

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Penularan COVID-19

Perketat saringan rakyat Singapura

Kerajaan tiada hasrat halang kemasukan pelancong dari negara jiran

Oleh Rafidah Mat Ruzki
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Putrajaya: Kerajaan tidak berhasrat menyekat kemasukan rakyat Singapura ke Malaysia, walaupun ada kes sporadik serta jangkitan di antara individu kepada individu COVID-19 di negara itu.

Timbalan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, berkata bagaimanapun saringan dan pemeriksaan kesihatan terus diperketatkan terhadap pelawat menerusi pintu masuk negara di Johor, seperti Tambak Johor dan Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa Senai.

"Saringan pintu masuk sempadan Johor-Singapura akan diperketatkan. Kementerian Kesihatan juga akan membincangkan kaedah kawalan pemantauan dan kaedah tapisan di sempadan masuk dan keluar ketika forum dua hala dengan Kerajaan Singapura pada 25 Februari ini," katanya.

Beliau ditemui media selepas mempengerusikan Mesyuarat Khas Jawatankuasa Tertinggi, Jawatankuasa Pengurusan Bencana Pusat (JPBP) Kluster Penyakit COVID-19, pagi semalam.

Dr Wan Azizah berkata, walaupun kerajaan mendapati belum ada keperluan mengadakan sekatan terhadap pelancong dari China, saringan kesihatan diper-



Dr Wan Azizah mempengerusikan Mesyuarat Khas Jawatankuasa Tertinggi, Jawatankuasa Pengurusan Bencana Pusat (JPBP) Kluster Penyakit COVID-19, di Putrajaya, semalam. Turut hadir Menteri Luar, Datuk Saifuddin Abdullah (kiri). (Foto Bernama)

ketatkan terhadap sesiapa yang pulang atau datang dari negara itu.

Beliau berkata, selain saringan secara pengimbas haba, mereka turut dikehendaki menjalani pemeriksaan 'swab test'.

Katanya, mana-mana individu didapati bergejala COVID-19, akan terus dibawa ke hospital dan jika ujian selanjutnya didapati negatif, mereka dibenarkan pulang untuk pengawasan di rumah, mengikut panduan ditetapkan Kementerian Kesihatan.

"Ia (cadangan menyekat kemasukan pelancong China) memang ada dibincangkan tetapi hari ini,

kita bermesyuarat, tidak ada keputusan.

"Ujian swab yang keputusannya boleh diketahui dalam tempoh lima jam, dijalankan di pintu masuk. Jika mereka tidak bergejala, mereka perlu melakukan pengasingan di rumah tetapi jika saringan mendapati positif, mereka dirawat di hospital," katanya.

Sementara itu, Dr Wan Azizah berkata, Kementerian Pendidikan sudah menubuhkan satu Jawatankuasa Pengurusan Kluster COVID-19 yang membuka bilik gerai di Bahagian Education Malaysia (BEM) Jabatan Pendidikan Tinggi (JPT).

Katanya, semua 20 Institusi Pendidikan Tinggi Awam (IPTA) sudah membangunkan prosedur operasi standard (SOP) bagi menangani penularan COVID-19, manakala 17 Institusi Pendidikan Tinggi Swasta dilaporkan mempunyai SOP termasuk Xiamen Universiti Malaysia yang mempunyai ramai pelajar dari China.

"Ketika ini ada 11,000 pelajar China menuntut di institusi pengajian tinggi di negara ini.

"Sehingga hari ini semua pelajar yang pulang dari China sudah melalui saringan kesihatan dan semua negatif COVID-19.

"Education Malaysia Beijing

(EMB) dengan kerjasama persatuan pelajar Malaysia di China sudah membangunkan COVID-19 Overseas Students Management Dashboard membantu pemantauan keberadaan pelajar Malaysia yang menuntut di negara itu.

"BEM dengan kerjasama Majlis Kesihatan Universiti Awam Malaysia (MAKESUM) dan Kementerian Kesihatan sudah membangunkan Pelan Persediaan untuk Menghalang Transmisi COVID-19 untuk Institusi Pengajian Tinggi Malaysia (The Preparatory Plan To Prevent Transmission of The Covid-19 For Malaysian Institutes of Higher Learning)," katanya

Bawa balik 75 warga di Wuhan Selasa depan

Putrajaya: Seramai 75 warga Malaysia dan pasangan serta anak mereka yang masih di Wuhan, China, dijadualkan dibawa pulang pada 25 Februari ini, kata Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail.

Timbalan Perdana Menteri berkata, Kementerian Luar Negeri dan Agensi Pengurusan Bencana Negara (NADMA) dengan kerjasama syarikat penerbangan, AirAsia, sedang mengurus penerbangan pulang mereka.

"Misi Bantuan Kemanusiaan dan Bencana (HADR) Wuhan ke-2 ini akan diuruskan sama seperti misi pertama, sebaik tiba di Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa Kuala Lumpur (KLIA), semua akan disaring sebelum dihantar ke Akademi Kepimpinan Pengajian Tinggi (AKEPT) untuk pem-

antauan selama 14 hari.

"Saya difahamkan, mereka berdepan dengan masalah logistik kerana ada di antara mereka bukan dari (bandar raya) Wuhan.

"Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa Tianhe Wuhan itu juga berjauhan dari tempat mereka. Yang ada itu mereka memang bersedia kerana negara lain ada dua misi bantuan untuk bawa pulang (rakyat mereka). Ini misi kedua dan mungkin terakhir. Misi ketiga belum ditentukan," katanya mempengerusikan Mesyuarat Khas Jawatankuasa Tertinggi, Jawatankuasa Pengurusan Bencana Pusat (JPBP) Kluster Penyakit COVID-19 pagi semalam.

Pada 4 Februari lalu, seramai 133 individu, masing-masing 107 rakyat Malaysia yang dikenakan

Misi Bantuan Kemanusiaan dan Bencana (HADR) -Wuhan ke-2 ini akan diuruskan seperti misi pertama, sebaik tiba di KLIA, semua disaring sebelum dihantar ke AKEPT untuk pemantauan 14 hari.

Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail,
Timbalan Perdana Menteri

perintah berkurung di bandar raya dalam wilayah Hubei itu, selain 12 kru pesawat, lapan petugas misi HADR dan enam pegawai Kedutaan Malaysia dari Beijing, dibawa pulang dari Wuhan.

Sementara itu, Dr Wan Azizah berkata, tiada kes baharu positif COVID-19 dilaporkan semalam, menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes COVID-19 yang dilaporkan di negara ini kekal pada 22 kes.

Katanya, daripada jumlah itu, hanya lima kes masih dalam rawatan di wad, manakala bilangan kes yang sudah dibenarkan keluar daripada wad adalah 17.

"Daripada lima kes yang masih dirawat itu, tiga pesakit di Hospital Kuala Lumpur (HKL); seorang di Hospital Sultanah Bahiyah, Kedah dan seorang lagi di

Hospital Sungai Buloh.

"Malaysia masih berada pada fasa *early containment* iaitu tiada penularan meluas antara satu individu kepada individu yang lain (H2H transmission), tiada kes sporadik dikesan dalam komuniti, tiada kes kematian direkodkan, masih mampu untuk ditangani dengan kapasiti dan keupayaan sedia ada," katanya.

Pada masa sama, katanya, dua pemeriksaan ulangan terhadap wanita Amerika Syarikat berusia 83 tahun, yang juga penumpang kapal persiaran Westerdam yang sebelum ini dirawat di Hospital Sungai Buloh didapati negatif.

Bagaimanapun, katanya, wanita itu masih dirawat di hospital itu kerana tidak sihat dan mempunyai simptom.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 4

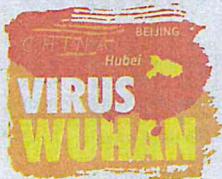
RUANGAN : LOKAL



* PETUGAS Kesihatan Daerah Kuantan melakukan proses saringan ke atas penumpang penerbangan Singapura-Kuantan yang tiba di terminal Lapangan Terbang Sultan Ahmad Shah (LTSAS), semalam.

MUNGKIN MISI TERAKHIR

75 warga Malaysia di Wuhan dibawa pulang 25 Februari



Oleh Rafidah Mat Ruzki
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Putrajaya

Seramai 75 warganegara Malaysia dan pasangan serta anak mereka yang berada di Wuhan, China dijadualkan dibawa pulang pada 25 Februari ini.

Timbalan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail berkata, Kementerian Luar dan Agensi Pengurusan Bencana Negara (Nadma) dengan kerjasama syarikat penerbangan AirAsia kini mengurus untuk membawa mereka pulang.

Perketat saringan

Putrajaya: Kerajaan memutuskan belum ada keperluan untuk mengadakan sekatan terhadap pelancong dari China dan Singapura setakat ini susulan penularan wabak Covid-19.

Timbalan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail bagaimanapun berkata, kerajaan akan memperketatkan saringan kesihatan terhadap sesiapa yang pulang atau datang dari China.

Katanya, kerajaan akan memperketatkan proses saringan terhadap rakyat Malaysia yang pulang melawat dari China dengan melakukan saringan kesihatan swab test selain saringan kesihatan secara thermal scanner.

Beliau berkata, mana-mana individu yang didapati positif Covid-19 akan terus dibawa ke hospital dan jika hasil ujian negatif mereka akan dibenarkan pulang untuk menjalani pengawasan di rumah mengikut garis panduan yang ditetapkan Kementerian Kesihatan.

"Ia memang ada dibincangkan, tetapi hari ini (semalam) kita bernesuuarat, tidak ada keperluan," katanya.

Katanya, jumlah itu adalah mereka yang bersedia untuk dibawa pulang.

"Misi Bantuan Kemanusiaan dan Bencana (HADR)-

Wuhan ke-2 ini akan diuruskan sama seperti misi pertama di mana sebaik tiba di Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa Kuala Lumpur

(KLIA) semua akan melalui saringan kesihatan di Air Disaster Unit (Adu) sebelum dihantar ke Akademi Keptimpinan Pengajian Tinggi (AKEPT) untuk proses pemantauan 14 hari.

"Saya faham mereka berdepan dengan masalah logistik juga kerana kadangkala mereka bukan dari Wuhan.

"Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa Tianhe Wuhan itu juga berjauhan dari tempat mereka. Yang ada itu mereka memang bersedia kerana negara lain ada dua misi bantuan untuk bawa pulang (rakyat mereka).

