

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

SELASA, 12 MEI 2020

3

Nasional

Penularan COVID-19

Tiada bukti jangkitan daripada makanan

KKM masih tunggu laporan penuh JPV sama ada haiwan turut dijangkiti

Putrajaya: Tiada bukti kukuh bahawa penularan COVID-19 boleh menjangkiti manusia daripada makanan, kata Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

Beliau berkata, bagaimanapun pihaknya masih menunggu laporan penuh daripada Jabatan Perkhidmatan Veterinar (JPV) sama ada wabak terbahit sudah ada yang menjangkiti haiwan di negara ini.

"Saya tahu ramai yang risau mengenai isu ini, setakat ini tiada jangkitan daripada makanan kepada manusia. Bila beli makanan termasuk ayam atau daging yang mentah, bila dimasak ia secara langsung dapat mematikan virus berkenaan kerana ia berada dalam suhu yang tinggi.

"Sama ada haiwan atau makanan itu sebenarnya ada virus atau tidak, kita masih menunggu laporannya.

"Buat masa ini, masih tiada bukti atau kes yang menyatakan (mangsa COVID-19) dapat virus berkenaan daripada makanan mentah seperti ayam dan daging," katanya dalam sidang media harian COVID-19, di sini.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata demikian ketika mengulas kerisauan orang ramai terhadap bahan makanan dibeli yang dikawatiri terdedah virus COVID-19 susulan beberapa kluster jangkitan memabatkan pekerja pasar basah dan kilang proses ayam.

Pada Sabtu lalu, KKM mendedahkan kluster baharu memabatkan pekerja kilang memproses ayam di



Dr Noor Hisham ketika sidang media berhubung situasi semasa jangkitan COVID-19 di Putrajaya, semalam.

(Foto Mohd Fadli Hamzah /BH)

Bila beli makanan termasuk ayam atau daging yang mentah, bila dimasak ia secara langsung dapat mematikan virus berkenaan kerana ia berada dalam suhu yang tinggi.

Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan

Pedas, Negeri Sembilan yang sudah menjangkiti lebih 60 individu termasuk ahli keluarga mereka.

Menurut laporan, kluster itu mula dikesan 2 Mei lalu apabila seorang daripada pekerja kilang berkenaan didapati tidak sihat dan mula mengalami gejala demam, batuk, selesema, sesak nafas dan sakit kepala pada 5 April.

Kakitangan kilang terbahit kemudiannya mendapatkan rawatan di klinik kesihatan dan saringan ujian COVID-19 dijalankan pada 10 April. Beliau disahkan positif COVID-19 dua hari kemudian.

Sementara itu, dalam perkembangan terkini jangkitan COVID-19 semalam, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, 88 lagi individu sembuh sepenuhnya dan dibenarkan pulang semalam, menjadikan jumlah

lah kumulatif pulih 5,113 kes atau 76 peratus daripada keseluruhan kes jangkitan.

Katanya, bagi kes baharu pula 70 kes dilaporkan dengan 31 daripadanya adalah warga asing, di samping 13 kes import, menjadikan kes positif COVID-19 di Malaysia kini sebanyak 6,726 kes.

"Jumlah kes aktif dengan kebolehan jangkitan COVID-19 adalah 1,504 kes iaitu termasuk 20 kes positif dalam Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU) serta tujuh lagi memerlukan bantuan pernafasan," katanya.

Dr Noor Hisham turut memaklumkan pertambahan satu lagi kes kematian berkaitan COVID-19 direkodkan semalam, menjadikan jumlah kematian kini 109 kes atau 1.62 peratus daripada keseluruhan kes.

Hentikan sementara amalan bersalaman, peluk cium



Amalan bersalaman dan peluk cium ketika bertemu sanak-saudara serta sahabat handai, ketika musim perayaan perlu dihentikan bagi mengelak risiko penularan COVID-19.

(Foto hiasan)

Putrajaya: Amalan bersalaman dan peluk cium ketika bertemu sanak-saudara serta sahabat handai, ketika musim perayaan kini perlu dihentikan bagi mengelak risiko penularan COVID-19.

Selain menetapkan penjarakan sosial ketika bersembang, tuan rumah perlu memastikan prosedur operasi standard (SOP) dipatuhi ketika menerima tetamu ketika sambutan Aidilfitri.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata walaupun jumlah maksimum 20 tetamu dibenarkan pada satu masa dalam sebuah rumah bagi sambutan perayaan, namun ia hanya merujuk kepada jumlah ahli keluarga, manakala kunjungan orang luar termasuk rakan, tidak digalakkan.

Beliau menegaskan, golongan warga emas juga perlu dipastikan sentiasa dilindungi kerana mereka adalah kelompok yang berisiko tinggi terhadap jangkitan.

"Jika tidak dapat amalkan penjarakan sosial, lebih baik untuk kita kurangkan melawat atau ba-

lik kampung contohnya.

"Kalau balik kampung, kita akan bawa balik virus yang kita tidak nampak, kita mendedahkan virus itu kepada ibu bapa dan datuk nenek kita.

"Jika lihat statistik kematian setakat ini, lebih 50 peratus memabatkan mereka yang berusia 60 tahun ke atas, dan jika mereka mempunyai penyakit seperti kencing manis, darah tinggi dan penyakit tidak berjangkit (NCD) lain, jumlah kematian adalah 85 peratus dan ke atas," katanya pada sidang media di sini, semalam.

Semalam, Perdana Menteri, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin dalam perutusan khasnya memaklumkan, kerajaan membenarkan aktiviti ziarah terhadap jiran terdekat dan keluarga dalam negeri yang sama, dengan had maksimum 20 orang pada satu-satu masa.

Kelongsoran itu diberikan kepada rakyat yang menyambut tiga perayaan sepanjang Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Bersyarat (PKPB) berkuat kuasa hingga 9 Jun ini iaitu Aidilfitri, Pesta Ke-

amatan dan Hari Gawai.

Mengulas lanjut, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, jika dalam sebuah pangsapuri, jumlah 20 orang itu sudah terlalu ramai bagi ruang yang terkurung, justeru ia melanggar SOP Kementerian Kesihatan.

"Nombor (20 tetamu) itu adalah relatif iaitu bergantung kepada rumah. Kalau pangsapuri kita kecil, tiada ruang (bagi penjarakan sosial). Jadi, kita kena lihat bagaimana kita perlu membenarkan lawatan atau temu janji berperingkat daripada keluarga kita.

"Yang kita katakan (20 orang) adalah ahli keluarga. Kita bukan katakan kawan datang rumah kerana kita tidak galakkan perhimpunan dan pelawat datang ke rumah," katanya.

Mengakui ia sebagai cabaran kepada rakyat Malaysia untuk meraikan perayaan dengan pelbagai peraturan pada tahun ini, Dr Noor Hisham meminta rakyat untuk memahaminya.

"Jadi, saya harap rakyat boleh patuh dan mengamalkan SOP yang ditetapkan ini," katanya.

