AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 3
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Dr Noor Hisham pada sidang media harian perkembangan COVID-19 di KKM, Putrajaya, semalam.
(Foto BERNAMA)

Kes positif 85, 169 pesakit pulih

Perkembangan baik selepas hampir sebulan pelaksanaan PKP

Kuala Lumpur: Selepas hampir sebulan pelaksanaan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP), kes positif harian COVID-19 menurun kepada dua angka, iaitu 85 kes semalam berbanding tiga angka sebelum ini.

Disifatkan perkembangan baik, jumlah kes pulih harian adalah 169 kes, dua kali ganda lebih tinggi berbanding kes baharu direkodkan semalam.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata dengan 169 kes pulih itu menjadikan jumlah kumulatif terkini kes pulih sepenuhnya daripada COVID-19 dan didiscaj dari wad adalah sebanyak 2,647 kes (52.2 peratus daripada jumlah keseluruhan kes).

"Sehingga jam 12 tengah hari (semalam), terdapat 85 kes baharu yang dilaporkan. Ini menjadikan jumlah kes positif COVID-19 di Malaysia adalah sebanyak 5,072 kes. Oleh itu, jumlah kes aktif dengan kebolehjangkitan COVID-19 adalah 2,342 kes.

"Mereka diasingkan dan diberi rawatan," katanya pada sidang media harian perkembangan COVID-19 di Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM), semalam.

Katanya, Malaysia belum tiba tahap kes baharu meningkat mendadak sehingga 300 kes sehari.

"Alhamdulillah hari ini (semalam) kita lihat kes turun kepada 85 sahaja.

"Selain itu, laporan yang kami terima dari negeri juga kes berkurangan terutama Kedah, Perlis, Pulau Pinang, Kelantan dan Terengganu.

"Disebabkan itu tumpuan kita sekarang kepada kawasan di Selangor, Wilayah Persekutuan dan Negeri Sembilan," katanya.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, terdapat pertambahan satu kes kematian menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kematian akibat COVID-19 di negara ini adalah 83 kes, iaitu 1.64 peratus daripada jumlah keseluruhan kes.

Beliau berkata, kematian ke-83 (kes ke-4988) adalah lelaki tempatan berusia 69 tahun dan mempunyai latar belakang penyakit kencing manis dan darah tinggi.

"Pesakit dirawat di Pusat Perubatan Universiti Malaya pada 21 Mac dan disahkan meninggal dunia pada jam 6.41 pagi tadi (semalam)," katanya.

Dalam pada itu, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, sehingga kini, 56 kes positif COVID-19 sedang dirawat di unit rawatan rapi (ICU) dengan 32 daripadanya memerlukan bantuan pernafasan.

Mengenai PKP fasa ketiga yang bermula semalam, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, KKM menyambut baik tindakan tegas dikenakan terhadap segelintir masyarakat yang ingkar PKP.

Katanya, PKP fasa ketiga dilaksanakan bertujuan meneruskan tindakan KKM sedia ada dan menggiatkan lagi usaha mengurangkan kes positif COVID-19 di Malaysia dengan menggunakan pendekatan tertumpu.

"Namun, berdasarkan pemantauan yang dijalankan pihak berwajib dan keadaan trafik diperhatikan kebelakangan ini didapati masyarakat semakin tidak akur kepada arahan PKP.

"KKM khuatir ketidakpatuhan kepada PKP boleh membatalkan usaha keras semua pihak yang sudah diambil setakat ini," katanya.

Kontrak pegawai perubatan, farmasi disambung

Kuala Lumpur: Kerajaan meluluskan penyambungan kontrak perkhidmatan pegawai perubatan, pergigian dan farmasi di Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) bagi tempoh enam bulan.

Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba, berkata keputusan itu bertepatan matlamat kerajaan menangani dan memutuskan rantaian COVID-19.

"Demi kepentingan dan kemaslahatan rakyat, kerajaan meluluskan penyambungan kontrak perkhidmatan pegawai perubatan, pergigian dan farmasi di KKM untuk enam bulan lagi.

"Kelulusan ini membabitkan penyambungan perkhidmatan kontrak bagi seramai 79 pegawai perubatan Gred UD41, 852 pegawai pergigian Gred UG41 dan 1,139 pegawai farmasi Gred UF41 yang akan diuruskan dari semasa ke semasa," katanya dalam satu kenyataan semalam.

Dr Adham Baba

Dr Adham berkata, penyambungan itu membabitkan petugas kontrak perkhidmatan berakhir secara berperingkat pada akhir tahun lalu dan tahun ini sahaja.

Katanya, kerajaan berharap penyambungan kontrak perkhidmatan itu dapat menyediakan peluang kepada pegawai untuk terus berkhidmat serta memastikan penyampaian kesihatan berjalan lancar, selain memberi banyak manfaat kepada rakyat.

KKM katanya, amat prihatin terhadap situasi semasa dan suara hati rakyat serta tanggungjawab besar yang dipikul warga kerja kementerian itu di barisan hadapan dalam menghadapi cabaran besar wabak COVID-19.

Tiada bukti terowong nyah kuman berkesan

Putrajaya: Tiada bukti menunjukkan penggunaan terowong nyah kuman berkesan dalam mengurangkan jangkitan virus COVID-19.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata jangka masa 20 hingga 30 saat yang digunakan untuk seorang individu di dalam terowong untuk disembur bagi proses nyah kuman juga tidak memadai.

"KKM menerima beberapa permohonan bertujuan pengesahan penggunaan terowong nyah kuman seperti kotak nyahkuman, terowong, 'booth','partition' dan gerbang bagi mengurangkan jangkitan COVID-19 dan semua itu sudah dinilai oleh Cawangan Penilaian Teknologi Kesihatan.

"Penilaian sudah dilakukan terhadap beberapa model peralatan itu daripada beberapa negara dan juga model sedia ada di Malaysia.

"Penilaian dibuat ke atas semua peralatan terbabit dan mendapati tiada bukti menunjukkan peralatan itu berkesan dalam mengurangkan jangkitan COVID-19.

