

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 1
RUANGAN : MUKA HADAPAN

SOP lebih longgar apabila dos penggalak selesai

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Putrajaya: Kerajaan mempertimbangkan untuk melonggarkan prosedur operasi standard (SOP) sekiranya proses vaksinasi COVID-19 di negara ini selesai, termasuk pemberian dos penggalak, kata Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob.

Perdana Menteri berkata, perkara itu bagaimanapun, tertakluk kepada keputusan dan pandangan daripada Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM).

"Kita melihat kalau dua dos vaksin COVID-19 dan booster (penggalak) selesai, saya percaya kita boleh memberikan sedikit

lagi kelonggaran.

"Bagaimanapun, ini terpulang kepada KKM untuk memberikan pandangan," katanya ketika menyampaikan amanat kepada warga Jabatan Perdana Menteri (JPM) di sini, semalam.

Ismail Sabri menjelaskan sekiranya SOP terlalu ketat, ia boleh memberi kesan terhadap industri pelancongan negara.

Walaupun pelancongan domestik sudah dibuka, katanya, pelancong antarabangsa belum dibenarkan masuk ke negara ini, manakala subsidi upah yang diperkenalkan masih diberi kepada peserta industri pelancongan.

Nasional 2

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 2
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Kerajaan masih berhati-hati buka sempadan negara

Dari Muka 1

"Sesetengah negara melonggarkan SOP untuk pelancong masuk ke negara mereka, dan perkara itu mungkin boleh diperimbangkan (di Malaysia) sekiranya dua dos vaksin dan booster (dos penggalak) selesai.

"Sebab itulah kita ingat kalau rakyat diberikan booster (penggalak), kita boleh relaks (longgar) sikit dari segi SOP," katanya.

Ismail Sabri berkata, ketika ini, kerajaan masih lagi berhati-hati dalam membuka sempadan negara berikutnya kebimbangan penularan jangkitan COVID-19.

"Cuma kita masih menutup sempadan negara... ini kerana kes di negara luar masih tinggi. Itu sebab kita berhati-hati, walaupun kita sudah memulakan Laluan Perjalanan Vaksinasi (VTL) dengan Singapura dan kita juga sedang berbincang VTL dengan Indonesia.

"Sepatutnya VTL ke Thailand

dilaksanakan, tetapi kes meningkat maka kita gantung semua pergerakan ke luar negara ini dulu," katanya.

Ismail Sabri yakin pembukaan industri pelancongan antarabangsa akan dapat memulihkan ekonomi dan seterusnya menjadikan keadaan negara bertambah baik.

Carian dalam blog pelancongan, blog.wego.com mendapati negara seperti Jerman, Mexico, Peru, Ukraine dan Sepanyol membenarkan pengembara masuki negara itu tanpa perlu ujian COVID-19 atau syarat kuarantin; Amerika Syarikat, Kanada dan sebahagian besar negara Amerika Selatan, Asia Barat juga memberi kebenaran masuk untuk pelancong tetapi perlu melakukan ujian COVID-19; India, Indonesia, Thailand mengenakan syarat mandatori ujian COVID-19 dan kuarantin, manakala negara seperti China, Australia, New Zealand dan Russia tidak membenarkan pengembara dari luar.

Sementara itu, Perdana Menteri sekali lagi mengulangi kerajaan tidak bercadang melaksanakan lagi Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP) untuk menyekat pergerakan rakyat dan sektor perniagaan.

"Ada kabar angin yang apabila raya nanti, tidak boleh balik kampung dan perniagaan ditutup. Saya sudah mengumumkan raya boleh balik kampung, dan sambutannya begitu tinggi," katanya.

Dalam pada itu, Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) menerusi laman COVIDNOW memaklumkan sehingga kelmarin 10,906,259 individu atau 46.6 peratus daripada populasi dewasa di negara ini sudah menerima dos penggalak vaksin COVID-19.

Seramai 22,917,313 individu atau 97.9 peratus populasi dewasa juga sudah melengkapkan dua dos vaksin COVID-19 mereka, manakala 23,195,017 individu atau 99.1 peratus sudah menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos vaksin.

