AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 8
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

'SPA tawar jawatan kosong berdasar permintaan KKM'

Kuala Lumpur: Suruhanjaya Perkhidmatan Awam (SPA) membuka permohonan jawatan tetap di Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) berdasarkan permintaan daripada kementerian berkenaan.

Pengerusinya, Tan Sri Zainal Rahim Seman, berkata pihaknya menawarkan perjawatan baharu untuk diisi di KKM itu selepas dimaklumkan berhubung keperluan itu untuk tindakan lanjut pihak SPA seperti lazim dilakukan.

Bagaimanapun, beliau berkata, perincian berkenaan perjawatan yang ditawarkan adalah di bawah bidang kuasa KKM termasuk jumlah kekosongan yang dinyatakan.

Zainal Rahim Seman

"Kami membuka iklan perjawatan kosong itu mengikut permohonan daripada KKM, tetapi jumlah dan perincian perjawatan terbabit adalah di bawah bidang kuasa KKM, hanya KKM yang boleh menjawab bagaimana mereka boleh menyediakan perjawatan berkenaan," katanya kepada *BH*, semalam.

Beliau berkata demikian ketika diminta mengulas pengumuman iklan hampir 5,000 jawatan kosong di KKM yang dibuka sehingga 21 Januari depan.

Sebelum ini, Gerakan Hartal Doktor Kontrak (HDK) mahukan kepastian daripada Menteri Kesihatan, Dr Zaliha Mustafa dan bekas menteri terdahulu, Khairy Jamaluddin berhubung kekosongan hampir 5,000 jawatan tetap yang mula diiklankan Jumaat lalu.

4,914 kekosongan jawatan

KKM mengiklankan 4,914 kekosongan membabitkan 4,263 jawatan bagi pegawai perubatan, 355 bagi pegawai pergigian dan 316 pegawai farmasi.

Dr Zaliha berharap calon yang layak dapat membuat permohonan dan mengemukakan segera maklumat yang lengkap dan betul.

Sementara itu, Zainal Rahim berkata, pihaknya sedia maklum terdapat 15,000 petugas kesihatan yang sudah tamat latihan dan berkhidmat selama dua tahun dengan kerajaan.

Untuk rekod, Khairy pernah mengumumkan tambahan 4,000 jawatan tetap untuk doktor kontrak, pegawai pergigian dan ahli farmasi yang sudah diisi pada Oktober tahun lalu.

Khairy ketika itu turut berkata, kerajaan menjanjikan 1,500 jawatan tetap bertambah setiap tahun.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO
MUKA SURAT : 6
RUANGAN : LOKAL

Bilangan kes Covid-19 catat penurunan

Kuala Lumpur: Kes baharu Covid-19 di seluruh negara turun 14.2 peratus kepada 3,231 kes pada Minggu Epidemiologi 1 (ME 1/2023) iaitu dari 1 hingga 7 Januari berbanding 3,767 kes pada ME sebelumnya.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, bilangan kes tempatan turun 14 peratus daripada 3,735 kes kepada 3,213 kes bagi ME1/2023 dan kes import juga turun 43.8 peratus daripada 32 kes kepada 18 kes.

"Bilangan kes sembuh pada ME 1/2023 menurun 35.6 peratus (5,869 kes kepada 3,781 kes). Bilangan kes kematian pada ME 1/2023 menurun 4.5 peratus (22 kes kepada 21 kes)," katanya dalam satu kenyataan, semalam.

Menurutnya secara kumulatif, 5,029,908 kes baharu Covid-19 direkodkan sejak 25 Januari 2020 (ME 4/2020) hingga 7 Januari lepas sementara 4,981,975 kes sembuh dan 36,874 kes kematian dicatatkan bagi tempoh sama.

Bilangan kes kematian pada ME 1/2023 menurun 4.5 peratus

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, 7,167 kluster direkodkan secara kumulatif dengan sembilan kluster masih aktif.

Mengenai kemasukan pesakit ke hospital dan Pusat Rawatan Covid-19 Berisiko Rendah (PKRC) bagi setiap 100,000 penduduk, beliau berkata secara keseluruhannya ia turun dua peratus.