"Malah, proses yang dilakukan oleh alatan berkenaan juga tidak boleh membunuh kuman di dalam badan manusia," katanya pada sidang media harian COVID-19, di sini semalam.

Dr Noor Hisham menjelaskan, penilaian mendapati bahan kimia yang disembur juga boleh memberi kemudaratan kepada selaput badan (membrane mucosa) seperti di mata dan mulut.

Sehubungan itu, KKM katanya, tidak menyarankan penggunaan alatan terbabit untuk mengurangkan jangkitan COVID-19 terhadap manusia.

Sebelum ini, beberapa universiti, pertubuhan bukan kerajaan (NGO) dan pasar raya dilaporkan mencipta alatan nyah kuman untuk diletak di hadapan pintu masuk sebelum membenarkan seseorang individu memasuki premis milik mereka.

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 8
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

KKM sasar saring pelajar tahfiz

Kuala Lumpur: Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) menetapkan sasaran untuk menyaring pelajar madrasah tahfiz selepas kejayaan mengesan jemaah tabligh yang menghadiri perhimpunan di Seri Petaling.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah pada sidang media di Putrajaya yang disiarkan secara langsung semalam, memaklumkan KKM menerima maklumat ada 8,616 pelajar tahfiz dengan 1,736 sudah disaring di madrasah masing-masing, setakat ini.

"KKM melihat selepas (kluster) tabligh, sasaran sekarang adalah pelajar madrasah tahfiz kerana kita difahamkan ada 8,616 pelajar terbabit. Kita sudah melakukan saringan ke atas kira-kira 10 peratus daripada jumlah itu, iaitu mereka yang berada di madrasah.

"Daripada 1,736 orang yang disaring, 217 kes positif membabitkan pelajar tahfiz atau lebih kurang 10 peratus," katanya sambil menambah, KKM akan bekerjasama dengan polis serta agensi berkaitan untuk mengesan dan melakukan saringan terhadap baki pelajar berkenaan.

"Kebanyakan daripada mereka sudah pulang ke rumah masing-masing sebelum pelaksanaan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP)," katanya.

Sementara itu, beliau berkata, KKM mudah mengesan peserta kluster persidangan gereja di Sarawak kerana program itu mempunyai rekod peserta hadir.

Penampang catat kes sporadik

Kota Kinabalu: Daerah Penampang merekodkan kes sporadik COVID-19, sekali gus menyukarkan pihak berkuasa untuk mengambil tindakan lanjut.

Pengarah Jabatan Kesihatan Sabah, Datuk Dr Cristina Rundi, berkata ada 11 kes COVID-19 dengan sembilan daripadanya kes sporadik, termasuk empat kes dikesan ke atas pesakit yang mempunyai sejarah perjalanan ke luar negara, manakala kes lain membabitkan petugas profesional kesihatan.

"Dua kontak kes sporadik disahkan positif. Kita berharap mereka yang sedang disiasat memberikan maklumat tepat bagi membolehkan pihak berkuasa mengesan pesakit lain untuk memastikan aktiviti kawalan lebih baik," katanya dalam satu kenyataan, semalam.

Kes sporadik COVID-19 ialah kes yang tidak diketahui dari mana asal-usul jangkitan, tetapi ia sangat sedikit.

Kakitangan KKM melakukan ujian saringan COVID-19 terhadap penduduk Taman Nusari Aman, Sendayan, semalam.
(Foto Azrul Edham Mohd Aminuddin/BH)

Penularan COVID-19

Satu kematian babit kluster baharu

39 kes positif dikesan di Sendayan

Kuala Lumpur: Satu kematian akibat COVID-19 direkodkan daripada kluster Sendayan di Negeri Sembilan, kluster baharu yang dikesan Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM), kelmarin.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, memaklumkan kematian itu direkodkan di sebuah pusat tahfiz di kawasan berkenaan.

"Tindakan bersepadu oleh anggota kesihatan sedang dijalankan di lapangan dan semoga jangkitan dapat dikawal daripada terus merebak," katanya menerusi Twitter beliau, semalam.

Setakat ini, beliau berkata, sebanyak 39 kes positif dikesan di kawasan berkenaan, membabitkan 13 pelajar tahfiz, 15 ahli lembaga pengarah sebuah syarikat dan sebuah keluarga membabitkan 11 individu.

Di **Seremban**, Jabatan Kesihatan daerah melakukan ujian saringan COVID-19 terhadap lebih 300 penduduk di Bandar Sri Sendayan, semalam.

Menteri Besar Negeri Sembilan, Datuk Seri Aminuddin Harun pada sidang medianya memaklumkan, ujian saringan dilakukan menerusi kaedah pandu lalu membabitkan penduduk dari Taman Nusari Aman, Nusari Bayu dan Hijayu Bandar Sri Sendayan.

Katanya, kerajaan negeri juga sudah mengarahkan Majlis Bandaraya Seremban (MBS) memastikan operasi perniagaan ditutup sepenuhnya di kawasan itu, termasuk penjaja kecil bagi memastikan kluster baharu COVID-19 di situ tidak merebak.

"Kawalan keselamatan di Bandar Sri Sendayan sudah diperketatkan dengan memperhebatkan lagi sekatan jalan raya, selain memantau pergerakan penduduk pastikan mereka mematuhi Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP)," katanya.

Aminuddin berkata, beliau juga sudah berbincang dengan Majlis Keselamatan Negara (MKN) Pusat semalam, mengenai situasi di Bandar Sri Sendayan dan langkah yang perlu diambil jika ada data baharu mengenai penularan COVID-19 di kawasan itu.

"Setiausaha Kerajaan Negeri, Datuk Dr Razali Ab Malik akan terus memantau perkembangan kes COVID-19 di kawasan berkenaan," katanya.

Kawalan keselamatan di Bandar Sri Sendayan sudah diperketatkan dengan memperhebatkan lagi sekatan jalan raya, selain memantau pergerakan penduduk pastikan mereka mematuhi PKP.