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 8
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Penularan COVID-19

1,494 pelajar Kedah positif sejak 1 Januari

Pelajar berusia 7 hingga 18 tahun dilaporkan stabil selepas rawatan

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Alor Setar: Seramai 1,494 pelajar di negeri ini disahkan positif COVID-19 sepanjang tempoh 1 Januari lalu hingga kelmarin. Pengarah Kesihatan Kedah, Dr Othman Warijo, berkata pelajar berusia di antara tujuh hingga 18 tahun terbabit dilaporkan stabil selepas menjalani rawatan.

"Sebanyak 1,493 kes atau 99.9 peratus pelajar berkenaan berada dalam jangkiran Kategori Satu dan Dua, manakala 0.1 peratus atau satu kes Kategori Tiga.

"Daripada jumlah itu, 915 kes (61.2 peratus) masih dirawat, manakala 579 kes (38.8 peratus), termasuk seorang pelajar dalam Kategori Tiga sudah sembuh," ka-

Daripada jumlah itu, 915 kes (61.2 peratus) masih dirawat, manakala 579 kes (38.8 peratus), termasuk seorang pelajar dalam Kategori Tiga sudah sembuh

**Dr Othman Warijo,
 Pengarah
 Kesihatan Kedah**

tanya kepada BH, semalam. Setakat ini, Dr Othman berkata, tiada pelajar dirawat di unit rawatan rapi (ICU) dan tidak ada kematian dilaporkan.

Katanya, sebilangan mereka dirawat di hospital, manakala yang lain ditempatkan di Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan COVID-19 Berisiko Rendah (PKRC) serta menjalani kuarantin di rumah.

Dalam pada itu, beliau berkata, 90 warga Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan (SMK) Kulim disahkan positif COVID-19 membabitkan Kluster Sungai Balak, Sabtu lalu.

"Satu lagi kluster pendidikan, iaitu Kluster Dah Mutiara Nag tadika swasta di Kubang Pasu, turut dikesan pada Sabtu lalu. Sebanyak 41 kes dilaporkan dalam kluster itu.

"Perkembangan itu membawa kepada jumlah 11 kluster COVID-19 berkaitan pendidikan di Kedah, setakat ini," katanya.

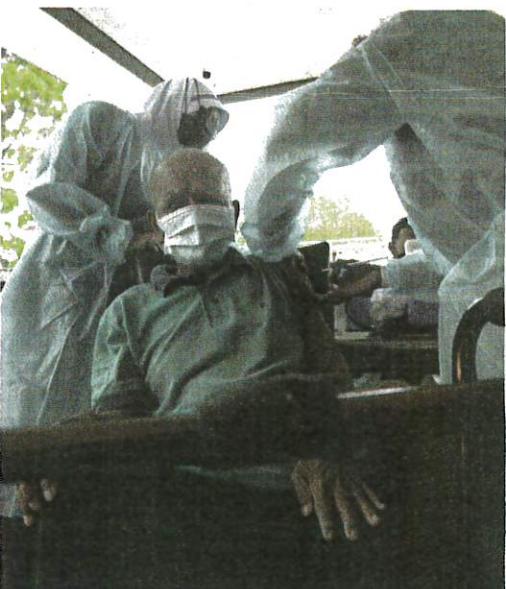
4,066 kes baharu

Putrajaya: Sebanyak 4,066 kes positif baharu COVID-19 dilaporkan oleh Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) setakat tengah hari semalam, tambahan sebanyak 852 kes berbanding 3,214 kelmarin.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata pertambahan semalam menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan kes positif COVID-19 negara ini mencecah 2,840,225 kes.

Katanya, kadar kebolehjangkitan COVID-19 atau Rt pada jangkaan mengikut kes sehari-hari pada Isnin untuk seluruh negara ialah 1.09.

Sementara itu, menurut portal GitHub KKM, 10 kes kematian direkodkan kelmarin dengan Selangor mencatatkan angka kematian tertinggi sebanyak tiga kes, diikuti Sabah (dua), manakala Johor, Kedah, Kelantan, Melaka dan Pahang masing-masing satu kes.



Jururawat memberikan suntikan dos penggalak kepada warga emas penghuni Pusat Jagaan Damai Permai, Bertam. (Foto Danial Saad/BH)

Penghuni pusat jagaan warga emas terima dos penggalak

Kepala Batas: Unit Vaksinasi Bergerak dari Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah (PKD) Seberang Perai Utara mengunjungi Pusat Jagaan Damai Permai di Bertam, di sini untuk memberikan suntikan dos penggalak COVID-19.