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 7

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Majikan perlu akur konsep 3C

Putrajaya: Majikan perlu mematuhi konsep 3C yang diketengahkan oleh Kementerian Kesihatan bagi mengekang penularan COVID-19 dalam kalangan pekerja asing.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata konsep 3C yang diketengahkan itu ialah elak tempat yang sesak (Crowded places), tempat tertutup (Confined spaces) dan perbualan secara rapat

(Close conversation).

Beliau berharap, majikan dan individu terbabit dapat mengamalkan kelaziman baharu itu kerana ia dapat mengekang penularan virus berkenaan di tempat kerja.

"Kalau semua mengamalkan kaedah baharu sebagai satu budaya, sudah tentu kita dapat cegah penularan COVID-19 serta putus rantai virus berkenaan dalam masyarakat. Inilah

normal baharu yang patut kita amalkan.

"Daripada kluster dalam kalangan warga asing, mereka duduk dalam satu rumah yang amat padat dan risiko penularan amat tinggi. Sekiranya 3C yang diketengahkan oleh kementerian dapat diamalkan, sudah tentu perkara ini dapat dielakkan," katanya dalam sidang media harian COVID-19, di sini, semalam.

Sebelum ini, pada 7 Mei lalu, media melaporkan terdapat satu kluster yang menjangkiti pengawal keselamatan di sebuah pusat beli belah di Cheras yang menjangkiti sembilan warganegara Nepal dan semua mereka menetap di rumah yang sama.

Hingga kini sebanyak 13 individu daripada kluster berkenaan sudah dijangkiti COVID-19 termasuk satu kes baharu yang dilaporkan semalam.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 10

RUANGAN : LOKAL

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Selasa 12.05.2020 | Harian Metro

lokal

Amal tiada salam, tiada cium

Kunjungan ketika sambutan Aidilfitri tidak digalakkan untuk pelawat kecuali ahli keluarga saja

Oleh Shamran Sarahan, Amir Abd Hamid dan Mahaizura Abd Malik am@hmetro.com.my

Kuala Lumpur

Aktiviti kunjung-mengunjung ketika sambutan Aidilfitri tidak digalakkan untuk pelawat kecuali dalam kalangan ahli keluarga sahaja dengan syarat mematuhi garis panduan Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM).

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, perkara itu masih tertakluk kepada prosedur operasi standard (SOP) KKM yang melarang sebarang perhimpunan dan perlu mengambil kira faktor keluasan rumah.

"Kalau apartment kecil, bukan 20 orang dalam satu masa tapi mungkin boleh gunakan cara lain seperti janji temu secara berperingkat

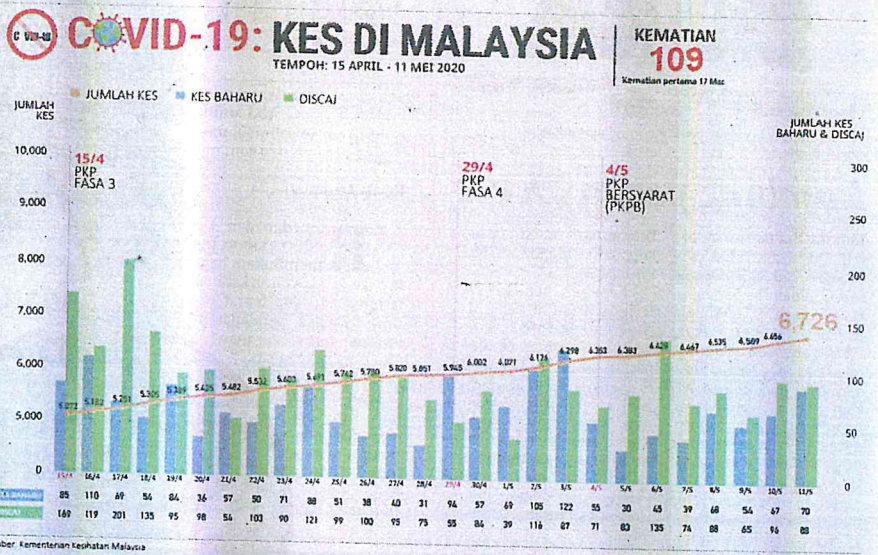
dan kita tak galakkan aktiviti perhimpunan atau pelawat datang ke rumah.

"Apa yang pasti ikut SOP Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM), amalkan penjarakan sosial dan lindungi warga emas contohnya tiada salam, tiada cium, kita amalkan kebersihan diri dan mencuci tangan," katanya dalam sidang media harian Covid-19 di Putrajaya, semalam.

Beliau berkata demikian mengulas kekeliruan orang ramai berkenaan kebenaran aktiviti berkunjung seramai 20 orang dalam negeri ketika Aidilfitri.

Katanya, jumlah kes kematian bagi kes Covid-19 bagi individu 60 tahun ke atas adalah lebih 50 peratus manakala bagi pesakit penyakit tidak berjangkit (NCD) seperti kencing manis dan darah tinggi, kes kematian adalah 85 peratus ke atas.

Meskipun ahli keluarga, beliau berkata, orang ramai perlu sentiasa mengamalkan



AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19

Tiada salam, ciuman ketika beraya

PUTRAJAYA - Tiada salam dan ciuman lazimnya yang menjadi amalan ketika perayaan Aidilfitri bagi menjaga jarak sosial selamat untuk mengelakkan jangkitan Covid-19.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, penjarakkan sosial merupakan salah satu garis panduan Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM).

"Tiada salam-salam, cium-cium, jaga jarak selamat dan gunakan cecair pembasmi kuman," katanya pada sidang akhbar di sini semalam.

Sementara itu, beliau berkata, pandangan 20 orang beraya di sesebuah rumah adalah melibatkan kumpulan ahli anggota keluarga termasuk anak dan cucu.

Menurutnya, nombor berkenaan adalah relatif berdasarkan keluasan sesebuah rumah.

"Jika 20 orang di sebuah pangsa-puri, ia adalah sesak dan dikira telah melanggar prosedur operasi standard (SOP) KKM," katanya.

Beliau berkata, penjarakkan sosial perlu dipastikan bagi melindungi golongan berisiko terutamanya warga emas.

Katanya, kementerian juga tidak membenarkan adanya kunjungan pelawat di setiap rumah.



DR NOOR HISHAM

"Apa yang penting, dalam tempoh masa tersebut adalah penjarakkan sebagaimana Perdana Menteri, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin katakan," katanya.

Kelmarin, Muhyiddin dalam perutusan khasnya berkata, kerajaan memberi kelonggaran dengan membenarkan aktiviti ziarah bersama jiran terdekat dengan had maksimum 20 orang pada satu-satu masa.

Dalam pada itu, KKM mengesahkan setakat ini tiada kes jangkitan Covid-19 menerusi makanan.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, sekiranya virus berkenaan terdapat pada makanan, ia akan mati apabila makanan tersebut dimasak.

"Saya rasa ramai yang risau isu ini tetapi kalau ada pun virus (pada makanan), ia akan mati apabila dimasak dengan suhu yang tinggi," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian ketika diminta mengulas mengenai isu keselamatan makanan susulan ramai peniaga bahan mentah di pasar dijangkiti wabak itu.