Aminuddin Harun,
Menteri Besar Negeri Sembilan

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO
MUKA SURAT : 4
RUANGAN : LOKAL

KKM catat perkembangan baik tangani wabak

Kuala Lumpur: Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) mencatatkan perkembangan baik kes Covid-19 apabila bilangan pesakit pulih melebihi kes jangkitan baharu tiga hari berturut-turut.

Semalam, seramai 169 pesakit sembuh dan dibenarkan pulang menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan pesakit yang pulih daripada jangkitan itu hingga kini 2,647 orang.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, 85 kes baharu dilaporkan setakat jam 12 tengah hari semalam menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan kes positif Covid-19 di Malaysia 5,072 orang.

"Jumlah kes aktif dengan kebolehjangkitan 2,342 kes bilangan kes discaj hampir dua kali ganda kes baharu yang dilaporkan.

"Daripada jumlah itu, 56 pesakit dirawat di unit rawatan rapi (ICU) dengan 32 pesakit memerlukan bantuan pernafasan," katanya pada sidang media harian Covid-19 di Putrajaya, semalam.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, daripada maklumat terkini yang dilaporkan ke Pusat Kesiapsiagaan dan Tindakan Cepat Krisis Kebangsaan (CPRC), dukacita dimaklumkan ada pertambahan satu kes kematian berkaitan Covid-19, sekali gus jumlah keseluruhan angka korban sebanyak 83 orang atau 1.64 peratus.

DR Noor Hisham

KAKITANGAN KKM membuat pemeriksaan suhu badan ke atas individu untuk menjalani pemeriksaan saringan Covid-19 di Masjid Sheikh Haji Ahmad, Taman Nusari Aman, Sendayan.

Kluster Sendayan catat satu kematian

Kuala Lumpur: Kluster Sendayan yang baharu dikesan Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) merekodkan satu kes kematian akibat Covid-19.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah menerusi ciapan Twitternya semalam berkata, kematian itu direkodkan di sebuah pusat tahfiz di kawasan itu.

"Tindakan bersepadu oleh anggota kesihatan sedang dijalankan di lapangan dan semoga jangkitan dapat dikawal daripada terus merebak," katanya.

Kelmarin pada sidang media harian di Putrajaya, beliau berkata, pihaknya mengesan satu kluster baharu penularan Covid-19 di Sendayan, Negeri Sembilan.

Katanya, sebanyak 39 kes positif dikesan di kawasan berkenaan.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 4
RUANGAN : MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19

Kes pulih melebihi 50 peratus

Sebanyak 85 kes baharu wabak Covid-19 dicatatkan di Malaysia semalam

Oleh TUAN BUQHAIRAH TUAN MUHAMAD ADNAN

PUTRAJAYA

Buat sekian kalinya, kes baharu positif koronavirus (Covid-19) yang direkodkan Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) di bawah angka 100 iaitu sebanyak 85 kes semalam.

Selain itu, peratusan kes yang discaj juga melebihi 50 peratus daripada jumlah keseluruhan kes.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, ia merupakan kemajuan memberangsangkan hasil daripada dua fasa Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP) yang telah dilaksanakan.

"Setelah hampir sebulan pelaksanaan PKP fasa pertama dan kedua ini, kita dapat melihat trend jumlah kes baharu Covid-19 sedikit terkawal tanpa kenaikan yang mendadak.

"Jumlah kes harian yang didiscaj dari wad meningkat saban hari," katanya di sini semalam.

Untuk rekod, kali terakhir negara mencatatkan kes baharu positif Covid-19 di bawah angka 100 adalah pada 14 Mac iaitu sebanyak 41 orang.

Dalam pada itu, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, jumlah kumulatif positif Covid-19 adalah 5,072 kes.

"Daripada jumlah itu, hanya 2,342 kes aktif dan kesemua pesakit telah diasingkan untuk rawatan," katanya.

Katanya, Pusat Kesiapsiagaan dan Tindak Cepat CPRC Kebangsaan merekodkan pertambahan satu lagi kematian menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan 83 kes.

Sementara itu, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, tindakan KKM mengasingkan individu yang bergejala dan positif Covid-19 merupakan salah satu faktor kejayaan Malaysia mengawal kadar jangkitan.

Menurutnya, tindakan yang diamalkan negara ini berbeza dengan beberapa negara lain yang hanya merawat individu bergejala teruk di hospital.

"Apabila seseorang itu positif walaupun tidak bergejala, kita mengasingkan mereka di hospital," katanya.

Menurutnya, tindakan itu dapat mengesan kes positif dalam kalangan mereka bergejala ringan dan tidak bergejala.

"Kita dapat mengesan sebanyak 88 peratus daripada jumlah kes itu," katanya.

KES KEMATIAN BAHARU COVID-19 DI MALAYSIA

Kes ke	Kematian ke	Jantina	Umur (tahun)	Hospital	Latar belakang
4988	83	lelaki	69	Pusat Perubatan Universiti Malaya	Mempunyai penyakit kencing manis dan darah tinggi.

83 Kematian Setakat 15 April 2020

Sumber: CPRC Kebangsaan, kkm UKK MOH

Satu lagi kematian akibat Covid-19 direkodkan di Malaysia semalam.

KKM tumpu saring pelajar tahfiz

PUTRAJAYA - Selepas kumpulan tabligh, Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) memberi tumpuan melakukan pengesanan aktif terhadap 8,616 pelajar tahfiz di seluruh negara bagi membendung penularan jangkitan Covid-19.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, daripada jumlah tersebut, KKM telah membuat saringan terhadap 1,736 pelajar terbabit.

"Daripada jumlah itu, seramai 217 pelajar didapati positif," katanya di sini semalam.

Menurutnya, semua pelajar yang berada di madrasah telah disaring oleh KKM.

"Bagaimanapun, kebanyakan pelajar tahfiz telah pulang ke rumah masing-masing sebelum Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP) dilaksanakan," katanya.

