhimpunan di Sri Petaling, iaitu 1,545 kes daripada keseluruhan 3,483 kes atau mewakili 44.36 peratus.

"Kluster ini ialah yang terbesar setakat ini dan mempunyai beberapa generasi kluster jangkitan, misalnya membabitkan ahli keluarga mereka, kontak rapat di masjid dan juga madrasah tahfiz," katanya.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19

# Lanjut PKP ditentukan 10 April

KKM guna data kes yang direkodkan dalam tempoh itu sebagai garis panduan

Oleh NURUL HUDA HUSAIN

PUTRAJAYA

**K**ementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) akan membuat keputusan sama ada Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP) dilanjutkan atau sebaliknya pada 10 April ini.



DR NOOR HISHAM

Ketua Pengarahnya, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, pihaknya akan menggunakan data kes yang direkodkan dalam tempoh itu sebagai panduan untuk tindakan selanjutnya. "Kita harap menjelang 10 April, data (kes) sudah ada untuk kita buat keputusan sama ada melanjutkan PKP atau sebaliknya. "Kita memerlukan data untuk membuat keputusan. Saya

boleh membuat jangkaan tetapi realitinya kita perlu melihat kepada fakta dan sains," katanya pada sidang akhbar di sini semalam.

Beliau berkata, kebimbangan ketika ini adalah melibatkan kes import berikutan kepulangan pelajar dan rakyat Malaysia yang melancong di luar negara.

"Ini merupakan cabaran kepada kita (KKM) jika berlaku gelombang kes import kerana mereka yang pulang ke negara kemungkinan membawa wabak itu," katanya.

Dalam pada itu, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, empat lagi kematian direkodkan menjadikan keseluruhan kematian akibat Covid-19 meningkat kepada 57 kes setakat jam 12 tengah hari semalam.

Menurutnya, kesemua kematian terbaru itu melibatkan pesakit warganegara Malaysia yang berusia 50 tahun ke atas serta mempunyai latar belakang penyakit kronik.

Mengulas lanjut, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, jumlah kes positif yang dicatatkan semalam ialah 150 kes menjadikan kumulatif kes positif adalah sebanyak 3,483 kes.

### KES KEMATIAN BAHARU COVID-19 DI MALAYSIA

Kes No	Kematian ke	Jantina	Umur (tahun)	Hospital	Latar belakang
2149	54	Perempuan	85	Institut Jantung Negara	Mempunyai pesakit jantung
860	55	Perempuan	66	Hospital Sultan Ismail Petra, Kelantan	Mempunyai pesakit darah tinggi
2850	56	Lelaki	50	Hospital Umum Sarawak	Mempunyai pesakit jantung, kontak rapat dengan kes ke-1631
1276	57	Lelaki	61	Hospital Tengku Ampuan Afzan, Muhiang, Pahang	Mempunyai pesakit kencing manis

**57** Kematian Setakat 04 April 2020

Sumber: CPIC Kementerian KKM, UKK MOH

Empat lagi kematian akibat Covid-19 dicatatkan di Malaysia setakat semalam.

lam ialah 150 kes menjadikan kumulatif kes positif adalah sebanyak 3,483 kes.

Katanya, sebanyak 1,545 kes daripada 3,483 kes positif itu terdiri daripada kluster tabligh yang menyertai perhimpunan di Sri Petaling baru-baru ini.

Beliau berkata, jumlah itu menjadikan 44.36 peratus kes positif pandemik itu berkaitan

dengan mereka yang menghadiri perhimpunan tersebut.

"Ketika ini terdapat kira-kira 3,000 peserta daripada perhimpunan itu yang masih belum membuat saringan.

"KKM akan terus bekerjasama dengan pelbagai agensi bagi mengenal pasti dan menguji semua kontak rapat dalam kalangan kumpulan yang berisiko tinggi ini," katanya.

Vaksin Covid-19 dijangka berada di pasaran setahun lagi

**PUTRAJAYA** - Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) menjangkakan vaksin untuk merawat pesakit koronavirus (Covid-29) dijangka berada di pasaran setahun lagi.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, ketika ini penyelidikan bagi vaksin itu masih lagi dijalankan.

Katanya, Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO) ketika ini juga sedang menilai kandungan vaksin tersebut dan perkara itu melibatkan kajian tetapi masih pada peringkat awal.

