

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
 MUKA SURAT : 5
 RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Penularan COVID-19

85 peratus kes tahfiz dikesan tak bergejala

Kluster madrasah terbaharu di Solok Duku, Melaka

Putrajaya: Hampir 85 peratus daripada 635 kes positif dalam kalangan kumpulan madrasah tahfiz adalah mereka yang tidak bergejala, sekali gus mencetuskan kebimbangan mereka kemungkinan menjangkiti ahli keluarga dan rakan tanpa disedari.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata hanya 96 kes atau 15.1 peratus daripada kes positif dalam kalangan pelajar dan pengajar serta kakitangan sekolah dan madrasah tahfiz didapati bergejala.

Oleh kerana tidak bergejala, katanya, pelajar dan pengajar serta kakitangan madrasah tahfiz itu berkemungkinan berangapan mereka sihat.

"Daripada 635 kes positif yang dikesan dalam kalangan kumpulan madrasah tahfiz, sebanyak 539 individu atau 84.9 peratus tidak bergejala. Hampir 85 peratus tidak bergejala.

"Yang bergejala hanya 96 orang atau 15.1 peratus. Kalau tidak ada gejala, mereka ingat mereka sihat, tetapi mungkin menjangkiti rakan di kampung atau membawa virus itu serta menjangkiti keluarga.

"Paling kita bimbang ialah warga emas, ibu bapa atau datuk dan

nenek mereka," katanya pada sidang media harian COVID-19 di sini, semalam.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, KKM mengesan enam kluster COVID-19 membabitkan madrasah tahfiz termasuk terbaharu di Solok Duku, Melaka.

Katanya, seramai 107 pelajar, guru dan ahli keluarga membabitkan madrasah tahfiz itu sudah disaring setakat ini.

Beliau berkata, dua kes positif dikesan dalam kalangan 35 pelajar dan dua kes positif dalam kalangan 62 ahli keluarga guru, kakitangan dan pelajar.

"Tiada kes positif dikesan dalam kalangan 10 guru dan ka-

kilangan madrasah," katanya.

Lima kluster lain adalah madrasah di Sungai Salan, Pahang (84 kes); madrasah di Sungai Lui, Selangor (172 kes); madrasah di Air Merbau, Melaka (41)

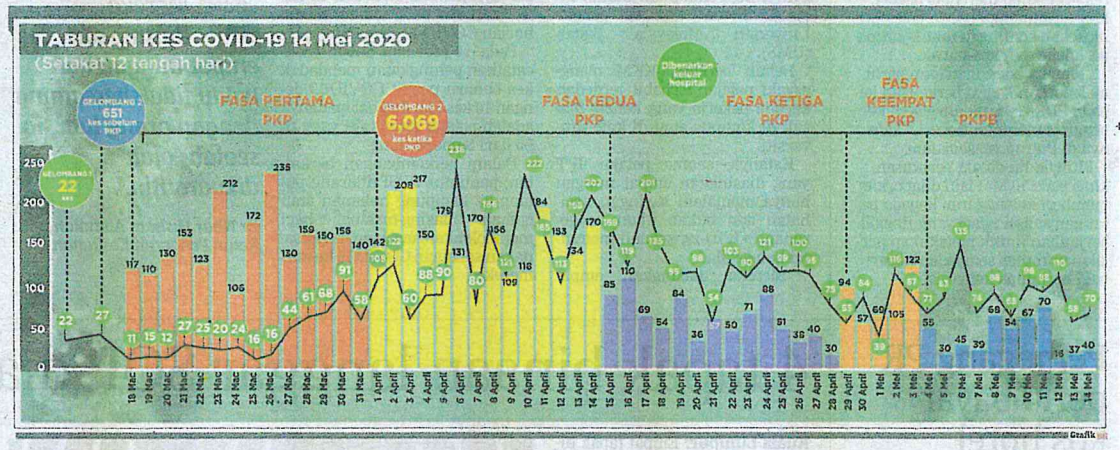
dan masing-masing enam kes di madrasah di Lanchang, Pahang serta di Penanti, Pulau Pinang.

Dr Noor Hisham mengingatkan pelajar, pengajar dan kakitangan madrasah tahfiz tampil membuat saringan di klinik kesihatan atau hospital KKM bagi menjalani persampelan ujian COVID-19.

Bagi yang belum pulang, beliau meminta pihak terbabit kekal di madrasah atau pusat tahfiz serta menghubungi Pejabat Kesihatan



Pasukan bomba dan penyelamat menjalankan operasi nyah cemar bagi membantu perpindahan 132 pelajar tahfiz Madrasah Miftahul Ulum, Masjid Seri Petaling pada 23 Mac lalu. (Foto ihsan JBPM)



Kadar positif dalam kalangan berisiko catat peningkatan



Petugas feri ro-ro Putrajaya 1 membuat saringan suhu badan terhadap pemandu kenderaan ke Menumbok, Sabah, semalam. (Foto BERNAMA)

Putrajaya: Kadar positif dalam kalangan kumpulan berisiko mencatatkan peningkatan kepada 5.1 peratus berbanding 4.4 peratus, sebelum ini.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata aliran kenaikan kadar positif itu membimbangkan kerana kebarangkalian untuk menjangkiti orang lain dalam kalangan kumpulan berkenaan semakin meningkat.