"Ini misi kedua. Misi ketiga belum ditentukan. Ini kemungkinan misi terakhir," katanya pada sidang media selepas mempengerusikan Mesyuarat Khas Jawatankuasa Tertinggi, Jawatankuasa Pengurusan Bencana Pusat (JPBP) Kluster Penyakit Covid-19, semalam.

Industri hotel bajet kerugian

Kuala Lumpur: Industri perhotelan bajet dikatakan semakin berdepan kerugian berikutan wabak Covid-19.

Presiden Persatuan Hotel Bajet Malaysia (Mybha), Emmy Suraya Hussein berkata, setakat 6 Februari lalu, pihaknya memaklumkan kepada Kementerian Pelancongan, Seni dan Budaya Malaysia (Motac) bahawa hotel bajet mengalami kerugian RM2.2 juta.

Katanya, angka itu juga meningkat setiap hari berikutan pembatalan tempahan daripada kumpulan pelancong termasuk tem-

pahan online.

"Kebanyakan pembatalan tempahan yang diterima bukan sahaja daripada pelancong domestik, malah dari Thailand dan Singapura.

"Jika perkara ini berlarutan, kami jangka banyak hotel bajet akan ditutup kerana kebanyakan mereka hanya mempunyai bilik penginapan dan tiada restoran mahupun bilik seminar.

"Ketika ini Mybha mempunyai 2,500 ahli di seluruh Malaysia," katanya kepada Harian Metro ketika dihubungi di sini, semalam.



DR Lee (tengah) beramah mesra dengan kakitangan perubahan sempena Majlis Ramah Mesra Ahli Lembaga Pelawat Hospital di Auditorium ACC Hospital Pulau Pinang, semalam.

Tak perlu risau

Georgetown: Orang ramai yang pernah bertemu dengan individu dari China tidak perlu risau dijangkiti wabak Covid-19 jika tidak mempunyai simptom penyakit itu.

Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan, Dr Lee Boon Chye berkata, tiada keperluan bagi Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) memanggil semula individu yang berdepan situasi itu bagi melakukan rawatan.

"Ramai yang sangka jika terkena (Covid-19) akan terus mati...tidak...dan keadaan itu yang menimbulkan trauma dalam kalangan orang ramai.

"Namun individu itu dinasihatkan segera menda-

patkan rawatan atau menjalani kuarantin sekiranya mempunyai simptom," katanya ketika ditemui di Hospital Pulau Pinang (HPP) di sini, semalam.

Beliau mengulas kejadian seorang pemandu mabuk melanggar pintu kaca mesin juruwang automatik (ATM) sebuah bank di Bukit Mertajam, kelmarin selepas mendakwa tertekan kerana bimbang dijangkiti Covid-19.

Portal berita Harian Metro semalam melaporkan lelaki itu bertindak demikian berikutan tertekan kerana bimbang dijangkiti Covid-19 selepas mengadakan pertemuan dengan rakan niaga dari China.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO
 MUKA SURAT : 8
 RUANGAN : LOKAL

lokal

GULA-GULA SAWAN

Remaja tersungkur lemah termakan manisan dipromosi gula-gula tenaga



ANTARA remaja didakwa mengalami kesan buruk pada kesihatan selepas makan gula-gula terlarang.

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Putrajaya

Kimia perangsang seks untuk lelaki mati pucuk dicampurkan dalam kandungan gula-gula untuk kanak-kanak hingga menyebabkan mangsa yang memakannya diserang 'sawan'. Lebih menakutkan apabila gula-gula buatan syarikat China ini dijual semurah 50 sen sebiji atau boleh dibeli 24 biji pada harga RM7 melalui laman jual beli dalam talian.

Jurucakap Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) berkata, kimia rangsangan seks tadalafil itu dikesan tercemar di dalam tiga produk gula-gula dengan jenama *Extra Energy Candy*, *Extra Strong Energy Candy*

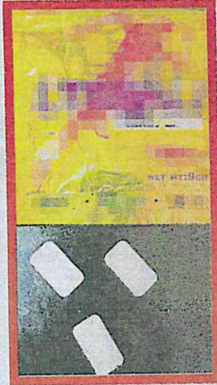
dan *Mixed Fruit Candy*.

Menurutnya, ada aduan diterima mendakwa remaja sekolah di Terengganu menjadi lemah dan tidak mampu bangun kesan tindak balas gula-gula itu.

"Secara saintifik, tadalafil lebih berbahaya berbanding sildenafil di dalam Viagra kerana boleh menyebabkan serangan jantung, strok, pendarahan otak, peningkatan tekanan darah, kehilangan pendengaran dan kehilangan penglihatan yang kadangkalanya kekal.

"Sildenafil, tadalafil dan verdanafil ubat yang digunakan khusus untuk rawatan *erectile dysfunction* (matti pucuk) yang hanya boleh diberikan kepada pesakit oleh doktor atau ahli farmasi berlesen dengan preskripsi daripada seorang doktor," katanya.

Menurutnya, siasatan



mendapati tiga produk gula-gula itu diimport tiga syarikat berbeza terletak di Alor Setar, Kedah; Chemor, Perak dan Cheras Selatan, Kuala Lumpur.



ANGGOTA pengunit kuasa menyita produk beracun.

