

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 14

RUANGAN : NASIONAL



Tinjauan mendapati keadaan lengang di Pusat Pemberian Vaksin (PPV) Offsite Tapak Ekspo Seberang Jaya berikutnya orang ramai tidak lagi diberi suntikan secara 'walk-in'. (Foto Danial Saad/BH)

928 kes positif mungkin Omicron babit jemaah umrah

Data diperoleh daripada hasil ujian PCR Genotyping Assay oleh IMR

Oleh Saiful Haizan Hayam
saiful.haizan@bh.com.my

Kuala Lumpur: Sebanyak 76.1 peratus atau 928 daripada 1,220 kes positif COVID-19 berkemungkinan varian Omicron yang direkodkan bulan lalu membabitkan jemaah umrah.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata data itu diperoleh daripada hasil ujian PCR Genotyping Assay oleh Institut Penyelidikan Perubatan (IMR).

Katanya, ujian itu dijalankan ke atas 1,774 kes positif COVID-19 membabitkan pengembala yang tiba di negara ini pada bulan berkenaan.

"Ujian PCR Genotyping Assay dijalankan oleh IMR ke atas 1,774 kes positif COVID-19 dalam kalaangan pengembala yang tiba di Malaysia untuk tempoh 1 hingga 31 Disember 2021 mendapat 1,220 (68.8 peratus) sampel adalah berkemungkinan (presumptive)

Omicron dan 928 (76.1 peratus) daripadanya pulang dari Arab Saudi," katanya menerusi Twitter.

Berdasarkan infografik yang turut dimuat naik Dr Noor Hisham, terdapat 39 kes baharu COVID-19 varian Omicron membabitkan pengembala rakyat Malaysia yang berlepas dari Arab Saudi kelmarin.

Ia membabitkan sembilan kes berdaftar di Selangor diikuti Johor (lapan), Terengganu, Kedah dan Kelantan (masing-masing empat), Perak (tiga), Pulau Pi-

Ujian itu dijalankan ke atas 1,774 kes positif COVID-19 membabitkan pengembala yang tiba di negara ini pada bulan berkenaan

Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah,
Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan



nang (dua) dan masing-masing satu kes di Negeri Sembilan, Labuan dan Sabah.

Sebanyak 20 kes berada dalam kategori satu, manakala 12 kes kategori dua dan hanya satu kes kategori tiga.

Sebanyak tujuh lagi kes varian Omicron membabitkan pengembala berlepas dari Emiriah Arab Bersatu (UAE), United Kingdom (empat), Nigeria (dua) serta masing-masing satu kes dari Kazakhstan dan Perancis.

Empat daripada kes COVID-19 varian Omicron yang dilaporkan kelmarin adalah penularan tempatan di Kedah.

Sementara itu, Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin, menerusi Twitter, berkata apa yang lebih penting ketika ini adalah untuk memperlakukan penularan Omicron.

Katanya, penangguhan ibadah umrah dibuat kerana 76 peratus kes berkemungkinan Omicron yang diimport pada Disember adalah daripada jemaah umrah.

"Ya, Omicron sudah pun tiba di Malaysia. Tetapi penting untuk kita perlakukan penularan Omicron untuk melindungi kapasiti sistem kesihatan kita."

"Penangguhan umrah kerana 76 peratus prescriptive (berkemungkinan) Omicron yang diimport pada Disember dari jemaah umrah," katanya.

3,270 jangkitan baharu setakat tengah hari semalam

Putrajaya: Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) melaporkan 3,270 kes positif baharu COVID-19 setakat tengah hari semalam.

Jumlah itu meningkat berbanding 2,842 kes baharu yang direkodkan kelmarin.

Kes baharu semalam menyumbang kepada sejumlah 2,773,156 kes jangkitan COVID-19 di Malaysia.

Sementara itu, KKM melaporkan 31 kematian akibat COVID-19 sehingga tengah malam kelmarin, termasuk sembilan membabitkan kematian di luar hospital (BID).

Berdasarkan laman sesawang COVIDNOW, kes kematian itu menjadikan jumlah kes seluruhnya 31,591 kes dengan 3,522 daripadanya adalah kes BID.

Selangor mencatatkan bilangan kematian tertinggi kelmarin iaitu sembilan kes.

Lima negeri iaitu Johor, Ke-

dah, Kelantan, Perak dan Sabah masing-masing mencatatkan kes tiga kematian, Pahang dan Pulau Pinang masing-masing satu kes kematian dan satu kes kematian di Negeri Sembilan, Terengganu dan Kuala Lumpur.

Sebanyak 39,682 kes aktif dilaporkan sehingga tengah malam kelmarin membabitkan 32,421 kes menjalani kuarantin di rumah, Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan COVID-19 Berisiko Rendah (PKRC) sebanyak 3,522 kes dan 3,487 pesakit COVID-19 menjalani rawatan di hospital.

Sementara itu, sebanyak 238,820 dos vaksin diberikan kelmarin, iaitu 234,799 dos penggalak, dos pertama (1,509) dan dos lengkap (2,512).

Sehingga kelmarin, sebanyak 97.7 peratus populasi dewasa dan 87.7 peratus populasi remaja berusia 12 hingga 17 tahun sudah melengkapkan vaksinasi masing-masing.

97.7 peratus populasi dewasa lengkap vaksinasi

Kuala Lumpur: Sebanyak 22,868,434 individu atau 97.7 peratus populasi dewasa di negara ini melengkapkan dos vaksin COVID-19 setakat 11.59 malam kelmarin.

Berdasarkan data Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) menerusi laman COVIDNOW, sebanyak 23,158,375 individu atau 98.9 peratus daripada kumpulan umur menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos vaksin.

Bagi populasi remaja pula, sebanyak 87.7 peratus atau 2,760,090 individu berusia 12 hingga 17 tahun melengkapkan vaksinasi mereka, manakala 2,851,195 individu atau 90.6 peratus menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos vaksin COVID-19.

