

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 7

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Penularan COVID-19

Tempoh dos penggalak vaksin Sinovac tak dilanjut

Status vaksinasi bertukar kepada tidak lengkap jika masih enggan ambil suntikan sebelum 31 Mac

Oleh Rubanita Idris dan Mohd Navaruddin Parai
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Kuala Lumpur: Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) tidak akan melanjutkan lagi tempoh pemberian dos penggalak yang ditetapkan sehingga 31 Mac ini kepada penerima vaksin Sinovac.

Menteri, Khairy Jamaluddin, berkata jika mereka masih enggan mendapatkan vaksin itu selepas tarikh berkenaan, status vaksinasi mereka bertukar kepada tidak lengkap.

"Tempoh yang kita beri bukan berkaitan Pilihan Raya Negeri (PRN), tapi bagi masa kepada mereka untuk melengkapkan dalam tempoh lanjutan (yang diberi). Ini yang terakhir dan mutakhir."

"Jika (pada tarikh) akhir ini mereka tidak dapat dos penggalak, maka status mereka adalah tidak lengkap," katanya menja-



Khairy pada sesi soal jawab lisan di Dewan Rakyat, semalam.

(Foto BERNAMA)

wab soalan tambahan Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad (PH-Kuala Selangor) pada sesi soal jawab lisan di Dewan Rakyat semalam.

KKM sebelum ini menetapkan tempoh akhirnya adalah sehingga 28 Februari lalu, namun dilanjutkan sehingga 31 Mac ini. Khairy berkata, inisiatif KKM memberi pilihan kepada orang ramai memperoleh vaksin pilihan mereka di Pusat Pemberian Vaksin (PPV) meningkatkan keyakinan untuk mendapatkan dos penggalak.

"Kita buat keputusan untuk memastikan pertama, kita sudah memperluas pemberian booster kepada semua melalui walk-in di PPV."

"Kedua, memberi pilihan boost-

ter kepada mereka yang belum mendapatkan dosnya, sebab ada keengganan dalam kalangan penerima vaksin untuk menerima dos campuran daripada dos primer mereka.

"Di beberapa PPV, kita bagi pilihan dan ini membantu menaikkan liputan vaksinasi yang sebelum ini mereka tidak mahu," katanya.

Menjawab soalan asal Oscar Ling Chai Yew (PH-Sibu), Khairy berkata, KKM sudah mengaktifkan semula National COVID-19 Rapid Response Task Force (RR-TF 2.0) bermula 7 Februari lalu dalam menghadapi cabaran gelombang Omicron.

"Ini bagi memastikan akses ke Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan

COVID-19 Berisiko Rendah (PKRC) dan hospital terjamin serta melakukan pemantauan kes positif COVID-19 melalui Pusat Penilaian COVID-19 secara maya (VCAC).

"(Selain pemberian dos penggalak, KKM juga) membangunkan COVID-19 Clinical Care Pathway bagi tujuan memulakan ubat antiviral terkini yang akan diberikan kepada pesakit COVID-19 berisiko tinggi pada peringkat lebih awal semasa mereka bergejala ringan bagi mencegah jangkitan menjadi lebih teruk," katanya.

Dalam pada itu katanya, berbanding varian Delta, Omicron lebih suka menjangkiti dan membiak pada bahagian atas saluran pernafasan dan sifat ini memberikan nilai tambah kepada keupayaannya untuk menjangkiti secara mudah serta pantas.

"Varian Omicron juga didapati kurang berkapsiti untuk menjangkiti tisu paru-paru. Ini mungkin menjelaskan mengapa individu dijangkiti varian berkenaan mempunyai jangkitan yang lebih ringan berbanding dengan varian Delta," katanya.

Katanya, biarpun ada trend peningkatan kemasukan ke hospital ketika gelombang Omicron, kadar discaj dari hospital juga naik mendadak memandangkan kadar sembuh yang tinggi dan tempoh rawatan di hospital yang tidak berpanjangan.

93 peratus laporan AEFI tidak serius

Putrajaya: Sejumlah 93 peratus daripada 25,445 laporan kesan adversus imunisasi (AEFI) diterima Bahagian Regulatori Farmasi Negara (NPR) Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) sehingga 25 Februari lalu disahkan tidak serius.

Pengarah NPR, Dr Roshayati Mohamad Sani berkata, jumlah itu membabitkan 23,682 laporan itu biasanya akan pulih dalam tempoh sehari dua, dengan antara contoh AEFI tidak serius termasuk demam, sakit pada tempat suntikan, sakit kepala, sakit otot dan keletihan.

Sementara baki 1,763 laporan lagi, katanya dikategorikan sebagai AEFI serius dengan kadar 26 laporan bagi setiap sejuta dos.

"Kesan AEFI serius adalah yang memerlukan kemasukan ke hospital, pembedahan tempoh di wad, mengancam nyawa, atau disyaki menyebabkan kematian," katanya pada Sesi Taklimat Bersama Media berhubung Laporan AEFI Vaksin COVID-19 Siri 2/2022, secara dalam talian, semalam.

Beliau berkata, angka keseluruhan laporan AEFI diterima pihaknya itu termasuklah 1,275 laporan membabitkan dos penggalak dan 94 laporan dalam kalangan penerima vaksin kanak-kanak berusia lima hingga 11 tahun.

Pertimbang vaksinasi 'walk-in'

Kuala Lumpur: Sarawak mencatatkan peratusan vaksinasi kanak-kanak tertinggi dengan 57 peratus mereka yang berusia lima hingga 11 tahun sudah melengkapkan dos pertamanya setakat ini.

Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin, berkata Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) juga sedia mempertimbangkan pemberian vaksin secara walk-in di Pusat Pemberian Vaksin (PPV) di Sarawak khususnya sepanjang tempoh cuti persekolahan ini.

"Sarawak sudah mencapai kadar agak tinggi di Malaysia, yang mana 57 peratus kanak-kanak sudah menerima dos pertama. Namun demikian, sudah pasti kita akan memudahkan lagi proses vaksinasi di Sarawak dan program Program Imunisasi COVID-19 Kanak-kanak (PICKids) di bawah tanggungjawab Bagan Serai (Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali).

"Saya akan maklumkan kepada Bagan Serai untuk kita buka PPV secara walk-in terutama di kawasan yang mana tidak ada lagi janji temu atau semua yang sudah minta janji, sudah diselesaikan," katanya.

8 negeri guna lebih 50 peratus katil di ICU

Putrajaya: Lapan negeri mencatatkan penggunaan katil di unit rawatan rapi (ICU) melebihi 50 peratus bagi pesakit COVID-19, sehingga kelmarin.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata penggunaan katil ICU paling tinggi dilaporkan di Putrajaya iaitu mencecah 67 peratus, diikuti Kuala Lumpur dengan 65 peratus.

Beliau berkata, negeri lain yang mencatatkan penggunaan melebihi 50 peratus ialah Johor dan Melaka, masing-masing 63 peratus, Kelantan (58 peratus), masing-masing 55 peratus di Perlis dan Selangor serta Sabah (65 peratus).

Bagi katil bukan ICU, katanya, 12 negeri mencatatkan penggunaan 50 peratus, iaitu Kelantan dan Kuala Lumpur, masing-masing 94 peratus, Perak (90 peratus), Putrajaya (86 peratus), Selangor (81 peratus), Perlis (78 peratus) dan Pahang (73 peratus).

Selain itu, Johor (66 peratus), Terengganu (62 peratus), Pulau Pinang (60 peratus), Sabah (54 peratus) dan Sarawak (52 peratus), manakala hanya satu negeri mencatatkan penggunaan 50 peratus bagi penggunaan katil di Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan COVID-19 (PKRC) iaitu di Melaka dengan 60 peratus.

"Bilangan pesakit COVID-19 yang memerlukan alat bantuan pernafasan juga meningkat ke-

pada 213 pesakit dan peratusan penggunaannya 36 peratus, daripada keseluruhan untuk pesakit COVID-19 dan bukan COVID-19," katanya.

Sementara itu, sebanyak 25,854 kes baharu COVID-19 dilaporkan kelmarin menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan individu dijangkiti virus berkenaan kini meningkat kepada 3,468,590 kes.

Beliau berkata, 99.41 peratus atau 25,702 kes membabitkan pe-

Bilangan pesakit COVID-19 yang memerlukan alat bantuan pernafasan juga meningkat kepada 213 pesakit dan peratusan penggunaannya 36 peratus, daripada keseluruhan untuk pesakit COVID-19 dan bukan COVID-19

Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah,
Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan



AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 16

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Sidang Dewan Rakyat



Petugas barisan hadapan kesihatan diberi elaun khas sebagai menghargai sumbangan mereka dalam usaha mengekang penularan COVID-19. (Foto hiasan)

KKM semak perluas elaun khas petugas barisan hadapan

Kumpulan terbabit pengurusan wabak COVID-19 turut layak: Khairy

Kuala Lumpur: Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) akan menyemak dan mengemas kini dari semasa ke semasa dalam memperluaskan pemberian elaun khas kepada petugas barisan hadapan kesihatan yang mengurus pandemik COVID-19.