"Siasatan Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) mendapati 96 daripada 635 orang dikesan positif COVID-19 tidak mempunyai sebarang gejala saluran pernafasan (15.1 peratus).

"Ini boleh menyebabkan penularan COVID-19 lebih meluas dalam kalangan ahli keluarga mereka dan masyarakat setempat,

sekiranya langkah pencegahan tidak diambil," katanya pada sidang media harian COVID-19, semalam.

Menyentuh perangkaan semasa, beliau berkata, sebanyak 70 kes pulih dan dibenarkan discaj direkodkan semalam, menjadikan jumlah kumulatifnya 5,351 kes daripada jumlah keseluruhan.

Bagaimanapun, katanya, 40 kes jangkitan baharu dilaporkan sehingga jam 12 tengah hari semalam dengan 31 daripadanya adalah warga asing.

Katanya, sejumlah 6,819 kes positif COVID-19 dicatat setakat ini dan jumlah kumulatif kes aktif dengan kebolehhangkitan adalah sebanyak 1,356 kes, selain tiada kes import dilaporkan semalam.

"Sehingga kini, 16 kes positif

COVID-19 sedang dirawat di unit rawatan rapi (ICU) dengan empat daripadanya memerlukan bantuan pernafasan.

"Satu kematian dilaporkan, menjadikan jumlah kumulatif meningkat kepada 112 kes atau 1.64 peratus daripada jumlah keseluruhan," katanya.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, kematian ke-112 ialah kes ke-6,780 iaitu lelaki tempatan berusia 39 tahun dan mempunyai sejarah penyakit injap jantung dan kemalangan pada awal tahun, mengakibatkan patah kedua-dua tulang utama di kaki dan sukar bergerak sendiri.

"Beliau disahkan meninggal dunia di wad kecemasan Hospital Tengku Ampuan Afzan, Pahang, pada jam 9.52 malam kelmarin," katanya.

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Penularan COVID-19

Kementerian kesan kluster pelajar di dua IPT

Dua dari UPSI, 3 siswa UMS disyaki terdedah pekerja keluar masuk kampus

Putrajaya: Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) mengesan kluster dalam kalangan pelajar di dua institusi pengajian tinggi (IPT) membabitkan lima pelajar.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata dua pelajar adalah dari Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI) dan tiga lagi pelajar Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS).

Beliau berkata, KKM mengesyaki pelajar terdapat terdedah kepada pekerja yang keluar masuk di kampus atau di kafe universiti.

Katanya, semua pelajar IPT yang diasingkan empat minggu hanya menjalani saringan kesihatan dan bukan ujian pengeksanan COVID-19, kecuali menunjukkan gejala.

"Mereka diasingkan empat

minggu dan kalau tidak bercampur dengan orang luar, ia seolah-olah dikuarantin.

"Kita ada lima kes, iaitu dua pelajar UPSI pulang ke kampung dan ada gejala sebelum ujian calitan mendapati mereka positif COVID-19.

"Pelajar di kampus masih dikawal dan diasingkan manakala ujian calitan dijalankan, besar kemungkinan mereka terdedah kepada pekerja yang keluar masuk.

"Di UMS, tiga pelajar positif dan kita menjalankan pengesanan kontak dalam kalangan pelajar di kampus itu manakala siasatan sedang dijalankan. Kita percaya mereka terdedah di kafe," katanya pada sidang media harian COVID-19, semalam.

Pada 11 Mei lalu Sabah mencatatkan peningkatan mendadak kes baharu positif COVID-19 dengan 10 kes dan dua daripadanya adalah pelajar universiti yang tiba dari Semenanjung.

Dalam perkembangan berkaitan, penuntut UPSI dilarang pulang ke kampung halaman atau rumah masing-masing, bagi membolehkan kerajaan melaksanakan saringan COVID-19 ke atas mereka.

Menteri Kanan (Keselamatan), Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob, berkata proses saringan perlu dilaksanakan susulan dua penuntut yang pulang ke Sabah didapati positif COVID-19.

"Kita beranggapan selepas mereka berada di universiti dan tidak keluar, tiada jangkitan.

"Mereka melalui tempoh inkubasi selama dua bulan. Setiap tempoh inkubasi adalah dua minggu dan sepatutnya tiada jangkitan.

"Bagaimanapun, ada lagi yang tiba-tiba positif COVID-19, maka di UPSI kita hentikan dulu (penghantaran pulang) untuk buat sa-

ringan sebelum dibenarkan pulang," katanya pada sidang media selepas Mesyuarat Khas Menteri Mengenai Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Bersyarat (PKPB) di Putrajaya, semalam.

Di Muallim, Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri (JKN) Perak mengesahkan pelajar terdapat dihantar pulang pada 6 Mei lalu dan disaring pada hari sama.

Pengarah Kesihatan Perak, Datuk Dr Ding Lay Ming, berkata mereka didapati positif pada 11 Mei.

Berikutan itu, katanya, PKD Muallim menghubungi pihak pengurusan UPSI untuk melakukan siasatan kes dan saringan kontak rapat kes positif bagi menentukan punca jangkitan serta tahap penularan dalam kalangan warga UPSI.

"Ini adalah sebahagian daripada prosedur operasi standard (SOP) pengendalian jangkitan COVID-19," katanya dalam satu kenyataan, semalam.

