

**AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN**  
**MUKA SURAT : 6**  
**RUANGAN : NASIONAL**

**Penularan COVID-19**

# Penangguhan umrah berkuat kuasa sebulan

Beri laluan proses penilaian risiko, penelitian terhadap SOP

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**Kuala Lumpur:** Kerajaan menangguhkan sementara perjalanan umrah bagi tempoh sebulan berkuat kuasa 8 Januari ini.

**Menteri Kesihatan,** Khairy Jamaluddin, berkata keputusan itu diambil untuk memberi laluan kepada proses penilaian risiko dan penelitian terhadap beberapa perkara, khususnya membabitkan prosedur operasi standard (SOP).

Katanya, perbincangan sepanjang tempoh penangguhan ibadat itu akan turut membabitkan kerjasama Arab Saudi dan Konsulat Malaysia di negara terbabit, sebelum perjalanan umrah kembali dibenarkan.

"Beri peluang untuk kita perketatkan SOP jemaah dari Malaysia menerusi perbincangan dengan Arab Saudi, agensi pelancongan, kementerian berkaitan dan konsulat di sana.

"Kita akan buka semula (perjalanan umrah) dengan lebih selamat, tetapi bukan sekarakar kerana terlalu banyak kes jangkitan COVID-19 terutama varian Omicron," katanya pada sidang



Beberapa jemaah umrah bersiap sedia untuk mendaftar masuk ketika tinjauan di Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa Kuala Lumpur (KLIA) semalam.

media di Parlimen di sini, semalam.

Beliau berkata, seramai 17 daripada 122 individu yang disahkan dijangkiti varian Omicron setakat 4 Januari lalu, didapati tidak mempunyai rekod vaksinasi.

Mendedahkan perkara itu, Khairy berkata, Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) sedang meneliti alasan di sebalik rekod segelintir pengembala dari luar negara berkenaan yang tidak mempunyai sejarah pengambilan pelajaran COVID-19.

Jelanya, 17 individu atau 14 peratus daripada yang disahkan dijangkiti varian membimbangkan (VOC) itu membabitkan 10 warganegara dan tujuh bukan warganegara.

"Negara import kes Omicron tanpa rekod vaksinasi ini ialah dari United Kingdom membabit-

kan empat kes, Nigeria (empat), Emiriah Arab Bersatu (empat) dan masing-masing satu kes dari Amerika Syarikat, Australia, Ghana, Ireland serta Arab Saudi.

"Berdasarkan siasatan awal KKM terhadap pengembala dari luar negara, kita dapat daripada 122 positif Omicron selepas masuk ke Malaysia, 14 peratus (17 kes) tiada vaksinasi.

"Di sini, wujud isu ketidakpatuhan prosedur operasi standard (SOP) kerana hanya mereka yang divaksin sepatutnya dibenarkan melakukan perjalanan," kata-

Dalam perkembangan berkaitan, Khairy berkata, kes jangkitan harian COVID-19 dihukumai mencapai 30,000 kes sekitar KKM tidak mengambil sebarang langkah pembendungan gelombang Omicron.

## Perlis benar rapat saf solat jemaah di masjid esok

**Arau:** Semua masjid di seluruh Perlis akan mula solat berjemaah dengan merapatkan saf, berkuat kuasa solat Subuh pada Sabtu ini.

Yang Dipertua Majlis Agama Islam dan Adat Istiadat Melayu Perlis (MAIPs), Tuanku Syed Faizuddin Putra Jamalullail bertitah, keputusan itu mendapat limpah perkenan Raja Perlis, Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Putra Jamalullail setelah meneliti perkembangan semasa COVID-19 di negeri ini.

"Selain itu, peratusan tinggi vaksinasi lengkap dan peningkatan dos penggalak yang mencapai kadar 16.9 peratus atau 30,575 perenerima berdasarkan maklumat terkini pada 2 Januari lalu dan didapati keadaan penularan wabak di Perlis berada dalam keadaan terkawal.

"Sehubungan itu, baginda mempertimbang dengan penuh hikmah dan teliti serta menilai dengan penuh bijaksana dan berhati-hati dalam menjalankan tanggungjawab Raja Pemerintah dan Ketua Agama Negeri.

"Sukacita dimaklumkan, kebenaran bersyarat amalan merapatkan saf solat berjemaah di masjid seluruh Perlis, berkuat kuasa pada Subuh 8 Januari, iaitu Sabtu sehingga ke satu tarikh yang akan dimaklumkan kelak.

"Kebenaran ini adalah kepada semua masjid di seluruh Perlis sahaja, manakala surau atau tempat solat umum atau awam kekal tidak dibuka (solat berjemaah merapatkan saf).

"Larangan ini termasuk kepada surau atau tempat solat di agensi, institusi, maahad tahfiz dan sebagainya melainkan dengan kebenaran khas daripada MAIPs dan melalui Jabatan Agama Islam Negeri Perlis (JAIPS)," titah baginda dalam satu kenyataan, semalam.

Melalui kenyataan itu, solat dengan merapatkan saf memerlukan jemaah mematuhi beberapa peraturan seperti kadar jarak sejauh masing-masing adalah berdasarkan saiz sejauh standard

dan tidak berlaku sentuhan fizikal.

Bagaimanapun, jemaah yang tinggal serumah tidak terikat dengan syarat berkenaan dan dari segi pengekalan prosedur operasi standard (SOP) sedia ada, ia hendaklah kekal dipatuhi pada setiap masa ketika selesai solat, mendengar kuliah dan sepanjang tempoh berada di masjid.

"Pematuhan SOP masih perlu diteruskan seperti kekal melaksanakan penjarakan fizikal sekurang-kurangnya satu meter, memakai pelitup separuh muka dan dilakukan pelitup muka jenis N95 atau K95 serta memakai dua pelitup muka atau 'double face mask' yang ditambah baik dengan pemakaian pelindung muka atau 'face shield'.

"Selain itu, jemaah masih perlu membawa sejадah sendiri bersaiz standard, mengambil wuduk sebelum ke masjid, mengimbas suhu badan dan merekodkan penjelajahan sosial dengan mengimbas Kod QR aplikasi MySejahtera atau mendaftar pada buku yang disediakan," titah baginda.

Baginda bertitah, pematuhan terhadap SOP masih diperketatkan dan tidak dibenarkan sebarang kontak sentuhan fizikal seperi bersalaman.

"Jemaah yang menerima suntikan vaksin lengkap, sama ada dewasa, kanak-kanak atau warga emas dibenarkan hadir ke masjid. Namun, pegawai bertugas dan jemaah kekal dilarang hadir ke masjid sekiranya terdiri daripada golongan seperti berstatus PUI (individu di bawah siasatan), PUS (pesakit dalam pemantauan) dan mereka yang memiliki risiko utuk dijangkiti."

