

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 8

RUANGAN : LOKAL

Tiada varian Kraken dikesan

Putrajaya: Maklumat melegakan ramai pihak apabila tiada subvarian coronavirus baharu 'Kraken' atau Omicron XBB.1.5 dikesan di Malaysia, setakat ini.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata pemantauan lanjut terus dijalankan terhadap XBB 1.5 yang kini menjadi rantaian dominan di Amerika Syarikat (AS).

"Kita masih memantau sama ada XBB 1.5 ada kesannya dari segi keparahan dan penularan. Setakat ini ia belum dikesan lagi dalam negara.

"Namun, pemantauan lanjut akan terus dijalankan dan kita juga akan bekerjasama dengan negara lain

untuk melihat dari segi penularan dan keparahan varian ini," katanya semalam.

Menurut Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO), XBB.1.5 ialah keturunan subvarian Omicron XBB yang terjadi daripada persilangan di antara dua strain terdahulu, BA.2.75 dan BA.2.10.1.

Pakar menggelarkan strain Omicron XBB.1.5 ini dengan nama 'Kraken' yang berpotensi mencetuskan gelombang besar COVID-19. WHO dilaporkan sedang membuat penilaian risiko strain XBB.1.5.

"Meskipun kehidupan sudah hampir kembali kepada keadaan normal selepas dua tahun dalam pandemik, subvarian baharu XBB.1.5 me-

ngancam kemajuan itu.

Strain Kraken ini dipercayai lebih mudah berjangkit dan mampu mengelak daripada perlindungan vaksin dan jangkitan lama, lapor agensi berita news.com.au.

WHO melabelkan strain itu sebagai 'subvarian paling mudah berjangkit yang pernah dikesan', dengan XBB.1.5 menjadi punca sebahagian besar jangkitan di AS.

Subvarian itu turut dikesan di Australia, United Kingdom (UK) dan beberapa negara Eropah lain seperti Denmark, Perancis, Jerman dan Sepanyol. Subvarian itu masih belum ditemui di New Zealand.

Putrajaya: Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) mengesahkan 4,069 pengembara dari China tiba di Pintu Masuk Antarabangsa (PMA) Malaysia sejak republik itu membuka sempadan negara, Ahad lalu.

Timbalan Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan (Kesihatan Awam), Datuk Dr Norhayati Rusli, berkata, setakat ini tiada kes Covid-19 atau gejala dikesan dalam kalangan mereka setakat ini.

Katanya, KKM akan terus memantau perkara itu termasuk melakukan persampelan air kumbahan bagi pesawat yang tiba dari China.

"Saringan dan pemantauan akan sentiasa ditingkatkan bagi mengesan ke-

4,069 pengembara China tiba di Malaysia



Saringan dan pemantauan akan sentiasa ditingkatkan bagi mengesan kehadiran varian baharu Covid-19"

Dr Norhayati

hadiran varian baharu Covid-19," katanya pada sesi taklimat khas media di sini, semalam.

Beliau turut menasihatkan rakyat Malaysia yang

ingin ke luar negara supaya melengkapkan vaksinasi, selain mengambil dos penggalak 1 dan 2.

Sebelum ini, Menteri Dalam Negeri, Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail dilaporkan berkata, prosedur operasi standard (SOP) kemaskin pelancong asing di semua PMA dkekalkan setakat ini.

Beliau berkata, SOP itu turut terpakai bagi pelancong dari China dan sebarang keputusan berhubung SOP baharu hanya akan dibuat berlandaskan data terkini Covid-19.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 23

RUANGAN : LOKAL

OPERASI BERSEPADU KEDAI MAKAN DI JOHOR

Banyak premis diperiksa kotorOleh Izz Laily Hussein
am@hmetro.com.my

Johor Bahru

Terdapat serangga perosak, pekerja tiada suntikan tifoid, pakaian pengendali makanan tidak sesuai dan tidak mempamerkan perakuan pendaftaran premis makanan.

Itu kesalahan utama di kesan Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Johor (JKNJ) di premis-premis makanan yang menjadi tumpuan awam di bandar raya ini.

Pengarah Kesihatan Negeri Johor, Datuk Dr Aman Rabu berkata, melihat kepada keadaan itu, pihaknya tidak berpuas hati dengan tahap kebersihan premis makanan yang diperiksa.

"Berdasarkan pemeriksaan yang dibuat, banyak premis yang didapati kotor. Saya rasa, [JKNJ] belum berpuas hati dengan tahap kebersihan, khususnya premis yang sudah diperiksa ini."