"Memang lega sangat ada unit vaksinasi bergerak ini sebab dalam keadaan sekarang amat sukar nak bawa keluar warga emas ke Pusat Pemberian Vaksin (PPV)."

"Tambahan pula, keadaan mereka ada yang terlantar, berkerusi roda dan mempunyai banyak masalah kesihatan."

"Syukur ada program vaksinasi seperti ini dan memudahkan pengurusan pusat jagaan warga emas," katanya di sini, semalam.

Beliau berkata, kebanyakannya warga emas yang berada di pusat jagaan itu berusia antara 50 hingga 95 tahun.



Remaja Orang Asli menerima suntikan COVID-19 di Muadzam Shah, semalam.

(Foto Mohd Rafi Mamat/BH)

46,024 Orang Asli lengkap dua dos

Kuantan: Seramai 46,024 Orang Asli di 11 daerah di negeri ini selesa menerima dua dos vaksin COVID-19.

Pengarah Jabatan Kemajuan Orang Asli (JAKOA) Pahang, Johari Alwi, berkata terdapat 86,532

remaja dan dewasa serta warga emas Orang Asli layak menerima suntikan.

Katanya, seramai 3,989 orang tidak berminat menerima vaksin, manakala selebihnya hanya menerima satu dos.

Beliau berkata, seramai 1,816 orang sudah menerima dos ketiga atau penggalak.

"Kita tidak pernah jemu dan berputus asa untuk memujuk Orang Asli menerima vaksin COVID-19," katanya, di sini semalam.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO
MUKA SURAT : 8
RUANGAN : COVID-19



+ ISMAIL Sabri menyampaikan amanat kepada warga Jabatan Perdana Menteri di Bangunan Perdana Putra, semalam.

Tumpu kurangkan kes, pulih ekonomi

PM ulangi kerajaan tidak akan laksana sekatan pergerakan

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Kuala Lumpur

Kerajaan sekali lagi mengulangi pendirian tidak akan melaksanakan sekatan terhadap pergerakan rakyat dan sektor ekonomi walaupun berlaku penularan Covid-19.

Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob berkata, tumpuan kerajaan ketika ini untuk terus mengurangkan kes pandemik dan pada masa sama memulihkan ekonomi.

"Dua hari lalu, kerajaan sudah mengumumkan kita tidak membuat Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP) untuk menyekat pergerakan rakyat. Tiada istilah menyekat pergerakan dari daerah ke daerah dan negeri ke negeri lain."

"Cuma kita masih menuup adalah sempadan negara. Kita terpaksa lakukan ini kerana kes di negara luar



Disebabkan itu, dua hari lalu saya umumkan tidak akan tutup dan rakyat boleh balik kampung untuk sambutan Aidilfitri"

Ismail Sabri Yaacob

masih tinggi, disebabkan itu kita masih berhati-hati walaupun sudah memulakan Laluan Perjalanan Vaksinasi (VTL) dengan Singapura.

"Kita juga sedang membincangkan VTL dengan Indonesia dan sepatutnya ke Thailand, tetapi kes meningkat, maka kita menggantung pergerakan ke luar negara ini dulu," katanya ketika menyampaikan amanat kepada warga Jabatan Perdana Menteri di Putrajaya, semalam.

Menurutnya, walaupun sesetengah negara sudah

mengurangkan prosedur operasi standard (SOP) untuk pelancang ke negara mereka, kerajaan juga mungkin akan mengambil langkah yang sama untuk dipertimbangkan.

"Kita lihat kalau dua dos dah pun selesai, 'booster' (dos penggalak) dah pun selesai, saya percaya kita boleh memberikan sedikit lagi kelonggaran dan ini terpulangsah kepada KKM (Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia) untuk memberikan pandangan."

"Kita lihat kesannya kalau kerajaan terlalu keras, kesannya kepada industri pelancongan dan selepas diberikan 'booster', mungkin kita boleh 'relax' sikit daripada segi SOP, tetapi masih memerlukan pandangan KKM," katanya.

Menurutnya, pelbagai khabar angin disebarluaskan di media sosial mengenai umat Islam tidak boleh pulang ke kampung untuk berhari raya.

"Saya memang sengaja sebut kita akan buka dan kita tidak akan tutup lagi dan kawal pergerakan sebab dah ada dalam media sosial khabar angin mengatakan hari raya tidak boleh balik kampung."