Mengulas lanjut, katanya, tidak semua makanan perlu dijemur sebagaimana dilakukan segelintir rakyat.

Menurutnya, KKM sedang menunggu laporan daripada Jabatan Veterinar mengenai kajian jangkitan virus terhadap makanan terutamanya bahan mentah seperti ayam.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19

SINAR HARIAN • SELASA 12 MEI 2020

#PastiAdaSinar

MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19



RTK antibodi tak boleh digunakan sebagai ujian pengesahan

PUTRAJAYA - Ujian serologi kit ujian pantas (RTK) antibodi yang dijalankan di klinik swasta dengan menggunakan sampel darah dari hujung jari tidak boleh digunakan sebagai ujian pengesahan koronavirus (Covid-19).

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, ini kerana kehadiran antibodi tidak dapat mengesahkan jangkitan semasa (*active infection*).

"Keputusan antibodi negatif pula tidak menjamin individu yang diuji tersebut tidak dijangkiti Covid-19," katanya di sini semalam.

Menurutnya, Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) sering menekankan bahawa ujian bagi mengesan virus Covid-19 adalah berasaskan antigen iaitu melalui ujian Real time Reverse Transcription-Polymerase Chain Reaction (rRT-PCR) ataupun ujian RTK antigen.

"Kedua-dua ujian tersebut memerlukan pengambilan Nasopharyngeal (NPS) Swab oleh anggota yang terlatih dengan menggunakan alat pelindung diri (PPE) yang bersesuaian serta kelengkapan makmal seperti Biological Safety Cabinet (BSC) ketika memproses sampel yang diambil," katanya.

Pesakit guna mesin ventilator menurun

KKM merekodkan 88 kes telah pulih dan 70 kes positif baharu semalam

Oleh **TUAN BUQHAIRAH TUAN MUHAMAD ADNAN**

PUTRAJAYA

Pesakit Covid-19 yang memerlukan bantuan pernafasan menggunakan ventilator semakin berkurangan.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, daripada 20 pesakit yang dirawat di Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU), hanya tujuh yang memerlukan mesin berkenaan.

"Selain itu, Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia KKM merekodkan 88 kes telah pulih dan dibenar pulang hari ini (semalam) sekali gus menjadikan jumlah kumulatif 5,118 kes," katanya pada sidang akhbar di sini semalam.

Menurutnya, sehingga jam 12

Laporan Kluster Covid-19 yang aktif di Malaysia (sehingga 11 Mei 2020)

BIL	KLUSTER	NEGERI	KES BARU	JUMLAH KES
1.	Pasar Chow Kit	WPKL, Putrajaya & Selangor	29	82
2.	Pesantren	Melaka, Negeri Sembilan, Sarawak, Selangor, WPKL & Putrajaya	8	230
3.	Pengawal Keselamatan	WPKL & Putrajaya	1	13
4.	Sendayan	Negeri Sembilan	1	110

tenaga hari semalam, terdapat 70 kes baharu yang dilaporkan.

"Daripada jumlah itu, 31 kes membabitkan bukan warga Malaysia. Ini menjadikan jumlah kes positif Covid-19 di negara ini adalah sebanyak 6,726 kes.

"Oleh itu, jumlah kes aktif dengan kebolehhajangan adalah sebanyak 1,504 kes," katanya.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, Pusat Kesiapsiagaan dan Tindak Cepat (CPRC) Kebangsaan merekodkan

pertambahan satu kematian akibat wabak itu.

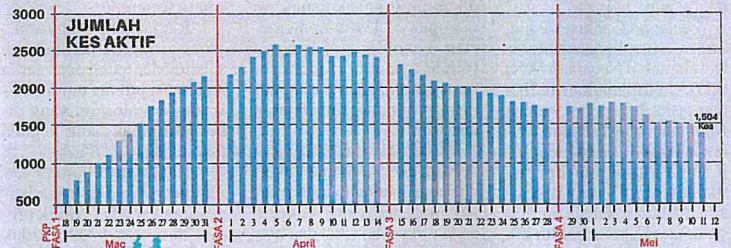
"Setakat ini, jumlah keseluruhan kematian melibatkan Covid-19 ialah sebanyak 109 kes," katanya.

Mengulas mengenai kluster yang masih aktif, katanya, terdapat empat daripadanya mencatatkan kes baharu positif Covid-19.

Beliau turut mengumumkan kluster Tabligh Pakistan yang melibatkan enam kes positif di Tawau, Sabah tamat sepenuhnya.

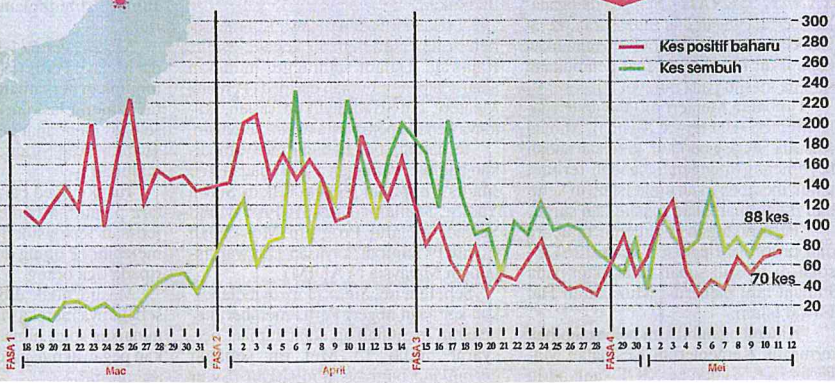
SITUASI TERKINI KES COVID-19 DI MALAYSIA SETAKAT SEMALAM

JUMLAH KESELURUHAN: **6,726** | PULIH: **5,118** | ICU: **20** | KEMATIAN: **109** | KES BAHARU: **+70**



Bilangan kes Covid-19 mengikut negeri di Malaysia

JUMLAH KES BAHARU DAN SEMBUH DILAPORKAN SETIAP HARI



Jumlah jangkitan Covid-19 di Malaysia semalam meningkat daripada **6,656 kes** kepada **6,726 kes**

INFOGRAFIK SINAR HARIAN/EPIC

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 7

RUANGAN : MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19

Tuduhan C4 terhadap Adham Baba berniat jahat

PUTRAJAYA - Tuduhan terhadap Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba mempunyai kaitan dengan syarikat Khazanah Jaya Sdn Bhd (KJSB) adalah berniat jahat, tidak benar dan bersifat pembunuhan karakter.

Menurut satu kenyataan yang dikeluarkan oleh Pejabat Menteri Kesihatan, Adham tidak pernah mempunyai sebarang kepentingan perniagaan dalam KJSB atau para pemegang saham syarikat terbabit.

"Perlu ditegaskan menteri tidak pernah memberi sebarang arahan kepada pegawai KKM agar meluluskan pemberian kontrak kepada KJSB atau mana-mana syarikat.