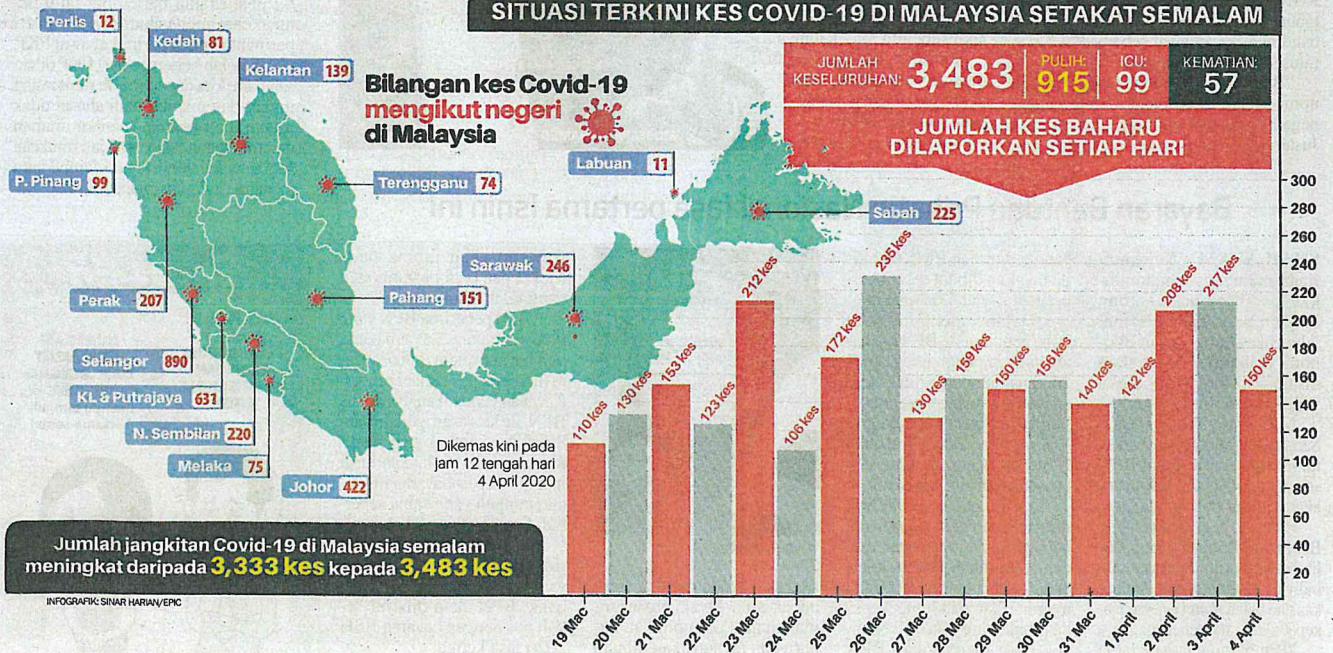
"Oleh itu, ia mungkin mengambil masa kira-kira setahun atau setahun setengah sebelum kita boleh dapatkan vaksin ini di pasaran," katanya di sini semalam.

Dr Noor Hisham turut mengesahkan terdapat beberapa pesakit yang telah sembuh menyumbangkan plasma darah mereka kepada KKM bagi tujuan penyelidikan dan sains.

Beliau berkata, individu yang telah disahkan sembuh itu juga perlu menjalani ujian semula.

"Kita berterima kasih kepada mereka yang rela membantu kita (KKM) untuk melakukan penyelidikan ini," katanya.

## SITUASI TERKINI KES COVID-19 DI MALAYSIA SETAKAT SEMALAM



AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN  
 MUKA SURAT : 6  
 RUANGAN : PROFIL DI SEBALIK BERITA



FOTO: SHARIFUDIN ABUL RAHIM

Dr Noor Hisham tetap tampil tenang dengan tutur bicarannya yang tersusun biarpun di bahunya kini terpicul tugas berat memerangi Covid-19.

Anak Flat Loke Yew kini disanjung sebagai wira negara perang Covid-19.

Oleh NURUL RIDUAN NOR ASHAHA

**B**eliau bukanlah penyanyi terkenal, beliau juga bukanlah bintang ternama, namun tiada siapa dapat menafikan beliau ialah antara manusia yang paling popular di Malaysia ketika ini.