Turut menunjukkan trend penurunan adalah jumlah kemasukan ke hospital awam bagi kategori satu (tidak bergejala) dan dua (bergejala) dengan penurunan 15.4 peratus manakala bagi kategori tiga (mempunyai radang paru-paru), empat (perlu bantuan oksigen) serta lima (perlu alat bantuan pernafasan) turun 7.7 peratus.

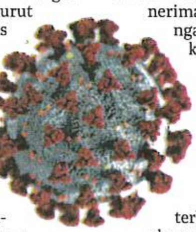
Selain itu, beliau berkata peratus pengisian katil fasiliti termasuk katil bukan kritikal dan katil Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU) serta kes positif Covid-19 yang dipantau Pusat Penilaian Covid-19 (CAC) di seluruh negara turut menunjukkan penurunan.

CHINA BUKA PINTU

Trafik penumpang dijangka bertambah

Putrajaya

Langkah keselamatan kesihatan di lapangan terbang telah dilaksanakan sejak bermulanya pandemik dan akan diteruskan dengan lebih giat terutamanya berikutan peningkatan ketara pergerakan trafik antarabangsa pada 2022, menurut Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd (MAHB).



Dalam kenyataan satu, MAHB berkata, kumpulan itu merekodkan kira-kira 143,000 pergerakan pesawat antarabangsa bagi operasinya di Malaysia pada tahun lepas dengan sebahagian besar pergerakan itu di Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa Kuala Lumpur (KLIA) iaitu sekitar 111,000.

Menerusi kelonggaran sekatan perjalanan terkini oleh kerajaan China, kumpulan menjangkakan jumlah pergerakan antarabangsa di rangkaian lapangan terbang kami akan mencatat lebih banyak peningkatan pada 2023.

"Terdapat penerbangan masuk dan keluar ke China yang beroperasi di KLIA sejak 2022 dan kekerapannya telah meningkat beransur-ansur pada suku terakhir tahun tersebut," katanya.

MAHB berkata, KLIA menerima 11 penerbangan dari China kelmarin dengan sembilan daripadanya di terminal utama KLIA manakala dua lagi di klia2.

Lapangan terbang tersebut akan menerima purata sebanyak 10 penerbangan harian pada minggu akan datang, katanya.

Menurut MAHB, kumpulan itu akan terus bekerjasama rapat dengan Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) dan agensi lain yang berkaitan untuk memastikan keselamatan kesihatan semua penumpang di rangkaian lapangan terbangnya terpelihara.

SOP yang dikenakan kepada pelancong yang tiba di Malaysia termasuk dari negara China adalah sama dengan ketibaan dari negara lain. - Gambar NSTP/AIZUDDIN SAAD

SOP kemasukan pelancong asing kekal sama

Sepang: Prosedur operasi standard (SOP) kemasukan pelancong asing di semua pintu masuk antarabangsa adalah kekal setakat ini, kata Menteri Dalam Negeri, Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail.

Beliau berkata, sebarang keputusan berhubung SOP baharu hanya akan dibuat berlandaskan data terkini Covid-19.

Saifuddin juga menjelaskan SOP yang dikenakan kepada pelancong yang tiba di Malaysia termasuk dari negara China adalah sama dengan ketibaan dari negara-negara lain.

"Tentulah tidak bijaksana untuk selektif dan saya fikir tidak tepat untuk negara ambil pendirian begitu," katanya kepada pemberita selepas meninjau operasi di Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa Kuala Lumpur (KLIA), kelmarin.

"Kalau kekal dengan rekod tanda-tanda positif, terus dibawa ke Hospital Sungai Buloh"
Saifuddin

Bagaimanapun, menurutnya, kerajaan tidak akan bertolak ansur dengan kepentingan menjaga keselamatan rakyat daripada sebarang ancaman kesihatan termasuk wabak Covid-19.

Rabu lalu, Perdana Menteri Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim berkata, Malaysia tidak mendiskriminasi mana-mana negara dalam menjalankan pemeriksaan Covid-19 terhadap pelancong yang tiba di negara ini namun mahu memastikan kesihatan rakyat adalah keutamaan.