Menterinya, Khairy Jamaluddin, berkata selain doktor, jururawat dan pemandu ambulans yang ketika ini termasuk dalam kalangan petugas yang layak menerima elaun khas berkenaan, terdapat kumpulan lain yang terbabit dalam pengurusan wabak itu.

“Kumpulan yang layak menerima elaun khas ini akan kita semak, akan kemas kini dari semasa ke semasa, contohnya ahli fisioterapi yang terlibat dalam rawatan pesakit ‘long COVID’ yang kita fikir menepati kriteria untuk mendapat elaun khas,” katanya pada sesi soal jawab di Dewan Rakyat semalam.

Beliau menjawab soalan Datuk Dr Hasan Bahrom (PH-Tampin) yang mahu Khairy menyatakan pembayaran bonus kepada pekerja barisan hadapan dalam kalangan kakitangan kesihatan.

Khairy berkata sehingga 31 Disember tahun lalu sebanyak RM1.1 bilion elaun khas dibayar kepada petugas barisan hadapan kesihatan.

Pada Mac 2020, kerajaan mengumumkan peningkatan elaun khas daripada RM400 kepada RM600 bagi petugas kesihatan seperti doktor, jururawat dan kakitangan perubatan lain yang ter-

babit secara langsung dalam pengurusan serta usaha mengekang penularan COVID-19 di negara ini.

Berkenaan aduan petugas barisan hadapan yang tidak menerima elaun khas kerana tidak mengambil vaksin, Khairy berkata antara syarat untuk layak menerimanya adalah petugas mesti mendapatkan vaksin COVID-19 di samping syarat-syarat lain termasuk jumlah hari bekerja.

“Tetapi jika petugas tidak boleh menerima vaksin akibat isu kesihatan, mereka tetap layak dibayar elaun khas,” katanya.

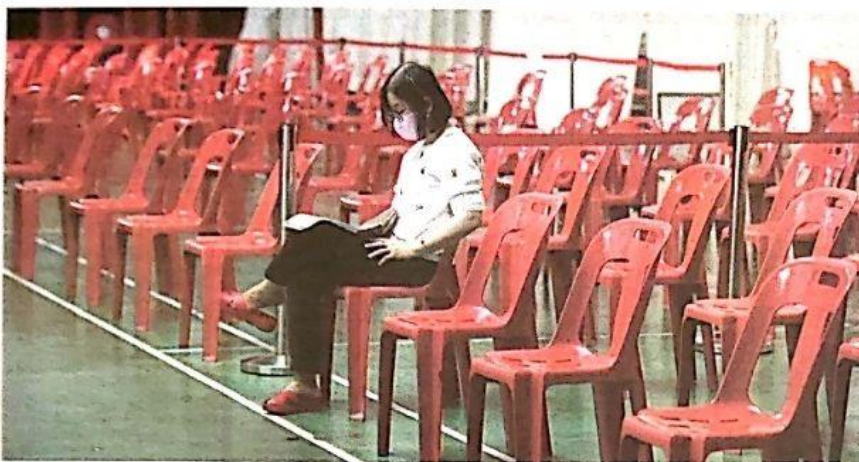
Menjawab soalan mengenai jumlah doktor kontrak yang akan diserap ke jawatan tetap tahun ini, Khairy berkata kekosongan jawatan pegawai perubatan ialah 3,586.

Katanya, iklan jawatan kosong diiklankan di laman sesawang Suruhanjaya Perkhidmatan Awam (SPS) sejak kelmarin.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : COVID-19



SUASANA lengang tanpa kehadiran orang ramai di Pusat Pemberian Vaksin (PPV) Offsite Dewan Ang Si Chong, Butterworth, Pulau Pinang, kelmarin. - Gambar NSTP/DANIAL SAAD

PENGUNAAN KATIL KES KRITIKAL & ICU

8 negeri melebihi 50%

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Kuala Lumpur

Lapan negeri mencatatkan penggunaan katil kes kritikal atau unit rawatan rapi (ICU) untuk pesakit Covid-19 melebihi 50 peratus pada kelmarin.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, lapan negeri berkenaan adalah Putrajaya (67 peratus), Kuala Lumpur (65 peratus), Johor (63 peratus), Melaka (63 peratus), Kelantan (58 peratus), Perlis (55 peratus) Selangor (55 peratus) dan Sabah 53 peratus.

Menurutnya, peratusan pengisian melebihi 50 per-



Pesakit Covid-19 memerlukan alat bantuan pernafasan meningkat kepada 213 dan peratusan penggunaan ventilator 36 peratus daripada keseluruhan ventilator untuk pesakit Covid-19 dan bukan Covid-19"

Dr Noor Hisham

atus bagi katil bukan ICU pula membabitkan 12 negeri iaitu Kelantan (94 peratus), Kuala Lumpur (95 peratus), Perak (90 peratus), Putrajaya (86 peratus), Selangor (81 peratus), Perlis (78 peratus),

Pahang (73 peratus), Johor (66 peratus), Terengganu (62 peratus), Pulau Pinang (60 peratus), Sabah (54 peratus) dan Sarawak 52 peratus.

"Hanya Melaka menggunakan katil Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan Covid-19 Berisiko Rendah (PKRC) melebihi 50 peratus apabila penggunaannya mencapai 60 peratus.

"Pesakit Covid-19 memerlukan alat bantuan pernafasan meningkat kepada 213 dan peratusan penggunaan ventilator 36 peratus daripada keseluruhan ventilator untuk pesakit Covid-19 dan bukan Covid-19," katanya.

Menurutnya, KKM ingin menjelaskan ada perbezaan antara data harian kemasukan kes Covid-19 ke hospital berbanding kes Covid-19 ka-

tegori satu hingga lima yang baharu didiagnosa pada setiap hari.

Katanya, ia memandangkan keadaan klinikal pesakit yang dinamik dan mungkin merosot atau bertambah baik sepanjang dijangkiti Covid-19.

"Misalnya, mungkin pesakit tersebut berada pada kategori 2A dan diisolasi di rumah melalui Home Surveillance Order (HSO) digital apabila didiagnosa namun status kesihatan pesakit boleh merosot ke kategori tiga atau lebih serta memerlukan kemasukan ke hospital.

"Pada masa sama, ada kes Covid-19 berisiko tinggi dari kategori satu dan dua yang memerlukan kemasukan ke PKRC dan hospital sebagai langkah berjaga-jaga," katanya.

904,368 kanak-kanak terima dos pertama

Kuala Lumpur: Seramai 904,368 atau 25.5 peratus populasi kanak-kanak berusia lima hingga 11 tahun di Malaysia menerima dos pertama vaksin Covid-19 melalui Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan Kanak-Kanak (PICKids) setakat kelmarin.

Berdasarkan data menerusi laman web Covidnow, 14,736,569 individu atau 62.6 peratus populasi dewasa di negara ini menerima dos penggalak Covid-19 dan 22,950,422 atau 97.5 peratus melengkapkan vaksinasi mereka manakala 23,230,349 atau 98.7 peratus menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos vaksin.

Bagi remaja berusia 12 hingga 17, seramai 2,801,714 individu atau 90

25.5%

Peratusan populasi kanak-kanak sudah terima dos pertama

peratus daripada populasi itu melengkapkan vaksinasi mereka manakala 2,897,292 atau 93.1 peratus menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos vaksin.

Vaksinasi harian kelmarin menyaksikan 101,038 dos vaksin diberikan meliputi 26,476 dos pertama, 1,300 dos kedua dan 73,262 dos penggalak, menjadikan jumlah kumulatif dos vaksin yang diberikan di bawah Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan (PICK) sebanyak 67,313,182.

25,854 kes baharu Covid-19 kelmarin

Kuala Lumpur: Jumlah kes Covid-19 meningkat sedikit kepada 25,854 kelmarin berbanding 23,100 kes pada Isnin lalu.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, ia menjadikan jumlah kumulatif setakat ini 3,468,590 kes.

Menurutnya, 25,548 kes dilaporkan sembuh menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes sembuh 3,142,112 kes.

"Kes import dilaporkan 448 kes iaitu membabitkan 378 warganegara dan 70 lagi bukan warganegara.

"Kes tempatan 25,406 kes iaitu 24,543 warganegara dan 863 adalah bukan warganegara," katanya.

Beliau berkata, 374 kes memerlukan rawatan di

25,548

Jumlah kes dilaporkan sembuh dan Covid-19

unit rawatan rapi (ICU) dengan 134 disahkan Covid-19, 240 kes disyaki kemungkinan dan kes dalam siasatan.

"Sebanyak 25,702 kes (99.41 peratus) terdiri daripada kategori satu dan dua manakala 152 kes (0.59 peratus) lagi kategori tiga, empat dan lima," katanya.

Beliau turut mengemukakan terdapat tujuh kluster baharu menjadi keseluruhan kluster adalah 6,789 dengan jumlah kluster aktif sebanyak 475 kluster.

