

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Penularan coronavirus

Seorang lagi warga China pulih

Wanita rakyat tempatan disahkan positif menjadikan jumlah kes lima orang

Oleh Noor Atiqah Sulaiman
bhnews@bh.com.my

Putrajaya: Seorang lelaki warga China berusia 63 tahun yang sebelum ini disahkan positif novel coronavirus 2019 (2019-nCoV) disahkan pulih sepenuhnya dan dibenarkan pulang petang semalam.

Ia adalah kes ketiga mangsa coronavirus disahkan pulih selepas dua kes yang menerima penganasan sama sebelum ini, masing-masing menerima rawatan di Hospital Sultanah Maliha di Langkawi dan Hospital Permai di Johor Bahru.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah,

berkata lelaki berkenaan sebelum ini dirawat di wad isolasi Hospital Kuala Lumpur (HKL).

"Beliau diberi rawatan bagi gejala dengan pengawasan berterusan dan tiada keperluan untuk rawatan ubat antiviral.

"Terkini, dua ujian ulangan bagi 2019-nCoV yang dijalankan berturut-turut terhadapnya pada 7 dan 8 Februari lalu dilaporkan negatif.

"Pesakit dibenarkan pulang petang ini (semalam)," katanya yang berkongsi hal berkenaan menerusi laman sosial Facebook miliknya, semalam.

Dr Noor Hisham turut menyatakan penghargaan kepada keseluruhan pasukan di HKL kerana memberi rawatan terbaik kepada pesakit berkenaan.

"Penghargaan juga kepada Pejabat Kesihatan dan Jabatan Kesihatan Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur serta Putrajaya yang terbabit dalam siasatan, penganasan kontak dan langkah pencegahan serta kawalan bagi mencegah penularan," katanya.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, empat

sekeluarga yang masih dirawat di wad isolasi Hospital Sungai Buloh (HSB) iaitu ahli keluarga kes positif 2019-nCoV pertama yang dilaporkan di Singapura, kini berada dalam keadaan sihat dan tidak bergejala.

Katanya, dua daripada mereka memperoleh keputusan negatif bagi ujian penganasan 2019-nCoV ulangan yang dijalankan, dua kali berturut-turut.

"Namun, ujian bagi dua lagi ahli keluarga mereka perlu dijalankan semula.

"Sebaik ujian penganasan 2019-nCoV ulangan bagi mereka dikesan negatif dua kali berturut-turut, hospital bersedia membenarkan mereka pulang dalam masa terdekat," katanya.

Sementara itu, satu lagi kes positif 2019-nCoV dilaporkan di negara ini, membabitkan wanita rakyat tempatan berusia 65 tahun.

Dr Noor Hisham dalam kenyataan berasingan berkata, wanita berkenaan adalah ibu mentua individu pertama kes jangkitan membabitkan rakyat Malaysia.

"Wanita ini menghidap beberapa penyakit kronik seperti tekanan darah tinggi, kencing manis, lumpuh separuh badan, penggunaan perentak jantung serta pergerakan terhad.

"Beliau mempunyai kontak langsung dengan kes indeks ketika duduk semeja bagi beberapa jamuan makan sempena sambutan Tahun Baharu Cina bersama-sama ahli keluarga lain pada 26, 27 dan 28 Januari.

"Sepanjang 29 Januari hingga 4 Februari, beliau memaklumkan hanya berada di rumah. Pada 5 Februari, wanita itu mengadu kurang sihat iaitu mengalami pening kepala, berpeluh dan tidak bermaya tetapi tiada demam," katanya.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, wanita berkenaan dibawa untuk mendapatkan rawatan sebagai pesakit luar sebuah hospital swasta sebelum dibenarkan pulang ke rumah dengan temu janji susulan pada 7 Februari.

Sebaik menantu wanita itu dikesan positif 2019-nCoV, warga emas itu terus dijejaki oleh pihak

Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah (PKD). "Siasatan mendapati beliau tidak mempunyai sejarah perjalanan ke China. Sebagai sebahagian daripada aktiviti siasatan, sampel diambil daripada beliau dan ahli keluarga lain.

"Ujian penganasan dan penganasan 2019-nCoV yang dijalankan terhadapnya dilaporkan positif pada 8 Februari, manakala bagi lain-lain ahli keluarganya adalah negatif," katanya.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, wanita berkenaan dimasukkan ke wad isolasi di HSB dan berada dalam keadaan stabil.

"Aktiviti penganasan kontak masih dijalankan dan akan dimaklumkan dari semasa ke semasa," katanya.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, bilangan terkini kes positif membabitkan rakyat Malaysia ialah lima orang.

"Dua adalah rakyat Malaysia yang dibawa pulang dari Wuhan, satu kes lelaki ke Singapura (kes kesembilan) dan dua lagi kes adalah kontak rapat dengan kes kesembilan," katanya.

12 hospital, makmal terima latihan ujian masa IMR

Kuala Lumpur: Sebanyak 12 hospital Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) dan Makmal Kesihatan Awam (MKA) seluruh negara dipertingkatkan dengan kapasiti membuat ujian masa sebenar RT-PCR 2019-nCoV bagi mengesan novel coronavirus 2019 (2019-nCoV) sejak 30 Januari lalu.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata 12 hospital KKM dan MKA menerima latihan penganasan coronavirus daripada Institut Penyelidikan Perubatan (IMR).

Beliau berkata, makmal terbabit memulakan persediaan menghadapi kemungkinan penularan coronavirus ke Malaysia pada 3 Januari lalu yang mana reagen mengesan wabak menggunakan kaedah konvensional RT-PCR disediakan.

"Pada peringkat awal, Unit Virologi, Pusat Penyelidikan Penyakit Berjangkit, IMR, Kementerian Kesihatan adalah satu-satunya makmal terbabit secara langsung dalam menjalankan ujian diagnostik mengesan 2019-nCoV di Malaysia.

"Pada 30 Januari lalu, IMR menjalankan latihan ujian masa sebenar RT-PCR 2019-nCoV untuk 12 hospital KKM dan MKAK Sungai Buloh, MKA Ipoh, MKA Kota Kinabalu, MKA Kota Bharu dan MKA Johor Bahru supaya kapasiti membuat ujian masa sebenar RT-PCR 2019-nCoV dipertingkat di

seluruh negara.

"Kapasiti ini diperluaskan bagi rangkaian makmal swasta melalui latihan berkaitan yang diadakan oleh pihak MKAK Sungai Buloh pada 6 Februari 2020," katanya dalam satu kenyataan, semalam.