Sejak lebih empat minggu lalu, wajah figura ini hampir saban hari menghiasi kaca televisyen, muka depan dada akhbar, malah meniti di bibir rakyat Malaysia.

Kemunculannya amat dinanti ramai, malah akaun media sosialnya diserbu ratusan ribu pengikut. Setakat semalam laman Facebooknya sahaja sudah memiliki lebih 375,122 orang pengikut.

Namun, ternyata bukan populariti yang dicari oleh pemilik wajah yang tenang ini. Di atas bahunya kini terpicul beban, ibarat batu besar yang sangat berat. Melawan musuh halimu-

man bernama Covid-19, beliau bagaikan 'panglima' di medan perang yang kini mengepalai ribuan doktor, jururawat dan kakitangan kesihatan Malaysia.

Hari ini, ramai yang mula membuka mata dan memuji kecekalan beliau, siang malam bersama barisan hadapannya. Walaupun dihambat penat, namun wajahnya tetap serius dan tenang. Setiap butir bicarannya tersusun, tanpa tinggi suara dan tanpa putus asa.

Namun, ketika diberi kata-kata sanjungan sebagai wira negara, dalam kerendahan hati Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah mengakui: "Ini bukan tentang saya, tetapi apa yang kita boleh lakukan bersama-sama untuk memerangi Covid-19."

Mungkin ramai yang tidak menyedari ketika ketiadaan menteri dan timbalan menteri sewaktu peralihan kuasa kerajaan baru-baru ini, Dr Noor Hisham tetap cekal menjalankan tanggungjawab yang diamanahkan kepadanya.

"Pada saya, tak penting (gelaran wira negara) tetapi apa yang penting adalah perkhidmatan kita," katanya pada sidang media harian perkembangan Covid-19 pada 29 Mac lalu.

Berusia 57 tahun, Dr Noor Hisham sebenarnya seorang pakar bedah terlatih. Anak kelahiran Sepang, Selangor ini yang berkelulusan Ijazah Sarjana dalam bidang Surgeri dan Ijazah Doktor Perubatan daripada Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM). Beliau mula menyertai perkhidmatan awam sebagai Pegawai Perubatan pada Ogos 1988.

Beliau juga ialah Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Pembedahan Global, Persatuan Pembedahan Antarabangsa.

Menyingkap kembali kisah hidupnya, laman web bekas pelajar Sekolah Menengah Methodist Kuala Lumpur (MBSKL) pernah membicarakan mengenai Dr Noor Hisham melalui sebuah entri pada tahun 2019.

Melalui perkongsian itu, Dr Noor Hisham digambarkan sebagai seorang yang sentiasa merendah diri sejak di bangku sekolah dan seorang yang aktif dalam sukan olahraga.

#### Zaman kecil

Kehidupan zaman kanak-kanak Dr Noor Hisham bukanlah semewah yang disangka dan mungkin kekuatannya hari ini terasuh sejak beliau kecil lagi.

Laman web bekas pelajar MBSKL itu memaklumkan bahawa beliau dibesarkan di sebuah flat kecil di Kuala Lumpur iaitu Flat Loke Yew oleh seorang ibu tunggal.

Malah, ibunya hanya bekerja sebagai seorang tukang cuci dan terpaksa berhempas pulas membesarkannya bersama seorang lagi kakaknya.

"Mereka tinggal di Flat Loke Yew dan dia terpaksa berjalan kaki ke sekolah. Ibunya juga memberi kebenaran kepada guru untuk merotannya jika perlu," singkap perkongsian itu.

Ternyata gaya tenang Dr Noor Hisham bukan sahaja disenangi rakyat Malaysia, bahkan kumpulan wartawan yang bertemu mata dengannya dalam sidang akhbar setiap hari.

Wartawan *Sinar Harian* Putrajaya, Tuan Buqhairah Tuan Muhamad Adnan menggambarkan Dr Noor Hisham sebagai

seorang pemimpin yang lembut tutur bicarannya.

Malah akui Tuan Buqhairah, Dr Noor Hisham tidak pernah sekali pun menunjukkan rasa bosan menjawab soalan yang diajukan oleh para wartawan walaupun soalan itu mungkin mengulangi pertanyaan pada hari sebelumnya.