"Disebabkan itu, dua hari lalu saya umumkan tidak akan tutup dan rakyat boleh balik kampung untuk sambutan Aidilfitri," katanya.

Dalam ucapan sama, Ismail Sabri mengingatkan warga kerja JPM supaya bekerja dengan jujur dan berintegriti berikutnya hampir semua dasar negara tertumpu pada jabatan berkenaan.

"JPM perlu menunjukkan contoh yang baik kepada kementerian lain dan rakyat mengenai pelaksanaan dasar kerajaan," katanya.

Menurutnya, kebanyakan dasar kerajaan yang diumumkan berada di bawah punca kuasa JPM termasuk berkaitan dengan ekonomi seperti Rancangan Malaysia ke-12 dan Belanjawan 2022.

Lebih 10.9 juta populasi dewasa terima dos penggalak

Kuala Lumpur: Seramai 10,906,259 individu atau 46.6 peratus daripada populasi dewasa di negara ini menerima dos penggalak vaksin Covid-19 setakat jam 11.59 malam kelmarin.

Statistik harian menunjukkan 202,296 dos vaksin diberikan kelmarin mem-

babitan 1,820 dos pertama, 2,711 dos lengkap dan 197,765 dos penggalak menjadikan jumlah kumulatif pemberian vaksin menerusi Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan (PICK) meningkat kepada 62,461,606 dos.

Sementara itu, menurut portal GitHub KKM, 10 kes kematian direkodkan kelmarin dengan Selangor mencatatkan angka kematian tertinggi sebanyak tiga kes, diikuti Sabah (dua) manakala Johor, Kedah, Kelantan, Melaka dan Pahang masing-masing satu kes.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 11

RUANGAN : LOKAL

1,494 murid di Kedah dijangkiti Covid-19

Alor Setar: "Seramai 1,494 murid dan pelajar di seluruh negeri ini dijangkiti Covid-19 antara 1 Januari hingga kelmarin," kata Pengarah Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri (JKN) Kedah Dr Othman Warijo.

Othman berkata, bagaimanapun, golongan berusia tujuh hingga 18 tahun itu dilaporkan stabil selepas menjalani rawatan.

"Sebanyak 1,493 kes atau 99.9 peratus murid dan pelajar berada pada kategori satu serta dua, manakala 0.1 peratus atau satu kes pada kategori tiga. Manakala 579 kes atau 38.8 peratus, termasuk seorang pelajar yang berada pada kategori tiga sudah sembuh," katanya dihubu-

ngi semalam.

Menurut Othman, setakat ini, tiada yang dirawat di Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU) dan tiada kematian dilaporkan.

Katanya, mereka ini ada yang dirawat di hospital, Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan Covid-19 Berisiko Rendah (PKRC) dan menjalani kuarantin di rumah.

Beliau memaklumkan, 90 warga Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan (SMK) Kulim disahkan positif Covid-19 membabitkan Kluster Dah Sungai Balak pada Sabtu lalu.

"Terdapat satu lagi kluster pendidikan iaitu Kluster Dah Mutiara Naga membabitkan sebuah Tadika swasta di Kubang Pasu turut dikesan pada Sabtu lalu," katanya.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 5
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Longgar SOP untuk pelancong asing

SOP yang terlalu ketat dikenakan terhadap pelancong asing boleh beri kesan kepada industri

Oleh TUAN BUQHAIRAH TUAN MUHAMAD ADINAN

PUTRAJAYA

Kerajaan mempertimbangkan untuk memberi kelonggaran prosedur operasi standard (SOP) terhadap pelancong asing yang telah lengkap vaksinasi dan menerima suntikan penggalak Covid-19.

Bagaimanapun Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob berkata, ia bergantung kepada penilaian Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM).

“Saya lihat sesetengah negara luar telah mengurangkan SOP kepada pelancong ke negara mereka, mungkin perkara ini boleh dipertimbangkan,” katanya dalam ucapan majlis amanat bersama warga Jabatan Perdana Menteri (JPM) di sini pada Selasa.

Menurutnya, SOP yang terlalu ketat dikenakan terhadap pelancong asing boleh memberi kesan kepada industri.



Ismail Sabri menyampaikan amanat kepada warga Jabatan Perdana Menteri di Bangunan Perdana Putra pada Selasa.