Beliau berkata, KKM sedang melaksana kerjasama dengan pihak polis dan agensi berkaitan bagi mengesan pelajar terbabit.

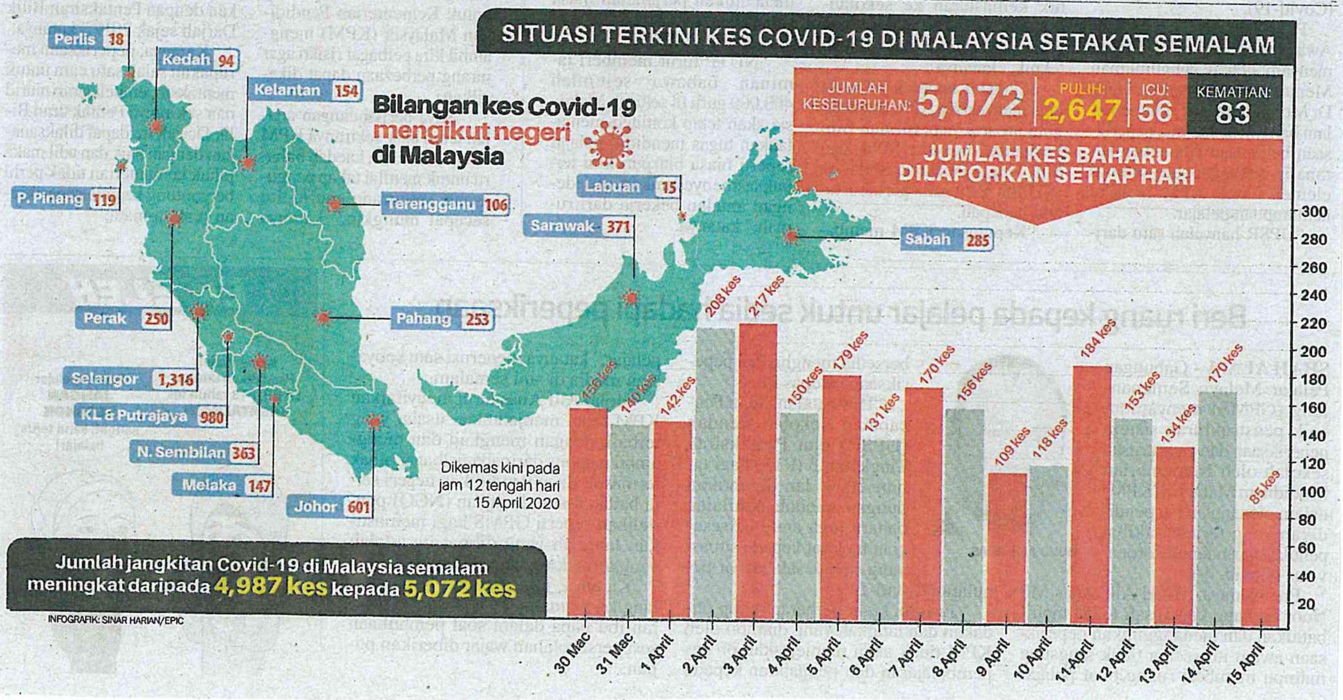
"Tindakan ini adalah sama seperti yang dilakukan bagi mengesan kluster gereja di Kuching, Sarawak," katanya.

Sementara itu, ditanya mengenai dakwaan Covid-19 bermutasi, beliau berkata, terdapat kemungkinan tiga jenis varian virus itu di negara ini.

"Ini berikutan ramai rakyat kita pulang dari merata tempat seluruh dunia termasuk Amerika Syarikat, United Kingdom dan China," katanya.

Menurutnya, varian tersebut tidak dapat dikenal pasti sehingga isolasi dan menandakan virus tersebut.

"Selepas daripada itu, barulah kita bandingkan varian untuk dikenal pasti sama ada ia jenis A, B mahupun C," katanya.



INFOGRAFIK: SINAR HARIAN/EPIC

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 5
RUANGAN : MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19

Kontrak perkhidmatan 2,070 pegawai KKM disambung

DR ADHAM BABA

KUALA LUMPUR - Kerajaan meluluskan penyambungan kontrak perkhidmatan 2,070 pegawai perubatan, pegawai pergigian dan pegawai farmasi di Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) untuk tempoh enam bulan.

Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba berkata, kelulusan itu melibatkan penyambungan perkhidmatan kontrak untuk 79 pegawai perubatan Gred UD41, 852 pegawai pergigian Gred UG41 dan 1,139 pegawai farmasi Gred UF41 yang akan diuruskan dari masa ke masa.

"Langkah ini juga sangat bertepatan serta selari dengan matlamat kerajaan dan KKM untuk menangani dan memutuskan rantaian penularan wabak koronavirus (Covid-19).

"Kerajaan juga berharap penyambungan kontrak perkhidmatan tersebut dapat menyediakan peluang kepada pegawai untuk terus berkhidmat serta memastikan penyampaian kesihatan berjalan lancar dan memberi manfaat kepada rakyat," katanya dalam satu kenyataan di sini semalam.

Beliau berkata, keputusan tersebut melibatkan petugas-petugas kontrak perkhidmatan yang telah atau akan berakhir secara berperingkat pada akhir tahun 2019 dan 2020 sahaja. - *Bernama*

Terowong disinfeksi tak mampu bunuh Covid-19

Penggunaan peralatan berkenaan boleh mendatangkan kemudaratan

Oleh TUAN BUQHAIRAH TUAN MUHAMAD ADNAN

FOTO: BERNAMA

KKM tidak menyarankan penggunaan terowong disinfeksi sebagai langkah untuk mengurangkan jangkitan Covid-19.

PUTRAJAYA

Penggunaan terowong disinfeksi bagi proses nyahkuman disahkan Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) tidak mampu membunuh koronavirus (Covid-19).

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, penggunaan peralatan itu boleh mendatangkan kemudaratan.

"Justeru, KKM tidak menyarankan penggunaannya sebagai langkah untuk mengurangkan jangkitan Covid-19 terhadap manusia," katanya pada sidang akhbar di sini semalam.