"Kita buat pemeriksaan

»INFO

Terdapat serangga perosak, pekerja tiada suntikan tifoid, pakaian pengendali makanan tidak sesuai, tidak mempamerkan perakuan pendaftaran premis makanan.

Pemeriksaan dilakukan [JKNJ] secara berkala setiap setahun sekali.

ini secara berkala dan kita akan pastikan setiap premis akan kita periksa setahun sekali dan mana-mana premis yang didapati melanggar sebarang peraturan, kita akan beri notis tutup," katanya ketika sidang media selepas mengadakan Operasi Bersepadu Premis Makanan (Ops Bersih) Siri 1/2023 Peringkat Negeri Johor di Stulang Laut di sini, kelmarin.

Dalam operasi yang dijalankan sehingga 10 malam



DR Aman (kanan) memeriksa premis makanan ketika Ops Bersih Siri 1/2023 Peringkat Negeri Johor di Stulang Laut. - Gambar NSTP/IZZ LAILY HUSSEIN

itu, sebanyak 113 premis makanan diperiksa di sekitar daerah ini dan sebanyak 130 notis kesalahan dikeluarkan

di bawah Peraturan-peraturan Kebersihan Makanan 2009.

Menurut Dr Aman, semua

notis dikeluarkan itu memabitkan nilai kompaun RM67,250.

"Daripada jumlah premis

makanan yang diperiksa, 15 daripadanya diarahkan tutup mengikut Seksyen 11 Akta Makanan 1983," katanya.

AKHBAR : KOSMO
MUKA SURAT : 16
RUANGAN : NEGARA

Banyak premis di Johor kotor, ada tikus

JOHOR BAHRU – Aspek kebersihan premis perniagaan khususnya yang terlibat dalam penyediaan makanan masih berada pada tahap kurang memuaskan, kata Pengarah Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Johor, Datuk Dr. Aman Rabu.

Menurutnya, pemeriksaan mendapati majoriti premis berkenaan didapati melanggar peraturan kebersihan ditetapkan dan antara kesalahan utama direkodkan adalah terdapat serangga perosak seperti lipas, lalat dan tikus.

Selain itu katanya, pekerja premis juga didapati tidak mempunyai suntikan tifoid selain tidak memakai pakaian bersesuaian.

"Banyak premis yang kita periksa kotor.

"Kita mahu memastikan setiap premis diperiksa sekurang-kurangnya sekali dalam setahun, dan yang mana kita dapati melanggar per-

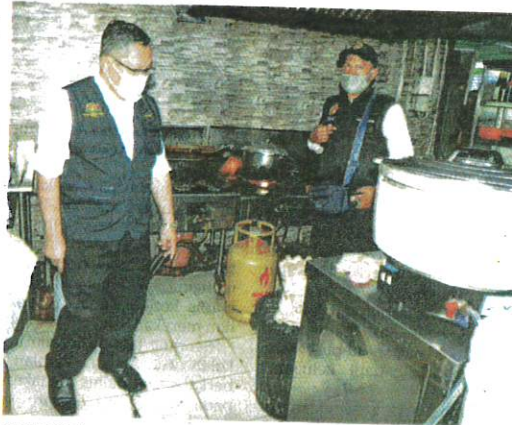
turan akan dikenakan tindakan termasuk tutup," katanya selepas Operasi Bersepadu Premis Makanan (Ops Bersih) di sekitar Stulang Laut, di sini kelmarin.

Sementara itu, Aman memberitahu, pihaknya telah mengeluarkan kompaun berjumlah RM67,250 selain mengarahkan 15 premis makanan ditutup, manakala 19 premis lagi dibersihkan.

"Dalam operasi semalam, kita telah memeriksa sejumlah 113 premis perniagaan khususnya yang mengendalikan makanan dan sebanyak 130 notis telah dikeluarkan," jelasnya.

Dalam pada itu, tinjauan mendapati kebanyakan premis diperiksa kotor dengan bahan makanan mentah tidak bertutup dan dihurung lalat.

Selain itu lantai premis juga tidak dibersihkan selain pengurusan makanan sejuk beku tidak menepati piawaian.



AMAN (kiri) menjalankan pemeriksaan di sebuah restoran di Stulang Laut, Johor Bahru kelmarin.

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI

Permintaan dos penggalak kedua meningkat

PUTRAJAYA: Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) melihat trend peningkatan pengambilan dos penggalak kedua di fasiliti kesihatan di seluruh negara sejak dua minggu lalu.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr. Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, pihaknya akui pengambilan dos penggalak kedua sedikit hambar berbanding dos penggalak pertama, namun ia semakin meningkat ketika ini.