“Pelancong asing masih belum masuk ke negara kita kerana sektor pelancongan belum dibuka sepenuhnya walaupun pelancongan domestik telah beroperasi,” katanya.

Beliau berkata, Malaysia terus kekal mengambil pendekatan lebih berhati-hati dalam pembukaan sempadan antarabangsa.

“Kita sudah memulakan Laluan Perjalanan Lengkap Vaksin (VTL) dengan Singapura dan berbincang dengan Indonesia serta Thailand untuk VTL terpaksa ditangguhkan,” katanya.

Sementara itu, beliau berkata, ke-

rajaan tidak lagi akan mengenakan sekatan pergerakan kepada rakyat.

“Dua hari lepas semoga saya umumkan kita tidak akan tutup pergerakan kerana sudah ada khabar angin di media sosial yang mengatakan raya tidak boleh balik kampung.

“Saya tengok di Instagram, sambutan mengenai perayaan di kampung sangat tinggi,” katanya.

Ujarnya, polis melaksanakan vaksinasi menerusi Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan telah membawa Malaysia menjadi salah satu negara terbaik dalam vaksinasi penduduk.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES
MUKA SURAT : 2
RUANGAN : NEWS / NATION

'NO MORE LOCKDOWNS'

'NO HEALTH CURBS FOR UNVAXXED KIDS'

Vaccinations for kids aged 5 to 11 not compulsory, says Khairy

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THE Health Ministry has assured that no restrictions will be imposed on children aged 5 to 11 who do not get the Covid-19 vaccine.

Its minister, Khairy Jamaluddin, said the children will not face restrictions similar to adults who chose not to get vaccinated.

"Register your children in MySejahtera. Protect them from Covid-19."

"This programme (vaccination) is not compulsory and children will not face restrictions similar to adults who chose not to get vaccinated," he posted on Twitter yesterday.

It was earlier reported that the government will be vaccinating children aged between 5 and 11 under the Covid-19 National Immunisation Programme for Children starting next month.

They will be given the paediatric doses of Pfizer-BioNTech's Comirnaty vaccine, which was proven to be safe and effective.

In a separate post, he said the ministry also agreed with Prime

Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob's view that there would not be lockdowns in the country any more.

He said the standard operating procedures (SOP) will be relaxed from time to time.

"If there are restrictions, it will be targeted, temporary and proportionate, such as suspension of umrah trips," he said.

Ismail Sabri at the "Majlis Amanat Perdana Menteri" with his staff earlier yesterday, reiterated that the government will not re-implement the Movement Control Order (MCO) to control the spread of Covid-19.

He said the government remained cautious about completely reopening national borders, especially to people from countries that were still battling the coronavirus.

Meanwhile, the United Arab Emirates will be contributing one million Sinopharm Covid-19 vaccine doses to Malaysia this year.

The aircraft carrying the first 500,000 doses landed at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) earlier yesterday.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Abdullah, who was at the airport yesterday received the vaccine shipment from the UAE Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, represented by its chargé d'affaires Nouf Ibrahim Ali Rashed Al-Kuwaiti.

Speaking to the media at the event, Saifuddin thanked the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohamed Zayed Al-

Nahyan and the UAE embassy in Kuala Lumpur for the contribution.

"This contribution by the UAE signifies an important milestone and strong relations between the two brotherly countries."

"The UAE's assistance to Malaysia, particularly in vaccine contribution, will greatly complement Malaysia's efforts in addressing the Covid-19 pandemic," he said at KLIA yesterday.

He said the UAE had donated 20,000 units of antigen rapid test kits to Malaysia in March 2020.

The UAE, he said, also contributed seven tonnes of hand sanitisers in May 2020, which were specifically made for Wisma Putra's diplomatic frontliners serving in Malaysia and its missions abroad.

Nouf Ibrahim said the second batch of vaccines to Malaysia will arrive in the next two weeks.

"Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, the UAE has always regarded Malaysia as a close friend and ally," she said.

"We hope this donation will further enhance Malaysia's efforts to combat the pandemic."

The UAE is currently Malaysia's largest trading partner in the Middle East and West Asia regions with bilateral trade volume valued at US\$5 billion last year.

During the recent floods that hit the peninsula, the UAE was also the first country to render humanitarian assistance to the victims through the Emirates Red Crescent.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES
MUKA SURAT : 3
RUANGAN : NATION / NEWS

A YEAR TO CLEAR

50,000-CASE BACKLOG AT GOVT HOSPITALS

Private hospitals' association offers to help with critical surgeries for a start

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IT would take around one year for government hospitals to clear its 50,000 backlog of surgical and medical procedures.