Sementara itu, sejumla 241,595 dos vaksin diberikan kel-

marin membabitkan 2,844 dos pertama, 3,952 dos lengkap dan 234,799 dos penggalak.

Perkembangan itu menjadikan jumlah kumulatif pemberian vaksin menerusi Program Imunisasi COVID-19 Kebangsaan (PI-CIK) kepada 58,303,449 dos termasuk 6,865,812 dos penggalak.

Sementara itu, menurut portal GitHub KKM, sebanyak 31 kes kematian direkodkan kelmarin.

Selangor mencatatkan angka kematian tertinggi sebanyak sembilan kes, diikuti Kedah, Johor, Kelantan, Perak dan Sabah dengan masing-masing merekodkan tiga kes, Pahang dan Pulau Pinang (dua) dan masing-masing satu kes di Kuala Lumpur, Terengganu serta Negeri Sembilan.

BERNAMA

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO
MUKA SURAT : 10
RUANGAN : COVID-19

Oleh Hidayatdayu
Razali
am@hmetro.com.my

Kota Bharu

Seramai empat individu di Kelantan disahkan positif Covid-19 varian Omicron, kelmarin.

Pengarah Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Kelantan (JKNK) Datuk Dr Zaini Hussin mengesahkan empat kes varian Omicron itu membabitkan penduduk dari Kelantan.

Beliau berkata, ia membabitkan mereka yang pulang dari Arab Saudi laju tiga daripadanya tiba pada 22 Disember lalu dan seorang lagi pada 19 Disember. "Tiga individu dijangkiti Covid-19 varian Omicron pada kategori satu dan

4 di Kelantan kena Omicron

Semua mangsa baru pulang dari Arab Saudi

mempunyai gejala, manakala seorang lagi kategori satu serta tidak mempunyai gejala.

"Semua mereka menjalani kuarantin seperti yang disarankan KKM (Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia) dan dipantau Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah (PKD)," kata-nya ketika dihubungi, semalam.

Dr Zaini berkata, individu yang baharu pulang dari

luar negara disarankan supaya terus menjalani kuarantin wajib dan mematuhi peraturan ditetapkan.

Beliau berkata, langkah berkenaan bagi mengelakkan penularan virus Covid-19 terutama varian Omicron kepada individu lain dan pada masa sama dapat mencegah penularan dalam komuniti.

"Saya berharap walaupun Kelantan sudah berada di

Fasa Empat Pelan Pemulihhan Negara (PPN), setiap rakyat negeri ini diminta terus menjaga diri dan patuh kepada prosedur operasi standard (SOP) untuk mengelak jangkitan Covid-19.

"Jika ada gejala, kita minta mereka terus melakukan ujian kendiri dan mengelakkan diri daripada bercampur dengan individu lain termasuk ahli keluarga," katanya.

Maik kekalkan SOP di masjid, surau

Kota Bharu: Majlis Agama Islam dan Adat Isitiadat Melayu Kelantan (Maik) mengkekalkan prosedur operasi standard (SOP) pelaksanaan solat Jumaat dan fardu di masjid, surau serta musalla sebagai alam sebenar masjid dikeluarkan sebelum ini.

Yang Dipertua Maik yang juga Tengku Temenggong Kelantan, Tengku Tan Sri Mohamad Rizam Tengku Abdul Aziz berkata, pelaksanaan itu dibenarkan mengikut kapasiti sebenar masjid dengan pen-

jarakan 1.6 meter.

Beliau berkata, selain itu, Maik membenarkan aktiviti masjid seperti zikir, kelas al-Quran, kuliah umum atau khas mengikut kapasiti sebenar masjid berkuat kuasa serta merta.

"Keberaneka itu diberikan kepada semua masjid, surau dan musalla di seluruh Kelantan selepas Kelantan berada dalam tempoh Fasa Empat Pelan Pemulihan Negara (PPN)," katanya menerusi satu kejayaan, semalam.

97.7 peratus populasi dewasa lengkap dos vaksin

Kuala Lumpur: Sebanyak 22,868,434 individu atau 97.7 peratus populasi dewasa di negara ini melengkapkan dos vaksin Covid-19 setakat jam 11.59 malam kelmarin.

Berdasarkan data Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) menerusi laman Covidnow, sebanyak 23,158,375 individu atau 98.9 peratus daripada kumpulan itu menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos vaksin.

Bagi populasi remaja pula, 87.7 peratus atau 2,760,090 individu berusia 12 hingga 17 tahun su-

87.7%
Populasi remaja
sudah melengkapkan
vaksinasi

dah melengkapkan vaksinasi mereka manakala 2,851,195 individu atau 90.6 peratus menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos vaksin Covid-19.

Sementara itu, sejumlah 241,595 dos vaksin di-berikan kelmarin membabitkan 2,844 dos pertama, 3,952 dos lengkap dan 234,799 dos penggalak.

Batal acara tahunan sambutan Tahun Baharu Cina di jeti

Georgetown: Acara tahunan sambutan Tahun Baharu Cina di Jeti Chew di sini, bulan depan dibatalkan sekali lagi berikutan kebimbangan penularan varian Omicron wabak Covid-19 di dalam negara.

Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri (Adun) Pengkalan

Kota Daniel Gooi berkata, perkara itu diputuskan Persatuan Penduduk Jeti Chew yang disampaikan kepada Kerajaan Negeri Pulau Pinang baru-baru ini, bagi menjaga keselamatan dan kesihatan bukan sahaja 74 keluarga yang menetap di situ, tetapi juga orang awam.

AKHBAR : KOSMO**MUKA SURAT : 7****RUANGAN : NEGARA**

ORANG ramai melalui Jalan Bukit Bintang di Kuala Lumpur ketika cuaca hujan kelmarin.