"Semua urusan pembelian dan pemerolehan KKM sepanjang perang menentang coronavirus (Covid-19) ini dilakukan mengikut prosedur dan tatacara kewangan yang diketuai oleh Ketua Setiausaha Kementerian dan para pegawai yang bertanggungjawab," kata kenyataan tersebut semalam.

Baru-baru ini, Pusat Untuk Memerangi Rasuah dan Kronisme (C4) mendakwa KJSB mendapat kontrak secara perolehan darurat bagi pelaksanaan Lab Mitigation Solution For Covid-19.

Menurut pejabat menteri itu,

NGO tersebut membuat provokasi umum mengenai kemungkinan Adham mempunyai kepentingan perniagaan dalam KJSB berdasarkan kedudukan Iskandar Mirza Ahmad yang pernah menjadi pengarah syarikat South Asia Noble Sdn Bhd (SANSB). SANSB mempunyai kaitan dengan pemilik KJSB.

"Dakwaan ini jelas berniat jahat dan mendorong serta mencipta sangkaan buruk rakyat terhadap menteri kerana Iskandar Miza telah lama meninggalkan SANSB.

"Menggunakan fakta Iskandar Mirza sebagai bekas pekerja (Pengarah SANSB) bagi mengaitkan menteri dengan tuduhan penyalahgunaan kuasa berkaitan syarikat lain sangat tidak masuk akal," katanya.

Menjelaskan hal tersebut, Pejabat Menteri Kesihatan memberitahu Iskandar Mirza menyertai SANSB pada 18 Julai 2007 hingga 30 Januari 2015, manakala Tan Boon Keong dan Tan Jiat Jui menyertai SANSB hanya dari 30 Januari 2015.

Sungguhpun begitu, katanya, Adham mengalu-alukan siasatan SPRM yang sedang berjalan dan bersedia memberi kerjasama sepeunuhnya.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : NEWS / STORY OF THE DAY

'Only family visits for Raya, Kaamatan, Gawai during CMCO'

PUTRAJAYA: Only family members are allowed to visit one another during Hari Raya Aidilfitri, Kaamatan and Gawai celebrations, with the condition that they adhere to the 20 people per home visiting rule for festivities.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the most important thing was not the number of visitors, but complying with the Health Ministry's standard operating procedure (SOP), especially observing the social distancing rule.

He said when it involved visiting family members, the health of senior citizens must be prioritised as data showed that they were the most vulnerable group.

"The number is relative. It depends on the size of the house. In an apartment, 20 people is breaching the SOP because of the confined and crowded space. In such a situation, social distancing cannot be observed.

"For the host, he might need to advise family members to make appointments to visit or visit in batches.

"So when visiting family members, make sure to practise social

distancing and protect senior citizens.

"No shaking of hands, hugging or kissing. Wash hands with soap or use hand sanitiser before entering the house," he said here yesterday.

He said based on Malaysia's death toll, 50 per cent of the victims were 60 and above.

He added that 85 per cent of them had non-communicable diseases.

"Hence, if you are not sure whether you can practise social distancing, restrict visitations.

"This is a challenge to all Malaysians. We must protect our parents and grandparents, the senior citizens.

"We cannot be sure that we are free from the virus. We might be infected without our knowledge and may pass the virus to them during the visit."

On Sunday, Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said although *balik kampung* was prohibited for Hari Raya Aidilfitri, Kaamatan and Gawai during the extended Conditional Movement Control Order period, local visits were allowed for those living in the same state, capped at 20 people at any one time.



Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah (left) speaking at a Covid-19 press briefing in Putrajaya yesterday. PIC BY MOHD FADLI HAMZAH

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES
MUKA SURAT : 4
RUANGAN : NEWS / STORY OF THE DAY

PRIVATE CLINICS

Health D-G: Don't use antibody test kits to screen workers

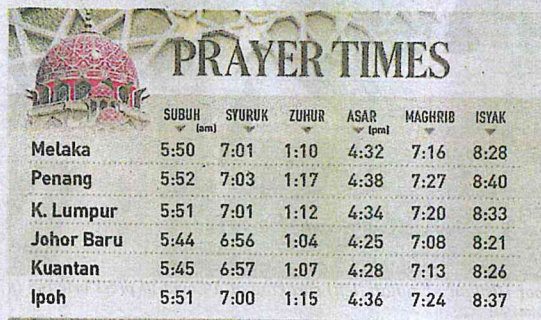
KUALA LUMPUR: Private clinics are discouraged from using the antibody Rapid Test Kits (RTK) to screen workers for the Covid-19 virus before they resume their jobs under the Conditional Movement Control Order (CMCO).
 Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said

tests to detect the coronavirus should be antigen-based, either through Real Time Reverse Transcription-Polymerase Chain Reaction (rRT-PCR) or through the RTK Antigen based test.
 He said both tests would need the application of nasofarinks (NPS) swabs by health personnel

wearing Personal Protective Equipment and laboratory equipment such as the Biological Safety Cabinet to process the samples.
 "The antibody RTK serological tests, which use blood samples from a finger prick, cannot be used to detect the virus because the presence of antibodies cannot validate the active infection.

incidence from scientific studies to prove that people who had recovered from Covid-19 and had antibodies were protected from a second infection.
 Meanwhile, 70 new cases were reported up to noon yesterday, bringing the tally to 6,726 cases.
 Dr Noor Hisham said of the total, 31 were foreigners.

of yesterday, bringing the total to 5,113, or 76 per cent, of the total number of patients nationwide.
 He said active Covid-19 clusters recorded new cases, led by the Chow Kit wet market cluster with 29 new cases.
 The other clusters are the Pesantren (eight cases), Sendayan Tahfiz (1) and Cheras security guard (1).



	SUBUH <small>(am)</small>	SYURUK	ZUHUR	ASAR <small>(pm)</small>	MAGHRIB	ISYAK
Melaka	5:50	7:01	1:10	4:32	7:16	8:28
Penang	5:52	7:03	1:17	4:38	7:27	8:40
K. Lumpur	5:51	7:01	1:12	4:34	7:20	8:33
Johor Baru	5:44	6:56	1:04	4:25	7:08	8:21
Kuantan	5:45	6:57	1:07	4:28	7:13	8:26
Ipoh	5:51	7:00	1:15	4:36	7:24	8:37

"Also, a negative result does not guarantee that the person has not been infected with the Covid-19 virus.
 "However, the antibody RTK test can be used to conduct a study on the prevalence of Covid-19 infection in a community or among target groups, such as a group of workers."
 Dr Noor Hisham said the test was in line with the World Health Organisation's recommendation that RTK antibodies could be used in epidemiological studies.
 He added that there was no ev-

"There are 13 imported cases and the rest are local transmissions."
 "There are 1,504 active cases while 20 are at the intensive care unit (ICU) and seven are in need of breathing assistance," he said, adding there was one death, bringing the total to 109 deaths.
 He said the fatality was a 63-year-old patient (Case 6,657) who had liver cancer and a history of diabetes.
 He was treated at Hospital Kuala Lumpur on May 8, and died on May 10 at 5.15 am.
 There are 88 patients who have recovered and were discharged as

He said the three areas under the Enhanced Movement Control Order clusters — Pusat Bandar Utara; Pasar Borong Kuala Lumpur, Selayang Baru; and Petaling Jaya Jalan Othman wet market — had no new positive cases recorded up to noon yesterday.
 He said there were no more cases recorded at the Pakistan tabligh cluster in Tawau, Sabah.
 On Malaysians who returned from abroad, 31,408 citizens were undergoing the mandatory 14-day quarantine, he said. Of the number, 353 had tested positive.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 10

RUANGAN : NST POSTER

NewStraitsTimes • TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2020

10

NST POSTER

WORLDWIDE
UP TO YESTERDAY

CORONAVIRUS CASES

4,200,953

RECOVERED

1,502,591

DEATHS

284,150



Updates: The number of confirmed cases continues to grow. So far, 80 per cent of patients experience a mild form of the illness, which can include a fever and pneumonia. Many of these cases require little to no medical intervention. But elderly people and those with underlying conditions such as diabetes or heart and lung issues are the most vulnerable. Most cases are in New York with more than 333,000 positive cases.