Setakat jam 8 pagi semalam, katanya, sejumlah 92 sampel ujian makmal COVID-19 diambil daripada kontak rapat kedua-dua kes membabitkan rakan pelajar, pihak pengurusan dan kakitangan UPSI.

Mereka diasingkan empat minggu dan kalau tidak bercampur dengan orang luar, ia seolah-olah dikuarantin.

Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah,
Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 13

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Penularan COVID-19



Tentera mengawal kawasan kilang pemprosesan ayam di Pedas, Negeri Sembilan pada 8 Mei lalu selepas 60 pekerja disahkan positif COVID-19.
(Foto Adzlan Sidek/BH)

Ayam Pedas bebas wabak

Hasil ujian semua sampel diambil dari kilang negatif virus

Oleh Luqman Arif Abdul Karim
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Kuala Lumpur: Semua sampel ayam yang diambil di sebuah kilang pemprosesan dekat Pedas di Negeri Sembilan didapati negatif COVID-19.

Jabatan Perkhidmatan Veterinar (JPV) memaklumkan sampel ayam *whole chicken* daripada kilang berkenaan diambil untuk proses ujian pengesanan COVID-19 melalui kaedah Polimerase-Transkripsi Terbalik (RT-PCR).

Pasca persampelan dan penelitian, katanya keputusan ujian diperoleh 9 Mei lalu menunjukkan semua sampel terabit adalah negatif wabak COVID-19.

"Kilang berkenaan mendapat pensijilan Veterinary Health Mark (VHM) sejak 2008, malah pemeriksaan daging ayam sentiasa dijalankan pegawai pemeriksa daging bertujuan memastikan keselamatan dan kualiti ayam yang diproses di

kilang terabit terjamin.

"Kajian saintifik beberapa agensi dan institusi antarabangsa antaranya University of Macau dan Perubuhan Kesihatan Haiwan Sedunia (OIE) Paris, sehingga kini membuktikan haiwan seperti lembu, kambing, babi dan ayam bukan penyebar COVID-19 kepada manusia," katanya dalam kenyataan, semalam.

Kementerian Kesihatan pada 2 Mei lalu mengeluarkan arahan menutup kilang pemprosesan ayam berkenaan selepas 60 pekerja di premis terabit disahkan positif COVID-19.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, sebelum ini men-

jelaskan pihaknya menunggu laporan siasatan JPV berhubung kemungkinan penularan jangkitan COVID-19 daripada ayam kepada manusia.

Mengulas lanjut, JPV memetik laporan Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO) pada 7 April lalu bahawa keberangkilan untuk manusia mendapat COVID-19 daripada makanan atau bungkusan makanan sangat rendah, memandangkan virus terabit tidak dapat membiak dalam makanan.

Selain itu, artikel terbitan University of Georgia, Amerika Syarikat (AS) pada 23 Mac lalu menegaskan penularan jangkitan COVID-19 tidak mempunyai kaitan dengan produk ternakan.

"Kajian diterbitkan melalui beberapa jurnal antarabangsa menunjukkan penyebab kepada penyakit COVID-19 oleh virus SARS-Cov-2 adalah daripada kumpulan betacoronavirus, manakala kumpulan gammacoronavirus ada pada spesies unggas seperti ayam.

"Virus betacoronavirus tidak boleh menjangkiti spesies unggas kerana mempunyai reseptor berbeza. Oleh itu, JPV menasihatkan masyarakat tidak khuatir untuk memakan daging ayam," katanya.

Kilang berkenaan mendapat pensijilan Veterinary Health Mark sejak 2008, malah pemeriksaan daging ayam sentiasa dijalankan pegawai pemeriksa daging.

Kenyataan Jabatan Perkhidmatan Veterinar

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 2A

RUANGAN : LOKAL

Kluster baharu babit pelajar IPT

Kota Kinabalu: Sabah mencatatkan satu kluster baharu dalam kalangan penuntut institut pengajian tinggi (IPT).

Pengarah Kesihatan Negeri, Datuk Dr Christina Rundi berkata ia berikutan dua penambahan kes positif Covid-19 membabitkan penuntut IPT di daerah Kota Kinabalu, kelmarin.

“Dua kes ini adalah pelajar di institusi pengajian sama dengan kes yang dilaporkan pada 12 Mei lalu.

“Secara keseluruhannya, setakat ini terdapat tiga kumulatif kes bagi kluster terbabit di negeri ini.

“Bagaimanapun, semua individu yang terlibat sudah dimasukkan ke hospital bagi menjalani rawatan,” katanya.

Christina berkata demikian dalam kenyataan media di Kota Kinabalu, hari ini.

Dalam pada itu, beliau berkata, aktiviti kawalan dan pencegahan di IPT berkenaan masih giat dilaksanakan dan punca jangkitan masih dalam siasatan.

Terdahulu, Sabah merekodkan 330 kes positif Covid-19 setakat semalam.

Sementara itu, 58,475 ujian dijalankan membabitkan sampel di seluruh negeri sehingga kelmarin.

JKN ambil 92 sampel warga UPSI

Muallim: Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri (JKN) Perak sudah mengambil 92 sampel ujian Covid-19 daripada kontak rapat yang terdiri daripada rakan penuntut, pihak pengurusan dan kakitangan Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI) di sini.