KKM rampas 434,742 produk beracun

Kuala Lumpur. Sebanyak 434,742 paket produk Energy Candy mengandungi racun berjadual tadalafil bernilai RM131,340.70 berjaya dirampas Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) susulan operasi diadakan di seluruh negara.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, dalam operasi itu, 160 premis pemborong, pengedar dan peruncit diperiksa bagi memastikan produk *Extra Energy Candy*, *Extra Strong Energy Candy* dan *Mixed Fruit Candy* tidak dijual di pasaran.

"Arahan larangan penjualan juga dikeluarkan kepada peniaga dalam talian di semua platform e-dagang yang turut dikesan memasarkan produk itu.

"KKM ingin menegaskan sekali lagi kepada sesiapa yang masih menyimpan stok produk ini supaya menghentikan

pengedaran dan penjualan termasuk jualan dalam talian," katanya.

Beliau berkata tindakan boleh dikenakan mengikut Seksyen 13, Akta Makanan 1983 dan jika disabit kesalahan boleh dikenakan denda tidak melebihi RM100,000 atau penjara tidak melebihi 10 tahun atau kedua-duanya.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, KKM sentiasa peka dan prihatin terhadap perkara yang boleh mengancam kesihatan pengguna.

Beliau menasihatkan pengguna yang mempunyai kemusykilan berhubung isu keselamatan makanan menghubungi Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah atau Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri terdekat atau hubungi KKKM melalui laman sesawang <http://moh.spab.gov.my> atau facebook Bahagian Keselamatan dan Kualiti Makanan (BKMK) www.facebook.com/bkkmh.

"Sebelum ini, sampel produk itu diambil oleh Bahagian Keselamatan dan Kualiti Makanan (BKMK) KKM untuk ujian makmal.

"Hasilnya mendapati ketiga-tiga produk itu dicemari racun berjadual tadalafil melebihi 2.8 miligram. Ia bukanlah gula-gula tenaga sebaliknya produk rangsangan seks haram," katanya.

Menurutnya, kimia tadalafil sebelum ini kerap dicampurkan di dalam serbuk kopi pracampuran, serbuk teh o ais limau dan kapsul yang dijual pada harga melebihi RM5 setiap pakej.

Tinjauan mendapati produk berselindung di belakang nama gula-gula tenaga ini mudah dibeli di laman jual beli dalam talian pada harga antara RM7 dan RM8.50 bagi paket berisi 24 biji.

Dalam kenyataan dikeluarkan kelmarin, Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk



Secara saintifik, tadalafil lebih berbahaya berbanding sildenafil di dalam Viagra kerana boleh menyebabkan serangan jantung, strok, pendarahan otak, peningkatan tekanan darah, kehilangan pendengaran dan kehilangan penglihatan yang kadangkalanya kekal"

Jurucakap KKM

Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah memaklumkan pihaknya mengambil serius isu bahan terlarang seperti tuar di media sosial.

Menurutnya, BKMK diarahkan untuk menjalankan

pemantauan terhadap produk berkenaan.

Katanya, hasil pemantauan terhadap produk berkenaan mendapati ia disahkan mengandungi racun berjadual dan dilarang penggunaannya dalam makanan mengikut Akta Makanan 1983.

Sehubungan itu, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, larangan pengimportan sudah dikeluarkan serta-merta dan KKM memberi amaran kepada sesiapa yang masih menyimpan stok produk berkenaan supaya menghentikan pengedaran dan penjualan termasuk jualan dalam talian.

Menurutnya, tindakan boleh dikenakan mengikut Seksyen 13, Akta Makanan 1983 dan jika sabit kesalahan, individu terabit boleh dikenakan denda tidak melebihi RM100,000 atau penjara tidak melebihi 10 tahun atau kedua-duanya.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN
 MUKA SURAT : 13
 RUANGAN : ANCAMAN COVID-19

SINAR HARIAN • SABTU 22 FEBRUARI 2020

13

ANCAMAN COVID-19

Bawa pulang 75 rakyat Malaysia



Dr Wan Azizah (kanan) memperkerusi Mesyuarat Tertinggi Jawatankuasa Pengurusan Bencana Pusat Berhubung Covid-19 di Putrajaya semalam.

Mereka yang berada di Wuhan, China telah dikenal pasti untuk dibawa pulang pada Selasa ini

Oleh TUAN BUQHAI RAH TUAN MUHAMAD ADNAN

PUTRAJAYA

Seramai 75 rakyat Malaysia di Wuhan, wilayah Hubei di China dikenal pasti untuk dibawa pulang dalam Misi Bantuan Kemanusiaan dan Peredaran Bencana (HADR) pada Selasa ini.

Timbalan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail berkata, Kementerian Luar Negeri dan Agensi Pengurusan Bencana Negara (NADMA) dengan kerjasama AirAsia sedang menguruskannya.

Menurutnya, kerajaan menjangka-

kan berdepan dengan masalah logistik bagi mereka yang tinggal jauh dari Lapangan Terbang Tianhe, Wuhan.

"Sekiranya mereka tiada pengangkutan, memang akan timbul kekangan," katanya pada sidang akhbar selepas memperkerusi Mesyuarat Tertinggi Jawatankuasa Pengurusan Bencana Pusat Berhubung Covid-19 di sini semalam.

Dr Wan Azizah berkata, kesemua penumpang dan anak kapal yang terlibat dalam misi berkenaan akan melalui saringan sama seperti misi kali pertama.