"Malah, golongan yang mempunyai gejala seperti demam, sesak pernafasan, sakit tekak, selesesa dan sebagainya juga dilarang hadir ke masjid," titah Tuanku Syed Faizuddin sambil menambah, semua aktiviti pengimaranan seperti kuliah, ceramah termasuk jambuan adalah dibenarkan dengan pematuhan SOP kesihatan dan keselamatan yang berkuat kuasa.

## 3,543 kes positif baharu, 18 kematian

**Putrajaya:** Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) melaporkan 3,543 kes positif baharu COVID-19 setakat jam 12 tengah semalam.

**Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan,** Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, yang berkongsi ringkasan laporan itu berkata, ia menjadikan keseluruhan 2,776,699 kes positif akibat wabak itu di Malaysia setakat ini.

Sementara itu, 18 kes kematian akibat COVID-19 dilaporkan kelmarin, dengan tiga daripadanya membabitkan kematian di luar fasiliti kesihatan (BID).

Data laman sesawang COVID-

NOW menunjukkan, kes kematian semalam menyumbang kepada 31,609 korban COVID-19 di negara ini setakat tengah malam kelmarin dengan 6,378 daripadanya adalah kes BID.

Tiga kematian dilaporkan masing-masing di Pahang, Perak dan Selangor; dua kematian masing-masing di Kedah, Melaka dan Kuala Lumpur, manakala satu kematian di Kelantan, Sabah dan Terengganu.

Setakat tengah malam kelmarin, sebanyak 39,739 kes aktif dilapor membabitkan 32,509 kes yang menjalani kuarantin di ru-

mah, Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan COVID-19 Berisiko Rendah (3,574 kes) dan seramai 3,399 pesakit menjalani rawatan di hospital.

Sementara itu, sebanyak 245,326 dos vaksin COVID-19 di berikan kelmarin, membabitkan 238,720 dos penggalak, satu dos (2,747) dan dos lengkap (3,859).

Sehingga kelmarin, sebanyak 87.8 peratus daripada populasi remaja berusia antara 12 hingga 17 tahun sudah menerima vaksinasi lengkap manakala populasi dewasa kekal pada paras 97.7 peratus.

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 16

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

# Jemaah umrah jalani kuarantin langkah terbaik

**Tindakan pantas bendung kes penularan varian Omicron makin meningkat**

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**Kuala Lumpur:** Tindakan pantas pihak berkuasa mewajibkan jemaah umrah yang tiba di tanah air, menjalani kuarantin di stesen swasta atau kemudahan selesa kerajaan, disifatkan langkah terbaik bagi mengawal penularan varian Omicron COVID-19 yang semakin meningkat.

Seorang jemaah umrah, Datuk Mohd Razlan Muhammad Rafii, berkata langkah itu amat wajar kerana daripada pemerhatiannya, hampir 30 hingga 50 peratus jemaah yang pulang ke tanah air disahkan positif COVID-19.

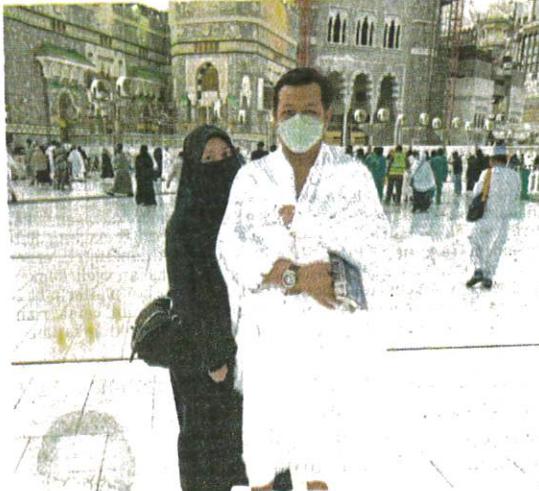
"Saya berpeluang mengerjakan ibadat umrah pada 20 Disember lalu, ketika itu prosedur operasi standard (SOP) di Tanah Suci agak longgar, cuma diwajibkan pakai pelitup muka. Selain itu, untuk solat sudah boleh rapatkan saf dan dikeharyakan tempat, memang tiada penjarakan.

"Bagaimanapun, beberapa hari sebelum kumpulan umrah saya berangkat pulang, iaitu pada 30 Disember, Kerajaan Arab Saudi umumkan SOP lebih ketat, termasuk penjarakan ketika solat, pada masa sama ketika itu, Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) mengumumkan tindakan berjaga-jaga memandangkan jumlah jemaah tanah air yang positif COVID-19, adalah tinggi," katanya kepada BH, semalam.

Mohd Razlan yang juga Ahli Majlis Kerja Tertinggi (MKT) UMNO, berkata kumpulan umrahnya turut dijangkiti COVID-19 apabila 10 daripada 18 orang, disahkan positif sebaik kembali ke tanah air.

"Rata-rata yang balik umrah termasuk daripada kumpulan lain, ramai terkena jangkitan. Ada satu kumpulan terdiri 24 orang, seramai 12 orang atau separuh daripada mereka dijangkiti COVID-19.

"Jumlah yang dijangkiti memang terus meningkat dari masa ke masa, cuma bezanya berbanding gelombang terdahulu, kebanyakannya tidak mendapat gejala serius, cuma berada pada Tahap 1 dan 2," katanya.



Mohd Razlan bersama isterinya ketika mengerjakan umrah baru-baru ini.

Mengulas lanjut, beliau berkata, pelaksanaan kuarantin di pentempatan ditetapkan kerajaan membolehkan pengawasan secara lebih menyeluruh, sekali gus mengelakkan risiko penularan dan isu berbangkit seperti ketidakpatuhan dan pelanggaran SOP.

"Langkah berjaga-jaga diambil oleh kerajaan ketika ini ada asasnya. Ada yang bandingkan keadaan tumpuan diberikan kepada jemaah umrah berbanding negara luar lain yang turut merekodkan penularan kes Omicron.

"Pada saya, umrah berbeza kerana ia tidak seperti kita melancang atau bercuti di luar negera yang kebanyakannya masa dan orang sekeliling adalah ahli keluarga, sekali gus memudahkan diri mereka tidak sesuai untuk jalani kuarantin, maka risiko untuk penularan jangkitan berlaku tetap ada," katanya.

"Bagi ibadat umrah, sukar untuk menguruskan penjarakan dengan jemahat yang datang bukan hanya dari Malaysia tetapi pelbagai negara yang tidak diketahui sejauh mana pematuhan mereka kepada SOP. Bahkan di kebanyakan lokasi, seperti dalam Masjidil Haram, kita sujud, solat dan beribadat di tempat yang orang lain telah duduk dan sentuh," katanya.