Empat negeri catat pertambahan kematian akibat Covid-19

PUTRAJAYA — Empat negeri merekodkan pertambahan kes kematian Covid-19 sepanjang tempoh 14 hari sehingga kelmarin, dengan yang tertinggi ialah Melaka iaitu sebanyak 33 peratus.

Berdasarkan laman web CovidNow, peningkatan kematian turut direkodkan di Kuala Lumpur (20 peratus), Johor (10 peratus) dan Selangor (sembilan peratus).

"Secara keseluruhan bagi kes

kematian Covid-19 di Malaysia pula, mencatatkan penurunan sebanyak 23 peratus sepanjang tempoh 14 hari," demikian maklumat dipaparkan pada laman web tersebut di sini semalam.

Dalam masa sama, sebanyak 31 kes kematian Covid-19 dilaporan, menjadikan jumlah kematian terkini sebanyak 31,591 kes serta tiada kes kematian dalam tempoh 24 jam kelmarin.

Terdapat sembilan kes meninggal dunia di luar hospital atau brought-in-death (BID) dengan jumlah kes BID sebanyak 6,375 kes.

Sementara itu, Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr. Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, jangkitan baharu Covid-19 semalam melepassi angka 3,000 dengan 3,270 kes, menjadikan jumlah kumulatif sebanyak 2,773,156 kes.

AKHBAR : KOSMO
MUKA SURAT : 12
RUANGAN : NEGARA

Restoran Hover akan gunakan getah untuk bungkus nasi sumatera

Tiada lagi 'paku' selepas 30 tahun

Oleh MUHAMMAD AYMAN GHAFFA dan ROHAÑA MOHD. NAWI

KOTA BHARU – Selepas lebih 30 tahun menggunakan paku pada bungkusan hidangan nasi sumatera, sebuah restoran dikenali Restoran Hover di sini, akhirnya akur untuk tidak lagi menggunakan benda tajam itu.

Pengendali restoran yang terkenal di Kota Bharu itu, Azahari Hassan, 38, berkata, mereka terpaksa melupakan salah satu tradisi perniagaan keluarganya sejak tahun 1980-an.

Menurutnya, restoran tersebut akan menggunakan gelang getah bagi membungkus nasi sumatera yang lebih popular dengan panggilan nasi paku kira-kira dua minggu lagi.

"Kebiasaannya, saya akan membeli paku seberat 10 kilogram pada harga RM55 setiap bulan. Ketika ini, stok paku masih



KERATAN Kosmo! semalam.

ada dan apabila kesemuanya habis, kami akan menggunakan gelang getah sepenuhnya.

"Pada asalnya, restoran ini juga menggunakan gelang getah jika pelanggan membeli nasi sumatera yang bungkus dengan satu lauk.

"Paku hanya digunakan pada bungkus nasi melebihi dua lauk kerana pembungkusannya lebih ketar selain tidak mudah terburai," katanya semalam.

Menurutnya, pekerjaanya sentiasa cermat dalam membungkus agar paku yang digunakan tidak masuk ke dalam bungku-

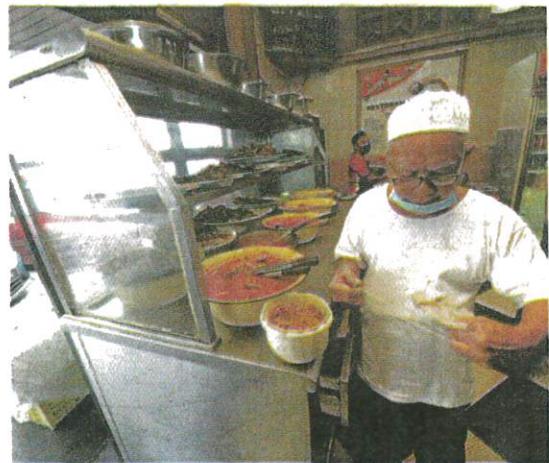
san makanan pelanggan.

Sementara itu, seorang penggemar nasi sumatera, Harif Mohamad, 33, berkata, keenakan nasi sumatera asli yang dijual di kebanyakan restoran di Kelantan itu merupakan faktor penting dalam perjualan makanan.

"Tidak dinafikan penggunaan paku pada bungkusan nasi itu unik, namun ia akan dibuang juga selepas makan. Jadi, tiada keperluan untuk meneruskan penggunaannya jika KKM sudah memberi peringatan," katanya.

Seorang lagi penggerjar nasi sumatera, Azmira Kadir, 28, berkata, saranan KKM mengenai bahaya penggunaan paku pada bungkus makanan merupakan satu langkah tepat dan perlu dipatuhi semua peniaga.

Ujarnya, ini kerana, langkah pencegahan lebih baik daripada merawat sekiranya melibatkan kecederaan terhadap pelanggan.



PEMILIK Restoran Hover, Hassan Abdul Rahman menggunakan gelang getah untuk membungkus nasi di restorannya di Kota Bharu semalam.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 12
RUANGAN : VAKSIN UNTUK RAKYAT



Anggota Jabatan Kesihatan Labuan menjalankan ujian Covid-19 dan Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) di Klinik Kesihatan Membedal, Labuan pada Rabu.

Empat rakyat Kelantan disahkan positif Omicron

KOTA BHARU - Empat rakyat Kelantan disahkan positif Covid-19 varian Omicron selepas pulang dari Arab Saudi.

Pengarah Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Kelantan (JKNK), Datuk Dr Zaini Hussin berkata, kes tersebut melibatkan tiga individu yang tiba ke negara ini dari Arab Saudi pada 22 Disember dan seorang lagi 19 Disember lalu.

Menurutnya, tiga individu berada pada tahap kategori dua dan mempunyai gejala, manakala seorang lagi berada pada tahap kategori satu dan tidak mempunyai gejala.