Menurut Perdana Menteri, kawalan di pintu masuk negara oleh Jabatan Imigresen juga diperketatkan bagi memantau kemasukan rakyat asing ke Malaysia.

Mengulas lanjut, Saifuddin berkata, pelancong yang dikenal pasti mengalami demam akan dibawa ke sudut khas untuk diperiksa doktor bertugas.

"Kalau suhu 37 darjah Celsius, mereka letak (pelancong) di *point* khusus untuk buat semakan, kalau kekal dengan rekod tanda-tanda iaitu positif, terus dibawa ke Hospital Sungai Buloh," katanya.

Mengenai pemeriksaan di kaunter Imigresen di KLIA, beliau secara keseluruhan berpuas hati kerana semua pelancong mematuhi SOP sedia ada.

AKHBAR : KOSMO
MUKA SURAT : 5
RUANGAN : NEGARA

Kes baharu mingguan Covid-19 terus menurun

PUTRAJAYA – Sebanyak 3,231 kes baharu Covid-19 direkodkan pada Minggu Epidemiologi 1 (ME 1/2023) dari 1 hingga 7 Januari iaitu penurunan sebanyak 14.2 peratus, berbanding 3,767 kes yang dicatatkan pada minggu sebelumnya (ME52).

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr. Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, bilangan kes tempatan Covid-19 menurun sebanyak 14 peratus kepada 3,213 kes berbanding 3,735 kes, manakala bilangan kes import pada ME1 menurun sebanyak 43.8 peratus dengan merekodkan 18 kes.

"Bilangan kes kematian pada ME 1/2023 menurun sebanyak 4.5 peratus daripada 22 kes kepada 21 kes dan bilangan kes sembuh berkurangan kepada 3,781 kes berbanding 5,869 kes pada ME 52.

"Purata kes aktif setiap hari bagi ME1 ialah 11,278 iaitu turun sebanyak 10.8 peratus berbanding minggu sebelumnya," katanya dalam kenyataan semalam.

Menurut Dr. Noor Hisham, bermula dari 25 Januari 2020 iaitu ME 4/2020 hingga 7 Januari 2023 (ME 1/2023), secara kumulatif sebanyak 5,029,908 kes baharu Covid-19 dicatatkan, manakala kes sembuh direkodkan ialah 4,981,975.

Jelas beliau, kumulatif kes kematian dicatatkan bagi tempoh sama sebanyak 36,874 kes dan kumulatif kluster ialah 7,167 kluster dengan sembilan kluster masih aktif.

"Jumlah kemasukan pesakit Covid-19 ke fasiliti kesihatan iaitu hospital dan Pusat Rawatan Covid-19 Berisiko Rendah (PKRC) bagi setiap 100,000 penduduk secara keseluruhan menurun sebanyak dua peratus pada ME1 berbanding ME52.

"Jumlah kemasukan pesakit kategori satu dan dua menurun 15.4 peratus, manakala jumlah pesakit kategori tiga, empat dan lima menurun 7.7 peratus," ujarnya.

Beliau berkata, bagi perkembangan melibatkan Influenza Like Illnes (ILI) dan Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI), sebanyak 27 sampel ILI dikesan positif Covid-19 dengan kadar positif 3.5 peratus pada ME 1/2023, manakala sebanyak 2.6 peratus SARI dikesan positif Covid-19 pada minggu sama.

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 5
RUANGAN : NATION

'Have more hospitals – and docs'

Clinics and physicians needed to prevent overcrowding, say medical groups

By RAGANANTHINI VETHASALAM
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PETALING JAYA: More hospitals and health clinics are needed to handle the acute congestion and long waiting hours in public healthcare facilities, say medical groups.

There is also a need to increase the number of staff in many health clinics, they say.

According to the Health Ministry, there are 145 hospitals and over 2,000 health clinics including Mother and Child clinics as well as village clinics.