Keperibadian seperti itulah yang digemari pemberita di Putrajaya dalam memastikan mereka mendapatkan maklumat yang tepat untuk disajikan kepada pembaca.

"Pada saya beliau sangat lembut dalam bicarannya. Jawapan beliau menggunakan bahasa yang mudah difahami buat kami para wartawan dan orang ramai yang menyaksikan sidang media Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia secara langsung.

"Setiap soalan yang wartawan ajukan, dijawabnya dengan penuh teliti. Sebolahnya beliau menjawab semua soalan kami. Beliau seorang yang *free and easy*," kongsi Tuan Buqhairah yang hampir setiap hari membuat liputan sidang akhbar Dr Noor Hisham.

Sebelum bergelar Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, beliau juga sebenarnya menjawab tugas penting dalam KKM antaranya Ketua Jabatan Pembedahan Payudara Endokrin dan Pembedahan Am Hospital Putrajaya.

Beliau juga menjadi Pakar Perunding Bedah Kanan Hospital Putrajaya pada 2007, Pegawai Perubatan Pakar Bedah Umum Hospital Putrajaya (2004) dan Pakar Bedah Umum (1994).

Biarpun diberi gelaran wira, namun beliau sedikit pun tidak melupakan tenaga kerja bawahnya yang bertungkus lumus berjuang dan berkorban.

Malah, setiap hari Dr Noor Hisham tidak pernah ketinggalan merakamkan penghargaan kepada semua doktor yang bekerja siang dan malam, menggalas tugas yang amat berat dan terus berkhidmat untuk negara.

"Saya ingin merakamkan penghargaan kepada semua doktor yang bekerja siang dan malam, menggalas tugas yang amat berat dan terus berkhidmat untuk negara.

"Sedarilah kita merupakan benteng pertahanan terakhir untuk negara. Sesungguhnya kegagalan bukanlah satu pilihan," katanya.



#### PROFIL

**Nama:** Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah  
**Tarikh Lahir:** 21 April 1963  
**Tempat Lahir:** Sepang, Selangor

#### Pengalaman

- Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan bermula 1 Mac 2013
- Timbalan Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan (Perubatan) bermula 29 Januari 2008
- Ketua Jabatan Pembedahan Payudara Endokrin dan Pembedahan Am Hospital Putrajaya bermula 16 Ogos 2002
- Ketua Unit Pembedahan Payudara Endokrin, Jabatan Pembedahan, Hospital Kuala Lumpur bermula 16 Januari 1998
- Fellowship in Endocrine Surgery, Royal North Shore Hospital, University of Sydney Australia 1997-1998
- Fellowship in Breast Endocrine Surgery, Royal Adelaide and Queen Elizabeth Hospitals University of Adelaide Australia 1997
- Pakar Pembedahan Am, Hospital Kuala Terengganu bermula 1 Julai 1994
- Master of Surgery Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Hospital Kuala Lumpur (1990-1994)
- Medical Officer Accident and Emergency Department, Hospital Kuala Lumpur bermula 2 Oktober 1989
- House Officer, Hospital Universiti Kuala Lumpur bermula 1 Ogos 1988

**Sumber:** Portal rasmi Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : NEWS



A Health Ministry worker taking a family from Menara City One, Kuala Lumpur, to Kuala Lumpur Hospital yesterday. PIC BY ASWADI ALIAS

## MCO compliance rate improving, says minister

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The police on Friday recorded a drop in the number of arrests of those flouting the Movement Control Order (MCO), the first time since the nationwide move was implemented on March 18.

Defence Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said police detained 413 people on that day, a drop of 21.18 per cent from Thursday, when 524 were held.

"Of the (413 individuals), 380 were remanded, 33 were granted bail, while 362 were charged.

"It appears that the (MCO) compliance rate has improved and we hope this continues."

Ismail Sabri said the police and armed forces personnel had set up 731 roadblocks and checked 426,764 vehicles. The authorities also conducted 26,202 spot checks at 4,174 premises nationwide.

He said the Housing and Local Government Ministry, together with related agencies, was disinfecting public areas nationwide.

"Yesterday (Friday), the decontamination exercise was carried out in 460 areas in 11 states. They included 170 police stations and 38,140 People's Housing Project units in high-risk areas."