Mengulas lanjut, beliau berkata, pihaknya telah menerima beberapa permohonan bagi tujuan pengesahan penggunaan terowong disinfeksi dan peralatan seumpamanya.

"Cawangan Penilaian Teknologi Kesihatan KKM telah melakukan penilaian terhadap beberapa model terowong disinfeksi seperti kebuk (chamber), gerbang, *booth* dan *partition* yang mempunyai fungsi sama menyahkuman terhadap manusia," katanya.

Beliau berkata, pihaknya mendapati proses nyahkuman oleh peralatan yang dinilai melibatkan seseorang melalui ruang menempatkan peralatan tersebut untuk tempoh 20 hingga 30 saat. Ketika itu individu berkenaan akan disembur menggunakan bahan kimia.

"Kesemua model yang telah dikaji menggunakan bahan kimia berlainan," katanya.

Menurutnya, hasil penilaian mendapati bahawa tiada bukti untuk menunjukkan bahawa peralatan tersebut berkesan dalam mengurangkan jangkitan Covid-19.

"Jangka masa 20 hingga 30 saat tidak memadai untuk proses nyahkuman yang berkesan dan ia juga tidak boleh membunuh kuman dalam badan manusia.

"Tambahan pula bahan kimia yang digunakan boleh membawa kemudaratan kepada selaput badan (membrane mucosa) seperti pada mata dan mulut," katanya.

Sementara itu, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, ahli keluarga pesakit Covid-19 perlu melakukan disinfeksi rumah masing-masing mengikut garis panduan ditetapkan KKM.

Beliau berkata, panduan tersebut boleh didapati di laman sesawang KKM.

"Tuan rumah perlu mengikut prosedur operasi standard (SOP) yang ditetapkan KKM," katanya.

Menurutnya, proses nyahcemar hanya akan dilaksanakan oleh pihak berkuasa tempatan (PBT) di tempat awam.

"Di rumah, tuan rumah perlu lakukannya sendiri," kata beliau.

HTJS perlukan bekalan topeng N95

SEREMBAN - Hospital Tuanku Jaafar Seremban (HTJS) kini mengalami kekurangan topeng muka jenis N95.

Pengarah HTJS, Dr Zaleha Md Noor berkata, meskipun pihaknya menerima banyak bantuan topeng muka tetapi bekalan untuk jenis N95 masih kurang.

Menurutnya, pihaknya mengalu-alukan mana-mana pihak yang mahu menyumbangkan topeng muka jenis N95 untuk kegunaan petugas bagi merawat pesakit Covid-19 di hospital ini.

"Kalau topeng muka jenis biasa memang sangat mencukupi dan terlalu banyak. Memandangkan bekalan untuk dapatkan N95 kini sangat sukar, jadi kita pakai juga topeng muka biasa.

"Sekurang-kurangnya itu juga dapat membantu menjaga tahap keselamatan dan kesihatan, cuma topeng muka jenis N95 ini sangat sesuai untuk kakitangan kita pakai dalam merawat wabak Covid-19.

"Kalau ada mana-mana pihak yang ingin sumbangkan kita sangat mengalu-alukan," katanya di sini semalam.

Kalau ada mana-mana pihak yang ingin sumbangkan kita sangat mengalu-alukan."

-Dr Zaleha Md Noor

Beliau berkata demikian ketika ditemui selepas menerima sumbangan bekalan makanan daripada Pertubuhan Intergrasi Komuniti Malaysia (Ikon) di HTJS.

Hadir sama, Presiden Ikon Malaysia, Mia Nurhamizah Abdul Ghapar; Pengarah Urusan OAR Teguh Sdn Bhd, Mohd Omar Mohd Ali dan Timbalan Pengarah Klinikal I, Dr Muhammad Zamri Harun.

Sebanyak lapan kotak sumbangan bekalan makanan kering disampaikan oleh Ikon Malaysia dengan kerjasama OAR Teguh untuk keperluan pesakit Covid-19 yang dirawat di seluruh hospital di Negeri Sembilan.

Menurut Presiden Ikon Malaysia, Mia Nurhamizah, program tersebut dilaksanakan untuk membantu pihak hospital menyediakan keperluan makanan kering bagi pesakit Covid-19.

"Biasanya waktu akhir mereka makan adalah pada jam 6 petang. Apabila malam tentu ada pesakit yang masih lapar, jadi kita berikan keperluan makanan kering ini bagi membolehkan mereka mendapat makanan secara berterusan.

"Kita beri pihak hospital biskut, roti, minuman segera 3 in 1 dan pelbagai makanan ringan lain untuk mereka berikan kepada pesakit Covid-19 yang masih dirawat," katanya.

Belaiu berkata, projek sumbangan bekalan makanan kering itu turut dilaksanakan di sekitar Kuala Lumpur, Selangor dan Melaka melalui Ikon Malaysia di negeri masing-masing.

Dr Zaleha (dua dari kiri) menerima kotak bekalan makanan untuk pesakit Covid-19 yang dirawat di hospital Negeri Sembilan daripada Mohd Omar di Seremban semalam.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAIT TIMES
MUKA SURAT : 8
RUANGAN : NATION/NEWS

Tan Sri Dr Jemilah Mahmood

Spraying disinfectant on people is harmful, says Dr Jemilah

KUALA LUMPUR: Those spraying people with disinfectant products have been told to stop doing so immediately.

Special adviser to the prime minister (public health) Tan Sri Dr Jemilah Mahmood said this included all universities and companies which had taken it upon themselves to spray people as a safety precaution.

She said the practice was against the recommendations of the World Health Organisation (WHO) and it could cause harm to those sprayed with the chemical products.

"This is not recommended and is against WHO guidelines. Stop this, please, before you hurt and harm anyone.

"Dear Universities and Companies practising spraying people. STOP. Please read this who.int/emergencies/di... @utm_my @MinistryofEd," she posted on her Twitter account yesterday.