Kuala Lumpur: Tempoh pemberian dos penggalak kepada individu yang menerima vaksin jenis Sinovac yang ditetapkan sehingga 31 Mac ini tidak dilanjutkan.

Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin berkata, jika mereka masih enggan mendapatkan suntikan sehingga tarikh berkenaan, status vaksinasi individu tersebut adalah tidak lengkap.

"Tempoh kita beri bukan berkaitan Pilihan Raya Negeri (PRN), tapi bagi masa kepada mereka melengkapkan dalam tempoh lanjutan (yang diberi). Ini yang terakhir dan muktamad.

"Jika (pada tarikh) akhir

DOS PENGALAK UNTUK PENERIMA VAKSIN SINOVAC

Tempoh hingga 31 Mac tidak dilanjutkan

ini mereka tidak dapat dos penggalak, maka status mereka tidak lengkap," katanya menjawab soalan tambahan **Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad (PH-Kuala Selangor)** pada sesi soal jawab lisan di Dewan Rakyat, semalam.

Sebelum ini, Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) menetapkan tempoh akhir adalah sehingga 28 Februari lalu, namun dilanjutkan sehingga 31 Mac ini.

Beliau berkata, inisiatif KKM memberi pilihan ke-

pada orang ramai memperoleh vaksin pilihan mereka di Pusat Pemberian Vaksin (PPV) bagi meningkatkan keyakinan mereka mendapatkan dos penggalak.

"Kita buat keputusan memastikan pertama, kita sudah memperluas pemberian booster kepada semua melalui walk-in di PPV. Kedua, memberi pilihan

han booster kepada mereka yang belum mendapatkan dosnya, sebab ada keengganan di kalangan penerima vaksin un-



"Tempoh kita beri bukan berkaitan Pilihan Raya Negeri (PRN)"
Khairy

tuk menerima dos campuran dari dos primer mereka.

"Di beberapa PPV, kita bagi pilihan dan ini bantu menaikkan liputan vaksinasi yang sebelum ini mereka tidak mahu," katanya.

Menjawab soalan asal **Oscar Ling Chai Yew (PH-Sibu)**, Khairy berkata, KKM mengaktifkan semula National Covid-19 Rapid Response Task Force (RRTF 2.0) bermula 7 Februari lalu dalam menghadapi cabaran

gelombang Omicron.

"Ini bagi memastikan akses ke Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan Covid-19 Berisiko Rendah (PKRC) dan hospital terjamin serta memantau kes positif Covid-19 melalui Pusat Penilaian Covid-19 secara maya (VCAC).

"(Selain pemberian dos penggalak, KKM juga membangunkan Covid-19 Clinical Care Pathway bagi tujuan memulakan ubat antiviral terkini yang akan diberi kepada pesakit Covid-19 berisiko tinggi pada peringkat lebih awal semasa mereka bergejala ringan bagi mencegah jangkitan menjadi lebih teruk," katanya.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 7

RUANGAN : LOKAL

Elaun khas barisan hadapan

KKM semak dan kemas kini dari semasa ke semasa untuk memperluas pemberian elaun khas

Kuala Lumpur

Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) akan menyemak dan mengemas kini dari semasa ke semasa untuk memperluas pemberian elaun khas kepada petugas barisan hadapan kesihatan yang mengurus wabak Covid-19 di negara ini.

Menterinya Khairy Jamaluddin berkata, selain doktor, jururawat dan pemandu ambulans yang ketika ini termasuk dalam kalangan petugas yang layak menerima elaun khas berkenaan, namun masih terdapat kumpulan lain kesihatan turut terabit dalam pengurusan wabak itu.

"Kumpulan yang layak menerima elaun khas ini



akan kita semak, akan kemas kini dari semasa ke semasa, contohnya ahli fisioterapi yang terlibat dalam rawatan pesakit 'long Covid' yang kita

fikir menepati kriteria untuk mendapat elaun khas tersebut," katanya ketika sesi soal jawab di persidangan Dewan Rakyat, di sini, se-

malam.

Beliau menjawab soalan Datuk Dr Hasan Bahrom (PH-Tampin) yang mahu Khairy menyatakan pemba-

nyaran bonus kepada pekerja barisan hadapan dalam kalangan kakitangan kesihatan.

Khairy berkata, sehingga 31 Disember tahun lalu, sebanyak RM1.1 bilion elaun khas sudah dibayar kepada petugas barisan hadapan kesihatan.

Pada Mac 2020, kerajaan mengumumkan peningkatan elaun khas daripada RM400 kepada RM600 bagi petugas kesihatan seperti doktor, jururawat dan kakitangan perubatan lain yang terabit secara langsung dalam pengurusan serta usaha mengekang penularan Covid-19 di negara ini.

Berkenaan aduan petugas barisan hadapan yang tidak menerima elaun khas itu ke-

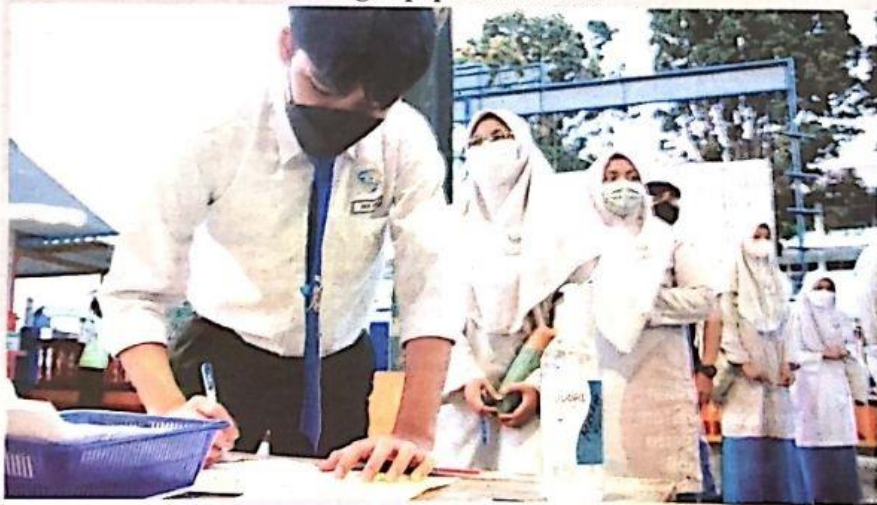
rana tidak mengambil vaksin, Khairy berkata, antara syarat untuk layak menerimanya adalah petugas mesti mendapatkan vaksin Covid-19 di samping syarat-syarat lain termasuk jumlah hari bekerja.

"Tetapi jika petugas tidak boleh menerima vaksin akibat isu kesihatan, mereka tetap layak dibayar elaun khas tersebut," katanya.

Sementara itu, menjawab soalan mengenai jumlah doktor kontrak yang akan diserap ke jawatan tetap tahun ini, Khairy berkata, kekosongan jawatan pegawai perubatan ialah 3,586.

Katanya, iklan jawatan kosong berkenaan sudah diiklankan di laman sesawang Suruhanjaya Perkhidmatan Awam (SPS) sejak kelmarin.

Saringan peperiksaan SPM



CALON peperiksaan Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan (SMK) Sultan Abu Bakar mengisi borang deklarasi saringan COVID-19 sebelum menduduki peperiksaan tersebut, semalam.

Pemakaian pelitup muka, kebersihan diri mesti dijaga

Kuala Lumpur: Usaha Pembukaan Semula yang selamat kekal sebagai prinsip panduan kerajaan untuk memastikan kapasiti penjagaan kesihatan Malaysia kekal terurus meskipun jumlah suntikan harian vaksin Covid-19 negara tinggi.

Menteri Kanan Pertahanan Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein menerusi akaun Twitter rasminya berkata, Kuarter Menteri Covid-19 memahami bahawa banyak negara mula menghapuskan sekatan bagi menangani pandemik itu pada skala yang lebih besar, namun kerajaan perlu sentiasa berhati-hati.

"Dalam merangka strategi keluar negara kita da-

ripada #Covid19 (Covid-19) dan selaras dengan #Mem-buka Semula Dengan Se-lamat, Malaysia akan memasuki fasa 'Peralihan ke Endemik' tidak lama lagi.

"Lebih banyak sektor di-buka, kawalan sempadan dilonggarkan; tetapi lang-kah berjaga-jaga keselamatan seperti pemakaian pelitup muka dan kebersihan diri mesti dijaga," katanya.

Hishammuddin berkata, walaupun kes positif Covid-19 di Malaysia lebih tinggi berbanding Delta pada Ogos tahun lalu, bilangan kemasukan pesakit dan kematian direkodkan di Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU) adalah 80 peratus hingga 90 peratus lebih rendah.

KKM rekod 25,445 laporan kesan AEFI

Putrajaya: Bahagian Regulatori Farmasi Negara (NPRA), Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) merekodkan 25,445 laporan kesan advers susulan imunisasi (AEFI) iaitu pada kadar 381 laporan bagi setiap sejuta dos sehingga 25 Februari lalu.

Pengarah NPRA, Dr Roshayati Mohamad Sani, berkata ia termasuk 1,275 laporan membabitkan dos penggalak dan 94 laporan dalam kalangan penerima

vaksin kanak-kanak berusia lima hingga 11 tahun.