"Kesemua individu ini sedang menjalani kuarantin seperti yang disarankan oleh Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) dan turut dipantau oleh Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah," katanya ketika dihubungi pada Rabu.

Dr Zaini berkata, semua individu yang bahan pulang dari luar negara dinasihatkan supaya terus menjalani kuarantin wajib dan mematuhi peraturan sebagaimana yang ditetapkan oleh kerajaan.

"Langkah ini penting dalam usaha membendung penularan jangkitan varian Omicron kepada individu lain serta mencegah penularan dalam komuniti."

"Sekiranya mempunyai gejala Covid-19, individu terbabit dikehendaki terus melakukan ujian kendiri dan elakkan bercampur dengan individu lain termasuk ahli keluarga," ujarnya.



ZAINI HUSSIN

ProtectHealth jelaskan kekecohan yang berlaku di PPV di Kelana Jaya pada Selasa

Oleh NUR IFTITAH ROZLAN

SHAH ALAM

ProtectHealth menjelaskan kekecohan yang berlaku di Pusat Pemberian Vaksin (PPV) di Kelana Jaya pada Selasa adalah disebabkan ketidakpatuhan orang ramai terhadap waktu temu janji.

Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif ProtectHealth, Datuk Dr Anas Alam Faizli berkata, ramai penerima yang sepatutnya hadir temu janji waktu pagi tetapi individu berkenaan datang pada waktu petang.

"Malah ada juga yang hadir pada waktu petang tetapi tidak memiliki sebarang temu janji dan hanya ingin melalui proses 'walk-in' sahaja sedangkan kaedah tersebut sudah tidak dibenarkan lagi," katanya kepada *Sinar Harian* pada Rabu.

Pada Selasa, ProtectHealth memaklumkan suntikan dos penggalak secara 'walk-in' tidak lagi diberikan di PPV secara terus tanpa temu janji bagi mengelakkan kesesakan berlaku di beberapa PPV.

Tular sebelum ini mengenai satu video di PPV Vision College, Kelana

Jaya yang kecoh apabila keadaan di situ menjadi sesak dan tidak terkawal hingga mengakibatkan mereka yang ingin mengambil dos penggalak gagal mematuhi penjarakan fizikal.

Menerusi video berdurasi 35 saat berkenaan, ramai netizen bersimpati melihat keadaan beberapa warga emas yang terpaksa berdiri agak lama sebelum menunggu giliran mereka dipanggil.

kesokan harinya.

Meskipun kes Covid-19 di sini masih terkawal, beliau berkata, semua pihak perlu terus berwaspada dan mematuhi prosedur operasi standard selain mengelak pergi ke tempat-tempat sesak.

Labuan merekodkan jumlah kumulatif kes sebanyak 10,863 termasuk 15 kes baru dilaporkan pada Rabu.

Menurut kenyataan Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar pada Selasa, sebanyak 122 kes varian Omicron dilaporkan di seluruh negara setakat 4 Januari membabitkan 117 kes jangkitan import dan lima penularan tempatan. - Bernama

Satu kes varian Omicron dikesan di Labuan

LABUAN - Satu kluster baharu Covid-19 iaitu Kluster Jalan OKK Awang Besar Saudi telah dikesan di pulau bebas cukai ini dalam masa 24 jam, melibatkan 13 kes termasuk satu kes varian Omicron.

Pengarah Jabatan Kesihatan Labuan, Dr Ismuni Bohari berkata, kluster itu dicetuskan oleh jemaah umrah yang pulang ke pulau ini pada 21 Disember lepas dan telah berinteraksi dengan beberapa orang anggota keluarga serta individu lain.

Jalan OKK Awang Besar terletak di pusat bandar Labuan.

Beliau berkata, pesakit varian Omicron itu kini menjalani kuarantin

di pusat kuarantin. "Pesakit ini telah dikesan positif varian Omicron selepas kembali daripada mengerjakan umrah pada 21 Disember dan beliau tidak menunjukkan sebarang simptom," katanya pada Rabu.

Dr Ismuni berkata, pengesanan kontak rapat 13 pesakit terbabit kini sedang dilakukan dan seorang daripada mereka difahamkan telah pergi ke jualan gerai Tahun Baharu di Kompleks Sukan Laut Antarabangsa baru-baru ini.

Labuan merekodkan dua digit kes Covid-19 iaitu 15 kes pada 2 Januari, sebelum turun ke dua kes sahaja pada

Tak patuhi waktu punca PPV sesak



Tangkap layar video berdurasi 35 saat yang menunjukkan keadaan kecoh di PPV Vision College di Kelana Jaya pada Selasa.

Jaya yang kecoh apabila keadaan di situ menjadi sesak dan tidak terkawal hingga mengakibatkan mereka yang ingin mengambil dos penggalak gagal mematuhi penjarakan fizikal.

Menerusi video berdurasi 35 saat berkenaan, ramai netizen bersimpati melihat keadaan beberapa warga emas yang terpaksa berdiri agak lama sebelum menunggu giliran mereka dipanggil.

Mengulas lanjut, Anas Alam berkata, beliau telah menasihatkan kakitangan PPV supaya meminta mereka yang hadir ke situ secara 'walk-in' untuk pulang bagi mengelakkan kesesakan yang lebih teruk.

"Penerima yang mempunyai temu janji semalam juga sudah dinasihatkan supaya menunggu di dalam kenderaan dan staf akan menghubungi mereka apabila tiba giliran," ujarnya.

Lebih 22.86 juta populasi dewasa lengkap vaksinasi

KUALA LUMPUR - Sebanyak 22,868,434 individu atau 97.7 peratus populasi dewasa di negara ini telah lengkapkan dos vaksin Covid-19 setakat 11.59 malam Selasa.