Updates: Urban hotspots such as Madrid and Barcelona remain under lockdown — but elsewhere people made plans to meet friends and family in bars and restaurants that have outdoor spaces. Restaurant takeaway services, hairdressers and some other businesses already open. From May 11, in less-affected regions only, bar terraces can reopen at a third of capacity, hotels and tourist accommodation can reopen, except communal areas.



Updates: Prime Minister Boris Johnson was criticised for being divisive, confusing and vague as he explained his blueprint for a gradual easing of the lockdown in England. Almost seven weeks after a nationwide stay-at-home order was put in place in Britain, nearly 32,000 people have died, according to the Johns Hopkins University tracker — the worst toll in Europe and second only to the US. Johnson, who himself spent a week in the hospital with Covid-19, said on Sunday the measures had come “at a colossal cost to our way of life” but added it would be “madness” to squander the progress by moving too soon. Johnson said schools in England and some shops might be able to open next month, and the government was “actively encouraging” people to return to work if they cannot do so from home.

GLOBAL COVID-19 CASES



Updates: Parks, factories and building sites are already open, as are bars and restaurants for takeaway service. No new measures expected until May 18.



Updates: From Monday, members of the public were able to walk outside without filling a permit for the first time in nearly eight weeks. Teachers will start to return to primary schools, and some shops — including hair salons — will reopen. Bars, restaurants, theatres and cinemas will, however, remain closed.



Updates: Gymsnasiums reopened yesterday after authorities relaxed rules intended to curb the spread of the new coronavirus. Some fitness clubs in North Rhine-Westphalia opened shortly after midnight to let gym-starved customers build up a sweat again. Authorities agreed last week to further loosen restrictions on movement, but with a fallback clause designed to clamp down on any new clusters. In recent days, five areas have broken the threshold of 50 new infections per 100,000 inhabitants in a week. Among them is Coesfeld in North Rhine-Westphalia, where dozens of workers at a slaughterhouse tested positive.



Updates: Employment demand in Turkey has all but collapsed in the last three months due to the devastating economic fallout caused by the pandemic, said a study from Bahcesehir University Centre for Economic and Social Studies (BETAM). “The Impact of the Coronavirus Outbreak on the Labour Market: What the Leading Indicators Say”, a research paper by BETAM’s Seyfettin Gursel and Mehmet Cem Sahin, said the number of job vacancies offered by Turkey’s state employment agency had dropped by 52,000 to 148,000 last month compared to the previous year. At this point, many people have lost hope in finding employment to the point that they no longer apply for jobs, BETAM’s study found.



Updates: Schoolchildren began trialling temperature-monitoring bracelets at Beijing schools yesterday, in China’s latest high-tech measure for tracking possible exposure to Covid-19. The bracelets collect real-time temperature data that can be monitored by schools and parents via an app, the Beijing Daily reported. If a student’s temperature rises above 37.2°Celsius, the bracelet will prompt their teacher to alert the police. It was rolled out in five Beijing districts as middle school students went back to school for the first time in months.



Updates: The games some people have been playing on social media — choosing who they’d want to be quarantined with — have become real in Belgium. Under strict lockdown since March 16, including home confinement except for essential journeys, Belgium’s controls have been some of the tightest in Europe. But it worked — after hitting one of the highest death rates in the world, the nation’s infection rate and death toll have dropped steadily since a peak early last month. The decline led Prime Minister Sophie Wilmes to announce this past week that along with letting all stores reopen on May 11, certain social distancing guidelines will be relaxed.

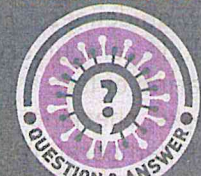


Updates: Singapore Turf Club to convert car parks and sheltered arena into Community Recovery Facilities for foreign workers to prevent the healthcare system from being overwhelmed. On Monday, the Singapore Turf Club announced that it will be converting parts of the Singapore Racecourse at Kranji into Community Recovery Facilities and to be ready by end of the month. According to a media statement, the structures set to be converted were the multi-storey car park and the sheltered arena at Singapore Turf Club Riding Centre.



Updates: The Indonesian government has allocated 75 trillion rupiah of the Covid-19 spending for health care, 110 trillion rupiah for the social safety net and 70.1 trillion rupiah in tax incentives and bank loan subsidies for businesses. The government has decided to triple its debt issuance to 1 quadrillion rupiah (US\$67.1 billion) this year to finance Indonesia’s battle against the pandemic. This massive debt will be used to plug the state budget deficit, which will likely surpass the self-imposed three per cent threshold of the gross domestic product until 2022. Part of the debt is a new bond series to mature in 50 years, the longest tenure in history with two generations later having to pay taxes to repay it.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS) ON HANDLING LAUNDRY DURING THE PANDEMIC



Q: Do I need to use a washing machine and dryer to wash and dry clothes, towels and bed linen, if no one in my household is a suspected or confirmed Covid-19 patient?

A: There is no need to use a washing machine or dryer, nor extremely hot water. Do your laundry as you normally would, using detergent or soap. Once dry, make sure you clean your hands before handling and storing your clothes, towels and bed linen.



Q: Can Covid-19 be spread through coins and banknotes?

A: There is currently no evidence to confirm or disprove that Covid-19 virus can be transmitted through coins or banknotes. However, respiratory droplets expelled from an infected person can contaminate and persist on surfaces. Wash your hands regularly and thoroughly after touching any frequently-touched surface or object, including coins or banknotes. Avoid touching your eyes, mouth and nose, if your hands are not cleaned.



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

1 Sarawak Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas refuted claims on social media alleging that the public could freely travel between districts within the state, without permission from the police. He reiterated that the Movement Control Order (MCO) is still in progress, thus the public must obey and follow the instructions. Members of the public, who have to travel between districts, must first obtain permission from the police before doing so while the state is still under the MCO. Police roadblocks and checks will continue at all district and state boundaries.