Jemaah umrah, Gulam Muszaffar Gulam Mustakim, yang tiba di tanah air pada 1 Januari lalu, menyifatkan kesemua SOP ditetapkan kerajaan ketika ini lengkap dan diyakini mampu mengekang penularan varian baharu Omicron dalam negara dan komuniti.

"Saya bersetuju dengan semua langkah SOP yang dilaksanakan kerajaan kerana ia adalah kaedah terbaik untuk mengelakkan

ngan kesemua SOP seperti penjarakan sosial dipatuhi, elakkan sentuhan, bahkan naik bas untuk ziarah pun duduk jarak keadaan penumpang tidak ramai.

"Bagaimanapun, apa yang memerlukan, hampir semua jemaah dalam kumpulan kami positif COVID-19," katanya.

Katanya, jika berlaku pertambahan jumlah jemaah umrah yang positif COVID-19 dan membawa pulang virus Omicron ke rumah, ia sudah tentu mengundang bahaya dan berupaya mencetuskan gelombang baharu wabak itu di negara ini.

"Jika kes makin reda nanti, mungkin kerajaan boleh mempertimbangkan untuk ditambah baik SOP, misalnya membenarkan jemaah mengerjakan ibadat dalam kumpulan lebih kecil, bagi mengurangkan risiko jangkitan dan memudahkan KKM mengawal penularan dalam negara," katanya.

Sementara itu, Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata penangguhan ibadat umrah berkuat kuasa Sabtu ini adalah sementara bagi membolehkan KKM melakukan penelitian terhadap aspek yang memerlukan penambahbaikan.

"Penangguhan ini adalah sementara untuk KKM memperbaiki langkah pencegahan dan pengawalan penularan dalam kalangan jemaah umrah.

"Disyorkan juga semua jemaah supaya mendapatkan dos penggalak dan menambah baik prosedur operasi standard (SOP) ketika berada di Tanah Suci," katanya kepada BH, semalam.

Beliau turut berharap jemaah yang bakal pulang ke tanah air mematuhi semua SOP ditetapkan antaranya melakukan ujian saringan COVID-19 RT-PCR iaitu dua hari sebelum tarikh berlepas, diikuti pada hari ketibaan dan pada hari kelima menjalani kuarantin.

Jelaskannya, jemaah umrah akan diberi pelepasan daripada Perintah Pengawasan dan Pemantauan pada hari kelapan sekiranya tiada pelanjutan kuarantin dan keputusan saringan RT-PCR yang dibuat pada hari kelima adalah negatif.

Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin, mengumumkan penangguhan sementara kebenaran umrah, berkuat kuasa 8 Januari ini susulan kebimbangan penularan varian Omicron.

Selain tiket penerbangan perjalanan umrah yang baru diatur, berkuat kuasa 1 Januari lalu, semua jemaah diajar menjalani kuarantin wajib di stesen atau hotel dikenal pasti oleh NADMA bermula kelmarin.

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

## 7,107,613 sudah ambil suntikan dos penggalak

**Kuala Lumpur:** Sebanyak 22,872,297 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, 23,160,259 individu atau 98.9 peratus dari pada kumpulan itu menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos vaksin Covid-19.

satu dos vaksin.

Bagi populasi remaja berusia 12 hingga 17 tahun pula, sebanyak 2,761,997 individu atau 87.8 peratus melengkapkan vaksinasi mereka manakala 2,852,677 individu atau 90.7 peratus dari kumpulan itu telah menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos vaksin Covid-19.

Sementara itu, 245,326 dos vaksin diberikan kelma-

rin membabitkan 2,747 dos pertama, 3,859 dos lengkap dan 238,720 dos penggalak.

Perkembangan itu menjadikan jumlah kumulatif pemberian vaksin menerusi Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan (Pick) kepada 58,554,303 dos termasuk 7,107,613 dos penggalak.

Sementara itu, menurut portal GitHub KKM, seba-

nyak 18 kes kematian direkodkan kelmarin.

Pahang, Perak dan Selangor mencatatkan angka kematian tertinggi dengan masing-masing merekodkan tiga kes, diikuti Kedah, Melaka dan Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur yang masing-masing dua kes manakala satu kes di Kelantan, Sabah dan Terengganu.

- Bernama

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 11

RUANGAN : COVID-19

# Khairy nafi belum divaksin

**Menteri Kesihatan pelawa orang ramai tonton semula video beliau disuntik vaksin Sinovac**

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Kuala Lumpur

**M**enteri Kesihatan Khairy Jamaluddin semalam, memperlawa orang ramai supaya menonton semula siaran langsung yang menunjukkan beliau selaku individu pertama di Malaysia menerima vaksin Covid-19 keluaran Sinovac.

Ia sebagai membuktikan dirinya sudah menerima vaksin itu sekali gus me-

nafikan maklumat tular yang mendakwa beliau belum divaksin.

Khairy menerima suntikan dos pertama vaksin CoronaVac pada 18 Mac 2021.

"Malah, pengambilan dos pertama itu turut disiarkan secara langsung di saluran televisyen dan saya juga menunjukkan paparan MySejahtera saya selepas menerima vaksin. Sesiapa belum me-

nonton siaran langsung itu boleh tonton di laman web [<tu.be/EtyaZ-BaPb8>.](https://you-</a></p>
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"Manakala suntikan dos kedua saya terima pada 8 April 2021. Saya juga sudah menerima suntikan

dos penggalak vaksin Comirnaty keluaran Pfizer pada September lalu sebelum berlepas ke Himeji, Jepun bagi Masyuarat Jawatankuasa Rantau Pasifik Ba-

rat Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WPRCM) ke-72," katanya dalam haritaran di Facebook rasminya semalam.

Beliau turut menjelaskan kekeliruan berhubung maklumat peribadinya dalam laman <https://www.vaksincovid.gov.my/semak-status>.

"Dalam tangkap layar itu, status janji temu saya dinyatakan sebagai 'sedang diproses' sementara butiran lain seperti lokasi pusat vaksin, tarikh dan masa janji temu tidak dinyatakan.

"Untuk makluman, laman sesawang berkenaan diwu-

judkan pada peringkat awal pelaksanaan Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan (PicK) bagi memudahkan urusan semakan kepada orang awam.

"Namun, selepas kadar vaksinasi populasi dewasa mencapai 90 peratus pada Oktober 2021, laman sesawang itu tidak lagi aktif atau dikemas kini," katanya.

Di samping itu, beliau mengingatkan orang ramai agar tidak terpengaruh dengan tindakan pihak tidak bertanggungjawab yang mahu mendakkan usaha vaksinasi negara.