Berdasarkan data Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) menerusi laman CovidNow, sebanyak 23,158,375 individu atau 98.9 peratus daripada

kumpulan itu menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos vaksin.

Bagi populasi remaja pula, sebanyak 87.7 peratus atau 2,760,090 individu berusia 12 hingga 17 tahun telah melengkapkan vaksinasi mereka, manakala 2,851,195 individu atau 90.6 peratus, menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos vaksin.

Sementara itu, sejumlah 241,595 dos

vaksin diberikan pada Selasa melibatkan 2,844 dos pertama, 3,952 dos lengkap dan 234,799 dos penggalak.

Perkembangan itu menjadikan jumlah kumulatif pemberian vaksin menerusi Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan (PICK) kepada 58,303,449 dos termasuk 6,865,812 dos penggalak.

Sementara itu, menurut portal GitHub

KKM, sebanyak 31 kes kematian direkodkan pada Selasa.

Selangor mencatatkan angka kematian tertinggi sebanyak sembilan kes, diikuti Kedah, Johor, Kelantan, Perak dan Sabah dengan masing-masing merekodkan tiga kes, Pahang dan Pulau Pinang (dua) dan masing-masing satu kes di Kuala Lumpur, Terengganu serta Negeri Sembilan.

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA
MUKA SURAT : 3
RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI

Jangkitan dipercayai daripada seorang jemaah umrah

Empat kes baharu Omicron

Oleh PETAH WAZZAN
ISKANDAR
utusannews@mediamulia.com.my

PUTRAJAYA: Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) mengesahkan empat kes penularan tempatan varian Omicron di negara ini.

Menterinya, Khairy Jamaluddin berkata, ia dipercayai menerima jangkitan daripada seorang jemaah umrah yang positif Covid-19 varian berkenaan.

Menurut beliau, empat kes penularan tempatan itu antara 58 lagi kes positif Covid-19 varian Omicron melalui jujukan genom penuh (WGS) yang dijalankan Institut Penyelidikan Perubatan (IMR).

“Daripada 58 kes ini, sebanyak 54 kes merupakan jangkitan import melibatkan 39 kes adalah daripada Arab Saudi, tujuh dari Emiriah Arab Bersatu (UAE), empat kes dari United Kingdom, dua kes dari Nigeria dan masing-masing satu kes dari Kazakhstan dan Perancis.

“Keputusan terbaru ini menjadikan jumlah kumu-

Bagi keseluruhan kes varian Omicron yang dilaporkan, sebanyak 71 kes bersamaan 58.2 peratus merupakan jemaah umrah.”

KHAIRY JAMALUDDIN



latif kes positif Covid-19 yang dikesan varian Omicron di Malaysia adalah sebanyak 122 kes,” katanya dalam kenyataan semalam.

Khairy berkata, daripada jumlah ini, 117 kes merupakan jangkitan import dari luar negara, manakala lima kes lagi merupakan penularan tempatan.

Katanya, bagi keseluruhan kes varian Omicron yang dilaporkan, sebanyak 71 kes bersamaan 58.2 peratus merupakan jemaah umrah.

“Hasil ujian PCR Genotyping Assay yang dijalankan IMR ke atas 1,774 kes positif Covid-19 dalam kalangan pengembara yang tiba di Malaysia bagi tempoh 1 hingga 31 Disember tahun lalu mendapat 1,220 bersamaan 68.8 peratus sampel menunjukkan berkemungkinan varian varian Omicron.

“Daripada 1,220 kes berkenaan varian Omicron ini, 928 (76.1 peratus) melibatkan sampel pengembara yang tiba dari Arab Saudi,” katanya.

Mengulas mengenai empat kes di Kedah, Khairy berkata, penularan tempatan dilaporkan pada 4 Januari lalu dengan kesemua kes merupakan kontak rapat kepada kes positif Covid-19 varian Omicron yang balik dari mengerjakan umrah di Arab Saudi pada 12 Disember 2021 dan disahkan positif varian Omicron pada 24 Disember 2021.

Katanya, pendedahan kepada kes ini berlaku pada 13 Disember 2021 dan kesemua mereka mula bergejala dengan kategori dua pada 17 Disember 2021.

“Malah ujian RT-PCR Covid-19 yang dijalankan selanjutnya pada 19 Disember 2021 adalah positif dengan CT Value di antara 20.80 hingga 21.49.

“Kesemua mereka telah diberi rawatan selama 14 hari di Hospital Sultan Abdul Halim, Sungai Petani, Kedah,” katanya.

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA
MUKA SURAT : 10
RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI

'Bersedia hadapi mutasi Covid-19'

Oleh MAISARAH SHEIKH RAHIM
maisarah.rahim@mediamulia.com.my

PUTRAJAYA: Kebergantungan kepada perlindungan vaksin sebagai satu ikhtiar mengelak ke mudaratan jangkitan Covid-19 berkemungkinan diperlukan secara berkala atau berdasarkan kekerapan mengikut tempoh tertentu.

Bercakap kepada *Utusan Malaysia*, Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif ProtectHealth, Datuk Dr. Anas Alam Faizli berkata, bagaimanapun, keperluan kepada vaksin itu adalah bergantung kepada kajian dari semasa ke semasa dari ini akan disokong oleh data saintifik baharu yang muncul.

Namun, menurut beliau, pada masa ini satu dos penggalak diperlukan dan tindakan serta respons semua pihak berkaitan adalah mengikut data baharu yang dimaksudkan sebagai respons *evidence-based*.

"Apabila vaksin Covid-19 dibangunkan, belum ada varian seperti Delta atau Omicron. Varian ini muncul kerana Virus Covid-19 boleh berubah dan bermutasi. SARS-CoV2 adalah 'novel' coronavirus yakni virus baharu yang pasti akan melalui mutasi.