Pengarah JKN Perak Datuk Dr Ding Lay Ming berkata, tindakan itu dibuat susulan notifikasi diterima Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah (PKD) Muallim daripada Pusat Kesiapsiagaan dan Tindak Cepat Krisis Kebangsaan (CPRC) pada 11 Mei lalu mengenai dua kes positif Covid-19 dalam kalangan penuntut UPSI yang pulang ke Sabah.

Menurutnya, pihak PKD Muallim segera menghubungi pihak pengurusan UPSI untuk menjalankan aktiviti penyiasatan kes dan saringan kontak rapat kes positif bagi menentukan punca jangkitan dan tahap penularan jangkitan dalam kalangan warga UPSI.

“Kedua penuntut berkenaan dihantar pulang pada 6 Mei lalu dan sudah disaring pada hari sama.

“Mereka kemudian dikesan positif pada 11 Mei oleh JKN Sabah.

“Ia adalah sebahagian daripada prosedur operasi standard (SOP) mengenai pengendalian jangkitan Covid-19 yang dilaksanakan di lapangan khususnya oleh pihak PKD,” katanya dalam satu kenyataan media semalam.

Beliau berkata, sebanyak lima sampel sudah didapati negatif untuk Covid-19, manakala keputusan ujian bagi sampel yang selebihnya masih belum diperolehi.



DR Ding

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 10

RUANGAN : LOKAL

Oleh Amir Abd Hamid
dan Raja Noraina
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Putrajaya

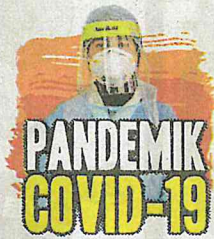
Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) menjalankan pengesanan kontak rapat kes kematian ke-110 akibat Covid-19, kelmarin khususnya membabitkan rakan si mati di Segamat, Johor.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, kes itu membabitkan warga tempatan berusia 30 tahun yang ditemui mati di tepi jalan di Rompin, Pahang.

Katanya, arwah dikatakan dalam perjalanan pulang ke

SUSULAN LELAKI DITEMUI MATI DI TEPI JALAN

Kesan kontak rapat arwah



kampungnya di Terengganu dari Segamat dengan berjalan kaki sebelum ditemui

mati di Rompin.

"Pengesanan kontak rapat dilakukan di tempat asal di Segamat (kawasan tempat kerja sebelum melakukan perjalanan pulang berjalan kaki).

"Rakan-rakannya akan dikesan dan diminta tampil untuk melaksanakan saringan Covid-19.

Manakala

punca

jangkitan Covid-19 terhadap si mati masih dalam siasatan," katanya.

Beliau berkata de-

mikian dalam sidang media harian perkembangan terkini Covid-19, semalam.

Sementara itu, mengulas mengenai kes kematian

membabitkan warga tempatan berusia 39 ta-

hun di Hospital Tengku Ampuan Afzan, Pahang, semalam, beliau berkata, arwah

adalah pesakit jantung.

Katanya, arwah mempunyai sejarah pe-

nyakit injap jantung serta

pernah terbit kemalangan awal tahun ini yang menyebabkan patah tulang utama di kaki dan sukar untuk bergerak sendiri.

"Ditambah dengan jangkitan dari rumah menyebabkan kemungkinan ada tiga komplikasi iaitu radang paru-paru, darah beku dan kurang ketahanan tubuh.

"Tiga faktor ini menyebabkan kematian, terutama mereka yang berusia muda,"

katanya. - *Lihat juga muka*

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"Pengesanan kontak rapat dilakukan di tempat asal di Segamat"
Dr Noor Hisham

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Dr Jemilah saran PKP dilaksanakan pada Hari Raya Aidilfitri

SHAH ALAM - Penasihat Khas Kesihatan Awam kepada Perdana Menteri, Tan Sri Dr Jemilah Mahmood mencadangkan agar Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP) dilaksanakan pada Hari Raya Aidilfitri bagi mencegah lonjakan kes coronavirus (Covid-19) di negara ini.

Beliau turut meluahkan kebimbangan terhadap peningkatan kes Covid-19 di Korea Selatan dan Jerman serta bagaimana perjumpaan berbuka puasa boleh menye-

babkan maut.

“Jika kita tidak mengambil langkah untuk mencegah penyebaran (Covid-19), kita boleh kalah daripada semua yang telah dilakukan. Tuhan melarang. Mari berjaga-jaga.

“Mungkin *lockdown* semasa hari raya adalah satu langkah pencegahan yang baik? Ayuh kekalkan perkembangan baik kita,” katanya di Twitter semalam.

Beliau berkata demikian dengan memuat naik graf Permodelan dan Ramalan

Covid-19 oleh Institut Kesihatan Negara (NIH), Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM).

Dr Jemilah turut meletakkan tanda sokongan pada akaun Twitter Ketua Pengarah Kementerian Kesihatan, Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah dalam ciapan itu.

Kelmarin, Menteri Kanan (Keselamatan), Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob berkata, kerajaan menetapkan aktiviti ziarah-menziarahi pada setiap perayaan dalam masa

terdekat ini hanya dihadkan pada hari pertama.

Menurutnya, aktiviti itu juga hanya terhad kepada 20 orang pada hari tersebut terdiri dari-pada ahli keluarga terdekat.



AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 10
RUANGAN : MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19

635 kes positif di tahfiz

Tren kenaikan kes positif di pusat tahfiz dan madrasah membimbangkan

PUTRAJAYA

Tren kadar kenaikan kes positif Covid-19 melibatkan pusat institusi tahfiz dan madrasah amat membimbangkan kerana menunjukkan kebarangkalian untuk menjangkiti orang lain dalam kalangan kumpulan itu.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, seramai 635 daripada 19,209 pelajar dan guru tahfiz serta madrasah yang disaring disahkan positif.

Menurutnya, berdasarkan keputusan saringan tersebut, Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) mendapati kadar positif dalam kalangan kumpulan berisiko itu adalah 5.1 peratus.

"Sebanyak 994 kes masih menunggu keputusan," katanya pada sidang media perkembangan terkini Covid-19 di kementeriannya di sini semalam.

Beliau berkata, jika dibandingkan



DR NOOR HISHAM

dengan situasi seminggu lalu (7 Mei 2020), kadar positif dalam kalangan kumpulan berisiko ialah 4.4 peratus.

"Daripada siasatan yang dijalankan KKM, didapati 539 daripada 635 kes positif Covid-19 tidak mempunyai sebarang gejala saluran pernafasan.

"Ini boleh mengakibatkan penularan Covid-19 yang lebih meluas dalam kalangan ahli keluarga mereka dan masyarakat setempat jika langkah-lang-

kah pencegahan tidak diambil," katanya.

Justeru, Dr Noor Hisham menggesa pelajar madrasah dan pusat tahfiz yang sudah pulang ke rumah ibu bapa atau penjaga, menghubungi Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah (PKD), klinik kesihatan atau hospital saringan KKM berdekatan untuk menjalani pensampelan ujian Covid-19.

"Pelajar yang belum pulang diminta supaya kekal berada di madrasah atau pusat tahfiz.

"Kerjasama daripada pihak penguurusan madrasah juga dialu-alukan untuk menghubungi PKD berdekatan untuk memberi maklumat yang diperlukan berkaitan pelajar atau kakitangan di pusat masing-masing supaya tindakan pendekatan tertumpu yang berkaitan dapat dijalankan," katanya.

Ditanya mengenai jumlah madrasah dan pusat tahfiz yang belum tampil menyalurkan maklumat, beliau berkata, terdapat 1,000 madrasah termasuk persendirian.

"Kita telah melakukan saringan terhadap 370 madrasah yang mana 120 daripadanya telah dikunjungi jemaah tabligh lebih lima kali," katanya.

40 kes baharu, satu kematian dicatat semalam

PUTRAJAYA - Sebanyak 40 kes baharu positif coronavirus (Covid-19) dilaporkan semalam.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, pertambahan jumlah tersebut termasuk melibatkan 31 warga asing.

"Ingin dimaklumkan juga, bahawa tiada kes import yang dilaporkan hari ini (semalam)," katanya.

Menurutnya, jumlah kes positif Covid-19 di negara ini adalah 6,819 kes dan jumlah kes aktif dengan kebolehhangkitan sebanyak 1,356 kes.

"Seramai 16 kes sedang dirawat di unit rawatan rapi termasuk empat kes memerlukan bantuan pernafasan," katanya.

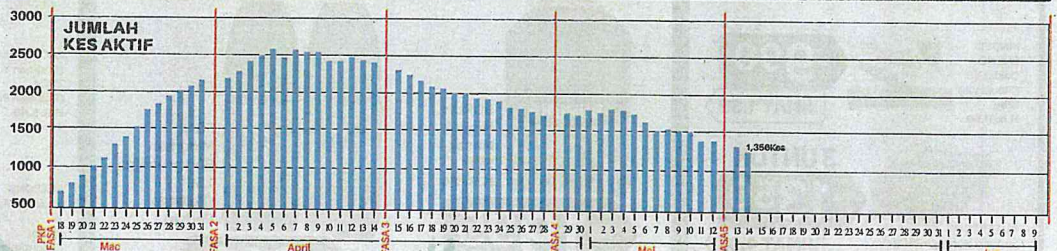
Beliau berkata, Pusat Kesiapsiagaan dan Tindak Cepat Krisis (CPKC) Kebangsaan dilapor menerima satu kes kematian berkaitan Covid-19.

"Kes kematian ke-112 melibatkan pesakit ke-6,780 merupakan lelaki berumur 39 tahun. Dia mempunyai sejarah penyakit injap jantung, serta kemalangan pada awal tahun mengakibatkan beliau patah kedua-dua tulang utama di kaki dan sukar bergerak sendiri.

"Pesakit itu disahkan meninggal dunia di wad kecemasan Hospital Tengku Ampuan Afzan, Kuantan jam 9.52 malam pada 12 Mei," katanya.