Dr Jemilah also shared a news report which stated that Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) was planning to mass produce a disinfection chamber to help frontliners fight the Covid-19 virus.

In the report, UTM said the disinfectant used could kill 99.9 per cent of germs and that each person was required to stay inside the chamber for about 20 seconds.

According to WHO, via its social media platforms, spraying alcohol or chlorine on a person's body would not stop the virus from spreading.

"Spraying alcohol or chlorine all over your body will not kill viruses that have already entered your body.

"Spraying such substances can be harmful to clothes or mucous membranes such as eyes and mouth," a posting on WHO's Facebook page read.

Police and armed forces personnel manning a roadblock in Labuan yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

POSITIVE SIGN

'NUMBER OF NEW CASES FALLS BELOW 100 MARK'

Number of recoveries is double that of new cases, says Health D-G

PUTRAJAYA

FOR the first time since the middle of last month, the number of daily Covid-19 cases fell below the 100 mark to 85 yesterday.

The last time the country reported new cases in double-digit figures was on March 14 when 35 people tested positive for the deadly virus.

At the same time, the number of Covid-19 patients who recovered and were discharged from hospitals was double the number of new confirmed cases.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said 169 people were given a clean bill of health, bringing the total number of people who recovered from the infection to 2,647 or 52.2 per cent of the cumulative total of 5,072 cases.

"After almost a month following the implementation of the first and second phases of the Movement Control Order (MCO), the trend involving new Covid-19 cases (daily) is slightly under control without a significant increase in the number of people infected by the virus.

"The number of Covid-19 patients discharged from the wards daily also continues to increase.

"Such a development is encouraging and is due to the implementation of the MCO, which entered its third phase from April 15 until April 28."

Dr Noor Hisham said this at the daily press conference on the Covid-19 situation in the country here.

At press time, he said 56 people were being treated in the Intensive Care Unit, with 32 requiring breathing assistance.

The ministry's National Crisis Preparedness and Response Centre (CPRC) reported one Covid-19 fatality involving a 69-year-old man with a history of diabetes and high blood pressure.

The death toll from the deadly virus stood at 83 or 1.64 per cent of the total number of cases.

Malaysia, Dr Noor Hisham said, achieved a better outcome in its fight to contain the pandemic as the approach was different compared with the United Kingdom (UK) and Italy.

He said it was compulsory for people who tested positive for Covid-19 to be isolated and admitted to hospital, enabling healthcare personnel to treat and monitor the patients.

"This is different from other countries. In the UK and Italy, for example, people who tested positive, are asymptomatic and have mild symptoms are advised to stay at home."

In a related development, Dr Noor Hisham said the ministry's next focus under its targeted Covid-19 testing activities was to conduct screening of 8,616 tahfiz students in madrasah nationwide.

A total of 1,736 students had been tested.

"All the individuals in madrasah have been tested. However, many of them had returned home before the MCO came into force," he said, adding that the ministry was working closely with the police and other agencies to trace and screen the students.

Dr Noor Hisham also said there was no evidence to prove that the use of disinfection box, chamber, tunnel, booth, partition or gate could reduce the risk of being infected by Covid-19.

The duration of between 20 and 30 seconds applied under this process, he said, was not enough for disinfection.

"The process will not eliminate the virus in the (human) body. And the chemicals used in this process may end up harming a person's membrane mucosa such as the eyes and mouth.

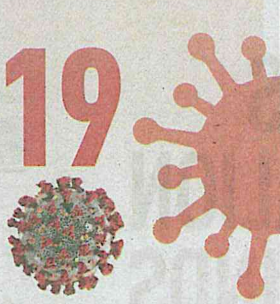
"Based on our evaluation, the ministry does not recommend the use of disinfection box/chamber/tunnel/booth/partition or gate as a measure to reduce the Covid-19 infection."

AKHBAR : NEW STRAIT TIMES
MUKA SURAT : 8
RUANGAN : NST POSTER

WORLDWIDE (UP TO YESTERDAY)

CORONAVIRUS CASES	RECOVERED	DEATHS
2,005,542	485,899	126,858

GLOBAL COVID-19 CASES



UNITED STATES

Recorded cases **614,246**
Deaths **26,064**

Updates: President Donald Trump has instructed his administration to halt the country's funding of the World Health Organisation (WHO). He accused the organisation of mismanaging and covering up the spread of Covid-19. The US provides between about US$400 million every year to the organisation, making it the biggest single funder.

SPAIN

Recorded cases **174,060**
Deaths **18,255**

Updates: The country will maintain social distancing rules, including at beaches to curb the spread of Covid-19, once a nationwide lockdown ends. Tourism Minister Reyes Maroto said it was crucial to continue health recommendations such as washing hands and social distancing as "until there is a vaccine nothing will be the way it was before".

ITALY

Recorded cases **162,488**
Deaths **21,067**

Updates: Certain shops such booksellers, stationery and baby clothes traders are reopening. Computer production and paper manufacturing are also allowed to resume with strict hygiene rules. However, the epicentre of the crisis in Lombardy is keeping shops shut.

FRANCE

Recorded cases **143,303**
Deaths **15,729**

Updates: The renowned Tour de France will be postponed from its planned dates of June 27 to July 19, and will be held from Aug 29 to Sept 20. President Emmanuel Macron confirmed no major public events can be held until at least mid-July due to the effects of Covid-19.

GERMANY

Recorded cases **132,210**
Deaths **3,495**

Updates: The country is appealing to medically qualified migrants to help the country to tackle Covid-19, as there have been a number of doctors and nurses falling ill or quarantined. In the state of Bavaria alone, 244 doctors' practices have had to close because of coronavirus infections.

UNITED KINGDOM

Recorded cases **93,873**
Deaths **12,107**

Updates: The country's health secretary Matt Hancock announced that every care home resident showing symptoms of Covid-19 will be tested for the disease. The move came after general practitioners revealed that many patients dying from the virus had not been recorded, which suggests that official Covid-19 figures may have been "significantly skewed".