Turut dikongsi senarai 12 makmal hospital KKM yang menerima latihan penganasan coronavirus daripada IMR.

Ia membabitkan Hospital Sungai Buloh, Hospital Umum Sarawak, Hospital Tuanku Afzan, Hospital Kuala Lumpur, Hospital Pulau Pinang, Hospital Tuanku Jaafar, Hospital Melaka, Hospital Sultanah Aminah, Hospital Raja Permaisuri Bainun, Hospital Raja Nur Zahirah, Hospital Raja Perempuan II dan Hospital Sultanah Bahiyah.

Dr Noor Hisham mengucapkan tahniah kepada semua petugas di IMR, MKA dan makmal hospital atas komitmen tinggi serta bertungkus-lumus tanpa mengira masa dalam menghadapi jangkitan coronavirus di negara ini.

"Pada setiap hari (termasuk cuti umum), staf dalam panggilan (on call) bersedia menerima sampel dari hospital seawal jam 7 pagi dan akan meneruskan ujian supaya keputusan dapat dikeluarkan dalam masa 24 jam.

"Kebanyakan keputusan ujian berjaya disiapkan lebih awal dari 24 jam. Staf hanya dibenarkan menjalankan ujian selepas menjalankan ujian kompetensi dan di-

Kesediaan makmal dalam mengesan jangkitan novel coronavirus

• Makmal Kesihatan Awam (MKA), makmal hospital menerima latihan penganasan jangkitan 2019-nCoV dari IMR

Makmal Kesihatan Awam	Hospital
• MKA Kebangsaan Sungai Buloh	1. Hospital Sungai Buloh
• MKA Kota Kinabalu	2. Hospital Umum Sarawak
• MKA Ipoh	3. Hospital Tuanku Ampuan Afzan
• MKA Kota Bharu	4. Hospital Kuala Lumpur
• MKA Johor Bahru	5. Hospital Pulau Pinang
	6. Hospital Tuanku Jaafar Seremban
	7. Hospital Melaka
	8. Hospital Sultanah Aminah
	9. Hospital Raja Permaisuri Bainun
	10. Hospital Sultanah Nur Zahirah
	11. Hospital Raja Perempuan Zainab II
	12. Hospital Sultanah Bahiyah

Petunjuk
■ Makmal Kesihatan Awam (MKA)
■ Hospital

IMR - Makmal rujukan untuk penganasan penyakit berjangkit

Spesimen pesakit akan dihantar ke makmal berdekatan

Ujian biasanya akan ambil masa 5 jam

• Makmal swasta, universiti juga diperkenalkan cara ujian penganasan 2019-nCoV dilakukan di fasiliti Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM)

latih cara pemakaian alat pelindung diri (PPE) dengan betul. Secara ringkas, staf akan menerima sampel dan merekodkan penerimaan sampel dalam buku log. "Syabas dan tahniah kepada se-

mula petugas di sebalik tabir di IMR, semua MKA dan makmal hospital yang bertungkus-lumus siang malam dalam menghadapi kejadian jangkitan 2019-nCoV ini. "Anda adalah wira yang tidak

didandang yang melaksanakan tugas walaupun sering tidak jelas di mata masyarakat demi memastikan kesihatan awam dan keselamatan negara terpelihara," katanya.

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 7

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Tiada kes jangkitan virus di hospital swasta Cheras

Kuala Lumpur: Dakwaan kononnya seorang rakyat Malaysia dijangkiti coronavirus baharu (2019-nCoV) di sebuah hospital swasta di Cheras di sini, adalah palsu.

Menerusi akaun Facebook rasminya, Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) menegaskan tiada kes 2019-nCoV di lokasi berkenaan seperti yang tular di media dan aplikasi sosial.

Mesej tular itu mendakwa, satu kes coronavirus dikesan di Hospital Sunway Cheras (Sunway Medical Center Velocity) dan memberi amaran orang awam supaya tidak mendekati lokasi terbabit.

“Jangan berkumpul atau menyebarkan berita palsu ini,” tegas KKM dalam kenyataan itu, semalam.

Pada masa sama, KKM turut menafikan satu lagi dakwaan ko-

nonnya ada individu dijangkiti coronavirus di tingkat tiga pusat beli-belah Mid Valley, di sini.

Kelmarin, pengurusan Mid Valley mengeluarkan kenyataan menafikan berita palsu itu dan memaklumkan pihaknya sentiasa memantau keadaan semasa di sekitar kawasan premis berkaitan susulan penularan coronavirus di negara ini.

“Kita sudah mengambil langkah berjaga-jaga dalam hal ini. Ia termasuk menempatkan bahan pencuci tangan (hand sanitizer) di sekitar pintu masuk pusat beli-belah, kaunter pertanyaan, tandas, lobi, lif dan eskalator.

“Kakitangan Mid Valley turut meningkatkan kekerapan pembersihan beberapa kawasan dan fasiliti tumpuan pengunjung termasuk lif, tandas dan tombol pintu,” katanya.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 7

RUANGAN : ANCAMAN KORONAVIRUS DI CHINA

Sekatan masuk Malaysia diperluas

Pelawat dari Zhejiang, Jiangsu pula dihalang masuk Malaysia

Oleh RAIHAM MOHD SANUSI

KUALA LUMPUR

Malaysia memperluas sekatan perjalanan ke atas pelancong China dari Wilayah Zhejiang dan Jiangsu berkuat kuasa serta-merta ekoran coronavirus.

Timbalan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail berkata, sekatan membatalkan larangan kemasukan pelawat dari lima bandar di wilayah Zhejiang dan dua bandar di wilayah Jiangsu.

Sebelum ini, katanya, Malaysia hanya melakukan sekatan bagi Wilayah Hubei membatalkan 16 bandar di situ.