"Majoriti daripada laporan AEFI diterima iaitu 93 peratus atau 23,682 adalah tidak serius dan biasanya akan pulih dalam tempoh sehari dua. Antara contoh AEFI tidak serius termasuk demam, sakit pada tempat suntikan, sakit kepala, sakit otot dan keletihan.

"Sebanyak 1,763 laporan dikategorikan AEFI serius dengan kadar 26 laporan ba-

gi setiap sejuta dos," katanya pada Sesi Taklimat Bersama Media berhubung Laporan AEFI Vaksin Covid-19 Siri 2/2022, secara dalam talian, semalam.

Dr Roshayati berkata, kesan AEFI serius adalah kesan memerlukan kemasukan ke hospital, pemanjangan tempoh di wad, mengancam nyawa, atau disyaki menyebabkan kematian.

Beliau berkata, NPRA menerima sebanyak 1,275 la-

poran AEFI daripada penerima dos penggalak iaitu pada kadar 89 laporan bagi setiap sejuta dos dan ia lebih rendah daripada kadar keseluruhan pelaporan AEFI iaitu kadar 381 laporan bagi setiap sejuta dos.

Katanya, hanya 90 laporan atau 7.06 peratus daripada jumlah laporan AEFI diterima bagi dos penggalak diklasifikasikan serius iaitu pada kadar 6.3 laporan bagi setiap juta dos.

Putrajaya: Penerima vaksin boleh melaporkan sendiri kesan advers susulan imunisasi (AEFI) sekiranya pengamal perubatan yang merawat mereka tidak berbuat demikian.

Ketua Seksyen Farmakovigilans, Pusat Komplians dan Kawalan Kualiti, Bahagian Regulatori Farmasi Negara (NPRA), Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM), Dr Azuana Ramli, berkata selalunya laporan berkenaan AEFI dilaporkan pengamal perubatan di KKM atau swasta kepada pihaknya jika mereka mengesyaki ia ada

kaitan pemberian vaksin.

Bagaimanapun, beliau berkata, penerima vaksin yang merasakan mereka mengalami kesan berkenaan boleh berbuat demikian dengan memuat turun borang dalam laman sesawang NPRA dan mengisinya sendiri sebelum emel kembali.

Menurutnya, apabila seseorang merasakan mereka terkesan dengan pelarian yang diterima, mereka perlu ke klinik kesihatan atau pusat perubatan swasta untuk menjalani pemeriksaan dan rawatan.

AKHBAR : KOSMO
MUKA SURAT : 6
RUANGAN : NEGARA

Lanjut tempoh dos penggalak, bukan sebab PRN – Khairy

KUALA LUMPUR – Melanjutkan tempoh pengambilan dos penggalak kepada penerima Sinovac berusia 18 tahun ke atas dan warga emas 60 tahun ke atas sehingga 31 Mac ini tiada kaitan dengan Pilihan Raya Negeri (PRN) Johor.

Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar berkata, sebaliknya lanjutan itu adalah bertujuan memberikan masa kepada dua golongan itu untuk melengkapkan suntikan dos penggalak mereka.

"Ada juga banyak permintaan daripada golongan ini supaya dilanjutkan tempoh untuk mereka mengambil dos penggalak, ini adalah lanjutan terakhir, telah muktamad, jika 31 Mac mereka masih tidak ambil dos penggalak, status vaksin mereka adalah tidak lengkap," katanya pada sesi soal jawab di Persidangan Dewan Rakyat semalam.

Beliau berkata demikian ketika menjawab soalan Datuk Seri Dr. Dzulkefly Ahmad (**PH-Kuala Selangor**) yang ingin tahu apakah alasan lanjutan tempoh mengambil dos penggalak bagi dua golongan itu sehingga 31 Mac ada kena mengena dengan PRN Johor pada 12 Mac ini.

Sebelum ini Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) memutuskan penerima vaksin berusia

DEWAN RAKYAT

60 tahun ke atas dan individu berusia 18 tahun ke atas yang menerima vaksin jenis Sinovac perlu mendapatkan dos penggalak sebelum 28 Februari lepas kerana selepas tarikh berkenaan status vaksinasi di aplikasi MySejahtera akan menunjukkan status tidak lengkap.

Dalam perkembangan lain, bagi vaksin kanak-kanak lima hingga 11 tahun, Khairy berkata, Sarawak menjadi negeri penerima tertinggi vaksin bagi golongan itu apabila 57 peratus kanak-kanaknya telah menerima sekurang-kurangnya dos pertama.

Menjawab soalan asal Oscar Lin Chai Yew (**PH-Sibu**) yang mahu kementerian menyatakan keseriusan Omicron berbanding dengan varian lain, Khairy Jamaludin berkata, walaupun peningkatan mendadak direkodkan, lebih 99 peratus kes harian yang dicatatkan adalah dalam kategori 1 dan 2 sahaja.



PENERIMA vaksinasi Sinovac diberi masa sehingga 31 Mac untuk menerima dos penggalak sebelum status vaksin di MySejahtera dikira sebagai lengkap.

AKHBAR : KOSMO

MUKA SURAT : 8

RUANGAN : NEGARA

Penggunaan katil ICU Putrajaya tertinggi, melebihi 67 peratus

PUTRAJAYA – Putrajaya mencatatkan peratusan pengisian katil kes kritikal atau unit rawatan rapi (ICU) tertinggi melebihi negeri-negeri lain dengan 67 peratus, setakat kelmarin.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr. Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, dalam masa sama, tujuh lagi negeri turut mencatatkan peratusan pengisian katil kes kritikal melebihi 50 peratus.

Menurutnya, ia melibatkan Kuala Lumpur (65 peratus), Johor (63 peratus), Melaka (63 peratus), Kelantan (58 peratus), Perlis (55 peratus), Selangor (55 peratus) dan Sabah (53 peratus).

“Bagi katil bukan ICU pula, 12 negeri mencatatkan peratusan pengisian melebihi 50 peratus dengan yang tertinggi ialah Kelantan sebanyak 94 peratus, diikuti oleh Kuala Lumpur (95 peratus) dan Perak (90 peratus).

“Seterusnya Putrajaya (86 peratus), Selangor (81 peratus), Perlis (78 peratus), Pahang (73 peratus), Johor (66 peratus), Terengganu (62 peratus), Pulau Pinang (60 peratus), Sabah (54 peratus) dan Sarawak (52 peratus),” katanya semalam.

Bagi katil Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan Covid-19 (PKRC), beliau berkata, hanya Melaka merekodkan peratusan pengisian melebihi 50 peratus iaitu sebanyak 60 peratus dilaporkan kelmarin.



SEBANYAK 25,854 jangkitan baharu Covid-19 dicatatkan kelmarin.

– GAMBAR HIASAN

“Pesakit Covid-19 yang memerlukan alat bantuan pernafasan meningkat kepada 213 pesakit dan peratusan penggunaan ventilator 36 peratus daripada keseluruhan ventilator untuk pesakit Covid-19 dan bukan Covid-19,” ujarnya.

Sementara itu, negara mencatatkan peningkatan kes kematian Covid-19 kepada 32,827 kes, selepas pertambahan 78 kes kelmarin.

Sebanyak 25,854 kes berbanding Sabtu lalu yang mencatatkan sebanyak 23,100 kes.

Berdasarkan data pada laman web CovidNow, 78 kematian tersebut dilaporkan di Johor (21),

Kedah (15), Selangor (13), Perak (9), Sabah (6), Pulau Pinang (5), Kelantan (2), Melaka (2), Terengganu (2), Negeri Sembilan (1), Pahang (1) dan Kuala Lumpur (1).

Daripada jumlah kumulatif kematian pula, pecahan-pecahan mengikut negeri ialah Selangor (10,198 kes), Johor (4,081 kes), Sabah (2,975 kes), Kuala Lumpur (2,718 kes), Kedah (2,281 kes) dan Pulau Pinang (1,812 kes).

Sementara itu, Sarawak (1,627 kes), Perak (1,522 kes), Negeri Sembilan (1,360 kes), Kelantan (1,311 kes), Melaka (1,003 kes), Pahang (842 kes), Terengganu (781 kes), Labuan (152 kes), Perlis (142 kes) dan Putrajaya (22 kes).

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 2
RUANGAN : VAKSIN UNTUK RAKYAT

KKM kemas kini petugas barisan hadapan layak dapat elaun khas

KUALA LUMPUR - Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) akan menyemak dan mengemas kini senarai kumpulan petugas barisan hadapan yang mengurus wabak Covid-19 bagi memperluaskan pemberian elaun khas kepada golongan itu.

Menterinya, Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar berkata, masih terdapat kumpulan kesihatan lain yang terlibat dalam pengurusan wabak itu selain doktor, jururawat dan pemandu ambulans yang layak menerima elaun khas tersebut.