"Setiap kali mutasi baharu



ANAS ALAM FAIZLI

lama kerana sifat virus itu sudah dikenali kerana sudah stabil dan tidak lagi bermutasi, maka vaksin berkenaan dapat bertahan ber puluh tahun.

"Namun, ini bukan seperti virus Covid-19 yang sentiasa bermutasi. Sampai bila kita perlu bergantung kepada vaksin? Kemungkinan atau tidak (keperluan vaksin tahunan atau sampai tempoh tertentu) akan dijawab dengan kajian dari semasa ke semasa dengan sokongan data saintifik baharu yang muncul.

"Kerajaan telah mengambil tindakan pantas dalam usaha memastikan semua rakyat mendapat perlindungan yang terbaik dengan pemberian dos penggalak. ProtectHealth akan terus membantu dan menyokong semua usaha Kementerian Kesihatan dan kerajaan," katanya.

Setakat semalam, sebanyak 6,422,084 suntikan dos penggalak sudah diberikan kepada individu negara ini.

Sebelum ini, Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin memberitahu, kumpulan teknikal kementerian itu sedang mengkaji keperluan memberikan suntikan dos penggalak keempat berikutnya ancaman penularan Omicron.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 7

RUANGAN : NATION / NEWS

GOVT DIRECTIVE

EATERIES STOP USING NAILS, STAPLES

Kelantan operators now using rubber bands to secure food packaging

SHARIFAH MAHSINAH ABDULLAH
KOTA BARU
news@nst.com.my

KELANTAN restaurant operators have welcomed the move by the government to prohibit the use of nails, staples and other means to secure food packaging. Many said the directive would prevent a repeat of the case involving a child who was rushed to hospital after swallowing a nail recently.

Hover restaurant operator Hassan Abdul Rahman, 82, said he had directed his workers to use rubber bands to pack food.

"My restaurant has been using nails to secure food packaging for 40 years, but from today, I ordered my workers not to use nails. I told them to use rubber bands to pack food."

Another restaurant owner, who wanted to be known only as Faridah, 42, said the move by the Health Ministry would prevent unwanted incidents.

"My restaurant has been using rubber bands but many operators in town still use nails for their food, particularly those who sell Nasi Sumatra."

"But I was informed that they have started to change to other options."

It was reported that traders who used nails, staples or other hazardous items to pack food could be prosecuted.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah was reported to have said those convicted faced a maximum fine of RM10,000, a jail term of up to two years, or both.

He said stiffer sentences could be imposed if these items were found in the food.

He added that those convicted faced a fine of RM100,000, a jail term of not more than 10 years, or both, upon conviction.

Health and wellness website Public Health Malaysia had on Dec 31 reported of a case involving a child who was rushed to hospital after swallowing a nail.

It said the child had stomach pain and cried non-stop.



Hover restaurant operator Hassan Abdul Rahman now uses rubber bands to secure food packaging. PIC BY SHARIFAH MAHSINAH ABDULLAH

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES
MUKA SURAT : 10
RUANGAN : NEWS / OPINION

10 | **NEWS / Opinion**

PANDEMIC YEARS

Make progress on political front, too

COVID-19 offers a unique yet terrifying reflection of societies worldwide. The pandemic years revealed vulnerabilities in the global socio-economic systems, exposing the cracks in international governance and cooperation, and incompetence of elected leaders the world over.

For a start, the spread of Omicron, the dominant Covid-19 variant with significantly higher infectivity. The virus is doing what viruses do best. They mutate to survive the changing environment, hence some variants may gain the ability to evade our immune system.

Scientists, including from the World Health Organisation, have long warned that global vaccine inequity could pose a health risk by creating potential hotspots for the virus to make significant evolutionary leaps. Unfortunately, societies worldwide are still tribalistic, a selfish trait we seemed to have carried into the 21st century.

We strive to ensure the survival of our tribes, not realising that none of us are out of this mess until we are all out of it together. Vaccine-hogging and the deployment of multiple boosters by rich countries while depriving poorer nations access to their very first doses will only allow the virus to



DR AMIR FAIZAL ABDUL MANAN

mutate faster, potentially rendering vaccines less effective.

We will end the pandemic sooner only if we work together to prioritise the collective good over our narrow tribal instincts.

However, our democracies have given rise to populist leaders that continue to defy scientific advice with the deliberate peddling of fake conspiracies and unscientific public health policies. Many global leaders are unfit or unprepared to work with science in dealing with a global crisis like this pandemic, resulting in countless botched responses in the last two years.

Real leaders who have actually helped us are the medical and non-medical frontliners that have risen to the challenge. However, they are often disempowered and under-appreciated.

These pandemic years exposed the extent of science illiteracy

worldwide among the general public, which brings into focus the major flaws in our education system. Society's inability to assess risk and understand basic science is the undoing of an education system that has a misplaced priority.

This provides fertile footholds for the anti-vaccination propaganda, globally. Vaccine hesitancy highlights the failure of scientists and public health officials to communicate science effectively.

This is exacerbated by the severe trust deficit, particularly towards the authorities, big corporations, mainstream science and medicine, and between countries. These are symptomatic of the broken trusts in our social, institutional and governance systems.

Despite major political failings in managing the pandemic, Covid-19 has produced scientific breakthroughs, quite unlike earlier epidemics.

Consider that during the Black Death plague, societies in the 14th century grappled in the dark as they were not able to identify the cause of the deaths and suffering, often attributing them to supernatural causes like the work of the devil, the wrath of God, and planetary alignments. There was



Global vaccine inequity can pose a global health risk by creating potential hotspots for the virus to make significant evolutionary leaps.

PIC BY DANIAL SAAD

no rational explanation. Thus, the countermeasures developed were largely futile.

Today, through global collaborations, scientists were able to isolate the virus and sequence its genome in a short time.

By making the data available online, several vaccines were developed and deployed worldwide in record speed where, for the very first time, novel mRNA vaccines were also successfully trialled and production quickly scaled up. Concurrently, effective public health guidelines were developed to slow down and stop the chain of infection.