“  
Pengambilan dos pertama disiarkan secara langsung di saluran televisyen  
Khairy

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 16

RUANGAN : LOKAL

## *Penangguhan sementara umrah dilaksana sebulan*

**Kuala Lumpur:** Penangguhan sementara kebenaran perjalanan mengerjakan umrah diteruskan bagi tempoh sebulan bermula 8 Januari ini.

Menteri Kesihatan Khairy Jamaluddin berkata, Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) juga mengenakan kuarantin wajib di sesi kuarantini bagi jemaah umrah yang baru pulang dari Arab Saudi.

"Penilaian risiko dalam dan luar negara khususnya di Arab Saudi dijalankan dari semasa ke semasa bagi mempertimbangkan pembukaan semula.

"KKM bersama kementerian dan agensi berkaitan

mengemaskini prosedur operasi standard (SOP) umrah antaranya pengambilan dos penggalak sebagai syarat mengerjakan umrah dan pengurusan kes dan kontak rapat di Arab Saudi.

"Selain itu, pemantauan status kesihatan jemaah umrah di Arab Saudi, memperkuatkannya tanggungjawab kepada agensi pelancongan, memastikan pemasuhan SOP umrah oleh jemaah dan petugas umrah serta melaporkan kes positif serta kontak rapat kepada pihak KKM di Malaysia," katanya pada sidang media di Parlimen, semalam.

Mengulas berhubung ke-

putusan diambil, Khairy berkata, berdasarkan data, 85 peratus dari 1,842 kes positif Covid-19 yang dilaporkan adalah individu yang kembali dari Arab Saudi.

"Ini data yang dikemukakan kepada jemaah menteri semalam yang menunjukkan bahawa kes positif tinggi adalah daripada pengembala yang kembali dari Arab Saudi.

"Yang kedua, kes itu paling banyak datang dari pengembala yang kembali mengerjakan umrah, itu fakta dan sebab itu KKM buat keputusan untuk tangguh sementara sahaja perjalanan mengerjakan umrah," katanya.

**AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN**  
**MUKA SURAT : 6**  
**RUANGAN : NASIONAL**

# Siasat 17 kes Omicron tiada rekod vaksinasi

Wujud pelanggaran SOP kerana sepatutnya individu lengkap vaksinasi sahaja boleh melakukan perjalanan

KUALA LUMPUR

**K**ementerian Kesihatan (KKM) mengesahkan jumlah 17 daripada 122 individu yang dijangkiti varian Omicron setakat 4 Januari lepas didapati tidak mempunyai rekod vaksinasi Covid-19.

Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin berkata, pihaknya sedang menyiasat rekod pengembawa dari luar negara yang tidak mempunyai sejarah vaksinasi sama ada mereka memiliki masalah kesihatan atau sebab lain.

Beliau berkata, 10 daripadanya membabitkan warganegara manakala tujuh lagi bukan warganegara.

"Negara import kes Omicron tanpa rekod vaksinasi ini ialah dari United Kingdom dengan empat kes, Nigeria (empat), Emiriah Arab Bersatu (empat) dan masing-masing satu kes dari Amerika Syarikat, Australia, Ghana, Ireland dan Arab Saudi," katanya pada sidang media pada Khamis.

Menurut Khairy, siasatan awal



KKM mendapati 122 kes positif Omicron selepas masuk ke Malaysia dengan 14 peratus atau 17 kes tiada vaksinasi.

"Di sini, wujud isu ketidakpatuhan prosedur operasi standard (SOP) kerana hanya mereka yang divaksin sepatutnya dibenarkan melakukan perjalanan," katanya.

Khairy juga berkata, jumlah kumulatif varian Omicron dalam kes positif Covid-19 yang dikesan di Malaysia adalah sebanyak 245 kes dengan 157 kes atau 64.08 peratus merupakan jemaah umrah.

Justerit, Jemaah Menteri telah mengarahkan supaya penangguhan sementara bagi aktiviti umrah selama sebulan bermula esok untuk membolehkan penilaian risiko dijalankan sebelum kebenaran mengerjakan ibadah tersebut dilaksanakan semula.

Ujarnya, KKM bersama dengan kementerian dan agensi yang berkaitan akan mengemas kini SOP umrah antaranya pengambilan dos penggalak sebagai antara syarat umrah dan pemantauan status kesihatan jemaah di Arab Saudi.

Beliau dalam pada itu menolak tuduhan KKM mendiskriminasikan ibadah umrah selepas memutuskan untuk menggantung sementara perjalanan ke Arab Saudi berkuat kuasa Sabtu ini.

"Saya hendak jelaskan di sini, pengembawa yang positif pada minggu epidemiologi (ME) ke-52 iaitu minggu terakhir tahun 2021 adalah sebanyak 1,842 kes yang dikesan di pintu masuk antarabangsa di Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa Kuala Lumpur (KLIA)," katanya.

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

# KKM lulus vaksin Comirnaty

Untuk imunisasi kanak-kanak berumur lima hingga 11 tahun

Oleh MUHAMMAD AMNAN HIBRAHM

KUALA LUMPUR

**K**ementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) meluluskan pendaftaran bersyarat bagi produk vaksin keluaran Pfizer iaitu 'Comirnaty 10mcg Concentrate for Dispersion for Injection' yang akan digunakan untuk imunisasi kanak-kanak berumur lima hingga 11 tahun.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, vaksin berkenaan mempunyai kekuatan lebih rendah berbanding vaksin Comirnaty yang diberikan kepada individu berusia 12 tahun dan ke atas.

Menurutnya, Mesyuarat Pihak Berkuasa Kawalan Dadah (PBKD) kali ke-368 yang berlangsung pada Khamis juga memberi kelulusan bersyarat kepada vaksin formulasi baharu 'Comirnaty (Tris/Sucrose) 30mcg Solution for Inject.'

"Ia merupakan vaksin Comirnaty dengan formulasi baharu yang tidak memerlukan pencairan (*dilution*) sebelum administrasi dan mempunyai tempoh jangka hayat lebih panjang iaitu 10 minggu berbanding formulasi sedia ada (satu bulan) apabila disimpan pada suhu dua hingga lapan darjah Celsius selama dinauhbebu."

"Indikasi Comirnaty (Tris/Sucrose) 30mcg Solution for Injection ini adalah untuk imunisasi Covid-19 kepada individu berumur 12 tahun dan ke atas," katanya pada Khamis.

Dr Noor Hisham turut menjelaskan, pemegang pendaftaran bagi kedua-dua vaksin Comirnaty tersebut ialah Pfizer



KKM meluluskan pendaftaran bersyarat bagi produk vaksin keluaran Pfizer iaitu 'Comirnaty 10mcg Concentrate for Dispersion for Injection' yang akan digunakan untuk imunisasi kanak-kanak berumur lima hingga 11 tahun.