"Kumpulan yang layak menerima elaun khas ini akan disemak dan dikemas kini dari semasa ke semasa, contohnya ahli fisioterapi yang terlibat dalam rawatan pesakit 'long Covid' yang menepati kriteria untuk mendapat elaun khas tersebut," katanya di Dewan Rakyat pada Rabu.

Khairy berkata demikian ketika menjawab soalan **Datuk Dr Hasan Bahrom (PH-Tampin)** yang mahu beliau menjelaskan pembayaran bonus kepada pekerja barisan hadapan dalam kalangan kakitangan kesihatan.

Mengulas lanjut Khairy berkata, sejumlah RM1.1 bilion elaun khas Covid-19 telah dibayar kepada petugas barisan hadapan kesihatan sehingga 31 Disember tahun lalu.

"Prinsip yang melayakkan pembayaran elaun khas Covid-19 adalah, doktor dan anggota kesihatan perlu diarahkan melaksanakan tugas dalam rantaian skop pengurusan wabak itu dan bayaran dibuat berdasarkan borang tuntutan yang dibuat oleh pegawai kepada pusat tanggungjawab (PTJ) masing-masing," katanya.



Sebanyak RM1.1 bilion elaun khas Covid-19 telah dibayar kepada barisan hadapan.

Untuk penerima Sinovac
ambil dos penggalak

Oleh DIANA AZIS

KUALA LUMPUR

Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) tidak akan melanjutkan tempoh pemberian dos penggalak kepada penerima vaksin Sinovac yang telah ditetapkan sehingga 31 Mac ini.

Menterinya, Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar berkata, sekiranya golongan itu masih enggan mendapatkan dos penggalak selepas tarikh yang ditetapkan, status vaksinasi mereka dalam aplikasi MySejahtera akan bertukar kepada tidak lengkap.

"Tempoh yang kita beri tiada kaitan dengan Pilihan Raya Negeri (PRN) Johor tetapi untuk beri masa kepada mereka melengkapkan (dos penggalak) dalam tempoh lanjutan (yang ditetapkan) dan ini terakhir dan muktamad."

"Jika (pada tarikh) akhir ini mereka tidak dapatkan dos penggalak, maka status adalah tidak lengkap," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian bagi menjawab soalan tambahan daripada **Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkifly Ahmad (PH-Kuala Selangor)** pada sesi soal jawab lisan di Dewan Rakyat pada Rabu.

KKM sebelum ini menetapkan tempoh akhir bagi penerima vaksin Sinovac dan warga emas berusia 60 tahun ke atas mendapatkan dos penggalak adalah sehingga 28 Februari lalu namun dilanjutkan ke 31 Mac ini.

Mengulas lanjut Khairy berkata, inisiatif KKM yang memberi pilihan



KHAIRY

Tarikh akhir 31 Mac muktamad



Penerima vaksin Sinovac dan warga emas berusia 60 tahun ke atas diwajibkan mengambil dos penggalak.

kepada orang ramai untuk mendapatkan vaksin pilihan di pusat pemberian vaksin (PPV) berjaya meningkatkan keyakinan masyarakat untuk mendapatkan dos penggalak.

"Kita buat keputusan untuk memastikan pertama, sudah memperluas pemberian dos penggalak kepada semua melalui walk-in di PPV. Kedua,

memberi pilihan booster kepada mereka yang belum mendapatkan dosnya kerana ada keengganan dalam kalangan penerima vaksin untuk menerima dos campuran daripada dos primer.

"Di beberapa PPV, kita beri pilihan dan ini membantu menaikkan liputan vaksinasi yang sebelum ini mereka tidak mahu," katanya.

Sementara itu bagi menjawab

soalan asal **Oscar Ling Chai Yew (PH-Sibu)**, Khairy menjelaskan, KKM telah mengaktifkan semula Pasukan Respons Pantas Covid-19 Kebangsaan (RRTF 2.0) bermula 7 Februari lalu bagi menghadapi cabaran gelombang Omicron.

"Ini bagi memastikan akses ke Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan Covid-19 Berisiko Rendah (PKRC) dan hospital terjamin serta melakukan pemantauan kes positif melalui Pusat Penilaian Covid-19 secara maya."

"KKM juga membangunkan Covid-19 Clinical Care Pathway bagi tujuan memulakan ubat antiviral terkini yang akan diberikan kepada pesakit Covid-19 berisiko tinggi pada peringkat lebih awal," katanya.

Berbanding varian Delta, Khairy berkata, Omicron lebih mudah menjangkiti dan membiak pada bahagian atas saluran pernafasan sekali gus menjadi punca virus ini lebih mudah berjangkit.



AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Kes Covid-19 catat 78 lagi kematian

SHAH ALAM - Sejumlah 78 kes kematian Covid-19 direkodkan pada Selasa termasuk 34 kes kematian yang berlaku di luar hospital (BID).

Berdasarkan data Kementerian Kesihatan di portal CovidNow, angka kematian itu menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kematian kini mencecah angka 32,827.

Johor mencatatkan angka kematian tertinggi iaitu 21 kes, diikuti Kedah (15), Selangor (13), Perak (sembilan), Sabah (enam), Pulau Pinang (lima),

Kelantan, Melaka, Terengganu (masing-masing dua) serta Kuala Lumpur, Negeri Sembilan dan Pahang (masing-masing satu).

Sementara itu, Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, penggunaan katil unit rawatan rapi (ICU) hospital membabitkan pesakit Covid-19 di lapan



NOOR HISHAM

negeri mencatatkan kapasiti melebihi 50 peratus.

Penggunaan katil bukan ICU hospital di 12 negeri turut mencatatkan kapasiti sama.

"Bagi katil ICU melibatkan pesakit Covid-19 di hospital Putrajaya mencatatkan penggunaan kapasiti tertinggi iaitu 67 peratus diikuti Kuala Lumpur (65 peratus), serta

Melaka (63 peratus).

"Katil ICU di Kelantan pula mencapai 58 peratus, Perlis dan Selangor (55 peratus), serta Sabah (53 peratus).

"Katil bukan ICU bagi Kelantan (94 peratus), Kuala Lumpur (95 Peratus), Perak (90 peratus), Putrajaya (86 peratus), dan Selangor (81 peratus). Katil bukan ICU di hospital Perlis mencatatkan kapasiti penggunaan 78 peratus, diikuti Pahang (73 peratus) dan Johor (66 peratus)," katanya dalam satu kenyataan pada Rabu.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 2

RUANGAN : NEWS / NATION

UP TO FEB 25

'NPRA RECEIVED 25,445 REPORTS POST-VAX'

93pc of cases not serious and recovered within one to two days, says director

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THE National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency (NPRA) has recorded 25,445 adverse events following immunisation (AEFI) reports up to Feb 25.

Its director, Dr Roshayati Mohamad Sani, said these included 1,275 reports involving booster doses (6.3 reports per one million doses) and 94 reports involving children aged 5 to 11 years.

"Of the 25,445 AEFI reports (381 reports per one million doses) received by the NPRA, 93 per cent (or 23,682 cases) were not serious and recovered within one to two days. Among the non-serious AEFI are fever, pain at the injection site, headache, muscle aches and fatigue.

"The agency received 1,763 reports that had been categorised as serious AEFI cases (26 reports per one million doses) requiring hospitalisation, a prolonged time in the ward, life-threatening or possible fatalities," she said in a virtual media briefing yesterday.

Dr Roshayati also said 596 AEFI incidents involving deaths were reported and assessed by the Covid-19 Vaccine Special Pharmacovigilance Committee (JFK). It was found that 433 had no links to the vaccine, and 163 others are still under investigation.

Up to Feb 25, a total of 66,767,854 doses of Covid-19 vaccines had been administered in Malaysia, comprising Comirnaty (Pfizer), CoronaVac (Sinovac), AstraZeneca (AZ), Convidecia (CanSino) and Covilo (Sinopharm).

On AEFI involving booster doses, Dr Roshayati said only 90 reports (7.06 per cent) were classified as serious (6.3 reports per one million doses).

"Up to Feb 25, Malaysia had administered 14,369,227 booster doses."

On AEFI cases among vaccine recipients aged 5 to 11 years, she said the NPRA had received 94 reports (0.1 per 1,000 doses ad-



National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency director Dr Roshayati Mohamad Sani says the agency has received 1,275 reports involving booster doses and 94 reports involving children aged 5 to 11 up to Feb 25. PIC COURTESY OF NPRA

ministered).

"The majority of the reports (97 per cent) were non-serious and only two were serious.

"The most commonly reported side effects were fever, stress from the injection or vaccination process, itchy skin reactions, dizziness and headache."

She said of the AEFI cases (all doses), 19,089 reports were received from recipients of Pfizer, involving 18,017 not serious cases and 1,072 serious cases; 5,011 recipients of Sinovac (4,467 not serious, 544 serious); 1,297 recipients of AZ (1,153 not serious, 144 serious); 46 recipients of CanSino (43 not serious, three serious) and two recipients of Covilo (both not serious).

She said the Health Ministry, through the NPRA, had been keeping a close watch on things and evaluating AEFI to safeguard the welfare of those involved.