Malaysian Medical Association president Dr Muruga Raj Rajathurai said these facilities were now overcrowded, with long waiting times, especially for the elderly.

"Both healthcare facilities and the workforce need to be expanded," he said.

"We will reach ageing nation status in 2030 with 15% of the population being 60 years or older. Older persons will have more healthcare needs," he added.

Dr Muruga Raj said more than half of the country was dependent on public healthcare but the expansion of these facilities was slow, leading to overcrowding.

Budgeting issues, he said, were the reason behind the lack of permanent positions for healthcare workers.

"We believe funds can be set aside if healthcare is prioritised. If billions are spent on mega projects, I don't see why the same cannot be done for healthcare services.

"We saw how health became the nation's top priority when the country was hit with the Covid-19 pandemic. For years prior to that, we were underspending on healthcare.

"We still are underspending but I hope there is greater awareness of the importance of the healthcare system now," he added.

Dr Muruga Raj said the red and yellow zones in public hospitals were always given the highest priority.

"It is the green zone (non-critical cases) which is always the issue as most patients come with simple illnesses. This is where a long-term solution is needed," he said.

He added that the public, too, must be educated on the categories of illnesses that did not require immediate medical attention.

"The government must also look at bed utilisation to reduce admission. For example, normal birth delivery cases take up the bulk of beds," he said.

> ***"If billions are spent on mega projects, I don't see why the same cannot be done for healthcare services."***
>
> Dr Muruga Raj Rajathurai

The Health Ministry has successfully implemented a Low Risk Maternity Hospital in Putrajaya near the main hospital, where cases can be referred to if there are complications.

Dr Muruga Raj said a similar model should be considered for other major hospitals to free up congestion.

Hartal Doktor Kontrak agreed that the manpower shortage was not the only problem that caused congestion at public healthcare facilities, but also the lack of facilities.

The movement's spokesman Dr Muhammad Yassin said there was a need for more hospitals and health clinics.

However, he said, it was more urgent to increase the staff numbers.

"Having many health facilities with too few staff will be of little help," he said.

The shortage of healthcare facilities remains a problem in certain areas, especially in the outskirts and parts of Sabah and Sarawak.

"The ministry needs to find a way to decongest the emergency department. Extending the health clinic operating hours will only increase the burden on the staff there," he said.

"A bigger workforce is needed and we have to prevent people from leaving the service."

Muhammad said Hartal was also pushing for formation of a health services commission so the ministry would have autonomy in deciding its staff numbers, instead of relying on the Public Services Commission's quota.

Health Minister Dr Zaliha Mustafa said last week that the ministry was expecting 30 healthcare facility projects to be operational soon.

These include Hospital Pendang in Kedah, Hospital Kemaman in Terengganu and the Beaufort Hospital in Sabah. The Tawau Hospital is also being renovated.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah also said last month that the ministry was underfunded.

"We are underfunded, understaffed, underpaid, overworked, overstretched and overcrowded with patients," he said, adding that there was a need to increase the number of healthcare workers, and to improve salaries and positions.

He was responding to a tweet on the brain drain in the medical fraternity.

Code Blue, a healthcare news portal, reported last month that critically-ill patients, including those on ventilation, had been stranded for up to six days in the red zone of Ipoh's Hospital Raja Permaisuri Bainun emergency room due to a shortage of critical care beds and staff.

Extended hours? Give us more doctors, say clinics

PETALING JAYA: The operating hours of health clinics cannot be extended unless there is an increase in manpower, say doctors.

Doctors at these health clinics say they are critically understaffed.

A doctor in Perak said he would see up to 40-50 patients on a usual day and about 20 on a less busy day.

"This is just during office hours. If the clinic hours are extended to 10pm, we need more doctors," he said.

With each patient taking about 10 to 15 minutes for the less serious cases, seeing 40 patients would take a doctor between seven and 10 hours. More serious cases need a longer time.

"We need to rotate, otherwise we will burn out and will not be able to make it to the next day. If the Health Ministry wants to increase operating hours, it must also increase the number of staff," he said.

The doctor noted that the patient load had returned to the pre-pandemic rate.