CHINA

Recorded cases **82,295**
Deaths **3,342**

Updates: The republic's National Health Commission confirmed that human tests for two experimental coronavirus vaccines will go ahead. The vaccines are being developed by the Beijing-based unit of Sinovac Biotech and Wuhan Institute of Biological Products.

TURKEY

Recorded cases **65,111**
Deaths **1,403**

Updates: The country's national carrier Turkish Airlines has extended the suspension of its international flights until next month. This move was in accordance with the decisions made by Turkish authorities to protect the people's health from Covid-19.

MALAYSIA

Recorded cases **5,072**
Deaths **83**

Updates: The Education Ministry announced the cancellation of this year's Ujian Pencapaian Sekolah Rendah (UPSR) for Year Six pupils and Pentaksiran Tingkatan Tiga (PT3) for Form 3 students. Minister Dr Mohd Radzi Md Jidin said the cancellation of both examinations will not affect evaluation process for students' academic performance.

PHILIPPINES

Recorded cases **5,453**
Deaths **349**

Updates: The country will extend 51 billion pesos in wage subsidy workers in small businesses. Finance Undersecretary Karl Kendrick Chua said the government will prioritise 2.6 million workers, whose employers had updated tax payments and pension fund contributions, for this initiative. Each worker could receive up to 8,000 pesos for two months.

SINGAPORE

Recorded cases **3,252**
Deaths **10**

Updates: The republic has made it mandatory to wear a mask when stepping out of the house. Minister for National Development Lawrence Wong said the new regulation takes effect immediately. Individuals caught without a mask will be fined, while foreign residents might have their work passes or permanent resident status revoked.

THAILAND

Recorded cases **2,643**
Deaths **43**

Updates: The Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand (CAAT) has extended its inbound flight ban to April 30. Its director-general Chula Sukmanop said the move implemented since April 3 was crucial to maintain measures to control the spread of Covid-19. The ban excludes flights related to humanitarian aid, medical and relief, repatriation and cargo.

INDONESIA

Recorded cases **5,136**
Deaths **469**

Updates: Tourist hotspot Bali has no intention to implement large-scale social restrictions, similar to those that are enforced in the greater Jakarta area to stop the transmission of Covid-19. Its Governor Wayan Koster claimed that the island had yet to face a situation where such restrictions would be essential.

TIPS TO STAY ACTIVE AT HOME DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

1. Walk up and down the stairs

2. Do some stretching exercises

3. Dance to music for a few minutes

4. Seek more ideas and resources online

Source: World Health Organisation

LIST OF FAKE NEWS DEBUNKED BY THE MALAYSIAN COMMUNICATIONS AND MULTIMEDIA COMMISSION (MCMC)

1. The management of Lepapa Hypermarket in Serian, Sarawak, has denied claims by certain quarters who stopped customers from buying goods there due to an alleged Covid-19 patient loitering in its premises. Its management said it had put in place precautionary measures to protect the safety of its customers. (April 15).

2. The Crisis Preparedness and Response Centre, Public Health Division and Johor Health Department have denied claims that there is a Covid-19-positive individual at Pasar Borong Pandan, Johor Baru. (April 15).

3. Amanah Ikhtiar Malaysia (AIM) denied it had asked for information on companies registered with the Companies Commission of Malaysia to seek for personal data of their customers, supposedly to distribute AIM grants amounting to RM3,000. (April 14).

4. The Kuching district police chief has denied claims that the individual who smashed the windscreen of an ambulance in Jalan Kulas, Satok, is a Covid-19 patient. He said the person was drunk and had stopped the vehicle while it was responding to an emergency case at a village. (April 14).

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 5
RUANGAN : NATION

Covid-19: Current situation globally
(As at 7pm April 15, 2020)

Malaysia	New cases	Total cases	Total deaths	Total recovered
	85	5,072	83	2,647

Asean+	India	S. Korea	Japan	Philippines	Indonesia	Singapore	Thailand	Vietnam	Brunei	Cambodia	Myanmar	Laos
Confirmed cases	11,555	10,591	8,100	5,453	5,136	3,252	2,643	267	136	122	74	19
Deaths	396	225	146	349	469	10	43	0	1	0	4	0
Recovered	1,362	7,616	853	353	446	611	1,497	171	107	96	2	1

Global Top 10	US	Spain	Italy	France	Germany	UK	China	Iran	Turkey	Belgium
Confirmed cases	614,246	177,633	162,488	143,303	132,210	93,873	82,295	76,389	65,111	33,573
Deaths	26,064	18,579	21,067	15,729	3,495	12,107	3,342	4,777	1,403	4,440
Recovered	38,820	70,853	37,130	28,805	72,600	N/A	77,816	49,933	4,799	7,107

85 new cases detected

Less than 100 infected in 24 hrs since March 14

By JOSEPH KAOS Jr and RAHIMY RAHIM
newsdesk@thestar.com.my

PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia has recorded 85 new Covid-19 cases, making it the first time since March 14 that the country recorded fewer than a hundred cases in a 24-hour span.

The country also discharged 169 patients yesterday, which is also the second consecutive day where the number of patients discharged is higher than the number of new cases.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said at the ministry's daily Covid-19 media briefing here that the total number of confirmed infections in the country was now 5,072.

So far, 2,647 patients have recovered from Covid-19, bringing the rate of recovery here to 52.2%.

Currently, there are a total of 2,342 active cases and all patients are under isolation and receiving treatment at health facilities.

A total of 56 patients are treated at intensive care units (ICUs), with 32 of them requiring ventilators.

Dr Noor Hisham reported one new death, bringing the Covid-19 death toll to 83, or a fatality rate of 1.64%.

On the improving Covid-19 case figures, he attributed it to the success of the first and second phase of the movement control order (MCO).