2 The Glenmarie Golf & Country Club (GGCC) Shah Alam management in Selangor denied all allegations that the club had to be closed for quarantine following one of its members testing positive for Covid-19. It said such a case was untrue as none of its members were infected. GGCC said since they were allowed to reopen on May 6, the management has ensured that all the standard operating procedures, such as providing sanitisers, regular cleaning of the premises and social distancing among the workers are followed.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 2

RUANGAN : NATION

Errant students to face action

KOTA KINABALU: Students who have breached their home quarantine here after being allowed to leave college campuses will face action, says Sabah Health Department director Datuk Dr Christina Rundi.

She said these student would be brought to state quarantine facilities.

"If they continue to violate the quarantine, legal action can be taken against them," she said.

She warned that those convicted could be jailed up to two years, fined or both.

Dr Rundi said some of the students failed to answer their phones while others gave officials either wrong or non-existing home addresses and phone numbers.

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 4
RUANGAN : NATION
 4 Nation

THE STAR, TUESDAY 12 MAY 2020

A day to honour our nurses

By **FATIMAH ZAINAL**
 and **DIYANA PFORDTEN**
 newsdesk@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: Although International Nurses Day has been celebrated on May 12 for decades, it has rarely received the public attention it deserves. This year is bound to be different because the Covid-19 pandemic has led to greater appreciation for healthcare frontliners.

Today is the anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale, a pioneer of modern nursing, and it is a day to honour nurses around the world for their tireless and selfless dedication in the face of illnesses and disabilities.

As the head nurse at Hospital Kuala Lumpur, Hasnani Mohamed has often made personal sacrifices in the name of public service, something that other frontliners have to endure too as the world battles Covid-19.

Hasnani, who is in charge of the hospital's staff nurses, said these were very challenging times as healthcare workers had to deal with long working hours, fatigue and missing out on family time.

"As frontliners, we are potentially more exposed to the virus and we face extreme tiredness. We have been working round the clock and must push aside our longing to be with our families," she said.

"Patience is the most important element in carrying out our duties."

Hasnani, who has been a nurse for 21 years, including seven as head

Nurses Day more profound for medical frontliners



Life savers: (From left) Nurses Swapaha Sekaran, 37, Tiurn Beat Yeen, 31, and Hafidah Mustafa, 34, receiving a greeting card and roses from a patient at Hospital Putrajaya and Hasnani (centre) with her colleagues on the front line.

nurse, said her biggest wish was to see the elimination of Covid-19.

"My hope is for the country to be successful in fighting the threat of this virus and ensuring the safety of our rakyat and nation," said Hasnani when asked about what she would wish for in conjunction with International Nurses Day.

Hasnani expressed hope that Malaysians would adhere to the movement control order (MCO) so that the Covid-19 infection rate stayed low.

"People should stay home and

only go out when needed. They must practise social distancing and immediately go for a check-up if they experience any Covid-19 symptoms," she said.

For Che Wan Mazniza Azreen, a nurse at Klinik Kesihatan Pagoh, her experience in three states is a source of bittersweet memories.

"I've been a nurse for the past 10 years in maternal and child health clinics and this year is by far the most challenging.

"Our leave has been frozen until further notice and we need to run

Covid-19 screenings for all our patients as they are in the vulnerable group," she said.

Che Wan is thankful that her patients have been cooperative and truthful when probed about their travel history and any close contact with Covid-19 patients.

"My only hope for International Nurses Day is for the people to stay safe and stay home during the Hari Raya period. The celebration happens every year but you only have one life," she said.

Malaysian Nurses Association



president Sharipah Asiah Syed Junid Aljunid hopes that the courageous work of healthcare workers amid the pandemic is a form of honour to International Nurses Day.

"Nurses are in the spotlight and all around the world, this pandemic is revealing the irreplaceable work of nursing for all to see. It is a great challenge to the nursing profession.

"Our heart goes out to all the nurses and their families for all that the nurses are doing to care for people and to keep the rakyat safe.

"To all nurses, today symbolises international recognition for the commitment and concern you have given to the community and we are so proud of all of you as our Health Heroes," she said.

Sharipah said to show appreciation to all nurses, Malaysians should follow all the Health Ministry's rules and guidelines.

"People should not be selfish, especially during the upcoming Raya celebration, as it is a crucial time for our frontliners," she said.

Health inspectors – the unsung heroes on the front lines

PETALING JAYA: They trudge dirty, rat-infested alleyways and at times, even have to put up with angry folk.

That's what health inspector Mastura Maznor and her colleagues would go through to find targeted people to screen for Covid-19.

Mastura, who is with Pejabat Kesihatan Cheras, said that while most people knew nurses and doctors as frontliners, not many were aware that the front line starts with health inspectors.

"When we receive reports of a positive Covid-19 case, we will carry out further investigations and conduct contact tracing in order to find other suspected cases.

"We will investigate the patients' movements and who they were in contact with.

"Health inspectors face suspected Covid-19 positive patients even before they are sent for screening,



First in: Mastura and Shahir were hailed as heroes when a photo of them assisting a senior citizen went viral on social media.

so it is very high risk," said Mastura when contacted.

Mastura, 37, described a recent situation at the Pudu market where she had to track down foreign workers to undergo screening.

Covered in personal protective equipment (PPE), Mastura said she plodded through alleyways littered with garbage and infested with rats to find the workers, who had no

passports or identification documents.

"We had to use alternative ways to find them because they were hiding. So like it or not, suited up in my PPE, I went through the alleys and just acted like I didn't see the rats.

"With assistance from the police, we managed to find and screen them, but it was very challenging," she said.

Mastura and her colleague, public health assistant Shahir Razali, gained public recognition when Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah shared a picture of them helping a senior citizen get to a screening centre.

In the photo taken in Pudu on May 5, Shahir was piggybacking the elderly woman for about 50m to the centre with Mastura by the side.

"Earlier, I knocked on her door and walked with her to the screening tent, which around 400m from her house.

"But about 50m away from the tent, I saw that she had turned pale and both her legs were also bandaged, so she couldn't really walk," said Mastura, who was surprised to see Dr Noor Hisham had posted the picture on social media.

"I was shocked because we were only carrying out our duty, but it was a pleasant surprise and a proud

moment that our work is being appreciated," she said.

Mastura also shared about having to face people who got upset when told they needed to be screened for Covid-19.

"But with my 11 years of experience as a health inspector, I know that I just need to give them more explanation. I would explain why I needed to ask so many details and why I need to know who they met and where they went.

"I also tell them the consequences if they lie, and usually they would cool down and cooperate," she said.

Another challenge is donning PPE. Mastura said no external air could enter the suit and breathing was difficult.

"Especially during the fasting month, when we work under the hot sun in full PPE, we only depend on God to strengthen our spirit and health," she said.

Nurses hope war on Covid-19 will end soon

By **TARRENCE TAN**
 and **ASHLEY TANG**
 newsdesk@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: With the conditional movement control order (MCO) in effect until June 9, nurses across the country continue to battle it out on the front lines of the war against Covid-19 despite the fear and anxiety.

While Malaysia has done relatively well in addressing the health crisis, nurses are urging people to not let up in observing precautionary measures.