He also said the government had allowed the management bodies of strata title buildings to operate during the MCO, limiting the number of staff to two.

On students who were told to remain in universities or colleges, he said they would be looked after by the government.

Ismail Sabri said parents should not worry as the government would ensure their children's wellbeing.

"I'm sure many parents are worried and restless, as the students have been in their dorms and hostels for more than 14 days. The government will look after them. We leave this to the Higher Education Ministry. *Inshaallah*, they will be well taken care of."

He also said the Higher Education Ministry had extended the application deadline for admission to public higher learning institutions via the Central University Admission Unit portal, UP-Online, to April 17.

On the 90 quarantine centres nationwide, he said they could accommodate more than 40,000 people, adding that there was sufficient space.

Up to Friday, 4,933 Malaysians, including 1,888 who arrived from abroad, were placed under a mandatory 14-day quarantine across the country.

"Our quarantine centres can hold 40,000 people at any one time, so we have more than enough space."

On a related matter, Ismail Sabri said Sabahans and Sarawakians who returned from

overseas via Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) must be quarantined in the peninsula.

The mandatory 14-day quarantine, he said, would apply to all Sabah and Sarawak residents who did not return to their home states on the same date of their arrival at KLIA or klia2.

Ismail Sabri said those returning directly from overseas via KLIA could remain in transit and continue their journey to Sabah and Sarawak. However, they need to undergo quarantine once they reached the states.

He denied rumours that people were being brought to quarantine centres in lorries belonging to the Prisons Department.

"This is false. They are taken in buses provided by the government or the National Disaster Management Agency.

"Lorries are used only to transport their luggage," he said, stressing that stern action would be taken against those who spread fake news.

He said the police and the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission had opened 184 investigation papers, of which 20 cases had been charged in court.

"I urge the public to help the government and not cause anxiety. The government will take firm action against those who spread fake news."

## Ministry monitoring SARI cases, says Health D-G

**PUTRAJAYA:** The Health Ministry will give extra attention to patients with Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) at clinics and hospitals as they could develop into Covid-19 cases.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the ministry had been monitoring SARI cases in hospitals since January.

"We do have issues with SARI. This is because some of the workers were infected while treating cases of pneumonia or SARI, which, at that time, were not confirmed as Covid-19 cases," he said yesterday.

He said it was important to protect healthcare workers by taking precautions. Twelve healthcare workers had been infected while treating SARI patients.

Dr Noor Hisham said two groups were at high risk, namely family members of a Covid-19 patient and healthcare workers because they dealt with patients all the time, more so if the patients did not disclose their health details.

"We have told our healthcare workers to treat anyone coming in with cough and flu, or with pneumonia symptoms, as Covid-19 patients until proven otherwise."

He said most Covid-19 patients in the country, or 1,545 cases (44.36 per cent) of the total 3,483 cases, were linked to the tabligh cluster at Seri Petaling Mosque.

"Out of the new cases, 80 of them were related to the gathering. Until now, 99 positive cases are being treated in the Intensive Care Unit, 50 of whom require ventilator support."

He said the tabligh cluster was identified as the biggest infection incident, which had extended to several generations of clusters involving the participants' family members, close contacts and tahfiz students.

Around 16,000 people attended the tabligh gathering, including 1,000 foreigners from 25 countries and 14,500 locals.

"More than 12,000 index cases from the gathering had been tested and the ministry is tracing the family members and close contacts of these index cases."

Dr Noor Hisham earlier said 150 new cases were recorded yesterday, bringing the cumulative tally to 3,483 up to noon.

He said four fatalities were reported to the National Crisis Preparedness and Response Centre (CPRC), bringing the death toll to 57, or 1.64 per cent of the total 3,483 cases recorded.

Dr Noor Hisham said the 54th death (Case 2,149) was a local woman aged 85 with a history of heart disease.

"She was taken to the National Heart Institute on March 23 and died on March 28 at 12.10am.

"The 55th death or Case 860 was a local woman aged 66, who had high blood pressure. She was treated at Sultan Ismail Petra Hospital in Kelantan. She was pronounced dead on April 3 at 4pm."

He said the 56th fatality, or Case 2,850, was a 56-year-old local man with a history of heart problems and had close contact with Case 1,031.