"Kementerian Luar sudah memaklumkan pihak berkuasa

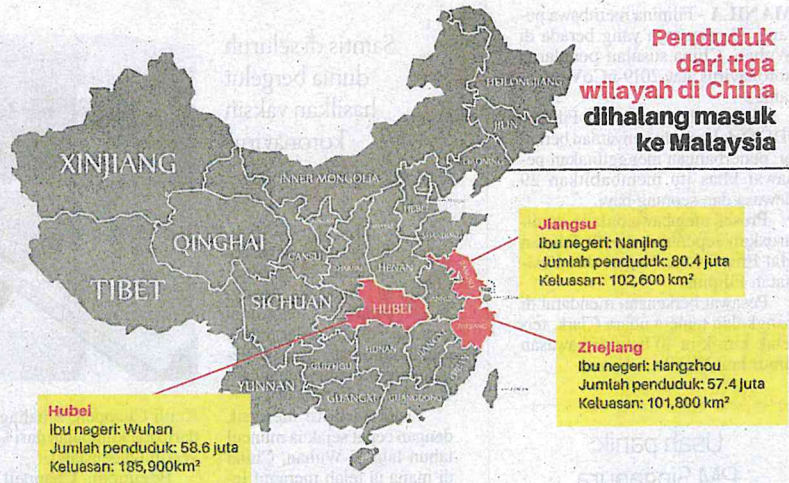


WAN AZIZAH

di China termasuk pihak berkuasa tempatan supaya membuat sekatan membatalkan tiga wilayah iaitu Hubei, Zhejiang dan Jiangsu.

"Selaras dengan keputusan pada 27 Januari lalu iaitu sekatan perjalanan akan dikuatkuasakan mengikut wilayah yang dikenakan sekatan oleh pemerintah China, negara memutuskan memperluas tindakan itu kepada dua lagi wilayah iaitu Zhejiang dan Jiangsu.

"Jabatan Imigresen Malaysia diminta memperketat lagi se-



Penduduk dari tiga wilayah di China dihalang masuk ke Malaysia

katkan kepada semua pelancong tanpa mengira kerakyatan bagi yang pernah mengunjungi atau berada di tiga wilayah tersebut supaya tidak memasuki Malaysia dalam tempoh 14 hari selepas itu," katanya kepada pemberita selepas menghadiri program sambutan Tahun Baru

Cina 2020 di sini semalam.

Wan Azizah berkata, Kementerian Kesihatan, imigresen dan agensi lain yang bertugas di Bangunan Sultan Iskandar dan Kompleks Sultan Abu Bakar di Johor Bahru juga diminta meningkatkan kawalan dan memberi nasihat sewajar-

nya kepada orang ramai yang melalui pintu masuk berkenaan. "Memandangkan situasi masih terkawal, tidak ada keperluan untuk menyekat terus perjalanan keluar masuk dari China kecuali tiga wilayah membatalkan 23 bandar yang dikenakan sekatan," katanya.

Seorang lagi dikesan positif coronavirus di Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR - Seorang wanita tempatan berusia 65 tahun menjadi individu terbaru positif coronavirus, menjadikan angka keseluruhan jangkitan dalam negara kini berjumlah 17 kes.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, wanita berkenaan merupakan ibu mertua kepada kes warga Malaysia yang dilaporkan pada 4 Februari lepas iaitu kes kesembilan.

Menurutnya, wanita berkenaan mempunyai beberapa penyakit kronik seperti tekanan darah tinggi, kencing manis, lumpuh separuh badan, seorang pesakit jantung yang menggunakan perentak jantung serta pergerakan yang terhad.

Katanya, wanita itu mempunyai kontak langsung dengan kes kesembilan semasa duduk semeja bagi beberapa jamuan makan sempena sambutan Tahun Baru Cina bersama-sama ahli keluarga yang lain dari 26 hingga 28 Januari lepas.

"Sepanjang 29 Januari hingga 4 Februari beliau memaklumkan hanya berada di rumah. Ba-

gaimanapun, pada 5 Februari beliau mengadu kurang sihat iaitu mengalami pening kepala, berpeluh dan tidak bermaya tetapi tiada demam," katanya dalam satu kenyataan semalam.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, wanita terbabit telah dibawa untuk mendapatkan rawatan sebagai pesakit luar di sebuah hospital swasta dan dibenarkan pulang ke rumah dengan temu janji susulan pada 7 Februari.

"Sebaik sahaja menantunya, iaitu kes kesembilan dikesan positif virus itu, beliau telah dijejaki pihak Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah (PKD). Hasil siasatan mendapati beliau tidak mempunyai sejarah perjalanan ke negara China. Sebagai sebahagian daripada aktiviti siasatan, sampel telah diambil daripada beliau dan ahli keluarga yang lain," jelasnya.

Ujian pengesanan dan pengesanan coronavirus yang dijalankan ke atasnya telah dilaporkan positif pada 8 Februari (semalam) manakala bagi lain-lain ahli keluarganya adalah negatif," katanya. - *Bernama*

Jangkitan di Mid Valley, Hospital Sunway Cheras tidak benar

KUALA LUMPUR - Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) menafikan mesej tular di media sosial berhubung berlakunya jangkitan coronavirus yang didakwa dikesan di satu kawasan di pusat beli-belah Mid Valley dan Hospital Sunway Cheras. KKM dalam Facebook rasminya memaklum-

kan bahawa kedua-dua mesej tersebut adalah berita palsu dan tiada kes coronavirus dikesan kawasan tersebut.

"Jangan berkongsi atau menyebarkan berita palsu," menurut kenyataan itu semalam. - *Bernama*

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 14

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Tiada kes koronavirus di Sabak Bernam

SABAK BERNAM - Hospital Tengku Ampuan Jemaah (HTAJ) Sabak Bernam tidak menerima sebarang laporan berhubung jangkitan koronavirus di daerah itu seperti yang tular di media sosial.

Ahli Lembaga Pelawatnya, Mohammad Haris Baharudin berkata, beliau telah mendapatkan pengesahan daripada Pengarah HTAJ Sabak Bernam, Dr Muhammad Aslahuddin Samsudin berhubung perkara tersebut.

"Sehingga kini hospital dan klinik kesihatan di daerah ini tidak menerima laporan pesakit yang terkena jangkitan koronavirus," katanya dalam kenyataannya di Facebook semalam.

Mohammad Haris turut menasihatkan agar tidak menyebarkan perkara tidak benar hingga menimbulkan panik dalam kalangan masyarakat.

"Jika tidak sah dan palsu, penyebar maklumat palsu bakal berdepan dengan tindakan undang-undang," katanya.

Menurutnya, berdasarkan maklumat yang tersebar dikatakan terdapat seorang individu dari Sekinchan yang baru pulang dari Vietnam disyaki dijangkiti koronavirus.

Namun, katanya, gejala yang dialami individu terbabit bukan jangkitan koronavirus.

Chefzare Bin Baharudin is with Kalam Carl Lam and 4 others.
2 hrs · 🌐

Siapa yang tularan berita ada penduduk yang terkena corona virus di daerah Sabak Bernam dan Sungai Besar sila tampil diri dan bertanggungjawab.

Sehingga kini Hospital dan Kesihatan daerah langsung tidak dapat laporan pesakit yang terkena.