"Every AEFI data received is important to ensure that the benefit over the risk of vaccine products remains positive in preventing the transmission of Covid-19."

On AEFI cases among Covid-19 Immunisation Programme for Children (PICKids) vaccine recipients, Dr Roshayati said up to Feb 25, only two serious cases had been reported.

She said the cases involved a child with asthma exacerbation and another one suffered from Bell's Palsy.

Dr Roshayati said the AEFI reporting rate among children aged five to 11 in Malaysia, which stood at 0.1 per 1,000 doses, was equiv-

alent to the AEFI reporting rate for the same group in the United States (0.5 per 1,000 doses) and Australia (0.7 per 1,000 doses).

"The reporting rate is also lower than in Singapore, which is 1.2 per 1,000 doses."

Up to Feb 25, a total of 751,928 children have been vaccinated under PICKids, which kicked off on Feb 3.

Meanwhile, vaccine recipients can self-report AEFI if the medical practitioners treating them do not do so.

NPRA pharmacovigilance section head Dr Azuana Ramli said usually reports on AEFI would be submitted by medical practitioners under the Health Ministry or in private practice to the agency if it had something to do with vaccination administration.

"If the medical practitioner did not suspect AEFI, but the patients feel that they are having side effects from the vaccine, they can self-report the symptoms by visiting the NPRA's website and fill in the consumer side effect reporting form."

Dr Azuana said this when she was asked to comment on complaints by members of the public that some medical practitioners were reluctant to report the side effects of AEFI to the NPRA.

Page 1 pic: A boy receiving the first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine under the Covid-19 National Immunisation Programme for Children at the Axiata Arena vaccination centre in Bukit Jalil, Kuala Lumpur, yesterday.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NEWS / NATION

FROM TUESDAY'S 152 CRITICAL CASES

'NON-BOOSTED MAJORITY OF SEVERE CASES'

But national infectivity rate falls to 1.02 on Tuesday, says Noor Hisham

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CLOSE to 60 per cent of severe Covid-19 infections reported on Tuesday involved those without a Covid-19 booster vaccine dose.

They were among 25,854 cases reported that day, comprising 25,702 asymptomatic and mild cases (Categories 1 and 2) and 152 critical cases (Categories 3 to 5).

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said, 89 of the 152 critical cases included those who had not received their booster shots, while 38 had received their boosters and 25 who are not fully vaccinated.

The number of Covid-19 cases admitted to hospital also increased from 1,555 on Monday to 1,754 on Tuesday.

This figure includes 1,179 Categories 1 and 2 cases and 575 Categories 3 to 5 cases.

Dr Noor Hisham said 374 Covid-19 patients were in intensive care, including 213 on ventilators.

Seventy-eight Covid-19 deaths were reported on Tuesday, including 34 brought-in-dead. So far, the virus has claimed 32,827 lives in Malaysia.

In the last two weeks, 17 deaths occurred for every million people

and 12 infections were identified for every 1,000 people in the country.

ICU occupancy surpassed 50 per cent in eight jurisdictions: Putrajaya (67 per cent), Kuala Lumpur (65 per cent), Johor and Melaka (63 per cent), Kelantan (58 per cent), Perlis and Selangor (55 per cent) and Sabah (53 per cent).

Non-ICU bed utilisation was the highest in Kelantan (94 per cent), followed by Kuala Lumpur (95 per cent), Perak (90 per cent), Putrajaya (86 per cent), Selangor (81 per cent), Perlis (78 per cent), Pahang (73 per cent), Johor (66 per cent), Terengganu (62 per cent), Penang (60 per cent), Sabah (54 per cent) and Sarawak (52 per cent).

Seven clusters were identified on Tuesday, bringing the number of active clusters to 475.

The seven clusters, include three education clusters, two workplace clusters and two high-risk group clusters.

The national Covid-19 infectivity rate (Rt) fell to 1.02 on Tuesday. Sarawak registered the highest Rt value in the country at 1.37, and Johor recorded the lowest Rt value at 0.97.

A total 3,142,112 people have recovered from Covid-19 since the pandemic started in March 2020.

This includes the 25,548 recoveries that were registered on Tuesday.



Dr Ferwahn Fairis, the director of the low-risk quarantine centre at the Malaysia Agro Exposition Park Serdang, showing the facility to journalists yesterday. (Inset) Unified Command Centre assistant commander Dr Ridzuan Mohd Isa. *BERNAMA PIC*

MAEPS ready to take in mild cases

SERDANG: The low-risk quarantine centre at the Malaysia Agro Exposition Park Serdang (MAEPS) here will take in Categories 1, 2a and 2b Covid-19 cases, which do not require hospital facilities and equipment.

The centre's director, Dr Ferwahn Fairis, said the facility had received 90 patients who were referred by hospitals and Covid-19 assessment centres.

"There are 850 beds here, and a medical team is on standby to receive cases from the three categories."

"The cases we received so far are those who are stable and do

not need intensive or procedural treatments," he said after a media tour of the facility in MAEPS Hall A yesterday.

He said the centre was reopened since most hospitals had been converted to hybrid hospitals, as well as to reduce the workload on hospital staff.

"We will focus on patients from the Klang Valley for the time being."

He said patients from outside the Klang Valley would be treated if the need arose.

Present during the media tour was the Unified Command Centre assistant commander Dr

Ridzuan Mohd Isa, who is also Ampang Hospital's Emergency Department head.

He said the MAEPS facility would see a marked reduction in the number of patients compared with last year, as the majority of the people had already been vaccinated.

The quarantine centre in MAEPS was closed on Feb 8 after 14 months of operations, but was reactivated to handle the surge in cases brought by the Omicron variant of Covid-19.

"There are about 291 medical staff assigned here, up to Feb 25," said Dr Ridzuan.

14 million taken booster jab

KUALA LUMPUR: Over 14 million people in Malaysia have received their Covid-19 vaccine booster dose up to yesterday.

According to the Health Ministry's CovidNow portal, 73,262 booster doses were dispensed on Tuesday, pushing the number of individuals boosted against Covid-19 to 14,736,569.

Up to Tuesday, 90 per cent of adolescents in Malaysia have been fully inoculated against Covid-19.

Sarawak had the highest vaccination rate for children in the country at 48 per cent.

So far, 25.5 per cent of children eligible for the vaccine have received the first dose,

PUTRAJAYA: Employers may book quarantine slots for foreign workers entering the country beginning this month, said Human Resources Minister Datuk Seri M. Saravanan.

He said bookings could be made after the foreign workers passed a medical examination and were issued a visa with reference (VDR) through the Foreign Workers Centralised Management System (FWCMS) at fwcms.com.my/.

VDR is a visa issued by the Malaysian Representative Office

abroad to enable a non-citizen to enter Malaysia after the visa is approved by the Immigration Department.

Saravanan said the quarantine centres had limited capacity and were in the Klang Valley.

They comprised hotels approved by the National Disaster Management Agency.

"The estimated cost of quarantine is between RM2,000 and RM3,000, including accommodation, food and drink (three times a day), transportation to the quarantine centre as well as

Covid-19 screening during the quarantine period," he said in a statement yesterday.

Up to Tuesday, 171,133 applications for the employment of foreign nationals had been received since Feb 15.

Of that number, 118,967 of them were for the manufacturing sector, services (21,040), plantation (15,787), construction (12,252) and agriculture (3,087).

The cabinet on Dec 10 last year had approved the recruitment of foreign workers in certain sectors. *Bernama*

Foreign workers' quarantine open for booking

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NEWS / NATION

6

NEWS / Nation

REPORTS BY Veena Babulal

MOSTLY CATEGORIES 1 AND 2 INFECTIONS

'OMICRON I.C.U., DEATH RATES NOT AS HIGH'

Cases 80 to 90pc lower than during Delta wave in August and September 2021, says health minister

KUALA LUMPUR

THE number of deaths and beds occupied in intensive care units (ICU) has been on the rise since the fifth epidemiological week of this year.

However, the figures are still 80 to 90 per cent lower compared with the mortality and ICU oc-

cupancy rates in August and September last year at the peak of the Delta infections.

Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin told the Dewan Rakyat this yesterday, adding that the discharge rate in hospitals for this new wave was also high.

"Even though a drastic rise of cases has been recorded, more than 99 per cent of the daily load

are Categories 1 and 2 infections.

"While there is an increase in hospitalisations during this Omicron wave, the discharge rate has also drastically increased, as there is a high recovery rate among patients and there is no longer need for long-term treatment."

He said there was a decoupling effect between the daily caseload and severity of illness, where the correlation between the two variables had reduced significantly.

He said the Omicron variant was predisposed to infecting and reproducing in the upper respi-

ratory tract to spread rapidly.

It was also observed to have a lower capacity to spread to lung tissue compared with the Delta variant.

Khairy said this on the back of the increase in Covid-19 infections that have breached the 10,000 mark since Feb 6.

The country registered 32,070 cases on Feb 24, the highest daily caseload since the pandemic hit in 2020.