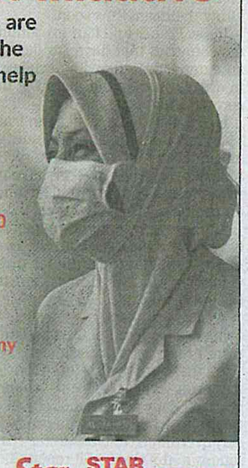
"We have not seen an exponential surge in cases throughout the MCO. There are little to no new cases in several states in the north such as Perlis, Kedah, Penang, Kelantan and Terengganu. The focus is now mainly on Selangor, Kuala Lumpur and Negri Sembilan.

"In the third phase of the MCO, we will beef up our approach at hotspots to reduce the number of cases," said Dr Noor Hisham.

When asked whether Malaysia should follow Singapore's footsteps by forcing people to wear masks, Dr Noor Hisham said social distancing and avoiding the "3Cs" were better.

"The 3Cs are confined spaces, crowded places and close contact with another person. If you have confined space with poor ventilation, you should avoid that space. Avoid crowded places, too.

"And please avoid close contact when you communicate. Wearing a mask will be additional protection," he said.



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Star MEDIA GROUP STAR FOUNDATION

Farmers stop dumping veg in Camerons

By MANJIT KAUR
manjit@thestar.com.my

IPOH: Following weeks of difficulty in transporting their produce due to the movement control order (MCO), vegetable growers in Cameron Highlands are now heaving a sigh of relief.

Cameron Highlands Vegetable Growers Association secretary Chay Ee Mong said a lot of non-governmental organisations and politicians had stepped in to reduce wastage by purchasing vegetables from farms to be given to the needy.

He said some of them even headed up to the hill station to collect the vegetables themselves, while some made arrangements for transportation.

However, he said all transportation heading up the hill for collection must obtain police clearance first.

"We sell vegetables at farm price, while some farmers do their bit for charity by providing leafy vegetables for free.

"Some smaller farms that do not have the means to bring out vegetables for packaging and so forth, have no choice but to destroy the crop. Some farms have started work for the next season," he said.

Cameron Highlands Malay Farmers Association president Datuk Syed Abdul Rahman said as long as wholesale markets were open, there should not be much wastage.

"So there should not be problems for us to transport vegetables to these markets.

"Many farmers are also giving away vegetables by working with NGOs," he said.

However, a farmer said all flowers for the local market had to be discarded as shops selling flowers had to be closed as they were deemed non-essential.

P. Viswanathan said 70% of flowers grown there were meant for the local market.

"Four months ago, we planted double the amount of flowers for the Tamil New Year that fell on April 14.

"We had to destroy all the flowers, and I think most farmers would have lost about RM50,000," he said.

There were no issues for flowers exported to countries like Thailand, Singapore and Japan.

The Star reported on April 14 that tonnes of flowers had been thrown away, with Cameron Highlands Floriculturists Association president Lee Peng Fo saying flowering plants worth close to RM40mil had been disposed of since the MCO was implemented.

Win and lose: While vegetable growers get help from NGOs and politicians, flower producers have had to discard up to RM40mil in flowers (above) due to the pandemic.

Health officer contracts to be extended

PETALING JAYA: The Health Ministry has approved the extension of the contracts for medical, dentistry and pharmaceutical officers for an additional period of six months.

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba said the approval was for those whose contract would have ended in stages at the end of 2019 and 2020 only.

He said the approval included 79 medical officers in grade UD41; 852 dental officers in grade UG41 and 1,139 pharmacy officers in grade UF41.

"The decision is in line with the government's objective to flatten the curve of the Covid-19 pandemic and curb it altogether.

"The government hopes the extension of the contract will provide the officers with the opportunity to continue with their service and ensure smooth delivery of healthcare processes that will benefit the people," he said in a statement.

Dr Noor Hisham a top professional in Covid-19 fight

PETALING JAYA: Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah has been named by China Global TV Network as among the "top doctors" in the world for his competency in handling the Covid-19 pandemic.

According to a report from the network, Dr Noor Hisham has been placed among one of the three leading doctors in the fight to stop the spread of Covid-19, together with United States' infectious disease expert Dr Anthony Fauci and New Zealand's director-general of health Ashley Bloomfield.

These three experts have received praise for being "calm, clear and trustworthy" sources of information to their countrymen.

Dr Noor Hisham, 56, who has been the health director-general since 2013, has been dubbed a "trusted face" by Malaysians, thanks to his consistent updates on the disease on his social media platforms, relying on facts and figures to make decisions and inform the public.

China Global TV Network also noted that the "low-key image and unassuming air" have contributed to Dr Noor Hisham's appeal, while Bloomfield has been described as the quintessential civil servant.

Dr Noor Hisham, who has a Masters in Surgery and a medical degree from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, joined the civil service as a medical officer in August 1988.

He went on to specialise in endocrine surgery and obtained his training in universities in Adelaide and Sydney. He has written articles in journals and authored many chapters in endocrine surgery textbooks.

Dr Fauci and Bloomfield have also been calming and informative influences in their countries.

Dr Fauci, 79, was reported to have worked more than 16 hours a day for the past few weeks, prompting people to be "worried" whenever they don't see the veteran during White House briefings.

Bloomfield has also received extensive praise for "diligent" and "clear" responses when speaking to the press, with New Zealanders even petitioning for him to be named "New Zealander of the Year".

AKHBAR : THE SUN
MUKA SURAT : 4
RUANGAN : NEWS WITHOUT BORDER

Fewer new Covid-19 cases, one fatality

PETALING JAYA: One new Covid-19 death was reported yesterday, bringing the death toll in Malaysia to 83.

There were also 85 new cases, bringing the total to 5,027, Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said at his daily press conference yesterday.

Noor Hisham said the latest person to succumb to the infection was a 69-year-old man who had a history of diabetes and high blood pressure. He died at 6.41am yesterday.

He added out of the 56 Covid-19 cases being treated at the intensive care unit, 32 of them required ventilators. However, an additional 169 patients have recovered and have been discharged, bringing the total number of recoveries to 2,647.

"The number of discharged cases has doubled as of yesterday," he said.

He pointed out the number of new cases has been decreasing and this proved the effectiveness of the first and second phases of the movement control order.