Ini bukan perkara main-main.

Jika benar pihak berkenan wajib ambil tindakan segera untuk langkah keselamatan wabak.

Jika tidak sah dan palsu ! Awas kalian bakal berdepan dengan tindakan undang-undang.

Aku tak main main bab ini.

Nota : setakat ini tiada kes virus corona di laporkan di daerah sabak bernam dan Sungai

Mohammad Haris memuat naik status di Facebook berhubung penularan maklumat palsu mengatakan berlaku jangkitan koronavirus di Sabak Bernam.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 1

RUANGAN : MUKA DEPAN



AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 2

RUANGAN : LOKAL

lokal



ORANG ramai memakai penutup mulut dan hidung ketika bersiar-siar di Suria KLCC di ibu kota.

Duduk makan semeja

Warga emas mangsa ke-17, ibu mentua pesakit ke-9 jamu selera bersama sempena Tahun Baharu Cina

sung dengan kes indeks kesembilan semasa duduk semeja bagi beberapa jamuan makan sempena sambutan Tahun Baharu Cina bersama-sama ahli keluarga lain pada 26, 27 dan 28 Januari lalu.

Menurutnya, sepanjang 29 Januari hingga 4 Februari, wanita itu memaklumkan hanya berada di rumah.

"Pada 5 Februari, beliau mengadu kurang sihat iaitu pening kepala, berpeluh dan tidak bermaya, tetapi tiada demam.

"Dia seterusnya dibawa untuk mendapatkan rawatan sebagai pesakit luar di satu hospital swasta.

"Sejurus selepas itu, dia dibenarkan pulang ke rumah dengan temu janji susulan pada 7 Februari," katanya.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, sebaik sahaja menantu wanita berkenaan iaitu kes in-

deks kesembilan dikesan positif 2019-nCoV, dia dijejaki Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah (PKD).

Beliau berkata, hasil siasatan mendapati wanita itu tidak mempunyai sejarah perjalanan ke China.

"Sebagai sebahagian daripada aktiviti siasatan, sampel diambil daripada wanita itu dan ahli keluarganya yang lain.

"Ujian pengesanan dan pengesahan 2019-nCoV yang dijalankan ke atasnya dilaporkan positif pada 8 Februari manakala bagi lain-lain ahli keluarganya adalah negatif.

"Wanita itu dimasukkan ke wad isolasi di Hospital Sungai Buloh dan berada dalam keadaan stabil," katanya.

Menurutnya, aktiviti pengesanan kontak masih dijalankan dan akan dimaklumkan dari semasa ke semasa.



POTRET pakar mata, Dr Li Wenliang diabadikan bersama jambangan bunga di Hospital Pusat Wuhan. Li yang menjadi korban coronavirus adalah antara pakar perubahan pertama mengesan penularan wabak itu, tetapi menerima tekanan daripada kerajaan China.

Tak kurangkan pegawai kedutaan

Kuala Lumpur: Jumlah pegawai diplomatik di Kedutaan Besar Malaysia dan pejabat konsulat Malaysia di China akan dikekalkan bagi memastikan sebarang urusan berjalan lancar dan berkesan.

Kedutaan Besar Malaysia di China dalam satu kenyataan sezalam memaklumkan langkah itu terutama bagi memberi khidmat bantuan kepada rakyat Malaysia yang berdepan situasi wabak coronavirus baharu (2019-nCoV) di Wuhan dan China.

"Rakyat Malaysia yang berada di China boleh menghubungi pejabat Kedutaan di Beijing atau pejabat konsulat Malaysia di Shanghai, Guangzhou, Kunming, Nanning, Xi'an dan Hong Kong," menurut kenyataan itu.

Rakyat Malaysia yang menetap di kawasan Beijing, Hubei, Tianjin, Henan, Hebei, Heilongjiang, Jilin, Liaoning, Wilayah Autonomi Inner Mongolia, Qinghai, Shandong, Wilayah Autonomi Xinjiang Uyghur dan Wi-

layah Autonomi Tibet boleh menghubungi Kedutaan Besar Malaysia di Beijing di talian +861065322531 (waktu pejabat) atau +8613161219838 / +8618513665810 (kecemasan).

Selain itu, mereka yang menetap di Shanghai, Anhui, Jiangsu dan Zhejiang boleh menghubungi Pejabat Konsulat Malaysia di Shanghai di talian +862160900360 (waktu pejabat) / +8613761154009 (kecemasan).

Bagi rakyat Malaysia yang menetap di Guangdong, Fujian, Hainan, Hunan dan Jiangxi, wakil Wisma Putra dapat dihubungi melalui Pejabat Konsulat Malaysia di Guangzhou di talian +862038770763 (waktu pejabat) / +8618802087683 (kecemasan).

Bagi yang menetap di Hong Kong dan Wilayah Pentadbiran Khas Macau pula boleh menghubungi Pejabat Konsulat Malaysia di Hong Kong di talian +85228210800 (waktu pejabat) / +85269006390 (kecemasan).



Oleh Amir Abd Hamid
amir_hamid@mediaprima.com.my

Putrajaya

Wanita warganegara Malaysia berumur 65 tahun disahkan positif coronavirus baharu, semalam dan ia kes kelima membabitkan warga tempatan.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, pertambahan satu kes lagi ke pusat Pusat Kesiapsiagaan dan Respons Krisis (CPRC) Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) itu menjadikan 17 kes positif dilaporkan setakat ini dan 12 daripada mereka warga China.

"Kes baharu ini seorang wanita warganegara Malaysia berumur 65 tahun.

"Dia ibu mentua kepada kes warganegara Malaysia yang dilaporkan pada 4 Februari lalu (iaitu kes kesembilan).

"Wanita terbabit mempunyai beberapa penyakit

kronik sedia ada seperti tekanan darah tinggi, kencing manis, lumpuh separuh badan, seorang pesakit jantung yang menggunakan perentak jantung (pacemaker) serta alami pergerakan terhad," katanya dalam kenyataan di sini, semalam.

Beliau berkata, wanita itu mempunyai kontak lang-

Pelancong Zhejiang, jiangsu juga disekat

Kuala Lumpur: Malaysia memperluaskan sekatan perjalanan masuk bagi pelancong China dari Wilayah Zhejiang dan Jiangsu, berkuat kuasa serta-merta.

Sebelum ini, negara hanya membuat sekatan bagi Wilayah Hubei membabitkan 16 bandar sekitarnya.