He said to counter the rise of Omicron, the ministry had upped the booster distribution rate, with 62 per cent of the adult pop-

ulation having received their shots up to Feb 28.

He said the clinical care pathway had been instituted to administer antiviral drugs to high-risk Covid-19 patients.

The ministry reactivated the Covid-19 National Rapid Response Task Force from Feb 7 to ensure access to hospitals and low-risk quarantine and treatment centres through virtual assessment centres.

He was responding to a question from Oscar Ling (PH-Sibu) about the seriousness of the Omicron wave.



A healthcare worker administering a booster dose to a man at the Dewan Ang Si Chong vaccination centre in Butterworth, Penang, on Tuesday. Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin (inset) says 62 per cent of adults have received the booster shot up to Feb 28.

PIC BY DANA, SAAU

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NATION

Parents need not worry

Two kids with adverse reactions to vaccine on the mend

By FAZLEENA AZIZ
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PETALING JAYA: Only two serious reports of adverse events following immunisation (AEFI) involving children between the ages of five and 11 have been recorded as at Feb 25. National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency (NPRA) director Dr Roshayati Mohamad Sani said the cases involved a girl who already had asthma and a boy with Bell's Palsy or facial paralysis, both 10.

A total of 94 AEFI reports involving vaccine recipients aged between five and 11 years old were received as of Feb 25, with only two reports categorised as serious, she added.

"The asthma case needed immediate hospitalisation and treatment and was subsequently discharged.

"The boy is also said to be recovering well," said Dr Roshayati.

She also said 22 out of 45 deaths involving recipients of the Covid-19 booster dose that were reported to the NPRA were found to be unrelated to the vaccine.

The findings were made by the Covid-19 Vaccine Pharmacovigilance Special Committee after assessing the report on the death of the 22 cases, she added.

Assessment on the reports of death in the remaining 23 cases were still in the process and would be tabled for evaluation by the committee when completed, she said.



Sister strength: Siblings Danisha Shafiz, 11, Dhamia, nine, and Shifa, 8, holding hands while they wait their turn to get vaccinated at PPV Ideal OCC Shah Alam. — AZLINA ABDULLAH/The Star

She said as at Feb 25, the NPRA has received 25,445 reports of AEFI, of which 93% or 23,682 were non-serious cases while 1,763 reports were categorised as serious AEFI.

Of the total reports, NPRA received 1,275 AEFI reports involving the booster dose, with 90 cases or 7.06% of these classified as serious, she told a joint media briefing on AEFI Covid-19 vaccine, which was conducted virtually yesterday.

According to WHO, an AEFI is "any untoward medical occurrence which follows immunisation, and which does not necessarily have a causal relationship with the usage of the vaccine".

It said that if the matter was not rapidly and effectively dealt with, it could undermine confidence in a vaccine, and with untoward consequences for immunisation coverage and disease incidence.

WHO, which has established a

Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety in order to respond promptly to any concern over vaccines, said vaccine-associated adverse events may affect healthy individuals and should be promptly identified to allow additional research and appropriate action to take place.

Health care providers are required to report AEFI, which is unwanted or unexpected health effect that happens after someone receives a vaccine, which may or may not be caused by the vaccine.

Caregivers or the vaccine recipient themselves may also report AEFIs to NPRA.

When someone reports an AEFI, he or she is providing vital information that is needed to monitor vaccine safety, and this information is also used to report on vaccine safety to authorities, which further contributes to the success of immunisation programmes, though it should be noted that the acceptance of such reports does not mean or suggest that the vaccine caused the adverse event.

An AEFI report can be made through MySejahtera, or via www.npra.gov.my.



More than
900,000 kids
have got a jab
See page 12

Very few serious new cases

KUALA LUMPUR: A total of 152 cases or 0.59% of the 25,854 new Covid-19 cases recorded are in Categories 3, 4 and 5, says Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

The Health director-general said the remaining 25,702 cases or 99.41% were in Categories 1 and 2.

"Of the 152 cases, 25 of them are unvaccinated or have yet to complete their vaccination while 89 cases are fully vaccinated but yet to receive the booster dose," he said in a statement.

In addition, 38 cases from Categories 3 to 5 have received booster doses, 65 cases involved those aged 60 and above, 51 cases have comorbidities and one case involved a pregnant woman.

Bernama reported Dr Noor Hisham as saying that a total of 1,754 cases were admitted to hospital, comprising 575 cases from Categories 3 to 5, while 1,179 cases were from Categories 1 and 2.

There were a total of 25,548 recoveries on Tuesday, bringing the cumulative number to 3,142,112.

He also said 374 cases required treatment in the intensive care unit (ICU), and 213 cases required respiratory aid, bringing the percentage of breathing aid usage to 36%.

He added each state was ready with a response plan in the event of an increase in cases requiring admission to Covid-19 Quarantine and Low-Risk Treatment Centres, hospitals and ICUs.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 8

RUANGAN : NATION

March 31 deadline for booster doses stays, says KJ

THERE will be no further extension to get the targeted group of CoronaVac takers to go for their booster shots, says Khairy Jamaluddin (pic).

The Health Minister also denied that the extension was granted last week because of the Johor state election.

The booster deadline for adult primary recipients of the vaccine better known as Sinovac, which is produced by China's Sinovac Biotech, has been extended from Feb 28 to March 31.

Those who fail to get their booster dose by this month will have their vaccination status on the MySejahtera app changed to "incomplete".

Khairy said the deadline would not be extended beyond March 31.

"The extension has nothing to do with the state polls. It is to allow for



a bit more time for them to complete their booster dose.

"In addition, there were a lot of requests for an extension of time," the minister said when replying to a supplementary question raised by Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkifly Ahmad

(PH-Kuala Selangor), the previous health minister under Pakatan Harapan.

To a question by Oscar Ling (PH-Sibu), Khairy said that Sarawak had the highest rate of vaccination involving children aged between five and 11.

"Some 57% of children in Sarawak have received at least one vaccination dose," he said.

He added that he would propose to Deputy Health Minister Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali, who is charge of the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme for Children (PICKids), to open up more vaccination centres (PPV) in Sarawak.

Ling highlighted that there was no PPV for children in his constituency, with worries of unvaccinated children bringing the virus home once school resumed later this

month after the three-week break.

Meanwhile, Khairy also announced that his ministry had paid out RM203.6mil to its frontliners under Budget 2022's special financial assistance on Jan 25.

A total of 290,892 ministry employees benefited from the payout, he said in reply to Datuk Dr Hasan Bahrom (PH-Tampin).

The government had previously announced the special assistance of RM700 to 1.3 million civil servants Grade 56 and below including frontliners in the ministry.

Khairy also noted that there would be 3,586 permanent vacancies to be filled by contract doctors.

Watch the video
TheStarTV.com



AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 12

RUANGAN : NATION

More than 900,000 kids have got a jab

KUALA LUMPUR: A total of 904,368 children aged between five and 11, or 25.5% of the juvenile population, have been given the first vaccine dose under the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme for Children.

Based on the CovidNow website, 14,736,569 people or 62.6% of the adult population have received a booster dose and 22,950,422 or 97.5% have completed their vaccination, while 23,230,349 or 98.7% have received at least one dose.

For those aged 12 to 17, a total of 2,801,714 or 90% of the group have completed their vaccination, while 2,897,292 or 93.1% have received at least one dose of the vaccine, Bernama reported.

On Tuesday, a total of 101,038 doses were dispensed, with 26,476 as first dose, 1,300 as second dose and 73,262 as booster dose, bringing the cumulative number of vaccine doses administered under the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme to 67,313,182.

According to the Health Ministry's GitHub portal, a total of 78 deaths were recorded with 21 cases in Johor, followed by Kedah (15), Selangor (13), Perak (nine), Sabah (six), Penang (five), two each in Kelantan, Melaka and Terengganu, while Negri Sembilan, Pahang and Kuala Lumpur recorded one death each.

AKHBAR : THE SUN ON THURSDAY

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS

Conquering fear of needles

► Parents tell of children's 'no sweat' approach to vaccination, with one girl eagerly counting down the days to her Covid shot

BY ELLY FAZANIZA
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

PETALING JAYA: While most children tend to be afraid of needles, there are many who are actually looking forward to their vaccination shots.

Research has found that about 40% of children worldwide under the age of 12 have a fear-driven physical or emotional response to needles. The finding was published by a paediatric healthcare entity based in California.

Much has been done to allay this

phobia, especially under the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme for Children (PICKids).

Proper dissemination of information on the need for vaccination, having experienced medical experts present and making vaccination centres children-friendly have helped to achieve this aim.

Parents too have stepped up efforts to get their children vaccinated.

Two families *theSun* interviewed shared how the children bravely and calmly received the shots.

Gym owner Noor Hasilah Ismail

took her daughter Hanna Safiyya Azman Khairi, 10, to a vaccination centre in Nilai, Negri Sembilan earlier this week.

"She has been excited since last week, when the school informed the students about its vaccination day," Noor Hasilah said.

"She was super excited. I asked her if it was painful. She said: 'Not at all'. In fact, after Hanna was vaccinated, she was chatting with her friends. She saw a girl around her age crying and she told me she was surprised as it didn't hurt at all."