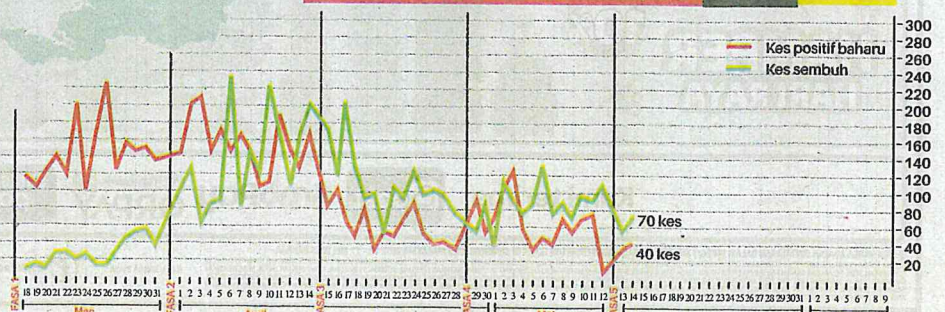
SITUASI TERKINI KES COVID-19 DI MALAYSIA SETAKAT SEMALAM

Bilangan kes Covid-19 mengikut negeri di Malaysia



JUMLAH KES BAHARU DAN SEMBUH DILAPORKAN SETIAP HARI

JUMLAH KESELURUHAN: 6,819 | **PULIH: 5,351** | **ICU: 16** | **KEMATIAN: 112** | **KES BAHARU: +40**



Jumlah jangkitan Covid-19 di Malaysia semalam meningkat daripada 6,779 kes kepada 6,819 kes

* Dikemas kini pada jam 6 petang 14 Mei 2020

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : NEWS/NATION

'SENSITIVE GROUP'

'VIRUS SPREAD IN MADRASAH, TAHFIZ SCHOOLS WORRYING'

4 of six school clusters linked to tabligh gathering

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ARISE in Covid-19 infection rates among students, teachers and staff of madrasah and tahfiz schools has raised concerns about the possibility of the virus spreading in this "sensitive

Health director-general Datuk Noor Hisham Abdullah said four of the six Covid-19 clusters were linked to the Sri Petaling tabligh

gathering, with 209 students, teach-

ers and staff from 370 madrasah and tahfiz centres nationwide had been identified by the authorities.

Samples taken from 12,384 people (64.5 per cent) showed that 635 tested positive, 10,755 tested negative and 994 were awaiting results, he added.

"The tests show that the positive rates in this risk group have climbed from 4.4 per cent the week before (May 7) to 5.1 per cent.

"This trend is worrying because it shows the increasing probability of the virus spreading in this group."

Further cause for worry, Dr Noor Hisham said, was that 539 (84.9 per cent) of the 635 positive cases were asymptomatic.

"This could cause the virus to spread wider among their families and communities if steps are not taken," he said at his daily Covid-19 briefing here yesterday.

"Students who have yet to return home have been asked to remain at their madrasah or tahfiz centres and to contact their nearest district health office or health clinic for screening."

He encouraged the management of madrasah and tahfiz centres to contact a district health office to provide information on their students and staff so that the ministry could carry out targeted activities.

"We are worried that those who are asymptomatic think they are healthy, when they could in fact infect their friends and families, particularly the elderly, when they go back to their hometowns," he said, urging students, teachers and staff to get tested.

He said the authorities had informed him that there were 1,000 private madrasah and tahfiz schools that hadn't come forward to be tested.

Of the 370 madrasah and tahfiz

schools that had been tested, 120 had received visitors who attended the tabligh gathering, he added.

He said Madrasah Solok Duku in Masjid Tanah, Melaka, was the latest to join the list of Covid-19 clusters.

Four people from the 107 student, teachers and parents screened have tested positive.

Two of the cases were from its 35 students while two other cases came from the family members of students, teachers and staff. However, none of the 10 teachers was positive.

The origin of the infections in the two remaining facilities was being investigated by the health authorities.

He reported the end of two clusters: the Sungai Buloh frontliner cluster with 18 cases and the Pekan cluster with 22 cases.

The clusters were regarded as clear after no new case was re-



Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah

ported in 28 days.

He said Malaysia recorded 40 new cases up to noon yesterday, bringing the tally to 6,819.

The Health Ministry reported one death, which brought the death toll to 112, or 1.64 per cent of the total number of cases.

He said there were no imported cases yesterday, while 31 of the 40 cases reported involved foreigners.

Seventy patients were discharged, bringing the total number of those who had recovered to 5,351, he added.

The rate of recovery stood at 78.47 per cent of the total number of cases.

He said there were 16 patients at Intensive Care Units, with four requiring ventilators.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : NATION

Do not buy 'passive vaccines'

Blood plasma from recovered patients not a cure, donor tells public

By FATIMAH ZAINAL
and RAHIMY RAHIM
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PETALING JAYA: Recovered Covid-19 patient Reza Huzairi Zainuddin has appealed to the public not to buy blood plasma supposedly belonging to recovered Covid-19 patients which are sold online as "passive vaccines".

Reza, 41, who is the first convalescent plasma donor in the country, said it was pointless purchasing blood plasma from recovered patients as they were not vaccines that could cure the illness.

"I just think the sellers are being irresponsible and unethical," he said.

It was reported that some online criminals are offering blood plasma for almost A\$25,000 (RM87,500).

Researchers from Australia National University made the discovery while looking into how cybercriminals were exploiting the virus crisis.



"The word I think is passive vaccination, where the blood plasma of a recovered Covid-19 patient is harvested for the antibodies and that is then used to inject into someone who may be at risk of Covid-19," the lead researcher, Rod Broadhurst, was quoted by AM, Australia's current affairs programme.

Blood plasma from recovered Covid-19 patients was among hundreds of coronavirus-related "products" for sale on the dark web, which the team uncovered earlier

this month.

It is understood that each plasma donation typically takes one hour, with whole blood being drawn from the patient.

The plasma is then separated in a machine next to the bed before the blood cells are returned to the person in saline solution.

Blood plasma is also sold openly by biomedical companies in countries like the United States where there is a private market.