Timbalan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail berkata, kerajaan melalui Kementerian Luar memaklumkan pihak berkuasa di China sudah mengenalkan sekatan terhadap tiga wilayah iaitu Hubei, Zhejiang dan Jiangsu.

"Kita memutuskan sekatan diperluaskan kepada dua lagi wilayah iaitu Zhejiang

membabitkan lima bandar dan Jiangsu dua bandar dengan segera.



"Ia selaras dengan keputusan pada 27 Januari lalu, iaitu sekatan perjalanan akan dikuatkuasakan mengikut wilayah yang dikenalkan sekatan oleh Kerajaan China," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian kepada media selepas menghadiri program sambutan Tahun Baharu Cina 2020 di sini, semalam. Sehubungan itu, Dr Wan Azizah berkata, Jabatan Imigresen Malaysia (JIM) diminta memperketatkan lagi sekatan sedia ada kepada semua pelancong.

"Sekatan perlu dibuat tanpa mengira kerahyatan bagi mereka yang pernah mengunjungi atau berada di tiga wilayah terbabit supaya tidak memasuki Malaysia dalam tempoh 14 hari selepas itu," katanya.

Beliau berkata, Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM), JIM dan agensi lain yang bertugas di Bangunan Sultan Iskandar (BSI) dan di Kompleks Sultan Abu Bakar (KSAB) di Johor Bahru juga diminta meningkatkan aspek kawalan dengan memberikan nasihat sewajarnya kepada orang ramai yang melalui pintu masuk ini.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : LOKAL

Keputusan ujian dalam 24 jam

Kakitangan perubatan bertungkus-lumus pastikan kesihatan awam terpelihara



Oleh Amir Abd Hamid
amir_hamid@mediapri-
ma.com.my

Putrajaya

Pegawai dan kakitangan Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) bekerja bertungkus-lumus 24 jam menghadapi kejadian jangkitan koronavirus baharu yang mula memular di negara ini tahun ini.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, usaha gilig itu bagi memastikan kesihatan awam dan keselamatan negara terpelihara.

Beliau berkata, pada peringkat awal, Unit Virologi, Pusat Penyelidikan Penyakit Berjangkit, Institut Penyelidikan Perubatan (IMR) KKM adalah makmal tung-

gal dalam menjalankan ujian diagnostik mengesan koronavirus baharu di negara ini.

"Makmal ini memulakan persediaan menghadapi sebarang kemungkinan penularan koronavirus baharu ke Malaysia pada 3 Januari di mana reagen (bahan uji) untuk mengesan koronavirus baharu dengan menggunakan kaedah Conventional RT-PCR sudah disediakan.

"Pada 11 Januari, saintis dari China berkongsi maklumat genetik koronavirus baharu di pangkalan data gunasama.

"Ini membolehkan pepegawai Unit Virologi IMR merekapi urutan reagen yang dikenali sebagai *primers and probes specific for 2019-nCoV* pada hari yang sama," katanya dalam kenyataan di

sini, semalam.

Beliau berkata, beberapa hari kemudian, Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO) juga mengeluarkan protokol untuk ujian *real time RT-PCR 2019-nCoV* dan protokol ini hampir sama seperti yang digunakan di IMR.

Menurutnya, reagen untuk mengenal pasti koronavirus baharu tiba ke makmal di IMR pada 21 Januari dan pada masa sama, Pusat Perubatan Universiti Mala-

ya (PPUM) berkongsi virus tergolong keluarga sama dengan koronavirus baharu nyahaktif untuk digunakan sebagai kawalan positif.

"Pegawai IMR berjaya menjalankan optimasi ujian *real time RT-PCR 2019-nCoV* pada 22 Januari.

"Reagen ini sudah dibekalkan kepada Makmal Kesihatan Awam Kebangsaan (MKAK) Sungai Buloh pada 24 Januari untuk menguji sampel di Johor yang membolehkan pengenalpastian kes pertama positif di kalangan kontak rapat.

"Pada 25 Januari, makmal IMR juga mengesan kes pertama positif dalam kalangan Patient-Under-Investigation (PUI)," katanya.

"Setiap hari (termasuk cuti umum) staf yang dalam panggilan *on call* akan bersedia menerima sampel dari hospital seawal jam 7 pagi dan akan meneruskan ujian supaya keputusan dapat dikeluarkan pada masa 24 jam.

"Namun, kebanyakan keputusan ujian ini berjaya disiapkan lebih awal daripada tempoh 24 jam itu.

"Staf hanya dibenarkan menjalankan ujian selepas menjalani ujian kompeten-

si dan dilatih cara pemakaian *Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)* dengan betul," katanya.

Beliau berkata, secara ringkas staf akan menerima sampel dan merekodkan penerimaan sampel dalam buku log.

Beliau berkata, seterusnya sampel dibawa ke makmal Biosafety Level 2 (BSL2) di mana staf yang memakai PPE akan memproses serta mengasingkan sedikit sampel klinikal untuk nyahaktif virus dan diteruskan dengan ujian *real time RT-PCR 2019-nCoV*.

"Syabas dan tahniah kepada semua petugas di sebalik tabir di IMR, semua MKA dan makmal hospital yang bertungkus-lumus siang-malam dalam menghadapi kejadian jangkitan koronavirus baharu ini.

"Anda adalah wira yang tidak didendang melaksanakan tugas walaupun seringkali tidak jelas di mata masyarakat demi memastikan kesihatan awam dan keselamatan negara terpelihara," katanya.

"Pada 11 Januari, saintis dari China berkongsi maklumat genetik koronavirus baharu di pangkalan data gunasama"
Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah



Putrajaya: Seorang lelaki warganegara China yang sebelum ini disahkan positif wabak koronavirus baharu pulih sepenuhnya dan dibenarkan pulang, semalam.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, lelaki berusia 63 tahun itu sebelum ini dirawat di wad isolasi Hospital Kuala Lumpur (HKL).

"Beliau diberikan rawatan bagi gejala *symptomatic treatment* dengan pengawasan berterusan dan tiada keperluan untuk rawatan ubat antiviral.

"Terkini, dua ujian ulangan bagi koronavirus baharu yang dijalankan berturut-turut terhadapnya pada 7 dan 8 Februari dilaporkan negatif.

"Pesakit seterusnya dibenarkan pulang pada sebelah

Seorang lagi pesakit pulih sepenuhnya

petang," katanya dalam kenyataan di sini, semalam.

Dr Noor Hisham turut menyatakan rasa penghargaan kepada keseluruhan pasukan di HKL kerana memberi rawatan terbaik kepada pesakit berkenaan.