"Mereka akan mengikut prosedur yang sama dan akan ditempatkan di Akademi Kepimpinan Pengajian Tinggi (AKEPT) untuk dikuarantin sebelum dibenarkan pulang," katanya.

Sementara itu, beliau berkata, kerajaan belum memutuskan sama ada akan melakukan misi HADR yang ketiga.

"Ia belum ditentukan. Ini kemungkinan misi yang terakhir," katanya.

Dalam Misi HADR pada 4 Februari lalu, seramai 107 rakyat Malaysia dan ahli keluarga dibawa pulang.

Pelajar mahu berehat, sertai kelas dalam talian

SIBU - Ivan Yeo, seorang mahasiswa jurusan Sains Geografi di China University of Geosciences di Wuhan yang merupakan seorang daripada 107 rakyat Malaysia yang dibawa pulang dari bandar di China itu pada 4 Februari lalu berikutan wabak koronavirus (Covid-19) kembali ke tempat asalnya di Bintulu pada Rabu lalu selepas dikuarantin selama 14 hari.

Pelajar tahun dua itu memberitahu beliau ingin berehat dan mungkin akan menyertai kelas pembelajaran

dalam talian.

Beliau dikuarantin bersama 87 lagi rakyat Malaysia dan 19 ahli keluarga yang bukan warganegara di Akademi Kepimpinan Pendidikan Tinggi (AKEPT) di Bandar Enstek, Nilai, Negeri Sembilan sebaik tiba di Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa Kuala Lumpur (KLIA).

Yeo dibenarkan meninggalkan pusat kuarantin itu selepas menjalani tiga ujian perubatan yang mendapati dia negatif Covid-19. - *Bernama*

Tidak sekat kemasukan rakyat China

PUTRAJAYA - Kerajaan tidak akan mengenakan sekatan terhadap kemasukan rakyat China ke Malaysia susulan penularan wabak koronavirus (Covid-19).

Timbalan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail berkata, perkara itu telah diputuskan pada Mesyuarat Tertinggi Jawatankuasa Pengurusan Bencana Pusat Berhubung Covid-19 yang dipengerusi beliau di sini semalam.

"Kita ada bincang tetapi kita putuskan untuk tidak sekat, namun kerajaan akan memperketatkan kawalan terhadap pelancong dan pelajar China di pintu

masuk utama negara ini.

"Kita akan mempertingkatkan kawalan dengan melakukan ujian saringan ke atas mereka yang bergejala.

"Sekiranya tidak bergejala, mereka akan diperintah menjalani pengawasan di rumah," katanya.

Dalam perkembangan sama, Dr Wan Azizah berkata, tiada kes baharu direkodkan setakat jam 8 pagi semalam.

"Jumlah kumulatif kes Covid-19 yang dilaporkan sehingga hari ini kekal sebanyak 22 kes dengan lima kes masih dirawat di wad, manakala 17 yang lain telah pulih dan dibenarkan keluar (wad)," katanya.



Kawalan terhadap pelancong dan pelajar China dipertingkatkan melalui proses saringan kesihatan menggunakan alat pengimbas haba bagi mengesan penularan Covid-19.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NEWS/NATION

LAST HUMANITARIAN MISSION?

2ND WUHAN RESCUE MISSION ON FEB 25

75 M'sians and kin stranded there will be brought home via AirAsia flight on Tuesday, says DPM

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THE government is coordinating efforts to bring home another 75 Malaysians and their families stranded in Wuhan, China, the epicentre of the Covid-19 outbreak.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail said they were scheduled to be brought home via a commercial flight on Tuesday.

She said the second Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief mission to Wuhan would be managed in the same way as the first.

She said evacuees would undergo health screening and be quarantined for 14 days upon their return.

"The Foreign Ministry and National Disaster Management Agency (Nadma) together with AirAsia are planning to bring home 75 Malaysians and their families from Wuhan. The flight is on Tuesday.

"Upon arriving at Kuala Lumpur International Airport, all

passengers and crew will undergo health screening at the Air Disaster Unit before being taken to the Higher Education Leadership Academy (AKEPT) (in Bandar Enstek) to be quarantined."

Dr Wan Azizah, who is Nadma chairman, was speaking after chairing Nadma's high-level committee special meeting on the Covid-19 outbreak at the Prime Minister's Department here yesterday.

She said there were, however, several obstacles to the mission.

"They (Malaysians) might not be based in Wuhan. The Wuhan Tianhe International Airport is quite far from the city. Thus, transportation could be an issue.

"But the rest of them are prepared to return to Malaysia. This is the second humanitarian mission to bring Malaysians home. We are unsure if there will be a third mission. This might be the last one."

There are 77,000 Malaysians in China. On Feb 4, 107 Malaysians were flown home from Wuhan and they were taken to AKEPT to be quarantined for 14 days before being allowed to return home on Feb 18.

On plans to ban travellers from China from entering Malaysia due to the Covid-19 outbreak, Dr Wan Azizah said there was no need for a total ban on Chinese nationals.

She said ensuring all travellers, especially those from China, undergo mandatory health screening at the country's entry points remained a top priority.

She said stringent checks would be conducted, which included thermal screening and swab tests.

"The issue (whether to ban all Chinese nationals) has been discussed (at the cabinet meeting). However, at the meeting today (yesterday), we see there is no need for it. But we have to boost health screening.