"He was treated at Sarawak General Hospital and pronounced dead on April 3 at 4.16pm. The 57th death, or Case 1,575, was a local man aged 61 who had diabetes. He was treated at Tengkulu Ampuan Afzan Hospital in Kuantan, Pahang. He was pronounced dead on April 3 at 10.25pm.

"The Health Ministry expresses condolences to the families of the deceased," said Dr Noor Hisham.

A total 88 Covid-19 patients recovered and were discharged yesterday, bringing the tally to 915 or 26.27 per cent of the positive cases recorded.



Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah fielding questions in Putrajaya yesterday. PIC BY MOHD FADLI HAMZAH

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 7

RUANGAN : NATION/NEWS

## MALAYSIA AGRO EXPOSITION PARK SERDANG

# Agro park halls transformed into makeshift hospital in 3 days

**SERDANG:** Three days was all the government needed to transform the exhibition halls of the Malaysia Agro Exposition Park Serdang into a gigantic temporary makeshift hospital for Covid-19 patients.

Located in the heart of the 149ha agricultural park, the hospital is an additional facility providing quarantine units and treatment for low-risk patients.

The hospital, which is the brainchild of Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, can accommodate a maximum of 604 patients.

It was set up to ease congestion at gazetted Covid-19 hospitals by accepting low-risk patients who show only mild symptoms of the virus.

The Health Ministry and other government agencies, such as the police and armed forces, rolled up their sleeves and worked day and night to ensure the project was completed within the stipulated time.

Hall A and Hall C, with a size of 9,600sqm and 3,600sqm respectively, were designated as the quarantine centre to house the patients.

Both facilities are fully air-con-



*The interior of the makeshift hospital at Malaysia Agro Exposition Park Serdang.*  
PIC BY  
SAIFULLIZAN  
TAMADI

ditioned and each patient will be provided a single bed with two pillows, a drawer and a small study table for them to store belongings.

The facilities are under the care of the National Disaster Management Agency and cordoned off from visitors as only authorised medical personnel are allowed to enter the area.

Surrounded by flora and fauna and a little isolated from the community, it is a suitable venue to isolate and treat

Covid-19 patients.

A Health Ministry official involved in the project said they would ensure the facility was always in top-notch condition.

"We try to include as many medical equipment as we can so patients here can benefit from all the needed facilities.

"So far, I am satisfied with our achievements here."

Patients will be placed in any of the 27 sections separated by partitions. Each section has about 10 beds.

They will be allowed to mingle with others, but are prohibited from leaving the facility.

The centre is also equipped with WiFi, televisions and computers.

Other medical facilities are also available at the premises, such as a pharmacy, X-ray machine, pathology laboratory, occupational health and safety services, and a dietician.

The hospital also provides a safe working environment for medical staff and nurses, as they

will have special working rooms separated from the other areas.

Medical staff will also be required to don Personal Protective Equipment before entering the quarantine area and disinfect once they leave.

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba said the centre was meant to complement the 40 gazetted hospitals to treat Covid-19.

"So far, we are using 40 per cent capacity of the 40 hospitals to treat patients. We want to ease the congestion there so they can focus on those who require urgent care."

Dr Adham said the government had prepared 6,917 beds at these hospitals, with 410 of them in the Intensive Care Units, with 634 ventilators available.

"We are fully prepared to face any situation and this facility is one example."

Dr Adham said low-risk patients from the Klang Valley, Negri Sembilan and Perak could be transferred to this facility for treatment and be discharged after full recovery.

"The people's safety and well-being are our main agenda in managing the pandemic."

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : NATION

Covid-19: Current situation globally							Malaysia		New cases	Total cases	Total deaths	Total recovered
(As at 7pm, April 4, 2020)									<b>150</b>	<b>3,483</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>915</b>
Asean+	S. Korea	Philippines	India	Japan	Indonesia	Thailand	Singapore	Vietnam	Brunei	Cambodia	Myanmar	Laos
Confirmed cases	10,156	3,094	3,082	2,935	2,092	2,067	1,114	239	135	114	20	10
Deaths	177	144	86	69	191	20	6	0	1	0	1	0
Recovered	6,325	57	229	514	150	612	282	90	66	50	0	0
Global Top 10	US	Italy	Spain	Germany	France	China	Iran	UK	Turkey	Switzerland		
Confirmed cases	278,458	119,827	119,199	91,159	83,029	82,526	53,183	38,697	20,921	19,702		
Deaths	7,159	14,681	11,198	1,275	6,520	3,330	3,294	3,611	425	604		
Recovered	9,897	19,758	30,513	24,575	14,135	76,942	17,935	209	484	4,846		