"Selain itu, (penghargaan) juga kepada Pejabat Kesihatan dan Jabatan Kesihatan Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur serta Putrajaya yang terlibat dalam siasatan, pengesanan kontak dan langkah pencegahan serta kawalan bagi mencegah penularan. Jasa anda semua amat dihargai," katanya.

Hasil perkembangan terbaru ini bermakna tiga pesakit pulih koronavirus baharu yang dirawat di negara ini.



KAKITANGAN perubatan dalam sut perlindungan merawat pesakit koronavirus baharu di unit rawatan rapi di sebuah hospital khusus di wilayah Wuhan.

Sebelum ini, seorang kanak-kanak perempuan berusia empat tahun di Hos-

pital Sultanah Maliha, Langkawi dan seorang lelaki di Hospital Permai, Johor di-

benarkan pulang. Dalam perkembangan berkaitan, Dr Noor Hisham

berkata, empat sekeluarga yang masih dirawat di wad isolasi Hospital Sungai Buloh iaitu ahli keluarga kepada kes positif koronavirus baharu pertama yang dilaporkan di Singapura kini berada dalam keadaan sihat dan tidak bergejala.

Beliau berkata, dua daripada mereka memperoleh keputusan negatif bagi ujian pengesanan koronavirus baharu ulangan yang dijalankan dua kali berturut-turut.

"Namun, ujian bagi dua lagi ahli keluarga mereka perlu dijalankan semula.

"Sebaik sahaja ujian pengesanan koronavirus baharu ulangan bagi kedua-dua mereka dikesan negatif sebanyak dua kali berturut-turut, pihak hospital bersedia membenarkan mereka pulang dalam masa terdekat," katanya.

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

NEWS / *Story of the day*

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS

ELDERLY MAN IS 3RD PATIENT TO RECOVER

Chinese national discharged, 65-year-old Malaysian woman becomes 17th case

ESTHER LANDAU
AND TEOH PEI YING
KUALA LUMPUR
news@nst.com.my

MALAYSIA recorded the third case of a person recovering from the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) yesterday when a 63-year-old man from China was discharged from Kuala Lumpur Hospital.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the man was the country's 10th coronavirus case, and he underwent symptomatic treatment and was placed under continuous monitoring.

The man, who received treatment at the hospital's isolation ward, was not given any anti-viral medicine, said Dr Noor Hisham.

He was confirmed to have contracted the virus on Tuesday.

"Two repeat tests conducted on him on Feb 7 and 8 showed negative results. The patient was allowed to go home today (yesterday)," Dr Noor Hisham said.

The first coronavirus patient to recover in Malaysia was a 4-year-old girl from China, who was discharged from Sultanah Maliha Hospital in Langkawi on Tuesday.

The second patient to recover was a 40-year-old man from China, who was discharged from Permai Hospital in Johor Baru on Saturday.

Malaysia yesterday confirmed the 17th coronavirus case, involving a 65-year-old Malaysian woman, the mother-in-law of the first Malaysian victim, a 41-year-old man, who was confirmed to have the virus on Tuesday.

The woman is being treated at

the isolation ward of Sungai Buloh Hospital. She is believed to have no recent travel history to China.

Dr Noor Hisham said the woman had chronic diseases, such as high-blood pressure, diabetes and heart disease, had mobility issues and was semi-paralysed.

He said the woman had direct contact with her son-in-law when she sat at the same table as him and other family members during the Chinese New Year celebration on Jan 26, 27 and 28.

"She stayed at home between Jan 29 and Feb 4. But on Feb 5, she complained of feeling unwell and showed symptoms, such as headache, perspiration and fatigue. However, she did not show symptoms of fever.

"She was sent for outpatient treatment at a private hospital and allowed to return home, with a follow-up treatment set for Feb 7.

"Right after her son-in-law tested positive for the virus, she was traced by the district Health Office. Checks showed she had no travel history to China and her blood sample and that of her family members were taken."

Dr Noor Hisham said she tested positive for the virus on Saturday, while her other family members tested negative.

Of the 17 cases in Malaysia, five involved Malaysians, while the rest were Chinese citizens.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, who is National Disaster Management Agency (Nadma) chairman, said the government had extended the ban on some travellers from China to include those from Zhejiang and Jiangsu provinces.

She said the decision followed China's lockdown on five cities in Zhejiang and two in Jiangsu.

"This is in line with (Malaysia's) Jan 27 decision to declare a travel ban on travellers from provinces that had been put on lockdown by the Chinese government.

"The (previous) ban on travellers from Hubei province is now extended to the two provinces of



Zhejiang and Jiangsu with immediate effect," she said after a Chinese New Year open house by the Malaysian Chinese Muslim Association here yesterday.

China reported 811 deaths and 37,198 coronavirus infections up to yesterday.

Dozens of international airlines have suspended or reduced flights to China. Several nations have imposed bans on visitors from all of China or anyone with a history of travelling there.

Dr Wan Azizah said there was no need to ban all Chinese nationals from entering Malaysia, besides those from the 23 cities under lockdown in three provinces, as the situation was under control.

She gave a breakdown of the Malaysians evacuated from Wuhan, the virus' epicentre.

"Of the 107 people who were evacuated from Wuhan, two were found positive on Feb 5 and hospitalised. All the 105 persons under surveillance (PUS), which are coordinated by Nadma, the Health Ministry, Welfare Department and police, are taken care of.

"Nadma has received aid, such as dry food and reading materials, from non-governmental organisations for the 105 PUS."

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

Story of the day / NEWS | 3



A worker measuring the body temperature of people leaving a supermarket in Qingshan district, Wuhan, on Friday. REUTERS PIC

HIV drug's efficacy 'needs more study'

KUALA LUMPUR: Further studies are needed to confirm the efficacy of HIV anti-retroviral medication Kaletra in treating the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), the Health Ministry said.

This came following the recovery of Malaysia's fourth 2019-nCoV patient, who was given off-label use of Kaletra to treat his worsening infection.

"The success of Kaletra in a single case will require further studies to verify its usefulness.

"Our infectious disease specialists will continue to be guided by evidence based on treatment experience elsewhere, including from China, which has the largest number of cases," Deputy Health Minister Dr Lee Boon Chye told the *New Straits Times* yesterday.

The man, 40, from China got infected on Jan 24 and had high fever and pneumonia.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah had said the man's condition worsened on the second day of being admitted to Permai Hospital in Johor Baru and he required oxygen assistance.