When asked about their wishes

as the world celebrates International Nurses Day today, the nurses interviewed by *The Star* expressed hope that the Covid-19 pandemic would end soon.

At the same time, they pointed out that everybody has a part to play in this global fight.

Stella Bernard, a nurse with 25 years' experience and who was posted to a quarantine centre in Sabah, said her big wish was for the eradication of the coronavirus as soon as possible.

"This is a war – a huge war that silently kills people," she said.

Bernard has dealt with other dis-



ease outbreaks such as severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), Influenza A (H1N1), Ebola, and Middle East respiratory syndrome-related coronavirus (MERS), but to her, Covid-19 is the most challenging task she has ever faced.

"Most of us are worried about



getting infected. How should we go home after caring for patients? Do we have enough personal protective equipment (PPE) for everyone?" she said.

Despite the high stress of caring for Covid-19 patients, Bernard said the experience had shaped her and



Front line fighters: (From left) Sharif, Raheer and Bernard.

her colleagues into a stronger team because they constantly checked with each other on whether they were wearing PPE correctly, washing their hands and taking supplements.

> TURN TO PAGE 6

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NATION

Targeted testing proves effective

Number of active clusters at four out of 34 clusters, says Health DG

By CLARISSA CHUNG
clarissachung@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: There are currently four active Covid-19 clusters out of the 34 clusters identified in Malaysia so far, says the Health Ministry.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said they were the Chow Kit market cluster (29 new cases), the Pesantren cluster (eight), the Cheras security guards cluster (one), and the Sendayan cluster (one).

He said this showed the ministry's targeted testing approach was effective when asked whether mass screenings for workers should be undertaken in Malaysia.

"We have even 'closed' three clusters after 28 days of not recording any new cases," he said, adding that this included the Pakistan tabligh cluster in Tawau, Sabah.

In regards to Covid-19 cases



linked to wet markets, he said 183 positive cases in total had been identified after screening 25,034 individuals linked to 137 markets.

Addressing concerns on whether the fresh market produce was safe to eat, he said the ministry was waiting for a report from the Veterinary Services Department (DVS) on whether the virus was found in livestock.

“We have even ‘closed’ three clusters.”

Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah

He emphasised that cooked food was safe to consume.

"There are many who are worried about this issue, but as of now, there have been no infections caused by food.

"When we cook the food, the virus will die, if the virus is present in the food at all," he said at the daily press Covid-19 briefing in Putrajaya yesterday.

Meanwhile, Dr Noor Hisham said although up to 20 people were allowed to gather for festivals in the same state, attendees must be from

the same family, and that social distancing must be maintained.

The number of attendees was also dependent on the actual space available, he added.

"As an example, having 20 people in an apartment will make the area a crowded space, and that contravenes the ministry's guidelines on social distancing," he said.

He emphasised that senior citizens must be given special attention, and this would mean refraining from offering physical expressions of affection.

"For those attending gatherings, they must protect the elderly, and this means no 'salam' (greetings involving touching hands or hugs) or 'cium cium' (kisses)," he said.

Dr Noor Hisham added that those wanting to go visiting could stagger their arrivals.

Malaysia reported 70 new Covid-19 cases yesterday, bringing the total number of infections to 6,726.

Out of the new cases, 31 were foreigners. There were 13 imported cases, while the rest were local transmissions.

Dr Noor Hisham said 88 patients were discharged in the same 24-hour span, bringing the number of recovered patients to 5,113 since the outbreak began.

There are 1,504 active cases being treated at the country's health facilities.

One new death was reported, bringing the death toll to 109.

The latest fatality was a 63-year-old Malaysian man (case 6,657) who had a history of cancer and diabetes.

He was admitted to Hospital Kuala Lumpur on May 8 and died on May 10.

Watch the video
thestartv.com



'We have pledged to serve our nation and to fight for it'

> FROM PAGE 4

"Our bond has strengthened and we have pledged to serve for the sake of the nation. We see this as a war with the virus and we have accepted the challenge of fighting it.

"Many times, I have given my colleagues a lot of courage and guidance as I lead them in saving lives. That is my responsibility as a nursing sister," she said.

Sharif Mohd Iswan Mohd Idris, a nurse with Hospital Queen Elizabeth Kota Kinabalu, hopes no more healthcare workers would be infected with Covid-19.

It was previously reported that more than 300 had tested positive.

To him, the key to frontliners avoiding the disease is the prompt acquisition of PPE when needed.

Sharif has been a nurse for eight years and specialises in HIV/AIDS counselling. He said his recent experience working at the Covid-19 isolation ward taught him many important lessons on handling daily duties during a pandemic.

"As a frontliner in this pandemic, sometimes I worry about infecting my family and other loved ones. But I know I'm strong enough to face this situation," he said.

At the same time, he conceded that the experience came with a price because it was exhausting to wear PPE during his shifts.

"To be honest, I felt hot and sweated a lot. But at the same time, I felt safe. PPE is very important," he said.

With Hari Raya approaching, Sharif advised Malaysians to strictly obey the conditional MCO rules so as to care for the elderly and the young, who are mainly at risk.

"Let's stay healthy and stay safe at home," he said.

Hannah Raheer, another Sabahan nurse who has been with the emergency and trauma department for 10 years, said her daily duties had changed drastically due to Covid-19.

She said adherence to hygiene and PPE requirements were

paramount now.

For example, mandatory showers are the norm and working 12 hours a day is standard because of a lack of manpower.

"At times, we don't get off days because there aren't enough people as some of them were quarantined due to accidental direct contact with positive patients.

"Sometimes when I look at a patient, I know that this could be me tomorrow if I'm not careful or if I'm just not lucky. But ensuring health and treating Malaysians are our responsibility and duty," she said.

"I hope Malaysians will remain united in the war against Covid-19

by always adhering to preventive measures," she said.

Meanwhile, hospital operator KPJ Healthcare Bhd said more nurses should be leaders because nursing was the backbone of the healthcare industry.

Its chief nursing officer Maygala Arumugam said the personality and training of nurses, which was centred around caring and nurturing, translated well in leadership roles.

"Nurses are inspirational leaders who lead by example and have their patients' health and safety at heart," she said in a statement issued in conjunction with International Nurses Day.

AKHBAR : THE SUN

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS



theSUN ON TUESDAY | MAY 12, 2020 5

NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS

Senior citizens helpless under EMCO

➤ Many in dire need of food, medical aid and supervision

BY ALISHA NUR MOHD NOOR
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

PETALING JAYA: More than 1,700 senior citizens, some alone and helpless, are now being forced to fend for themselves.

They make up about 60% of the 2,900 people who have been ordered to remain indoors following the enforcement of an enhanced movement control order (EMCO) in Petaling Jaya Old Town.

Apart from the eight old folk homes concentrated in the affected area, there are

many others living on their own, according to Petaling Jaya MP Maria Chin Abdullah.

"There are some who do not even have cooking facilities. They need regular medical treatment and a steady supply of medication for various illnesses," she told *theSun* yesterday.

Chin is appealing to the authorities and frontliners in the Covid-19 war to look in on these senior citizens regularly to ensure their needs are adequately met.