Association of Private Hospitals president Datuk Dr Kuljit Singh said the waiting time for lesser-complicated and serious cases could also be longer as hospitals, at times, need to prioritise critical ones.

He said this was where private hospitals would like to lend the government a hand by easing their burden in clearing case backlogs.

"We are not in this for money as

we already have existing patients at our private hospitals. We are open to provide the necessary help to the government to clear the backlog.

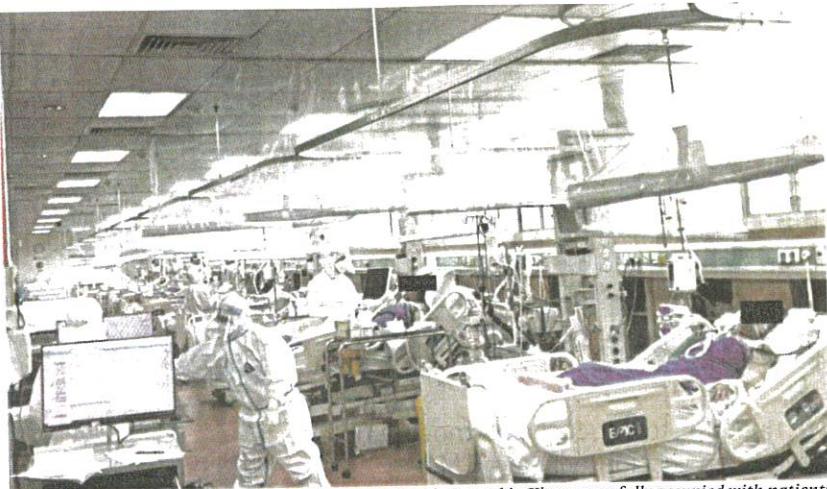
"Our operation theatres, MRI or CT scanners are also available to be used for these patients. If the government wants it, we are more than happy to sit down with them and help," Dr Kuljit said.

He said it was not necessary for the government to transfer all of the 50,000 backlogged procedures to private hospitals.

In citing a solution to the matter, he said the main consideration for government hospitals would be the types of cases that could be transferred to private hospitals.

He said the cost for complicated cases would be high, hence the government might not prefer to transfer such cases.

"But it is okay. We have no issues to settle cases which requires basic procedures or treatments. We understand all this depends on (the government's) budget," he said, adding that in the end, it was the people who



The beds at Tengku Ampuan Rahimah Hospital's Covid-19 ward in Klang were fully occupied with patients last year. FILE PIC

would benefit the most.

He also said there were no extra charges that needed to be paid to private hospitals as these would be based on the referral system from government hospitals.

It was earlier reported that private hospitals in the country had pledged to help the government clear 50,000 backlogged surgical and medical procedures this year.

For this to be possible, the remaining patients who cannot be treated early at public hospitals can be transferred to private hospitals at reasonable reimbursements as what was done last year.

The Health Ministry had indicated that it was open to collaborate with the private hospitals.

A ministry said it will call for a discussion with the association on how best the two parties can work together.

Meanwhile, daily Covid-19 cases rose to 4,066 cases yesterday, after recording 3,214 cases on Monday.

This has pushed the country's

cases since the pandemic began to 2,840,225.

On Monday, 10 fatalities, including one brought-in-dead case, were recorded, raising the overall death toll to 31,902.

According to data from the Health Ministry's CovidNow portal and Github, the highest number of fatalities was recorded in Selangor, with three deaths.

Sabah reported two deaths while Johor, Kedah, Kelantan, Melaka and Pahang recorded one death each.

In the past two weeks, five deaths per million people in Malaysia were recorded, with Terengganu recording the highest among the states with 11 deaths per million people.

Hospital bed utilisation showed four states above 70 per cent up to Monday. The highest bed usage was in Kedah and Melaka at 79.6 per cent.

Bed utilisation in Terengganu was 78.5 per cent, while in Johor it was 75.4 per cent.

Bed utilisation for Covid-19 pa-

tients in other states was between 33.7 and 69.7 per cent, with the national average at 63.8 per cent.