## Spike in Twitter followers of Health DG

By JOSEPH KAOS Jr  
newsdesk@thestar.com.my

**PUTRAJAYA:** If there's one thing that has seen an exponential spike, it's the follower count of Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah's Twitter account. It was a five-figure number less than a fortnight ago. Now, it stands at about 160,000. In comparison, there were 120,600 followers just five days earlier.

And Malaysians have been effusive in their gratitude for him and the Health Ministry for their work

in battling Covid-19.

"Well done, doctor. Malaysia is doing a lot of things right.

"You are quarantining returning citizens, closed borders, swift treatment, testing, Covid hotline. Proud to be a Malaysian, proud of you!" posted Twitter user ychn.

Seokkwan Tan wrote: "DG is really walking the talk. Respect!"

But the public face of Malaysia's war against Covid-19 had laid out the ground work, way before the people saw him in action via his daily press conferences.

In a brief chat with *The Star*, Dr

Noor Hisham said: "We have been working non-stop since December when we were first informed by China about the coronavirus.

"We made all sorts of preparation, we set up testing labs, we prepared medication, we slowly converted our hospitals into Covid hospitals.

"When we had our first Covid case, we had 42 labs already."

(Malaysia recorded its first case on Jan 25. Apparently, the United States did not have more than three labs when it registered its first case.)

"So yes, we have been working

non-stop," said Dr Noor Hisham. "And this is not even over!"

Asked about his downtime since his Twitter followers had voiced concern about his health, Dr Noor Hisham said: "When do I sleep? Whenever I can catch sleep."

Reporters who covered him found that he had a brilliant memory as he could quote figures off the top of his head.

One Twitter follower called him "The superman for us".

Another one said: "He is our hero. May Allah always be with you, sir, and our frontliners."

## 'Extension depends on facts'

Noor Hisham: Govt to decide by April 10 when figures are available

By ASHLEY TANG  
ashleytang@thestar.com.my

**PUTRAJAYA:** Any further extension of the movement control order (MCO) will depend on Covid-19 data in the country by April 10, says Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

The Health Ministry director-general said he could not predict what would happen but any decision would be based on science and facts.

"We hope that by April 10, the data is available for us to make a decision on whether we need to extend or not," he said during a press conference yesterday.

He said the ministry would be monitoring the situation but noted that all Malaysians would have to play their part as well.

"If we can keep to staying at home, making sure we wash our hands and (practise) social distancing, then we will look into the data," he added.

To a question about the backlog



**On the ball:** Dr Noor Hisham speaking at a daily press conference. — Bernama

of reported cases, Dr Noor Hisham explained that information on new cases was based on the numbers as at noon daily.

He noted that there were 150 new Covid-19 cases yesterday, bringing the total to 3,483. He added that 88 more patients had recovered, bringing the total of those discharged to 915.

Dr Noor Hisham also said there were 99 patients at intensive care units, of which 50 are on ventilators.

He added that 80 of the 150 new cases were linked to the tabligh cluster.

"Four deaths have been recorded today. This brings the total Covid-19 deaths to 57."

Separately, Dr Noor Hisham said the ministry was concerned that Malaysians returning from abroad could bring back the virus.

Before the MCO, he said, there were 10,000 Malaysians returning to the country every day. These numbers had reduced to around 4,000 daily after the MCO, he added.

But he noted that this figure was increasing due to higher numbers of Malaysian students and workers returning due to stricter restrictions all over the world.

Dr Noor Hisham said he was worried imported cases could cause a surge or an exponential spike in infections.

Currently, those returning without symptoms would be placed in designated hotels while those with symptoms were taken to hospitals.

He said that over the last three days, there had been eight positive cases involving Malaysians returning to the country since the implementation of the compulsory quarantine.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 9

RUANGAN : NATION

## Amway gives air purifiers worth RM800,000 to Health Ministry

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Amway Malaysia has given more than 150 units of atmosphere air purifiers worth RM858,600 to the Health Ministry to be distributed to the emergency and trauma units of government hospitals.