(Malaysia) Sdn Bhd dan ia di-kilandkan oleh BioNTech Manufacturing GmbH, Jerman.

Menurutnya, PBKD turut memberi kelulusan bersyarat bagi penggunaan vaksin 'Convidecia Recombinant Novel Coronavirus Vaccine (Adenovirus Type 5 Vector)

Solution for Injection' sebagai dos penggalak kepada individu berumur 18 tahun dan ke atas.

Jelas beliau, produk dos penggalak itu akan diberikan dengan selama tiga hingga enam bulan selepas penerima mendapat dos pertama daripada vaksin yang sama.

Empat PPV Integrasi dibuka

**PUTRAJAYA** - Empat Pusat Pemberian Vaksin Covid-19 (PPV) Integrasi dikenal pasti bagi meningkatkan kapasiti pemberian dos vaksin di Lembah Klang.

Ia melibatkan PPV Pusat Dagangan Dunia Kuala Lumpur (WTCKL), Axiata Arena Bukit Jalil; Pusat Konvensyen Ideal (IDCC) Shah Alam dan Soka Gakkai, Klang yang akan beroperasi pada 15 Januari ini.

Perkara itu diumumkan Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar pada Khamis.

Menurutnya, semua aktiviti pemberian dos penggalak akan dilakukan melalui janji temu yang diberikan melalui aplikasi MySejahtera atau perkhidmatan pesanan ringkas (SMS).

"Bagaimanapun, individu boleh menghubungi PPV swasta (GP) yang disenaraikan dalam laman sesawang ProtectHealth untuk mendaftar dalam senarai menunggu klinik berkenaan," kata beliau.

## Khairy nafi maklumat status vaksinasi tular

**PUTRAJAYA** - Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar menafikan maklumat tangkap layar mengenai butiran peribadi dan status vaksinasi Covid-19 beliau yang kononnya disemak melalui laman web vaksin Covid.

Menerusi laman Facebooknya, tangkap layar tular itu merupakan status janji temu Khairy yang memaparkan sebagai sedang diproses,

sementara butiran lain seperti lokasi pusat vaksin, tarikh dan masa janji temu tidak dinyatakan.

"Saya telah mendapat suntikan dos pertama vaksin CoronaVac pada 18 Mac 2021 dan merupakan individu pertama di Malaysia menerima vaksin tersebut.

"Malah, prosedur itu turut diisarkan secara langsung di saluran televisyen. Saya juga telah me-

nunjukkan paparan MySejahtera saya selepas menerima vaksin itu," jelas beliau.

Menurutnya, suntikan dos kedua diterima pada 8 April 2021 dan suntikan dos penggalak pada September lalu sebelum berlepas ke Himeji, Jepun bagi Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Rantau Pasifik Barat Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WPRCM) k-72.

Dalam perkembangan berikutnya, Khairy turut menafikan dakwaan bahawa rakyat ditekan untuk menerima suntikan penggalak kerana bekalan vaksin Covid-19 hampir loput.

Menurutnya, kesemua bekalan yang ada telah digunakan.

"Kita ada 6.5 juta bekalan tetapi tiada yang loput untuk Januari," katanya pada Khamis.



KHAIRY JAMALUDDIN

## 123 lagi kes Omicron, tujuh jangkitan tempatan di Sarawak

**PUTRAJAYA** - Sebanyak 123 kes positif Covid-19 disahkan varian Omicron pada Khamis.

Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar berkata, daripada jumlah itu, 88 kes adalah dari Arab Saudi.

Menurutnya, penjujukan genom penuh (WGS) turut mengesahkan tujuh kes tempatan di Sarawak.

"Jumlah kumulatif kes positif Covid-19 yang dikesan varian Omicron di negara ini adalah sebanyak 245 kes.

"Daripada jumlah ini, 233 kes adalah jangkitan luar negara, manakala 12 lagi penularan tempatan," katanya

dalam sidang akbar pada Khamis.

Menurutnya, daripada kes seluruhnya, 157 kes atau 64.08 peratus adalah jemaah umrah.

Mengulas mengenai tujuh kes baharu Omicron di Sarawak, beliau berkata, tiga kes daripadanya merupakan seorang bapa dan dua anak yang pulang bercuti di Kedah serta Pulau Pinang.

"Ibu dua orang anak itu dikategorikan sebagai Presumptive Omicron dan sedang menunggu keputusan jujukan genom.

"Setelah mereka balik daripada bercuti, kes-kes ini telah menjangkiti nenek kepada dua orang anak tersebut yang turut disahkan

Omicron," katanya.

Khairy berkata, satu kes telah menjalani ujian saringan di klinik swasta kerana demam dan didapati positif Omicron.

"Bapa kepada kes tersebut merupakan kontak rapat yang turut dijangkiti varian sama."

Tambah beliau, satu kes Omicron juga dikesan ketika kes membuat saringan sebelum balik ke negara tempat dia bekerja.

"Kes tidak mempunyai sejarah keluar ke negara lain dalam tempoh inkubasi."

"Kes dikategorikan sebagai kes jangkitan tempatan dan punca jangkitan belum dikenal pasti," jelas beliau.

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

17 daripada 122 individu dijangkiti Omicron tidak divaksin

## Kabinet setuju tangguh umrah sebulan

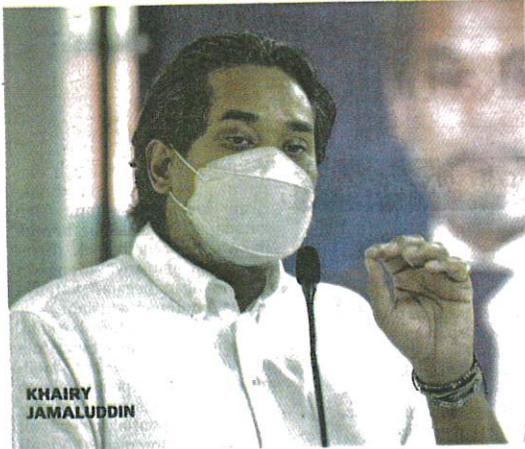
Oleh ASLINDA NASI  
 aslinda.nasir@mediamulia.com.my

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Jemaah Menteri bersetuju menangguhkan perjalanan jemaah umrah selama sebulan mulai 8 Januari ini.

Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin berkata, penangguhan itu dibuat bagi membolehkan kadar risiko penilaian jangkitan Omicron dibuat oleh Kementerian Kesihatan.

"Jemaah menteri semalam (kelmarin) bersetuju menangguhkan sementara untuk tempoh sebulan dan akan membuat penilaian risiko dan akan mula balik umrah kepada mereka yang ingin ke Tanah Suci selepas itu," kata beliau pada sidang media di Parlimen semalam.