"Malaysians, as well as those returning from China or who have been to China in the last 14 days, will have to undergo health screening.

"If they show no symptoms or test negative for the virus, they will be allowed to return home. However, they must undergo the Home Surveillance programme as per the Health Ministry's guidelines.

"Those who have tested positive will be sent to hospital for treatment," she said, adding that test results for the virus could be obtained in five hours.

She said Malaysia remained in the early containment phase of the virus, with no widespread human-to-human transmissions or sporadic cases and no deaths.

On sporadic and human-to-human transmissions in Singapore, Dr Wan Azizah said Malaysia had no plans to ban travellers from the republic.

However, she said, checks at the Malaysia-Singapore border would be strengthened.

"We will tighten measures at entry and exit points along the Johor border, and at Senai airport. Travellers will have their



temperature taken and if they show symptoms, swabs will be taken.

"The Health Ministry will discuss monitoring and border control methods at the Bilateral Joint-Working Group Committee forum with the Singapore government on Tuesday."

Following the demand for more

thermal scanners at the Customs, Immigration and Quarantine Complex in Johor, 26 of the equipment have been added, bringing the total number of thermal scanners at all entry points in the country to 80.

Dr Wan Azizah said there were no new cases of Covid-19 in Malaysia, keeping the number of

Mandatory health screening for students returning from China

PUTRAJAYA: Students returning from China will have to undergo mandatory health screening before resuming their studies unless they have been in the country for more than 14 days, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail said.

She said the Education Malaysia Division (BEM) would continue to carry out health screening for students according to the standard operating procedures (SOPs) approved by the Health and Education Ministries.

She said all 20 public higher education institutions had developed SOPs to mitigate the spread of Covid-19, while 17 private higher education institutions, including Xiamen University Malaysia, were reported to have measures in place.

"To date, all students returning from China have undergone health screening and tested negative for Covid-19," she said after chairing the National Disaster Management Agency's (Nadma) high-level committee special meeting on the Covid-19 outbreak yesterday.

She said Education Malaysia Beijing, in collaboration with Malaysian student associations in China, developed the Covid-19 Overseas Students Management Dashboard to help monitor the presence of Malaysian students in China.

She said the Education Ministry here established a Covid-19 Cluster Management Committee operating from the BEM at the Higher Education Department.

"BEM, in collaboration with the Public Health Council of Malaysia and the Health Ministry, have developed the

Preparatory Plan To Prevent Transmission of the Covid-19 for Malaysian Institutes of Higher Learning."

A total of 11,000 Chinese students are studying in Malaysia.

Recently, parents of students at the British International School Kuala Lumpur expressed concern over an expected intake of students from China amid fears of the outbreak.

It was learnt that the school would temporarily welcome a number of Nord Anglia Education students, who were unable to return to their schools in China,

currently closed due to the outbreak.

The Health Ministry, however, assured parents there was no need for panic or fear as the school had taken precautionary measures.

On a related matter, Dr Wan Azizah said the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry would coordinate the supply of face masks from manufacturers and limit its exports.

She said Nadma would assist in the delivery of the face masks to agency personnel working at the frontlines.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : NEWS/NATION



Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail speaking to the press at the Prime Minister's Department in Putrajaya yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

cases to 22.

Seventeen of the patients have recovered and five others are receiving treatment.

Of the five, three of them are at Kuala Lumpur Hospital, one at Sultanah Bahiyah Hospital, Kedah, and one at Sungai Buloh

Hospital.

Dr Wan Azizah said the country's 22nd Covid-19 case involved an 83-year-old American woman.

She said the senior citizen was unwell, even though the latest two tests conducted on her showed negative results for the

virus.

"She will be treated until she shows no symptoms."

The woman was among a group of 145 passengers of a cruise ship who flew to Malaysia when their vessel docked in Cambodia on Feb 13.

'Recurrent infections unlikely for those who have recovered'

KUALA LUMPUR: Covid-19 patients who have recovered are highly unlikely to get infected again.

The Health Ministry's former head of infectious diseases, Dr Christopher Lee, said once a patient contracted the virus, his body developed antibodies that would fight against the disease.

"Although there are no studies yet to prove this, we can base this on previous studies done for the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

"Those who had contracted SARS and recovered, were never infected again," he said at a press conference by the Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) yesterday.

Present were MMA president Dr N. Ganabaskaran and secretary-general Dr R. Arasu, and Medical Practitioners Coalition Association of Malaysia president Dr Raj Kumar Maharajah.

To minimise the risk of virus infections such as Covid-19, Dr Lee advised the public to maintain good personal hygiene.

"Although the Covid-19 flu wave is almost over, Malaysians must learn from it and kickstart healthy habits with good hygiene practices.

"Wash your hands regularly, and practise good cough and sneeze etiquette.

"Follow guidelines given by your physician and the World Health Organisation."

He said it was unnecessary for those who were healthy to wear face masks.

"But if you have the symptoms, it's better to wear a face mask. It will reduce the risk of spreading the virus to others."

On rumours that people were avoiding clinic visits due to fear of contracting Covid-19, he told the public to have faith in general

practitioners (GPs)

"We have advised our GPs to follow the Health Ministry's guidelines. We have asked nurses to do a triage when registering patients so we can identify those who show symptoms of the virus and those who have just returned from China.