In terms of Intensive Care Unit (ICU) utilisation rates for Covid-19 cases, only Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya were above the 80 per cent mark at 81.3 and 80 per cent.

The rates at other states were between 33.1 per cent and 66.1 per cent, with the national average at 54.1 per cent.

Overall active Covid-19 cases were 45,208 after 3,116 recoveries were reported on Monday.

There were 37,772 people who were observing home quarantine, making up 83.6 per cent of the total active cases.

Ten per cent (4,528) of the patients were being treated at Covid-19 Quarantine and Treatment Centres, 6.1 per cent (2,762) were hospitalised and the remaining 0.3 per cent (146) were in ICUs with 65 requiring breathing aid. On vaccination, the ministry reported that 10,906,259 booster shots had been administered, with 197,765 given on Monday.

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 2
RUANGAN : NATION

PM hints at border reopening

Health Ministry's views to be sought on relaxed SOP to boost recovery

By MAZWIN NIK ANIS
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PUTRAJAYA: The country's borders look likely to reopen soon, with the Prime Minister saying the Health Ministry's views will be sought to "slightly relax" the standard operating procedure (SOP).

This move would further boost economic growth and recovery, according to Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob.

He said allowing international tourists to visit Malaysia would also help boost the tourism industry, which had suffered due to the closure of the country's borders.

"We have seen countries relaxing their SOP for international tourists. Maybe this can be considered for Malaysia."

"When the booster jab exercise is completed, maybe we can consider relaxing the SOP a bit."

"However, all this will depend on



Quick chat: Ismail Sabri speaking to Ministers in the Prime Minister's Department (from left) Senator Idris Ahmad, Mustapa, Datuk Dr Abdul Latiff Ahmad and Datuk Dr Maximus Ongkili as well as Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Mohd Zuki Ali in Putrajaya. — Bernama

views from the Health Ministry," he said when addressing a gathering of staff from the Prime Minister's Department (JPM) yesterday.

He acknowledged that the strict

policies had its effect, including on the tourism industry, which was now depending on domestic tourists to revive the sector.

"So when more people have

received their vaccine booster shots, maybe we can consider relaxing the SOP. If we can reopen our borders, the economy will also improve," he added.

The country's borders have remained closed since March 2020 due to Covid-19 concerns.

On another matter, Ismail Sabri reminded JPM staff that "all eyes are on us", saying that they must have integrity and be honest and efficient in their work since almost all the country's policies were made by the department.

He pointed to the examples of the National Security Council, which deals with security matters, while Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Economy) Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed is overlooking the implementation of the 12th Malaysia Plan.

"That is why we need to be good at our work – to set a good example to other ministries.

"We must show the people that we work hard for them. We must be honest, trustworthy and perfect in executing our work."

"Being the place where almost all the government's policies are made, all eyes are on JPM," he said.

Ismail Sabri added that it was important for policies set by the government to be executed quickly and effectively as the people wanted to feel the benefits.

Observing the lack of a push for the Malaysian Family concept by departments and agencies under the JPM, the Prime Minister urged the staff to play their part.

"JPM should be leading in promoting the concept, but I can see a lack of participation among agencies and departments here."

"How can I ask other ministries and agencies to support the Malaysian Family if we, as the host, do not do it? I hope for better cooperation from all of you," he said.

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 6
RUANGAN : NATION

M'sia gets Sinopharm vax

UAE delivers 500,000 doses to battle pandemic

SEPANG: Malaysia has received 500,000 doses of the Sinopharm Covid-19 vaccine, which is the first delivery out of one million doses contributed by the United Arab Emirates (UAE), says Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Abdullah.

He said the UAE assistance would greatly complement Malaysia's efforts in tackling the pandemic and it signified a significant Malaysia-UAE diplomatic relation.

"We would like to thank the UAE Embassy for facilitating and coordinating the shipment of the Covid-19 vaccine (Sinopharm)."

"May our relations as two brotherly countries remain strong for future cooperation and for the benefit of the ummah (community) as a whole," he told reporters after the vaccine handover ceremony at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) yesterday.

Also present were chargé d'affaires ad interim of the UAE Embassy in Kuala Lumpur Nour Ibrahim Ali Rashed AlKuwaiti, Wisma Putra deputy secretary-general (management) Harjeet Singh as well as other senior officials from the Foreign and Health ministries, reported Bernama.