Beliau berkata, peningkatan itu didorong oleh kebimbangan orang awam mengenai situasi terkini penularan Covid-19 di China pada awal bulan lalu.

“Sejak dua minggu lalu, kami melihat satu keadaan positif terhadap pengambilan suntikan dos penggalak kedua itu.

“Justeru, kami mahu individu berisiko supaya tampil mengambil dos penggalak berkenaan secara ‘walk-in’ di fasiliti KKM dan swasta di seluruh ne-

gara,” katanya pada sesi taklimat khas bersama media di sini semalam.

Sementara itu, Pakar Perubatan Kesihatan Awam, Bahagian Pembangunan Kesihatan Keluarga KKM, Dr. Saidatul Norbaya Buang berkata, buat masa ini, secara purata sebanyak 7,000 suntikan dos penggalak kedua diberikan kepada penerima setiap hari.

Menurutnya, ia peningkatan ketara iaitu sekitar 4,000 dos sehari dua minggu lalu dan hanya beberapa ratus sebelum itu.

“Secara keseluruhan, sebanyak 50 peratus sahaja rakyat Malaysia yang mengambil suntikan dos penggalak pertama dan hanya 2.1 peratus bagi dos penggalak kedua.

“Daripada jumlah itu, 71.6 peratus bagi dos penggalak pertama diambil warga emas manakala dos penggalak kedua sekitar 5.6 peratus,” katanya.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : NATION/NEWS

MONITORING ONGOING

Ministry not expecting new Covid wave

PUTRAJAYA: The Health Ministry does not expect a new Covid-19 wave hitting the country, given the decreasing daily cases.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said there had been no new variants detected in a year, aside from the Omicron variant.

"Data shows that daily cases and admissions to hospitals have seen a decrease for now.

"We have a strategy including surveillance and sewage water monitoring to detect new variants.

"So far, only Omicron is in our environment, but we are still closely monitoring new variants.

"Even though it is expected that there will be a spike of cases

with each new sub-variant, we see that it will not happen.

"The existing vaccines are able to provide all individuals with sufficient immunity and protection against the Omicron variant, therefore, we expect that it (new wave of Covid-19 infection cases) will not happen," he said in a special session with the media yesterday.

He said the Health Ministry would tighten controls and increase preventive measures if it sees an increase in Covid-19 cases, including imported ones.

"We will also look into the use of Intensive Care Unit beds and ward capacity. If they reach 30 per cent, then we will take action. Right now, the usage is less than

20 per cent.

"Deaths due to the Omicron also did not increase."

Dr Noor Hisham said the ministry would also monitor any increase of cases in neighbouring countries and act accordingly if there was a spike in cases.

He said that if there was a need for the Health Ministry to heighten actions from what it was now, it would be based on data and facts.

"In the past two weeks, the cases have decreased by 500. A few months before, the number of cases ranged between 3,000 and 4,000.

"We are monitoring the current situation before taking any drastic action," he said.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NATION

DG: No cases from China

Tests on over 4,000 travellers show no Covid-19 recorded

By GERARD GIMINO
gerard.gimino@thestar.com.my

PUTRAJAYA: No Covid-19 cases have been recorded from the 4,096 travellers who have arrived from China since Jan 8, says the Health Ministry.

Its director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said this was based on wastewater samplings conducted at random across various high-risk areas, including aircraft.

"The number of imported cases has also been low, at only between three to four cases reported monthly."

"Wastewater samplings (from various flights at random), however, discovered the presence of the Omicron variants and its sub-types, but that is already within the community."

"There are also no new variants detected as yet," he told a press conference after a media briefing here yesterday.

He said no surge in Covid-19 infections was expected in the coming festive season.

"The current number of Covid-19 daily cases and hospitalisation rates are also on a downward trend," he added.

On whether the upcoming Thai Pusam and Chinese New Year celebrations would see any new standard operating procedures being implemented, he said things would remain as per status quo.

"We went through various festive events last year such as Hari Raya Aidilfitri and observed no surge in cases."

"Hence, we will stick to the same procedures practised during festive celebrations last year," he said.

Dr Noor Hisham added that there were seven criteria to be met before any further Covid-19 mitigation measures were implemented.

These include an increase in imported Covid-19 cases from China and the detection of new Covid-19 variants through wastewater samplings of aircraft from the republic.

"Stricter Covid-19 measures also have to be considered if hospitalisation and intensive care units usage reach more than 30%," he said.



Smooth passage: Travellers arriving at KLIA in Sepang queue up at the arrival area. — Bernama

"Stricter Covid-19 measures also have to be considered if hospitalisation and intensive care units usage reach more than 30%."

Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah

Other criteria were an increase in the number of Covid-19 related deaths for those outside the high-risk categories and those brought in dead, alongside an increase in the number of Covid-19 cases in countries bordering Malaysia such as Singapore, Thailand and Indonesia. He added that the XBB1.5 variant, which saw an increase in the number of Covid-19 cases in the United States, has yet to be reported in Malaysia.

"Despite that, we are still monitoring Covid-19 variants and their

potential mutations," he said.

Health deputy director-general (public health) Datuk Dr Norhayati Rusli said there would also be special lanes manned by the Immigration Department to monitor Chinese tourists entering Malaysia as part of efforts to mitigate Covid-19.

"Thermal scanners will also be set up at our international entry points, with symptomatic travellers being referred to Health Ministry officials."

"Suspected Covid-19 infected

individuals will also be referred to our officials."

"These individuals will then be monitored to see whether they are really infected with Covid-19 via a rapid antigen test (RTK)," she told the same media briefing earlier.

Dr Norhayati added that Covid-19 positive travellers in Categories 1 and 2 would be given the option of isolating at home or their lodging residences.

"Those in Categories 3, 4 and 5 will be referred for further treatment in either public or private hospitals," she said.

She added that flight attendants and ground staff members would also assist Health Ministry officials in checking whether incoming travellers exhibited Covid-19 symptoms.

Watch the video
TheStarTV.com



Covid-19 vaccine shelf life extended after updated stability data

PUTRAJAYA: The shelf life of Covid-19 vaccines used in Malaysia has been extended after its manufacturer submitted new data on its stability, says the Health Ministry.

"When companies provide the latest data on a vaccine's stability, indicating that it is still effective, its shelf life will be extended."

"This is despite the date on the vials showing that it has expired," said director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

He said the National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency (NPRA) had given the green light based on the vaccine's stability.

"This (extension) can also vary from six months to a year depending on the data we get from the manufacturer," he said at a press conference after a media briefing here yesterday.

Dr Noor Hisham also noted that the intake of Covid-19 vaccines had increased over the past two weeks.

"This (increase in vaccinations) is a positive development, and we encourage those who have yet to be vaccinated or receive their boosters to come forward to do so," he said.

Separately, Dr Saidatul Norbaya Buang of the Health Ministry's Public Health Physician (Family Health Development Division) stated that an average of 7,000 second booster dose injections were administered daily.

She said booster vaccinations are offered at 1,293 vaccination centres (PPV) nationwide, namely at 104 government hospitals, 754 clinics, and 435 private PPV.

She added that those in the priority group can get the vaccinations without an appointment by walking in at hospitals, health clinics, or private PPVs, while other categories have to book an appointment through the MySejahtera application or call the PPV.

Institute of Clinical Research director Dr Kalaiarasu Periasamy said that it was also normal to experience minor side effects after receiving vaccines, which would dissipate after about a week.

AKHBAR : THE SUN

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS

Govt to monitor indicators before tightening Covid SOP

PUTRAJAYA: The Health Ministry has decided to maintain the Covid-19 standard operating procedure (SOP) for now, but will monitor seven key indicators before deciding to tighten the SOP.

Health Director-General Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the ministry will first examine the situation and further strengthen public health control before taking any action.

"We will first monitor not only hospital admissions but also other indicators, such as forecast cases, daily cases and so on.

"If the data in all indicators shows improvement, we can then discuss appropriate action," he said during an engagement session with the media here yesterday.

Also present were Health Minister Dr Zaliha Mustafa, Health Deputy Director-General (Public Health) Datuk Dr Norhayati Rusli and Institute for Clinical Research Director Datuk Dr M. Kalairasu.

Noor Hisham said the indicators include the sudden increase in imported cases, which currently recorded only three or four per month, and the discovery of new

variants in sewage samples and at high-risk places.

"What worries us is whether our vaccine is effective when a new variant is found. We will also check with World Health Organisation whether a new variant has been registered."

He said if a new variant is detected, the ministry will monitor the extent of infectivity and its severity or hospitalisation.

Noor Hisham added that another indicator is the increase in cases of influenza-like illness and severe acute respiratory infections in

selected health facilities. If the records show a sudden increase in cases, the ministry will take measures to control them. Another indicator is the capacity of the public health system. For example, if bed occupancy and intensive care unit admissions exceed 30%, the ministry will take appropriate action.

According to him, the indicator that will also be monitored is the increase in the number of deaths, which is currently at one figure per day. The ministry will investigate the severity of the virus if there is a three-digit jump. - Bernama