"From there, we can get patients to follow a different route to see doctors and prevent as much contact as possible with other patients."

Dr Raj said GPs were asked to prescribe those suspected to have contracted the virus with medication that would treat their symptoms initially, and to issue medical leave for them to get enough rest.

"They have been told to provide sick leave to patients so that the latter can stay away from others to minimise the risk of spreading the virus.

"Upon follow-ups, patients have to go to the same clinics and see the same doctors.

"They will be referred to one of the 57 screening hospitals if needed.

"Once a patient leaves the clinic, efforts must be taken to disinfect all areas that the patient could have been in contact with.

"All clinics have been told to be on alert and follow the guidelines for the Primary Health Preparedness Clinic (PHPC). Every GP is a PHPC."

Dr Ganabaskaran commended the Health Ministry's efforts in handling the Covid-19 outbreak in the country.

"We acknowledge the hard work shown by medical practitioners at 57 Covid-19 screening hospitals and 26 Covid-19 treating hospitals."

He said this helped control and limit the number of Covid-19 infections in the country.

Malaysia won't take it easy despite drop in number of new cases, says Dr Lee

GEORGE TOWN: Despite positive signs that the Covid-19 outbreak is improving, particularly in the source country, Malaysia will not rest on its laurels in its fight against the virus, said Deputy Health Minister Dr Lee Boon Chye.

Malaysia, he said, would continue to boost health screening at all entry points, closely monitor developments in Japan, South Korea and Singapore, as well as carry out contact tracing of confirmed patients.

"We received good news from China yesterday, that there are only more than 300 Covid-19 cas-

es daily now compared with 1,000 cases daily during its peak. More than 17,000 patients have since recovered.

"We were also told that the number of cases in 24 provinces and four major cities (excluding Macau and Hong Kong) has dropped, with zero cases in 12 provinces. As for the remaining provinces, except for Hubei, there are fewer than 10 cases daily.

"This shows that the outbreak is under control," he said at a get-together with Penang Hospital's Board of Visitors here yesterday.

Globally, more than 80,000

people have been infected with the virus.

Dr Lee, who was part of a video conference call involving experts from Asean countries, China, South Korea and Japan on Thursday, said the experts shared their findings in handling Covid-19 cases.

"The findings from China showed that the fatality rate depends on the patient's age, with the overall rate at two per cent. For those aged 30 and below, the fatality rate is 0.2 per cent, 3.6 per cent (for those aged 60 and above) and almost 15 per cent (for those aged 80 and above).

"Those with higher risks are those with underlying health conditions."

He said Malaysia would monitor the situation in Singapore closely as between 200,000 and 400,000 people used the Causeway daily.

"I will discuss with my Singapore counterpart on Tuesday. We are monitoring Singapore's situation closely."

He was also asked if health authorities would summon a 45-year-old factory owner from Penang for checks following the latter's claim that he was suffering from depression after having

completed 14 days of self-quarantine for fear that he could have contracted the Covid-19 virus after meeting his business partners from China.

He said there was no need for that unless the man showed symptoms related to the virus.

He reassured the public that strict screening at China's exit points and Malaysia's entry points ensured that Chinese tourists in the country had low risk of spreading the virus here.

"The fatality rate for a healthy person is very low. Ninety-eight per cent of those infected by the virus can recover from it."

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NATION

75 more Malaysians to come home

Special AirAsia flight to bring back citizens from Wuhan on Feb 25

By JOSEPH KAOS Jr
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PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia will be sending another plane to Wuhan to evacuate its citizens from the coronavirus-stricken city on Feb 25.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail said about 75 Malaysians as well as their spouses and children will be brought back on a special AirAsia flight.

"The Foreign Ministry and the National Anti-Disaster Management Agency (Nadma) are arranging this flight. This is the second evacuation mission that will be managed similarly to the first mission on Feb 4.

"As soon as they land in KLIA, the passengers will be taken to the Air Disaster Unit building where they will be screened.



"After that, they will be sent to the Higher Education Leadership Academy in Negri Sembilan to be quarantined for 14 days," said Dr Wan Azizah at a press conference here after chairing a high-level committee meeting on Covid-19.

On Feb 4, Malaysia flew 107 passengers from Wuhan back home, and all of them were allowed home after serving the 14-day quarantine on Feb 18 while returning negative results for Covid-19.

Dr Wan Azizah said there has been no increase in the number of new Covid-19 cases in Malaysia, with the number remaining at 22, with 17 of them already discharged, while five remain warded.

Meanwhile, the 83-year-old American cruise ship passenger who tested positive for Covid-19 in Malaysia has recovered, said Dr Wan Azizah.

"Her tests showed she is negative. However, she is still kept in hospital because she is not that well and still has symptoms.

"Once she is cleared of the symptoms, she will be discharged."

The woman was among 145 passengers of the *MS Westerdam* cruise liner who were flown to Kuala Lumpur on a special chartered flight arranged by the ship's owners.

She was the only passenger to be

diagnosed with the virus.

Meanwhile, Dr Wan Azizah said Malaysia will not ban visitors from China for now as there is no necessity to do so.

"However, we will strengthen our checks on people arriving in Malaysia from China," she said.

Recently, Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad said the Cabinet had discussed whether Malaysia would issue a blanket ban on visitors from China.