The *New York Times* reported that blood plasma donated by recovered patients were sold at exorbitant rates to laboratories and test manufacturers - from US\$350 to US\$40,000 (RM1,470 to RM168,000) for a rare sample from a single donor.

Some biomedical companies claimed that the prices were exorbitant due to the supply chain, including finding donors, testing samples, safety costs and shipping logistics.

Blood samples containing antibodies are needed to validate tests

being developed by scientists.

In countries like Malaysia, blood donation is normally voluntary as paying for it might seem distasteful or exploitative.

In countries such as the United States, Germany, Austria, and certain provinces of Canada, people are given remuneration for giving blood.

While blood can be typically kept refrigerated and needs to be used within 42 days, plasma can be stored for up to 10 years as long as it is kept frozen.

This makes it relatively easy for plasma to be shipped or transported all over the world.

Reza, who is the senior vice-president (Human Capital) of UDA Group Holdings Bhd, added that during this challenging time, people should be focused on helping one another instead of taking advantage of such a situation.

"It is appalling that some people are trying to make money out of this. This is the first time I'm hear-

ing there are people out there selling it," he said.

Reza said he would continue to donate his blood plasma in order to help other Covid-19 patients, especially those who are in a critical stage.

"I pray that the research done by our qualified health experts in the Ministry of Health will prove to be a success," he added.

He also hoped more former patients would come forward and offer their blood plasma to help treat thousands of patients.

Chester Chang, 32, Covid-19 case number 18 who became the second contributor of blood plasma, concurred, saying that it was irresponsible for parties to sell their blood plasma.

"If we support selling plasma, it will become a business. The young ones might even purposely infect themselves and find ways to make money from it," he said, adding that he had already donated his blood plasma for the third time.

Testing times

Healthcare workers conducting a swab test on Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein for Covid-19. (Inset) Former Human Resources minister M. Kulasegaran being tested for Covid-19. All MPs are required to undergo Covid-19 testing before they attend the upcoming one-day Parliament sitting on May 18.

— Photos sourced from social media



Docs warn M'sians of Covid-19 cure scams

PETALING JAYA: Blood plasma is no magic bullet against Covid-19 as the treatment is still under trial, say doctors.

As such, the public are urged to not fall for scams by people purportedly selling plasma of recovered Covid-19 patients as a cure against the virus, said the Malaysian Public Health Physicians' Association.

Its president Datuk Dr Zainal Ariffin Omar said there was no need for the public to race to buy plasma of recovered patients or any other products being touted as a Covid-19 cure.

"There is not enough evidence to say plasma of those recovered can either cure or protect from Covid-19 infection. Although there are some centres overseas conducting research to see whether the plasma can be part of an effective treatment strategy, currently there is no solid evidence yet," he said.

The Health Ministry had also announced on April 12 that 12 patients who recovered from Covid-19 had donated blood plasma to be used in a study.

"It's still being researched. If the public practise social distancing and good hygiene, there is little need to worry about being infected," said Dr Zainal Ariffin.

He also warned against adverse effects of introducing substances of unknown origin into the body.

Malaysian Medical Association president Dr N. Ganabaskaran said that transfusing convalescent plasma came with its own risk where it could be a source of blood-borne infections like HIV or hepatitis.

Dr Ganabaskaran said unmonitored transfusion of plasma could lead to acute reactions which could be fatal.

"It can be deadly because each plasma being transferred should be cross-matched several times for compatibility testing between patient and donor," he said.

DG: Risky to purchase plasma from dark web

PETALING JAYA: The Health Ministry is advising Malaysians against buying plasma from dubious sources, amid reports that cybercriminals were selling it online and demand for it surging during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Its director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said buying plasma on the black market or dark web would be dangerous as the criteria for selection of the plasma donor are unknown.

"At the same time, the blood collection, screening and processing is not monitored and not being done according to standards.

"It can lead to many adverse reactions such as blood contamination, including the transmission of viral infection and bacterial sepsis that can lead to morbidity and mortality," he said in a statement to *The Star*.

He was responding to reports that online criminals were selling blood allegedly belonging to recovered Covid-19 patients on the dark web as a "passive vaccine".

American National Public Radio, on its website, reported that in the United States, the market for blood plasma had surged, with both non-profit and for-profit organisations seeking plasma donations from Covid-19 patients.

Dr Noor Hisham said that currently, there is an adequate number of convalescent plasma (CP) stock, ready to be supplied to any designated hospitals managing Covid-19 patients that may require the CP treatment.

The donation of CP by recovered Covid-19 patients is also underway at the National Blood Centre (PDN) in collaboration with the Infectious Disease Department of Hospital Sungai Buloh.

He said CP donations at the PDN followed strict safety procedures to ensure the well-being of donors, safety of recipients and the quality of the CP while the process of collection, screening, processing and distribution is based on existing guidelines.

"These measures include using only licensed assay systems for blood screening; adhering to national and international standards, ensuring the availability of an adequate number of trained staff, being appropriately resourced in terms of validated equipment and facility, as well as the implementation of an effective quality system in the laboratory," he added.

All potential donors are also selected based on specific criteria as outlined in the proposed Interim Guidance for Collection, Processing

& Use of Convalescent Plasma for Experimental Treatment of Covid-19 Infection.

Dr Noor Hisham added that in the event of any ethical issues or dilemma arising from CP shortage, an ethics committee may be formed to decide on the allocation of the CP.