Menurut beliau, perbincangan penangguhan itu akan membabitkan kerjasama kerajaan Arab Saudi dan Konsulat Malaysia di negara terbabit se-



belum perjalanan umrah kembali dibenarkan.

"Beri peluang untuk kita perkatakan lagi SOP jemaah dari Malaysia, menerusi

perbincangan dengan Arab Saudi, agensi pelancongan, kerajaan berkaitan dan konsulat di sana.

"Kita akan buka semula (per-

jalan umrah) dengan lebih selamat, tetapi bukan sekarang kerana terlalu banyak kes jangkitan Covid-19 terutama varian Omicron," kata beliau.

Dalam sidang akhbar sama, Khairy berkata, sebanyak 14 peratus daripada 122 individu yang dijangkiti varian Omicron didapati tidak divaksin.

Menurut beliau, perkara itu akan disiasat bagaimana kebenaran boleh dilepaskan kepada mereka untuk mengerjakan umrah dalam keadaan mereka tidak divaksin.

"Perkara ini akan kita bincang dengan pihak berkepentingan termasuk agensi pelancongan berhubung kepatuhan dan syarat yang telah ditetapkan," kata beliau.

Dalam masa yang sama, Khairy turut berkata semakan akan dibuat sama ada 14 peratus yang tidak divaksin itu mempunyai masalah kesihatan ataupun mempunyai alasan lain.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 2

RUANGAN : NEWS / STORY OF THE DAY

## PREVENTIVE MEASURES

## Vaccination disorganisation

Why are appointment dates still so last minute?

**W**HEN Malaysia started the Covid-19 vaccination programme last February, it was going into a process that no country had experienced in living memory: the mass vaccination of at least 70 per cent of its population in the fastest time possible. At the time, it was hoped that as more people got vaccinated, infection figures would drop as herd immunity grew. But when it was learnt that natural immunity was not guaranteed — and that herd immunity may remain as an abstract concept — vaccination became even more urgent and the target percentage was raised to include everyone residing in Malaysia, with some medical exceptions. Now, 11 long months on, the country has vaccinated 97.7 per cent of its adult population and 78.5 per cent of its total population. Vaccination for 11-year-olds and under is expected to begin sometime in the second half of this year.

But as immunity from the primary vaccination wanes — and many are facing this as we opted for the Sinovac vaccine for a large portion of the population in the beginning — it has become necessary for booster shots to be given. The government is even mulling a fourth shot for Sinovac-Sinovac-Pfizer recipients. In the last few weeks, walk-ins at vaccination centres have led to large crowds and queues from morning till closing time of people tripping over themselves to get boosted. Waning immunity aside, the crowds are also pushed by the government's warning that senior citizens and people who received Sinovac as their primary vaccination must get boosted by the end of February or risk losing their fully vaccinated status. In addition, the interval period for boosters has been shortened to three months regardless of vaccine type for the primary vaccination. Hence, the stampede, such that the government has had to disallow walk-ins and has instead told everyone to just wait for their appointment date via their MySejahtera account.

So we come full circle. Except, nearly a year into the vaccination process, one would think things was in the beginning, but it should be so much better. Why are appointments still so last minute, with only a few days' notice? A year ago, people had to register or be persuaded to register to get vaccinated. Now, everyone is already registered and their vaccination status and date of their last primary shot should be in the system. So why can't appointments be given weeks in advance? With the domestic economy fully re-opened, most people have gone back to work, schools are set to reopen next week and everyone has schedules to juggle. A last-minute appointment notification leaves the common man with very little time to apply for leave, arrange for a replacement worker or find a babysitter. For instance, several of this newspaper's editors got their booster shot appointment dates at the last minute, many for the same day, which then required this month's work roster to be completely redone. Why do notifications come at the last minute? Why must the entire population waste their time checking the MySejahtera app every morning and evening for fear that they may miss the notification for their appointment? While getting vaccinated against Covid-19 is a life and death situation and should take priority, the government would earn a lot more goodwill if it showed more consideration for the people's time.

## 'GOVT TRYING TO PREVENT HEALTH SYSTEM COLLAPSE'

Cases may hit 30,000 a day if Rt rises, further straining recovering health system, says Khairy

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**T**HE Health Ministry is taking measures to slow the spread of the Covid-19 Omicron variant and prevent the recovering health system from collapsing.

Minister Khairy Jamaluddin said government health facilities had only begun clearing the backlog of 57,355 cases of patients needing surgery and treatment since Sept 30, who had their procedures postponed because healthcare workers had to focus on Covid-19 cases.

He said without measures such as temporarily suspending umrah trips or mandatory quarantine, the country might see a spike in infections this month and next month of up to 15,000 cases a day.

"Based on the ministry's forecast, if our infectivity rate (Rt) rises to 1.2, cases may hit 10,000 a day. If the Rt goes up to 1.6, cases will shoot up to 30,000 daily."

"Yes, we have found that Omicron is less severe than Delta, but once cases go up to 30,000 a day, even if they are Category One or Two, hospitalisations will increase when our health system is just about to recover," Khairy said at a press conference in Parliament yesterday.

He said when Covid-19 cases peaked in the past, normal wards had to be converted into Covid-19 wards and operation theatres had to be closed as surgeons had to attend to Covid-19 patients.

He said if the Omicron variant, which was six times more transmissible than Delta, spread rapidly in the country, not only would hospitals be paralysed, frontliners also risked being infected, which would further strain the health-care system.

He said the government suspended umrah trips as the data showed returnees were the biggest source of Omicron cases.

The Institute for Medical Research, he said, had confirmed 72



People waiting their turn to get a Covid-19 vaccine booster dose at a vaccination centre in Lebuh Acheh, George Town, yesterday. PIC BY MIKAIL ONG

more cases of the Omicron variant, with 59 involving returnees from Saudi Arabia.

He said the cumulative Omicron cases were now 245.

"Of this, 233 are imported cases and 12 are local infections. Of the total Omicron cases, 157, or 64.08 per cent, involve pilgrims."

He said suspending umrah trips would allow the government to review and tighten standard operating procedures for the trips, including making vaccine booster doses a condition, mandatory quarantine at designated facilities and the reporting of positive cases and close contacts to the Health Ministry in Malaysia.

Citing an example, Khairy said 55 of the 91 pilgrims travelling under the same package had tested positive for Covid-19 during pre-departure tests in Saudi Arabia.

He said 36 people were identified as close contacts, but were allowed to board the plane and return to Malaysia.

"Upon arrival, 24 of them tested positive and four were presumptive Omicron cases. This is another reason why we have to postpone umrah travel to tighten SOP."

Meanwhile, the Drug Control Authority, which convened its 368th meeting yesterday, has given conditional approval for the use of Pfizer's Covid-19 vaccine on children aged 5 to 11.