Almost overnight, the world shifted back and forth between the physical and virtual worlds, enabled by digital and communications technologies and the world continued to function.

Of course, this is in no way meant to undermine the struggles of many, particularly in low-income communities, where sur-

vival is contingent on their physical presence in the real world. If anything, this highlights the importance of enabling equitable access to opportunities globally.

Plus, the scientific and technological advances did not halt the virus spread completely. They come with tremendous social and economic costs. Covid-19 also became a major political experiment, where the lack of political wisdom resulted in thousands of preventable deaths and sufferings.

So as we make advances in science and technologies, it is more important to ensure that we also make equal progress on the political front.

The writer is a Malaysian scientist living abroad who aims to bridge science and society to promote evidence-based thinking. The views expressed here are personal and do not purport to reflect the opinions of any organisation

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 6
RUANGAN : NATION

'MCO, WFH impacted health'

More people have cardiovascular disease, says doctor

KUALA LUMPUR: The work from home (WFH) ruling in various sectors during the various phases of the movement control in 2020 and 2021 has led to an "increasing number of people suffering from cardiovascular disease", according to an expert.

Consultant specialist in cardiology and internal medicine at Universiti Malaya Medical Centre Assoc Prof Dr Muhammad Dzafir Ismail said among the negative aspects of WFH was that people spent most of their time at home, which resulted in them eating "too much unhealthy food" and not exercising enough as they could not go jogging or cycling outdoors.

"During the prolonged movement control order, most Malaysians unfortunately adopted sedentary lifestyles."

"Many also felt demotivated and

were mentally distressed, which led to an increase in unhealthy habits such as smoking," he told Bernama.

He did not provide any data but said that based on his observations, he had noted an "increasing number of young patients suffering from cardiovascular disease which can lead to a heart attack".

Dr Muhammad Dzafir said cardiovascular disease, including coronary artery disease (CAD), remained Malaysia's leading cause of death every year.

According to data from the Statistics Department, 23% of deaths in 2019 were caused by cardiovascular disease. Out of the medically confirmed deaths due to cardiovascular disease, 16,325 (15%) were caused by CAD.

Dr Muhammad Dzafir explained that CAD is caused by a blockage in the blood vessels of the heart, better

known as coronary blood vessels.

"The process of fat deposition or atherosclerosis is the main reason why such blockage in the coronary blood vessels can happen, as the supply of oxygen that is supposed to be carried by the blood cannot reach the heart muscle area."

"This condition, also called ischemia or ischemic, will cause the heart to not function properly."

"If left untreated for a prolonged period of time, the patient will suffer for a heart attack and subsequently, heart failure, which can eventually lead to death," he added.

He said CAD that prevails for a long period of time can be worsened by other risk factors for heart disease such as diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol levels, an inactive lifestyle and other hereditary factors.

Signs of CAD include severe chest

pain, Dr Muhammad Dzafir said.

"The pain comes and goes in waves, and you may feel something heavy in the middle or left side of the chest. The pain will sometimes be accompanied by numbness in the left arm, jaw and neck, as well as sweating, nausea and possibly vomiting."

"However, older patients, diabetics or women sometimes don't experience (severe) pain. Instead, they may experience milder pain, shortness of breath, fainting or extreme fatigue," he added.

Consultant cardiothoracic surgeon at Mahkota Medical Centre Dr Kenny Cheng said several regular surgery options for CAD are available in hospital settings, with the popular one being coronary artery bypass grafting, which involves creating new conduits to bypass blockages in the blood vessels.

97.7% of adult population fully vaxxed

KUALA LUMPUR: A total of 22,868,434 people or 97.7% of the adult population have completed their Covid-19 vaccination.

Based on the Health Ministry's CovidNow portal, 23,158,375 people or 98.9% of the group have received at least one dose of the vaccine.

For the adolescent population, 87.7% or 2,760,090 people aged between 12 and 17 have completed the vaccination, while 2,851,195 or 90.6% have been given at least one dose of the vaccine.

A total of 241,595 doses of the vaccine were dispensed on Tuesday with 2,844 doses as first dose, 3,952 as second dose and 234,799 as booster dose.

This brings the cumulative number of vaccine doses administered under the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme to 58,303,449, including 6,865,812 booster doses.

According to the ministry's GitHub portal, a total of 31 deaths due to Covid-19 were reported on Tuesday.

Selangor had the highest number with nine deaths followed by Kedah, Johor, Kelantan, Perak and Sabah with three each. Pahang and Penang (two) and one each in Kuala Lumpur, Terengganu and Negeri Sembilan. — Bernama

Don't delay booster jab, M'sians reminded

By FAZLEENA AZIZ
fazleena@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: As the effects of the Covid-19 vaccine wanes after several months, it is vital for people to get booster jabs, health experts have reminded.

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia health economy and public health specialist deputy dean Dr Sharifa Ezat Wan Puteh said people should not think twice about getting the booster shot.

"This is because of thewaning immunity. If you look at the Omicron variant, which is being spread especially by those returning from the umrah, the United Kingdom or South Africa, it can evade early detection," she said yesterday.

"It sometimes doesn't show up on the test as the incubation period takes a longer time."

Dr Sharifa said this was why she agreed with the Health Ministry's decision to temporarily suspend the umrah pilgrimage with the Saudi Arabian government battling to control the Omicron spread.

She said Omicron could be spread by those who visited relatives returning from the umrah pilgrimage.

"Even after you have taken the two vaccine doses, the waning effect can still cause someone to contract (and succumb to) the disease up to Categories 3 and 4," she added.

Dr Sharifa said an effective way to curb the spread of Covid-19 would be to set up a dedicated mandatory quarantine centre for those returning home to Malaysia.