This donation to the ministry is in addition to the first batch of air purifiers distributed last month to public hospitals, bringing the total number of air purifiers donated to the ministry to 250 units amounting to RM1.4mil.

The first batch of 100 units was distributed to 11 government hospitals in Selangor last month, with

Hospital Sungai Buloh being the first to receive several units on March 17.

"It means a lot to us that Amway Malaysia was early to donate these air treatment systems and quick to respond to our additional request in times of need," said the ministry's secretary-general Datuk Seri Dr Chen Chaw Min.

He said healthcare workers had been working long hours and "such lengthened exposure in these emergency and trauma units can lower their immunity".

Amway Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei managing director

Mike Duong said: "With high quality air purifiers, our healthcare professionals will get better and cleaner air, thus reducing the risk of contamination during such a crucial and critical phase of mitigating the spread of Covid-19 in hospitals."

Amway Malaysia also donated 25 units of atmosphere air purifiers to the National Cancer Council (Makna) and 71 units to shelters under the Social Welfare Department.

This brings the total atmosphere air purifiers donated to date to 346 units, worth up to RM2mil.



Breathe better: Dr Chen (left) receiving the air purifiers from Duong.

## 'Home-made masks allowed'

### Health DG: Extra precaution needed amid new information



By LOH FOON FONG  
foonfong@thestar.com.my

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah says his ministry will not stop people from wearing home-made face coverings following new recommendations by US and Singaporean authorities.

"It's certainly up to the public to decide. Our guidelines are clear - the public should stay home, avoid crowded areas, practise social distancing and hand washing.

"But all frontline health or counter service workers must wear masks and they, too, should not neglect hand washing and social distancing," he told *The Star* yesterday.

While the movement control order helps contain the spread of Covid-19, Malaysians are still allowed to do some basic activities such as going to the market, pharmacy, hospital or office for certain work while adopting social distancing and hand washing.

But there is concern that social distancing may not work as shown in the Skagit Valley Chorale case in Washington state, the United States.

Out of 60 singers who went to a choir practice there, 45 were diagnosed with Covid-19 and at least three were hospitalised and two died.

Dr Noor Hisham was asked if the ministry would recommend the use of non-surgical face masks following the recommendation made by the US Centres for Disease Control



Safety first: Security personnel wearing masks while on duty.

and Prevention (CDC) on Friday.

Recent studies have found that some individuals infected with the Covid-19 virus transmit the disease to others before showing symptoms, and that means the virus can spread between people interacting in close proximity whether through speaking, coughing or sneezing.

With the new evidence, the CDC has recommended "wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain such as in grocery stores and pharmacies, especially in areas of significant community-based transmission".

"Cloth face coverings fashioned from household items or made at home from common materials at low cost can be used as an additional, voluntary public health measure," the CDC said on its website.

In a video uploaded with the statement, US surgeon general Dr Jerome Adams demonstrated how one can make a face covering from

an old T-shirt.

The CDC also said that maintaining six feet (1.83m) of social distancing remains important to slowing the spread of the virus besides existing coronavirus guidelines.

On Friday, Singapore also announced it would no longer discourage its citizens from wearing masks as there is evidence that a few people can be asymptomatic and the government will distribute reusable masks to all households from today to April 12, *The Straits Times* reported.

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said the masks should be washed and dried properly at the end of a day of use.

"But remember, mask or no mask, you still need to wash your hands and keep a safe distance away from other people," he added.

He said the move also came in the wake of the World Health Organization's (WHO) reviewing of its stance on the issue of face masks.

Many countries have encouraged

only those who are unwell to wear masks based on current scientific advice and guidelines from WHO.

Malaysian Public Health Medicine Specialist Association president Datuk Dr Zainal Ariffin Omar said it adhered to the Health Ministry and WHO guidelines.

But with new clusters and infections in the community, it is all right for people to use home-made cloth masks in public places as long as suitable material are used and they are frequently changed and properly washed or disposed.

Concurring with Dr Zainal, Fomca supreme council member Muhammad Sha'ani Abdullah said a small amount of saliva does get out of the mouth when people speak and they, especially the elderly, should consider wearing a face cover made of cloth or towel to protect themselves in public places.

Due to the global shortage, surgical face masks and face shields should be set aside for the frontliners, he added.