Noor Hasilah admitted that she

was initially concerned about the possibility of side-effects.

"But then, I thought about my husband and I. None of us had any side-effects after being vaccinated three times, including the booster shot."

"I believe it is important as prevention is better than cure," she added.

Writer Nadirah H. Rodzi, 35, echoed Noor Hasilah's sentiments.

"It's very important because the virus isn't just going to infect adults. We need to try our best to protect the children too," said the mother of two, adding that she was also worried about the side-effects.

"I did a lot of reading and learnt that the side-effects are normal. I was focused on how to handle the kids if they did experience some side-

effects. I was ready to report any AEFI (adverse events following immunisation) to the authorities."

"Both my children were very relaxed when they received their shots. But I did prep them, especially my daughter Nadine, before going to the centre."

"I told both of them that we were facing a pandemic and that we needed to protect ourselves with a thing called a vaccine."

"Nadine was a bit nervous at first but she stayed calm and listened to my advice, to take a deep breath and don't look at the needle. My other child Nayla was also such a sport."

"I expected her to be cranky and to throw a tantrum because she may not truly understand what was going on as she's autistic, but it all went well."

Malaysian-made test kit 100% accurate

GEORGE TOWN: The ProDetect Covid-19 Antigen Rapid Test, manufactured in Malaysia by Medical Innovation Ventures Sdn Bhd (Mediven), recently obtained a 100% accuracy rating in the External Quality Assessment Programme (EQAP) conducted by the European Society for external quality assessment.

Mediven, a Penang-based medical diagnostic company, develops, manufactures and markets advanced high quality clinical diagnostic molecular and rapid tests.

In a statement yesterday, Mediven operations director Dr Lim Li Sze said the Covid-19 rapid test serves as a valuable initial

screening option and as confirmed in the EQAP, the company's ProDetect test kit retained its quality and consistency in providing a high level of accuracy.

"As cases are rising by the day, it is crucial for early detection, isolation and treatment of those infected and to prevent the further spread of Covid-19 infections."

Meanwhile, Mediven executive director Ariff Ismail said the firm's achievement in the EQAP serves as a testament to the company's dedication and mission to deliver cutting-edge diagnostics technology.

The test kit provides test results within 20 minutes and is able to screen for all variants of

concern, including Delta and Omicron.

Mediven produces two types of ProDetect test kits - medical professionals use either oral fluid or nasopharyngeal swab samples, while either a saliva or nasal sample is used for the self-test version, Bernama reported.

The company has also recently collaborated with MyDocLab to launch a healthcare app for effective health status checks, and allow easy professional antigen rapid test reporting for travel across international borders.

It said the app could also generate official professionally certified reports needed for travel via vaccinated travel lane options.

New cases mainly in categories 1 and 2

KUALA LUMPUR: A total of 152 cases (0.59% of the 25,854 new Covid-19 cases recorded in the country on Tuesday) were in categories Three, Four and Five, said Health Director-General Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

He said the other 25,702 cases were in categories One and Two.

"Of the 152 cases in categories Three to Five, 25 involved those who were unvaccinated or have yet to complete their vaccination, while 127 individuals were fully vaccinated but had yet to receive the booster dose," he said in a statement yesterday.

In addition, 38 cases in categories Three to Five have received booster doses, 65 cases involved individuals aged 60 and above, 51 cases have comorbidities, and one case involved a pregnant woman.

Noor Hisham said a total of 1,754 Covid cases were admitted to hospitals, comprising 575 in categories Three to Five and 1,179 in categories One and Two.

Meanwhile, 25,548 recovered cases were reported on Tuesday, bringing the cumulative number of recoveries nationwide to 3,142,112.

He also said a total of 374 cases required treatment at intensive care units (ICU) and 213 cases required respiratory assistance, with the percentage of patients requiring breathing aid at 36%.

On ICU occupancy, Noor Hisham said eight states recorded bed utilisation of more than 50%, namely in Putrajaya (67%), Kuala Lumpur (65%), Johor (63%), Malacca (63%), Kelantan (58%), Perlis (55%), Selangor (55%), and Sabah (53%).

He said each state was ready with a quick response plan in the event of an increase in cases requiring admission to quarantine and treatment centres and hospitals. - Bernama

More than 900,000 children vaccinated

KUALA LUMPUR: A total of 904,368 children aged between five and 11 years (25.5% of the child population) have received their first vaccine dose under the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme for Children (PICKids) as of Tuesday.

The CovidNOW website showed 14,736,569 individuals (62.6% of the adult population) have received their booster shots and 22,950,422 (97.5%) have been fully vaccinated, while 23,230,349 (98.7%) have received at least one dose.

A total of 2,801,714 adolescents aged between 12 and 17 (90% of the group) have completed their vaccination, while 2,897,292 (93.1%) have received at least one dose.

On Tuesday, 101,038 doses of the vaccine were administered, with 26,476 as first doses, 1,300 as second doses and 73,262 as booster shots, bringing the cumulative number of vaccine doses administered under the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme (PICK) to 67,313,182.

The Health Ministry GitHub portal showed a total of 78 deaths due to Covid-19 were recorded on Tuesday, with 21 cases in Johor, followed by 15 in Kedah, 13 in Selangor, nine in Perak, six in Sabah, five in Penang, two each in Kelantan, Malacca and Terengganu, while Negri Sembilan, Pahang and Kuala Lumpur recorded one death each. - Bernama



MAKING LEMONADE ... Rather than fret about the floodwaters that inundated their housing estate, a trio of boys took to their bikes yesterday to enjoy the 'natural waterpark' in Chukai, Terengganu. - BERNAMAPIX

Govt keen but cautious on relaxing restrictions

KUALA LUMPUR: The "Reopening Safely" effort remains the government's guiding principle to ensure Malaysia's healthcare capacity remains manageable even as the country's vaccination numbers are high.

Defence Senior Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein said on Twitter the Covid-19 Ministerial Quartet is aware that many countries have begun removing restrictions on a larger scale, but the government must be cautious.

"In formulating our exit strategy from

Covid19 and in line with Reopening Safely, Malaysia will enter a transition to endemic phase soon. More sectors will be opened and border controls relaxed, but safety precautions such as face masks and personal hygiene must be maintained," he tweeted.

Hishammuddin said although Covid-19 positive cases in Malaysia are now higher than during the Delta wave in August last year, the number of intensive care unit admissions and deaths is 80% to 90% lower.

"We want this decoupling trend to remain

and (the Health Ministry) will continue to monitor (the situation) before deciding on any further relaxations," he said.

Hishammuddin said on Tuesday the Omicron wave would not cause the government to re-implement movement restrictions on a large scale, as many Malaysians have been fully vaccinated.

He also said the Foreign Ministry and Transport Ministry were looking at countries to be included in the vaccinated travel lane list. - Bernama

AKHBAR : THE SUN ON THURSDAY

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS

Health Ministry should handle drug addiction issue, says expert

KUALA LUMPUR: Violent crimes and even gruesome murders committed by individuals under the influence of dangerous drugs are no longer uncommon in the country.

Last month, a woman was allegedly decapitated by her stepson in Gua Musang, Kelantan. Preliminary investigations by police found that the stepson was a drug addict, who was also experiencing mental problems.

In a similar case that happened on Jan 15, an unemployed man in Kuala Selangor, Selangor, allegedly beheaded his mother when she refused to give him money to buy drugs.

The suspects in both cases were addicted to synthetic drugs such as amphetamines and methamphetamines, including "pil kuda", which is an amphetamine-type stimulant.

There have also been many other reports involving the violent

behaviour of individuals addicted to synthetic stimulant drugs. In most of the cases, the victims turned out to be close family members, raising concerns over the seriousness of the drug addiction problem in today's society.

Experts contacted by Bernama feel that it is time the Health Ministry (MoH) came forward as a potential game-changer in the treatment of individuals addicted to synthetic drugs.

Describing the two recent cases as a wake-up call to the authorities, drug addiction expert Assoc Prof Dr Rusdi Abd Rashid said MoH should take over the treatment of synthetic drug addiction cases.

He said the National Anti-Drugs Agency (AADK) has no expertise in the area and, furthermore, there is no specific treatment to treat synthetic drug addiction issues.

Rusdi, who is also director of the Centre for Addiction Science Studies at Universiti Malaya, is

confident that more addicts would come forward to seek treatment if MoH took over the treatment of drug addiction.

"Currently, many addicts are afraid to go to AADK as they are worried that if their urine samples test positive, they may be placed at a rehabilitation centre for two years," he said.

According to Rusdi, 400 MoH clinics nationwide have a special programme for drug addiction, and each clinic has the capacity to treat 50 to 300 addicts.

The same programme is also offered by about 400 private clinics, with each having the capacity to treat 20 to 200 addicts at any one time.

According to statistics by the Home Affairs Ministry, as of Aug 31 last year, a total of 47,863 individuals received treatment under AADK, with the majority of them being users of synthetic stimulant drugs. - Bernama