Another doctor in Pahang said there were four doctors in the clinic but there would always be only one or two available at a time as the others might be attending meetings, courses and making visits.

"There are about 140 patients a day. How many patients a doctor attends to depends on how many doctors are available on that particular day," she said.

"It is definitely understaffed. For better quality of care, there must be more doctors.

"However, the current situation is still much better than the days when I had to work alone without a break," she added.

This doctor said health clinics were not only meant for outpatient care but also other services such as antenatal, child health, family planning, methadone, quitting smoking, non-communicable diseases, emergency, prevention and health awareness programmes.

Doctors also have to visit village clinics, indigenous villages and the district health clinic, among others.

Sometime, the clinics receive complex cases too.

She noted that with one doctor attending to emergency cases and only one seeing the regular patients, the waiting time would increase.

She added that doctors were physically and mentally exhausted.

Besides treating patients, medical officers at health clinics are also required to manage paperwork and other administration duties.

"We need more hands if we are going to operate for longer hours," she said.

Health Minister Dr Zaliha Mustafa said last Friday that the extended operating hours for health clinics was among the solutions the ministry was mulling to prevent crowding at emergency departments at hospitals, once there were sufficient resources including manpower.

Citing the Auditor-General's 2019 report that the wait time at emergency departments was usually longer than six hours, she said: "About 70% of the cases are green zone cases (which are non-critical/cold cases).

"This goes against the scope of or real function of the emergency department which should only receive critical cases."

However, she said there must be proper planning to ensure that there was no major constraint on resources.

AKHBAR : THE SUN
MUKA SURAT : 4
RUANGAN : NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS

New Covid cases dropped 14.2% last week: DG

KUALA LUMPUR: The number of new Covid-19 cases in the first epidemiological week (ME 1/2023) from Jan 1 to 7 recorded a drop of 14.2%, to 3,231 cases, compared with 3,767 cases reported in the previous week.

Health Director-General Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said yesterday, during that period, the number of local cases dropped by 14%, from 3,735 to 3,213 cases. The number of imported cases was also lower by 43.8%, from 32 cases to 18.

Noor Hisham added that the number of recoveries showed a drop of 35.6%, from 5,869 cases previously to 3,781. The number of deaths also dropped by 4.5%, from 22 to 21.

According to him, cumulatively, there were 5,029,908 new Covid-19 cases recorded for ME 4/2020, which was from Jan 25, 2020 to Jan 7 this year, with a total of 4,981,975 recoveries and 36,874 deaths reported for the same period.

The cumulative number of clusters was 7,167, with nine still active.

On admissions to hospitals and low-risk Covid-19 treatment centres for every 100,000 people, he said overall, it had dropped by 2%.

Admissions to public hospitals for category one (asymptomatic) and category two (with symptoms) saw a decline of 15.4% while for category three (with lung infection), four (requiring oxygen aid) and five (on ventilator) dropped by 7.7%.

In addition, the percentage of bed occupancy, including non-critical care and intensive care unit beds, as well as positive cases monitored by the Covid-19 Assessment Centre nationwide, had also decreased. – Bernama

MB urges Johoreans to get second booster

JOHOR BARU: Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Onn Hafiz Ghazi yesterday called on Johoreans to get their second Covid-19 booster shot even though the number of positive cases in the state is under control.

He said this following a statement by state health director, Datuk Dr Aman Rabu, that the percentage of those who have taken the second booster shot in Johor is still low, at only 1.9%.

"Although we are getting used to living in the transition to the endemic phase, there is also the emergence of new variants such as BA.5.2 and B.7. Johor is also an international entry point and the people need to continue to be vigilant.

"Let us pray that Johor and Malaysia remain protected from the threat of the pandemic," Onn Hafiz said yesterday.

Recently, state Health and Unity Committee chairman Ling Tian Soon said vaccination can be obtained at 12 hospitals or 81 vaccination centres and health clinics statewide.

Yesterday, Health Minister Dr Zaliha Mustafa was reported to have said that only 49.8% of Malaysians have received their first booster dose while 1.9% have received their second. – Bernama