He said the decision lies with Dr Wan Azizah as the Nadma chair.

So far, Malaysia has only imposed travel restrictions for China nationals from the Hubei, Zhejiang and Jiangsu provinces.

Wuhan city, the epicentre of the Covid-19 outbreak, is in the Hubei province.

Flights to and from Wuhan have

also been temporarily halted.

Dr Wan Azizah said those arriving from China will also be given throat swab tests, on top of thermal screening at all entry points.

"Individuals who are found to be Covid-19 positive will be admitted to hospitals, while those who tested negative must undergo the 'home surveillance' programme that is set according to the Health Ministry's guidelines," she said.

Dr Wan Azizah added that students from China who have been in Malaysia for less than 14 days will have to undergo health screenings arranged by their universities.

Watch the video
thestartv.com



Woman jailed, fined for spreading virus rumour

By NURBAITI HAMDAN
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KUALA LUMPUR: For spreading a rumour about the Covid-19 outbreak on social media, an Indonesian woman paid the price with a jail term and a fine.

The Magistrate's Court ordered Fui Lina to serve one week in jail and fined her RM1,000 in default one month's jail.

The 31-year-old salesgirl pleaded guilty before magistrate Wong Chai Sia when she was charged yesterday.

Fui was charged with circulating a false statement, aimed at causing public mischief by spreading a rumour relating to Covid-19 on her Facebook account under the name Kimilko.

In the post, she claimed that a Chinese citizen had fallen at a mall and urged the public not to go to malls to avoid getting infected by the virus.

The statement was read on Fui's Facebook at Jalan 8/23B, Taman Danau Kota, Setapak here, at 9.55pm on Feb 2.

She was charged under Section 505(b) of the Penal Code, which carries a jail term of up to two years, a fine or both.

In mitigation, Fui pleaded to be let off with a fine, saying that she is a single mother, who needed to take care of her six-year-old son.

Deputy Public Prosecutor Wan Ahmad Hakimi Ahmad Jaafar pressed for a custodial sentence, saying that the offence had caused fear and trauma to the public.

"The accused should only share news that is accurate.

"A fine alone is not sufficient in deterring her and the public from committing the same offence," he said.

Fui paid the fine.



Safety measures: A Kuantan district health officer checking the temperature of visitors flying in from Singapore at the Sultan Ahmad Shah airport arrival gate in Kuantan, Pahang. — Bernama

Strategy to contain Covid-19 remains

By LOH FOON FONG
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KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia will maintain its current strategy of identifying Covid-19 cases even as scientists are increasingly finding that the disease can spread much more easily compared to the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), though not having the same lethal effects.

Health Director-General Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said Malaysia will continue screening travellers at entry points, and quarantine them if they were found to have symptoms.

"We will actively study and monitor the virus in the community and those with severe acute respiratory illnesses," he said in an interview with *The Star*.

As of Feb 20, the ministry had tested more than 922 suspected cases (patients under investigation or PUI) and close contact persons, and only 22 or 2.38% were found to be positive cases.

"What does that tell us? That

means the virus is not in our community yet," he said, indicating that local transmission of Covid-19 is still very limited.

Moreover, he said the 2.38% included screening those with no symptoms despite having contact with a Covid-19-positive person.

Dr Noor Hisham was asked whether Malaysia should review its strategy after Singapore's National Development Minister, Lawrence Wong, said that the mode of transmission for Covid-19 has more similarities with H1N1 than SARS, where it spread as quickly as influenza based on observations in the rest of the world.

Researchers at Singapore's National Centre for Infectious Diseases looking at Covid-19 cases in Singapore have confirmed this, he said in a report carried by CNA on Feb 14, where he added that the Covid-19 fatality rate in China is significantly lower than that of SARS.

Wong pointed out that like H1N1, those with Covid-19 are infectious even when they show mild symptoms.

Those with mild symptoms may have taken the disease lightly, and may continue going out or make no change to their routines, thus contributing to a rapid spread of the disease.

Dr Noor Hisham said the ministry would continue to screen the population like it had done for H1N1 from cases seen in designated health facilities, where it can collect high quality data on the health condition of the people, including the prevalence of diseases.

Universiti Malaya academician Emeritus Professor Datuk Dr Lam Sai Kit said scientists are still learning about the new virus, especially its transmission mechanism.

"Once we have a better understanding of it, then we will need to adjust our strategy accordingly.

"Remember that the SARS virus infected just over 8,000 people and killed 774 worldwide over eight months.

"Covid-19 cases have surpassed SARS many folds in just two months.

"When SARS hit the world in 2003, there were fewer people trav-

elling globally (fewer cheap flights then)," said Dr Lam, who added that merely restricting flights to and from China may be insufficient to prevent the spread.

The Health Ministry's former infectious disease chief, Datuk Dr Christopher Lee, said there was no need to change the overall direction at this stage.

"It should still be a containment strategy, but we should actively improve overall levels of personal hygiene with regards to contact and droplet spread," he said, adding that if there is active community transmission, the country needs to keep people with symptoms away from public spaces (masked if they have to leave home), and educate employers and schools.

There should also be easy access to hand sanitisers in public places, while building and facility owners should intensify cleaning of commonly touched surfaces, he added.

"We have focused a lot on what the government is doing to keep us safe, but we need the public to take ownership as well."