"Even with the electronic bracelet, we still don't really know how effectively the system works. One can assume it is foolproof, but the validity can only be determined by the Health Ministry," she added.

Universiti Selangor visiting professor of Environmental Health Prof Dr Jamal Hisham Hashim agreed that the unvaccinated and those who had not gotten their booster shots after six months would be especially vulnerable to Covid-19.

He said since the immunity from



For your own good: Health experts say that since immunity from the second Covid-19 jab wanes after six months, Malaysians should not postpone the booster shot, especially those aged above 60 and with chronic diseases. — KK SHAM/The Star

the second immunisation dose waned after six months, Malaysians should not postpone vaccination beyond a point, especially those aged above 60 and with chronic diseases.

"As the R_t value is approaching 1, there is a possibility that the infection rate will increase nationwide, including that of the Omicron variant, which is more infectious than the Delta variant."

"There might have been a misconception that the vaccine would accord them long-term protection after two doses. However, scientists have known all along that this would not be the case," he noted.

"We were hoping that with the global vaccination drive, the pandemic would have died down by now. Had that been the case, there would not have been a need for a booster shot."

"But vaccine distribution has been hampered globally, resulting in vaccine inequity across the globe. This has triggered the appearance of new variants like Delta and Omicron which have unfortunately prolonged the pandemic," he said.

As such, Dr Jamal said there was a need to boost immunity with a third dose so that people would remain protected against Covid-19.

He added that beyond a certain

point, there was nothing more than the continuous dissemination of information and transparency about the benefits as well as risks of vaccination, adding that the benefits of vaccination overwhelmingly exceeded the risks.

But Universiti Malaya Tropical Infectious Diseases Research and Education Centre director Prof Dr Sazaly Abu Bakar is not too worried about the spread of the virus due to the country's high vaccination rate.

He said very few groups of people had yet to be vaccinated due to health issues or other reasons known to them.

Dr Sazaly said as far as children were concerned, they were not at higher risk compared to people with comorbidities.

"If you look at the Omicron variant, it is not as virulent as the Delta variant or others seen in the past."

"Most people who test positive for Omicron have mild symptoms. Some may think it is just the common flu or attribute it to the weather when they feel sick."

"The reason why it may show up much later (in terms of detection) is because there is not enough virus load. The infection level has to be high enough for you to detect it and because of the vaccination, some

cannot detect it," he explained.

Dr Sazaly advocated testing as the best solution to curb the spread of the virus in the community.

People should at least do three PCR tests, especially those returning to the country, he advised.

"You test when you come back, then three days later and on the seventh day of quarantine to be absolutely sure. This is what needs to be emphasised," he added.

Meanwhile, ProtectHealth Corporation chief executive officer Datuk Dr Anas Alam Faizli said the utilisation rate last week at vaccination centres (PPV) was 74% nationwide, adding: "Once the PPV submit their reports, we will know the utilisation rate."

He also said ProtectHealth had no control over vaccination appointments or postponement as it did not manage the scheduling for MySejahtera.

On Tuesday, ProtectHealth announced that no more walk-ins would be allowed at offsite Covid-PPV for booster jabs.

Only those with appointments on their MySejahtera app would be welcomed at the centres. This move comes after reports of crowding and long queues at PPVs in the Klang Valley.

Expert: Tell doctors if you had previous side effects

PETALING JAYA: If you had suffered side effects from your previous Covid-19 vaccination shots, tell the doctor before getting your booster shot, says an epidemiologist.

Universiti Putra Malaysia medical epidemiologist Assoc Prof Dr Malina Osman said the side effects of booster shots are generally the same as those of primary shots.

But she said if an individual had experienced certain side effects from their previous jabs, it was advisable to inform the doctors prior to getting the booster vaccination.

"For Covid-19 vaccines, the common side effects include pain and swelling at the site of injection. You may also get fever, headache, muscle pain, lethargy, chills or nausea. "Severe side effects like a rapid heart rate, swelling in throat and allergy have also been documented but are very rare," she added.

She said those who had received their booster jab should avoid strenuous activities for the next 14 days.

Commenting on the mixture of vaccine types, Dr Malina said studies had shown that the practice was safe and provided better protection against Covid-19 by increasing antibody levels.

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 12
RUANGAN : VIEWS

Perils of not reviewing Google translations

THE maintenance of standards in anything and everything we do is essential for advancement in any field of human endeavour.

The moment we compromise on our standards – in academia, at work or in sports – we begin to lose our focus and descend into an abyss from which recovery is difficult.

This is especially true in the usage of language, in this case English, for communication. Of late, there have been a few cases where the decline in the proper use of English by some public service organisations has been evident.

The improper usage of English in these cases has been the subject of undeserved mockery in social media.

Some examples:

1. On the website purportedly of the Health

Ministry, there was a post congratulating an officer who had been promoted to deputy secretary of Finance. The English version of the post referred to the officer, Datuk Harjeet Singh, as "Grandfather Harjeet Singh". The "Datuk" in Bahasa Melayu was wrongly translated as "grandfather".

2. Another post on the same website urged people to drink about six to eight glasses of water every day, but the Malay word "air kosong" was wrongly translated as "empty water".

3. In an invitation for an official function, the dress code was described as "long suit" instead of "lounge suit".

There are many other examples of such fractured English appearing on government websites and publications.

It is obvious where the problem lies. The officers who did the translation from Bahasa Melayu to English obviously depended on Google – specifically Google Translate – to do the word-for-word translation, and then just posted the machine-translated text without any thought or review.

Such postings must first be vetted by some responsible officer with a good command of English before they are uploaded. Otherwise, such mistakes are bound to recur, much to the embarrassment of the department or agency concerned. It does not take much to maintain standards, but it takes a lot of effort to make amends afterwards.

TAN SRI LEE LAM THYE
Kuala Lumpur