There has been some evidence globally that Covid-19 patients may benefit from receiving CP because it contains antibodies, which can help to prevent the virus from entering into cells, he said.

"Transfusion of plasma that is rich in these antibodies could reduce the severity of the disease and improve a patient's recovery time.

"However, the safety and effectiveness of CP transfusions need to be confirmed through further research," he said.

In Malaysia, CP may be used as empirical treatment for patients with critical Covid-19 infection, or mainly those in Grade 4 and 5 of the disease and not responding adequately to the current treatment protocol.

"The decision to transfuse CP will be made based on clinical judgement of the treating physicians," he added.

Dr Noor Hisham said there had been news reports of unscrupulous parties taking advantage of the wor-

ried public during the current pandemic situation.

"Whilst the ministry seeks to protect the public through provisions of the law, it is our fervent hope that the public, too, will play their role and be responsible.

"The public or organisations should refer to the relevant authorities on any issue of fraud or dubious practices or products in the market," he said.

He added that the public should also only seek medical treatment at either the ministry's or government's healthcare facilities, or at licensed private healthcare centres.

The supply by way of sale, exchange or gift and receiving, keeping or storing, importation and exportation of blood and blood products, including plasma, is regulated by the Private Healthcare Facilities and Services Act 1998 (Act 586).

Under Section 55, Act 586, no person shall supply or agree to supply human blood or blood products.

Similarly, Section 56 also states that no one could import or export human blood or blood products for transfusion purposes without certification from the Health Ministry.

Contravention against these provisions constitutes a criminal offence and offenders can be charged under Act 586.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NATION

Covid-19: Current situation globally (As of 7pm May 14, 2020)												
	Malaysia											
	New cases		Total cases		Total deaths		Total recovered					
	40 6,819 112 5,351											
Asean+	India	Singapore	Japan	Indonesia	Philippines	S. Korea	Thailand	Vietnam	Myanmar	Brunei	Cambodia	Laos
Confirmed cases	78,810	26,098	16,049	16,006	11,876	10,991	3,018	288	181	141	122	19
Deaths	2,564	21	678	1,043	790	260	56	0	6	1	0	0
Recovered	26,675	4,809	8,920	3,518	2,337	9,762	2,850	252	79	134	121	14
Global Top 10	US	Spain	Russia	UK	Italy	Brazil	France	Germany	Turkey	Iran		
Confirmed cases	1,430,348	271,095	252,245	229,705	222,104	190,137	178,060	174,098	143,114	112,725		
Deaths	85,197	27,104	2,305	33,186	31,106	13,240	27,074	7,861	3,952	6,783		
Recovered	310,259	183,227	53,530	N/A	112,541	78,424	58,673	150,300	101,715	89,428		

High number with no sign of infection

Ministry worried that homeward bound students could spread virus unknowingly

By MARTIN CARVALHO and JOSEPH KAOS Jr
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PUTRAJAYA: The Health Ministry is concerned about the high number of asymptomatic Covid-19 patients among tahfiz school students in the country.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said 539 tahfiz students or 84.9% out of the 635 students tested positive for Covid-19 showed no signs of infection.

"This is why we are worried that tahfiz students, teachers and staff who return to their villages and homes may think they are healthy but may spread the virus to their friends and family, especially to their elder grandparents," he said at the daily Covid-19 briefing yesterday.

He urged tahfiz students who had



travelled home to go to the nearest designated health facilities to get screened and tested for Covid-19. Those who had yet to return home, he added, were asked to remain at their madrasah to allow the authorities to better monitor the situation.

As of yesterday, 19,209 tahfiz students, teachers and staff have been

identified from 370 madrasah and tahfiz centres nationwide.

"Of this, a total of 12,384 samples have been tested with 635 positive cases and 10,755 negative cases.

"We are still waiting for the results for 944 cases," he said, adding that there was a worrying rise in the trend of infections from this group, which increased from 4.4% last week to 5.1% currently.

Dr Noor Hisham said, however, that students and staff of some 1,000 private madrasah schools nationwide have yet to come forward for screening and tests.

The ministry, he added, would also not be conducting mass testing, sticking instead to its tried and tested targeted approach.

This was despite having increased its daily testing capacity to 26,673 from 45 laboratories.

"If you test everyone, the next question is, how often do you test? So, instead of testing everyone, we focus on target groups.

"And we have seen that the first three phases of the movement control order (MCO) have shown positive results. We managed to flatten the curve.

"We use the resources that we have on targeted groups to produce a high impact and a good outcome at a reasonable cost," he said.

The eight targeted groups identified by the ministry are - the Masjid Jamek Seri Petaling tabligh gathering cluster, tahfiz schools, areas under enhanced MCOs, markets related to the Pasar Borong Kuala Lumpur, old folks' homes, foreign workers at construction sites, healthcare workers and

Malaysian citizens returning from abroad.

Earlier, Dr Noor Hisham announced 40 more Covid-19 cases and one new death, taking the death toll to 112.

He also said 70 more patients had been discharged in the same 24-hour span, which meant that 5,351 patients had recovered from Covid-19 since the outbreak began in Malaysia.

There are only 1,356 active cases being treated at the country's health facilities at present.

Currently, 16 patients are under intensive care, with four on ventilator support.

Watch the video thestartv.com