"A chest X-ray done on the fourth day showed that his infection had worsened. The hospital began treatment with Kaletra (off-label use) on Jan 28.

"After eight days of treatment, his condition improved and he recovered," he said on Saturday.

It was reported that Chinese doctors used anti-HIV drugs on coronavirus patients in Beijing, based on a 2004 study conducted during the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome outbreak, and had "favourable" responses.

British daily *The Guardian* reported that China had been using Kaletra, a combination of two anti-HIV drugs, lopinavir and ritonavir, on patients in a trial since Jan 18.

In Thailand, a Chinese national infected with virus showed improvement after she was treated with a cocktail of anti-virals, including HIV and flu medication.

The Thai Health Ministry had said the 71-year-old woman tested negative for the virus 48 hours after doctors administered the combination.



Dr Lee Boon Chye

IMR created reagent to detect virus ahead of WHO

KUALA LUMPUR: The Institute of Medical Research (IMR) had created a reagent to handle the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak, a week before the World Health Organisation (WHO) created a similar protocol.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the reagent, a substance or mixture for use in chemical analysis, was developed by IMR's Virology Unit.

He said in the beginning, IMR was the Health Ministry's only lab directly involved in conducting 2019-nCoV diagnostic tests.

"The unit has been on standby since Jan 3 to face the spread of the 2019-nCoV in Malaysia, where the reagents were used to detect the coronavirus using the Conventional RT-PCR method."

RT-PCR refers to reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction.

"On Jan 11, scientists from China

shared genetic information on the 2019-nCoV, which allowed officers from the IMR Virology Unit to develop a series of reagents named 'primers and probes specific for 2019-nCoV' on the same day.

"Several days later, WHO released its protocol for real-time RT-PCR 2019-nCoV tests and it is similar to the one used at IMR," Dr Noor Hisham said yesterday.

He said the reagent to identify the 2019-nCoV virus arrived at IMR's lab on Jan 21.

The following day, officers from IMR successfully conducted real-time RT-PCR 2019-nCoV optimisation tests and the test was handed to the National Public Health Laboratory at Sungai Buloh Hospital on Jan 24 to test the contact sample from Johor, he said.

IMR, he said, conducted training for real-time RT-PCR tests at 12 hospitals and health labs in Ipoh, Kota Kinabalu, Kota Baru



A real-time RT-PCR 2019-nCoV optimisation test being conducted. PIC COURTESY OF HEALTH MINISTRY

and Johor Baru.

"Every day, including on public holidays, on-call staff will be ready to receive samples from hospitals as early as 7am and will conduct tests and ensure results are out within 24 hours.

"Most of the time, they provide results way before 24 hours."

Dr Noor Hisham said only staff who completed a competency test and were trained to wear personal protective equipment were allowed to conduct tests.

The Health Ministry denied rumours circulating via WhatsApp that there were 2019-nCoV cases at Mid Valley Megamall and Sunway Hospital Cheras in Kuala Lumpur.

"Do not share or spread this fake news," the ministry said on its Facebook page.

Page 1 pic: Medical workers in protective suits attending to novel coronavirus patients at a hospital in Wuhan, China.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 10

RUANGAN : NATION

Varsities hold virtual lessons

Face-to-face teaching suspended temporarily to limit spread of virus

By LEE CHONGHUI
educate@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: Public institutions of higher learning in Malaysia are seeking to limit the spread of the novel coronavirus by suspending face-to-face teaching activities temporarily.

In an internal circular to academic staff, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) deputy vice-chancellor (academic and international) Prof Dr M. Iqbal Saripan said lecturers are allowed to conduct blended learning replacement mode (Mod Pembelajaran Teradun Gantian) for the first two weeks of the semester, starting today till Feb 24.

"Lecturers are allowed to carry out classes virtually or postpone classes for the first two weeks of the academic calendar.

"International students who have travelled back to their homeland during the semester break are

allowed to miss the first two weeks of classes, while new students or students who've returned from overseas are required to conduct home surveillance (for symptoms)," said the circular seen by *The Star*.

When contacted, UPM vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Aini Ideris confirmed the suspension of face-to-face lessons, while Prof Iqbal said that steps are being taken to ensure students' safety.

"New and returning students from all countries can still register with us. Registration has opened since last week.

"We will provide medical screening facilities to students upon registration," said Prof Iqbal.

In an email to academic staff, Universiti Malaya (UM) deputy vice-chancellor (academic and international) Prof Dr Kamila Ghazali said the university would be conducting "non face-to-face learning activities" starting Feb 17,

which is the first week of the new semester.

"Taking into consideration the latest development in the outbreak, the university management has decided that all face-to-face teaching and learning activities (lectures, tutorials and labs) will be replaced with non face-to-face teaching and learning activities from Feb 17 to 23. Lectures will continue as usual on Feb 24," said the email.

Lecturers were also told to upload all learning materials scheduled for the week in question to UM's online learning platform - Spectrum - by Feb 17.

UM has also postponed the check-in of students at its dormitories, which was originally scheduled for Feb 15 and 16.

A check with UM's academic and non-academic staff confirmed the announcement.

"Only students do not need to

come to campus.

"But lecturers and other staff still need to work as usual," said a UM employee who declined to be named.

The Health Ministry had sent a letter dated Feb 2 to the Education Ministry.

A source said the letter was addressed to the Education Ministry so that it can take further action as and when necessary.

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Mohd Hamdi Abd Shukur said the university would not be suspending classes and plans to follow the "normal schedule" that was announced to its students.

However, Prof Hamdi said: "If there is a need to suspend classes, we will switch to online teaching which is readily available and well-equipped at UKM. We will follow the Health Ministry's advice religiously."



Mum-in-law of ninth patient is latest case

By RAHIMY RAHIM
rahimyr@thestar.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia has confirmed a new case of the novel coronavirus, raising the total number of cases in the country to 17.

The latest case involved a 65-year-old woman, who is the mother-in-law of a Malaysian case (ninth case) reported on Feb 4, said the Health Ministry.

"The patient has several chronic diseases, such as high blood pressure and diabetes. Half her body is paralysed and she has a pacemaker," it said in a statement yesterday.

The ministry revealed that the patient had direct contact with the ninth case patient on several occasions during the Chinese New Year celebration along with other family members.

"From Jan 29 until Feb 4, the patient said that she stayed home.

"On Feb 5, she complained that she was unwell and developed a headache and was immediately treated as an outpatient at a private hospital. Immediately after, she was allowed to return home with a follow-up on Feb 7.

"She has no history of travel to China.