Khairy said the ministry formed the Covid-19 Immunisation Task Force-Children (CITF-C) to coordinate vaccination for children.

He said the CITF-C would be chaired by his deputy, Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali, and it would be under the ministry's Family Health Development Division.

"Similar to the Covid-19 vaccination drive involving adolescents, we may carry out the programme in schools."

"We will make an announcement on when we will begin inoculating children aged 5 to 11 with Covid-19 vaccines."

He said four mega vaccination centres (PPV) would be opened in the Klang Valley from Jan 15 to boost the booster vaccination rate.

The PPVs will at the World Trade Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Axiata Arena in Bukit Jalil, Ideal Convention Centre in Shah Alam and Soka Gakkai in Klang.

Khairy said Malaysia would not implement total lockdowns to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

He said the country would stick to targeted measures that were calibrated and proportionate to curb the spread of Omicron.

"Do not mention the 'L' (lockdown) word... We do not mention the 'L' word any more."

As Malaysia gradually reopened its borders, Khairy said the government wanted to move forward instead of taking a step back.

"We must respond to the situation with the most effective measures that are not extreme. The response must be calibrated and proportionate."

"If we close down the borders, it is not a proportionate move."

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

## FIQH LAW

# MUFTI: SUSPENDING UMRAH RIGHT MOVE

Under the circumstances, priority should be given to aiding flood victims, he says

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**T**HE Health Ministry's decision to temporarily suspend permission for umrah travel is justified, especially to protect pilgrims from the Covid-19 Omicron variant.

Penang Mufti Datuk Seri Dr Wan Salim Wan Mohd Noor said Muslims should get clarification on the suspension from the perspective of fiqh law.

"Explanation from a fiqh law perspective is necessary so that there is no misunderstanding that the government is preventing Muslims from fulfilling obligations demanded by their religion. "No one wants to stop anyone from going to the Holy Land to perform the umrah," he said yesterday.

Wan Salim said the government should explain to Muslims that the suspension was temporary and travel to perform the umrah would be allowed once the threat of the Omicron variant was over.

Last month, the government announced the indefinite suspen-



Pilgrims ready to depart for the umrah at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport yesterday.  
BERNAMA PIC

sion of all umrah travel from Jan 8 following a rise in Covid-19 infections among pilgrims returning from Saudi Arabia.

The decision raised the ire of many parties, including pilgrims who had booked trips and travel operators that manage trips.

Wan Salim said under the current situation where people were experiencing difficulties due to

the recent flood disaster, priority should be given to efforts to restore their situation.

Scholars agree on the advantages of umrah, although they differ in their views on the law between *wajib* (compulsory) and *mustahabbah* (recommended).

"From another point of view, Muslims are also encouraged and are even obliged to help their

brethren who are in need.

"There is no conflict between these two obligations because they are both important and each has its advantages."

He said if the flood disaster was viewed in terms of priority or *aulawiyat*, efforts to help victims should be given priority over performing the umrah, especially for those who had performed it

before, as it was only obligatory once in a lifetime.

"It should be understood that practices or virtues that benefit the community as a whole please Allah more than ones that only benefit the person doing them.

"I call on Muslims, especially the rich, to grab the lucrative reward promised by Allah to those who help the needy."



Khairy Jamaluddin receiving a dose of the Sinovac Covid-19 vaccine at Rembau Hospital in Rembau on March 18 last year.  
FILE PIC

## VIRAL SCREENSHOTS

## Khairy sets record straight on jab status

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin yesterday took to social media to shut down critics who disputed his Covid-19 vaccination status.

The Rembau member of parliament said he completed two doses of the Sinovac vaccine on April 8 last year.

He said he received a Pfizer booster dose in September.

"Screenshots of my vaccination status from the vaksincovid.gov.my website have gone viral.

"The details (in the screenshots) are not accurate as the website is no longer active and has not been updated since October.

"For the record, I received the first dose of the Sinovac vaccine on March 18, the second dose on April 8 and the Pfizer booster dose in September," he said on his official Twitter account.

Attached to the post were photographs of Khairy receiving his primary and booster doses.

The screenshots that went viral contained Khairy's full name, his MyKad number and phone number, which were redacted.

The images showed that the appointment for his first dose was still being processed.

It is unknown when the screenshots were taken.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : NATION

# '30,000 a day if we do nothing'

**Khairy:** Govt must act to ensure projected number of cases will not happen

**"A domestic and international risk assessment, especially on Saudi Arabia, will be carried out from time to time before umrah trips are allowed to resume."**

Khairy Jamaluddin

By FATIMAH ZAINAL  
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**PETALING JAYA:** Covid-19 cases in the country could have shot up to 30,000 per day by the end of March had the government not taken steps to slow down the spread of the Omicron variant, including suspending the umrah trip, says Khairy Jamaluddin.

The Health Minister said a susceptible-exposed-infected-recovered (SEIR) epidemiological prediction model projects that Malaysia could record 30,000 Covid-19 cases daily by the end of March should the infectivity rate (R-nought) rise to 1.6.

"The simulation showed that if we do not take steps to slow down the spread, we will see cases shoot up, starting in January to more than 15,000 cases a day.

"If we look at the forecast cases, where the R0 rises to 1.2, cases will go up to 10,000. If our R0 goes up to

1.6, which is about half of the UK's 3.0 at its highest peak, cases would go up to more than 30,000 a day," he said in a press conference yesterday.

Khairy said the suspension of all umrah trips beginning tomorrow was only for a month as umrah standard operating procedure (SOP) would be revised, which would include making it mandatory for pilgrims to get a booster dose.

"A domestic and international risk assessment, especially on Saudi Arabia, will be carried out from time to time before umrah trips are allowed to resume," he said.

Khairy also revealed that 17 of the 122 individuals infected with the Omicron variant as of Tuesday were found to have no vaccination record and were all individuals travelling from overseas.

"So the SOP has been flouted, as only those who are vaccinated are supposed to be allowed to travel.

"We will talk to the relevant ministries to ensure agencies adhere to the SOP. We are also checking as to why they were unvaccinated, whether it was due to health reasons or because they simply refused," he said.

As of yesterday, Malaysia registered 123 new Covid-19 Omicron cases, bringing the cumulative number of Omicron cases in the country to 245, with imported cases from Saudi Arabia making up 157 or 64.08% of the total Omicron cases so far.

Khairy also said that in a bid to increase the take-up rate for the booster shots, four large-scale Covid-19 vaccination centres (PPV) in the Klang Valley would begin operations on Jan 15 offering the third dose.

The PPV set to make a comeback are the World Trade Centre Kuala Lumpur, Axiata Arena Bukit Jalil, Ideal Convention Centre Shah Alam

and the Soka Gakkai Klang.