"I understand that the frontliners already have a demanding schedule but it would be good if they can drop in to see these old folk at least once in two or three days," she added.

For now, the Welfare Department is supplying the old folk homes with dried or cooked food and arrangements have been made to deliver their medication to them but there are no efforts to check on them regularly.

Senior citizens are also most at risk of contracting Covid-19. According to the Health Ministry, the incidence of infection is highest among those aged 55 to 69.

Health Director-General Datuk Seri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah had said on April 16 that the incidence of Covid-19 is 32.5 per 100,000 population among those aged 60 to 64, followed by 31.5 per 100,000 in the 55 to 59 age group and 26.8 per 100,000 in the 65 to 69 age group.

He advised those with chronic illnesses to use the value-added services at health facilities to get medication delivered to them.

Chin said apart from senior citizens, the disabled and migrants are equally vulnerable. "For instance, the disabled may have special requirements and someone has to check on them regularly to see that they get what they need."

She said instead of arresting illegal migrants, efforts should be made to ensure they also get what they need, such as food and medication.

This could encourage them to come forward to be tested for Covid-19 and in doing so help to stem its spread, she added.

Chin said data provided by the Welfare Department showed that in the three zones under the EMCO, there are 53 homes occupied solely by migrants, with 770 of them.

Bukit Gasing assemblyman Rajiv Rishyakaran told *theSun* that efforts are under way to map out a food distribution drive.

He said his team of seven people are helping senior citizens who cannot cook.

The area was placed under an EMCO on Sunday after 26 people tested positive for the virus.

The lockdown will be in place until May 23.

Parents putting their children at risk

BY RAJINDER SINGH
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

PETALING JAYA: A small number of people continue to put their family's health at risk by taking children to shopping centres, said Senior Minister (Defence) Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob.

He said there are no rules to prevent parents from taking their children to shopping centres during the conditional movement control order (CMCO) period. However, they must be aware that their children's health is at risk, especially in areas where large crowds gather.

"If it is found that children's health are being put at risk, the government will consider introducing regulations to prevent parents from taking their children to areas where crowds gather."

"If the problem persists, we can add regulations under Act 342 (Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Act 1988) to prohibit parents from taking their children out," he said during a briefing on Covid-19.

Ismail Sabri said parents are responsible for their children's safety. Parents should not use the relaxation in the MCO regulations to endanger the lives of their family.

On the issue of new clusters involving foreigners, Ismail Sabri said checks have revealed that employers are following the standard operating procedures set by the government.

He said the infection at the Pedas chicken meat processing factory was brought from outside by a clerk who came to collect his salary. Ismail Sabri said the factory, which falls under the essential services sector, had been operating even during phase one of the MCO.

"The Setia Alam cluster was discovered when the employer took workers for Covid-19 tests," he said.

Ismail Sabri said the government will not hesitate to enforce closure orders if a new cluster is discovered.

31 foreigners among 70 new cases

PETALING JAYA: Foreigners continue to form a significant proportion of new Covid-19 cases. Of the 70 new cases reported as of noon yesterday, 31 were non-Malaysians.

Health Director-General Datuk Seri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said one more person succumbed to the infection yesterday, bringing the death toll to 109. The casualty was a 63-year-old Malaysian man with a history of diabetes and was suffering from liver cancer.

Speaking at a briefing yesterday, he said of the new cases reported, 13 were among those who had returned from abroad. Noor Hisham said the total number of infections in the country now stands at 6,726, with 1,504 active cases. Twenty of those infected are in intensive care, with seven needing ventilator support.

Yesterday, 88 patients were discharged. This brings the total number of those who have recovered to 5,113.



Antibody rapid test cannot detect virus

PETALING JAYA: The Health Ministry has advised against using the antibody rapid test kit (RTK) to ascertain if a person has been infected with the Covid-19 virus.

Health Director-General Datuk Seri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the RTK is an antibody serological test that requires a drop of blood taken from a finger. He said this method cannot be used to detect the virus.

The RTK antibody test is available at private clinics for those wanting to know if they have been infected before they return to work.

Noor Hisham said yesterday that the issue has been raised by several parties.

He said the only way to detect Covid-19 virus is through an antigen that is done using a process called "Real Time Reverse Transcription-Polymerase Chain Reaction or simply known as RTK antigen test."

He said both tests require the use of nasopharyngeal swabs taken by trained medical officers who should be wearing personal protective equipment. Laboratory equipment is used to process the samples.

Noor Hisham said RTK antibody serological tests using blood samples from a finger cannot be used to detect the virus.

"This is because the presence of antibodies does not confirm there is an infection, while negative results do not guarantee the individual tested is not infected with Covid-19."

However, he said the RTK antibody test could be used for conducting a study of the prevalence of Covid-19 infection in a community or target group such as a working group. - by ALISHA NUR MOHD NOOR

Call to impose mandatory jail term for drink-driving

BY CHARLES RAMENDRAN
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

PETALING JAYA: A mandatory minimum jail term for drink-driving may serve as a deterrent for such offenders, said a former top cop.

"This should be the sentence even if the drunk driver is not involved in an accident," said former Penang police chief Datuk Seri A. Thaiveegan.

He said this is among the steps the authorities should consider to address the rising number of accidents involving drink-driving before the situation worsens.

Thaiveegan said as for drunk drivers who are involved in and are found to have caused a road accident, the maximum jail term should be imposed.

The criminologist and deputy chairman of the Selangor chapter of the Malaysian Crime Prevention Foundation, who retired from the police force last year, said it should also be made compulsory for pubs and premises that serve alcohol to display signboards that clearly state the dangers of drink-driving and the penalties that await drunk drivers.

He said there should also be control in the sale of alcohol, such as ceasing its availability at 11pm daily.

Thaiveegan said the police should increase patrols in the vicinity of pubs and nightclubs after 11pm to identify drunk drivers.

"This will create fear and be a stark reminder to those driving under the influence of alcohol. This is a serious matter as every

drunk driver who is on the road poses a threat to other motorists, including motorcyclists, who are most vulnerable to accidents," Thaiveegan told *theSun* in an interview recently.

His comments came following the death of 31-year-old police corporal Safwan Muhammad Ismail, who was killed after he was hit by a drunk driver at a roadblock in Kajang on May 3.

Thaiveegan said the government should also consider lowering the current blood alcohol concentration limit from 0.08% to 0.03%.

He added that other countries had already done it and it is timely for Malaysia to follow suit.

Last week, Transport Minister Datuk Seri Wee Ka Siong said the government will consider reviewing and enhancing current laws on drink-driving, such as imposing a mandatory jail term.

Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Abdul Hamid Bador has also called for harsher laws against drunk drivers.

An average of 900 motorists are caught by the authorities every year driving under the influence of alcohol.

Under Section 41 of the Road Transport Act, those who cause a fatal accident as a result of drink-driving face up to 10 years' imprisonment and a fine up to RM20,000.

In the case of being caught driving under the influence of alcohol without causing an accident, most offenders often get off the hook with a fine under RM2,000.