"Her samples and those of other family members were also collected. The test results came out positive on Feb 8," the ministry said.

It added the woman was now warded in isolation at the Sungai Buloh Hospital and was reportedly in stable condition.

Meanwhile, another patient has recovered fully from the novel coronavirus.

The 10th patient, a Chinese national aged 63, was treated at Hospital Kuala Lumpur and was discharged yesterday. He did not require the use of antiviral medications.

This marks the third patient to have recovered.



For more on the coronavirus:
See page 12

CRSM gives out face masks at KLIA

By HANIS ZAINAL
haniszainal@thestar.com.my

SELANGOR: Traveller Hastina Hassim and her family were happy to receive face masks distributed by the Crisis Relief Squad of MCA (CRSM) at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport.

Hastina, 35, who was travelling with her family to Saudi Arabia to do their umrah, said she has been using washable masks made of cloth.

"It's good to get one of these disposable masks as it is more effective.

"It's quite hard to find disposable masks so we have been using washable ones. You need to wash it at the end of the day to be used the next day," she said.

Hastina said that she will be taking extra precautions while travelling due to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in Wuhan, China.

"We always wash our hands and now we are carrying hand sanitizers to be used on the plane," she said, adding that she plans to wear a mask throughout her time in flight.

Hastina and her family were among the travellers who received disposable masks from the Selangor and Wilayah branches of CRSM at the airport yesterday.

Selangor CRSM chief Ch'ng Soo Chau said that 1,000 disposable



Precautionary measure: Ch'ng (left) distributing face masks to travellers and staff at KLIA.

masks were distributed at KLIA, while 1,000 were distributed at the Penang International Airport and another 1,000 were distributed at Senai International Airport by the CRSM branches in the respective states on the same day.

"We felt that we have to do something due to the outbreak of the coronavirus, as there is a lack of action from the government to

address this.

"Apart from distributing these masks, we also want to create awareness among the public on the ways they can take to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, such as washing their hands.

"We also want the public to know where to get factual updates on the coronavirus," said Ch'ng.

He and about 12 members of

CRSM took about 45 minutes to distribute the masks at the airport, taking their time to talk to members of the public and travellers on ways to take care of themselves and how to stop the spread of the coronavirus.

Ch'ng also urged companies manufacturing items such as masks and gloves to assist CRSM in its fundraising efforts to fight the coronavirus.

12 public hospitals and public labs equipped to test for virus

KUALA LUMPUR: The Health Ministry has upgraded 12 public hospitals and public health laboratories throughout the country since Jan 30 with the capacity to carry out real-time reverse transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) tests to detect the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV).

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said these laboratories included the National Public Health Laboratory (MKAK) in Sungai Buloh, MKA Ipoh, MKA Kota Kinabalu, MKA Kota Baru and MKA Johor Baru.

"This capacity has also been extended to the private laboratory

network through training provided by MKAK Sungai Buloh on Feb 6," he said in a statement yesterday.

Dr Noor Hisham said at the beginning, the virology unit of the Infectious Disease Research Centre, Institute of Medical Research (IMR) was the only laboratory directly involved with conducting diagnostic tests to detect 2019-nCoV in Malaysia.

On Jan 3, the laboratory made preparations to face the possibility of the spread of 2019-nCoV where a reagent to detect coronavirus using the conventional RT-PCR method was prepared.

"On Jan 11, scientists from China

released information on the genetics of 2019-nCoV. This enabled officials from the IMR's virology unit to come up with the reagent sequence known as 'primers and probes specific for 2019-nCoV' on the same day.

"Several days later, the World Health Organisation also released the protocol for real-time RT-PCR 2019-nCoV and this protocol is almost similar to that used by the IMR," he said.

Dr Noor Hisham said the reagent to identify the 2019-nCoV arrived at IMR's laboratory on Jan 21, and at the same time the University Malaya Medical Centre shared a

virus from the same family as deactivated 2019-nCoV to be used as a positive control.

On Jan 22, officials from the IMR successfully conducted optimisation tests for real-time RT-PCR 2019-nCoV and this reagent was supplied to the MKAK Sungai Buloh on Jan 24 to test contact samples in Johor, which enabled detection of the first positive case among close contacts.

"On Jan 25, the IMR laboratory also detected the first positive case among patients under investigation (PUI)," he said.

Dr Noor Hisham said that each day, as early as 7am, the staff on call would receive samples from the

hospitals and would continue conducting the tests so that the results could be released within 24 hours.

"However, most of the test results are ready before the 24-hour period," he said.

Dr Hisham said only staff who underwent the competency test and training on personal protective equipment were allowed to conduct the tests.

He said the staff would receive the samples and record it in the log book. He added that the sample would then be taken to the Biosafety Laboratory on Level 2 where the staff would put it through the real-time RT-PCR 2019-nCoV. —Bernama

AKHBAR : THE SUN

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS

First M'sian victim's mum-in-law tests positive

■ BY CINDI LOO
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

PETALING JAYA: The Health Ministry, through the national Crisis Preparedness and Response Centre, identified the 17th victim of the 2019-nCoV in Malaysia yesterday.

The latest to be tested positive for the virus is a 65-year-old woman who is the mother-in-law of the first Malaysian victim.

The woman contracted the virus due to direct contact with her son-in-law over Chinese New Year dinners with other family members on Jan 26, 27 and 28.

"On Feb 5, she complained that she was not feeling well, having headaches, excessive perspiration and lethargy but

no fever. She was brought to a private hospital where she received outpatient treatment and told to return for a follow-up appointment on Feb 7," said health ministry director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah yesterday.

When her son-in-law was tested positive for the virus, she was tracked down by the district health office. But investigations showed that she had no travel history to China.

Her saliva swab samples, as well as those of other family members, were taken. She tested positive for the coronavirus on Feb 8 while test results of the other eight family members came back negative.

"She is now at the Sungai Buloh Hospital isolation ward and in stable condition. Contact tracing activities are

still ongoing and will be updated from time to time," Noor Hisham said.

This is the second human-to-human transmission of the coronavirus in Malaysia after the 41-year-old man contracted the virus while in Singapore and passed it on to his sister during Chinese New Year with the family in Sungai Petani.

Meanwhile, the Health Ministry announced that the 63-year-old Chinese national receiving treatment at the Sungai Buloh Hospital isolation ward has recovered.

"Two repeated tests were conducted on Feb 7 and 8. Both turned out negative. The patient has been allowed to return home yesterday evening."

So far, three 2019-nCoV patients have recovered and been discharged.