On another matter, Khairy said the Drug Control Authority had also granted conditional registration approval for the Pfizer vaccine for children aged between five and 11.

"The Comirnaty 10mcg concentrate for dispersion for injection approved for this age group has a lower potency than the vaccine given to individuals 12 years of age and older.

"The immunisation starting date has, however, yet to be confirmed pending discussions with the vaccine manufacturer on the delivery schedule," he said, adding that the authority had also given conditional approval for the use of the CanSino vaccine as a booster dose to individuals aged 18 years and above.

**AKHBAR : THE STAR**  
**MUKA SURAT : 6**  
**RUANGAN : NATION**

# 'Vaccine study needed on IHU strain'

**Expert: Severity of risks can only be determined after more data is secured**

By JUNAID IBRAHIM  
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**PETALING JAYA:** Even as more study is needed on the new Covid-19 variant, IHU, epidemiologists say the prevention and control measures will be almost the same with concern largely on the effectiveness of current vaccines against it.

The emergence of IHU – which was recently reported in France – is not unexpected by the medical fraternity, which is constantly in discussion regarding potential mutations of the virus, they added.

It's a common behaviour of such

viruses to evolve and change or mutate from time to time, resulting in variants.

Universiti Putra Malaysia epidemiologist Assoc Prof Dr Malina Osman, noting that the emergence of IHU is not surprising, said the experts did observe a continuous trend of the emergence of new strains since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"The prevention and control will be almost similar to managing the previous variants, even though the long wait concern may be on the effectiveness of current vaccines," she said.

The IHU is named after the French institution that reported the variant – IHU Méditerranée Infection. It reportedly has 46 mutations on its spike protein, which is more than Omicron's 37.

Dr Malina said the severity of the risks posed by the new variant can only be determined after more data is secured, as is the usual practice.

"Like previous experiences with Gamma, Delta and Omicron, we need to wait for further data to conclude its potential impact," she said.

She suggested that unnecessary international travel be avoided to

curb the spread of any new variants, once deeper understanding of IHU has been obtained.

Prof Dr Moy Foong Ming of Universiti Malaya's Department of Social and Preventive Medicine said that even though the variant has only been detected in France, the authorities should always remain vigilant.

"It (IHU) has not been found in countries outside of France or labelled as a variant of concern by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

"However, the relevant stakeholders should monitor its trans-

mission globally," she said.

Prof Moy also said the public should not be unduly worried about the mutations as long as the chain of transmission can be broken through public health preventive measures and vaccinations.

She reminded the public to always adopt a healthy lifestyle to boost their immune system.

Covid-19 incident manager of WHO, Abdi Mahmud, told reporters in Geneva on Tuesday that the IHU variant had been on the agency's radar since last November but it did not appear to have spread widely over the past two months.

## Without walk-ins, it's back to a long wait

By LO TERN CHERN  
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**BUTTERWORTH:** Without the chance to walk in for booster jabs, the vaccination rate in Penang has slowed somewhat.

A doctor working in the Tapak Ekspo Seberang Jaya vaccination centre (PPV) – one of the largest in the state – said on average, between 350 and 400 people were walking in daily to get their booster jabs.

But since walk-ins were disallowed, the team here has to call people on the waiting list daily to get them to come.

Asking not to be named, the doctor yesterday shared his observation after walk-ins were no longer allowed when a number of other PPV in the country became crowded as people rushed to get booster jabs without appointments.

Being an expo site, he said this PPV was large enough to prevent crowding.

"When the Covid-19 Omicron variant was detected, we received a higher traffic of recipients walking in, including those who had earlier rejected appointments.

"There is a demand for walk-ins, but unfortunately, they now have to be put on the waiting list after walk-ins are no longer allowed."

"I believe walk-ins should be open again for this PPV as it caters to those who are eager (to get vaccinated). As medical officers, we all wish that everyone gets their booster jabs," he said, adding that the centre is stocked with Pfizer, Sinovac and AstraZeneca vaccines.

"There is no limit on these



options. They are all available.

"If there are any doubts, we have certified medical personnel to counsel and give advice," he said.

He observed that earlier, most of the walk-ins were from among the elderly and believed that they lacked the knowledge on how to use MySejahtera on smartphones.

"The centre can dispense a maximum of 1,600 doses daily but we now need to call up names on the waiting list to finish up vaccine doses allotted for the day," he added.

State health committee chairman Dr Norlida Ariffin confirmed that the Health Department no longer allows walk-ins.

As for calling people on waiting lists, she said problems abound.

"The phone numbers may no

longer be in service or the people have died. Some cannot make it because they have no transport or their children are at work. Some of their children refuse to bring them because of fears of the third dose," she added.

Among those who received the booster dose yesterday were married couple Goh Yuet Kit, 56, and husband Png Yew Khoon, 60, from Prai.

"My husband received his second dose in July and I got mine in August, but we are lucky to receive appointments for booster doses on the same day today."

"Yes, we are worried about Omicron and are glad to receive our booster jabs."

"Hopefully Covid-19 will be over as we missed going overseas for

vacations in the last two years," she said.

They were pleased to see their vaccination status updated immediately on their MySejahtera apps.

Beauty salon owner R. Gunasundari, 59, from Seberang Jaya, also received her booster dose, which she had been waiting for since November.

"I'm the first in the family to receive the booster dose. There are seven of us."

"My husband hasn't gotten his appointment yet and we are looking forward to it," she said.

On Jan 4, it was reported that walk-ins at PPV for booster doses were no longer allowed following reports of long queues and crowding at various sites in the Klang Valley.

## 'Only 1.5% of over 3,500 cases require treatment'

**PETALING JAYA:** Only 53 of the over 3,500 latest Covid-19 patients require medical treatment, says the Health director-general.

Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said there were 3,543 new cases reported as of noon yesterday, adding that 98.5% (3,490 cases) were under Categories 1 and 2.

Those under Categories 1 and 2 are asymptomatic or have mild symptoms while patients under Categories 3, 4, and 5 are deemed severe or critically ill.

Of the new cases, he said 364 were imported cases, involving 322 locals and 42 foreigners while 3,179 cases were detected locally, involving 3,047 locals and 132 foreigners.

He said that seven new clusters were detected, with 190 clusters still active.

Overall, Dr Noor Hisham said that 2,776,699 cases were detected since the pandemic outbreak with 2,705,292 recoveries.

On the flood situation, Dr Noor Hisham said 98 temporary flood relocation centres were still operating in Pahang, Negri Sembilan, Melaka, Johor and Sabah, housing 5,886 flood victims.

He said no new Covid-19 cases or clusters were detected.

The DG said so far, 465 flood victims had tested positive for Covid-19, adding that 33 flood victims were also found to have communicable diseases.