On the vaccine contribution, Nour said the remaining 500,000 Sinopharm doses would be sent to Malaysia within the coming two weeks.

She said since the start of the pandemic, the UAE had always looked at Malaysia as a close friend and contributed to supporting the country in combating the pandemic.

"With this donation, the UAE pray



Generous gift: Saifuddin (second from left) with Nour Ibrahim during the handover ceremony at KLIA. They are flanked by deputy secretary-general (Bilateral Affairs) Ministry of Foreign Affairs Datuk Amran Mohamed Zin (left) and Harjeet. — Bernama

for this pandemic to come to an end soon and hope that this donation will further support and enhance Malaysia in its battle to combat this virus," she added.

Meanwhile, when asked whether the Sinopharm vaccine would be given as a booster jab, Harjeet said the Health Ministry's technical working group for Covid-19 vacci-

nation would decide on that matter.

"This will be determined by the technical committee at the ministry level, but in the meantime, we have got this (the vaccine doses) so the technical committee will first validate it, so we have to wait," he said.

The UAE has previously extended Covid-19 assistance to Malaysia

such as contributing 20,000 units of PCR test kits in March 2020 and seven tonnes of hand sanitisers made specifically to Wisma Putra's Diplomatic Equipment Stockpile in May 2020.

Watch the video
TheStarTV.com



Another 162 Omicron cases detected, says Health DG

PETALING JAYA: A total of 162 Omicron cases were detected in the country in the past 24 hours.

In his daily Covid-19 update yesterday, Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the Institute of Medical Research identified 89 new cases, the University of Malaya Faculty of Medicine 71 new cases and the Malaysia Genome and the Vaccine Institute two new cases.

"All of these cases are the Omicron variants. This brings the cumulative

number of cases to 6,188 cases for Delta variant, 601 cases of Omicron variant, 233 Beta variant and 14 Alpha variant," said Dr Noor Hisham, adding that over the same comparison period, a total of 13 new clusters were identified, bringing the tally to 244 active clusters in Malaysia.

"Another 4,066 new Covid-19 cases were recorded for a cumulative total of 2,840,225," said Dr Noor Hisham.

Of that number, 442 are imported

and the rest local, with 131 cases requiring treatment in intensive care units.

He also said 3,559 patients had recovered.

"Out of the 4,066 new cases, 4,016 are Categories 1, and 2, and the rest in Categories 3, 4 and 5," he added.

On the infectivity rate, Dr Noor Hisham said the national R-naught rate stood at 1.09, with 11 states and territories recording a rate of 1.0 and above.

These were Negri Sembilan (1.16), Kedah (1.09), Johor (1.09), Kuala Lumpur (1.07), Melaka (1.04), Putrajaya (1.04), Selangor (1.04), Penang (1.03), Pahang (1.01), Kelantan (1.0) and Perak (1.0).

Perlis, Sarawak and Labuan were the lowest on the chart, with a zero infectivity rate recorded.

Meanwhile, 10,906,259 individuals or 46.6% of adults in the country have received the Covid-19 booster dose, according to the Health Ministry's CovidNow portal, which

Khairy: No restrictions on unvaxed children

PETALING JAYA: Unlike adults, children will not be subjected to restrictions if they are not vaccinated, says Khairy Jamaluddin (pic).

The Health Minister urged parents to register their children aged five to 11 for the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme for children on the MySejahtera application.

However, he noted that this programme was not compulsory.

"Children will not be restricted if they are not vaccinated unlike the unvaccinated adults," Khairy tweeted yesterday.

On Jan 20, the Health Minister announced that the Covid-19 vaccination programme for children aged five to 12 would begin on Feb 3.

He said parents could book appointment slots via MySejahtera beginning Jan 31 and the process would be in phases starting with the Klang Valley.

The programme will utilise a special vaccine formulation for children, which is by Pfizer, and it will be a two-dose regime with an eight-week interval.

Each dose will be 0.2mL and contains 10 micrograms of mRNA vaccine, which is one-third of what is given to adults.



stated that 197,765 booster doses were administered on Monday.

A total of 22,917,313 individuals or 97.9% of the adult population have completed their vaccination, while 23,195,017 individuals or 99.1% of the group have received at least one dose of Covid-19 vaccine.

For adolescents aged 12 to 17, 2,782,131 individuals or 88.4% have completed their vaccination while 2,864,738 individuals or 91% received at least one dose of the vaccine.