

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 7

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Penularan COVID-19

Empat lagi kematian

14 korban keseluruhan dicatat sehingga semalam

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Putrajaya: Malaysia mencatatkan pertambahan empat kes kematian baharu berkaitan COVID-19 setakat jam 12 tengah hari semalam.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata ia sekali gus menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes kematian COVID-19 di negara ini adalah 14 kes.

"Kematian ke-11 adalah kes ke-1,070 iaitu lelaki berumur 70 tahun warga tempatan.

"Beliau mempunyai sejarah perjalanan ke luar negara dan dirawat di ICU Hospital Canselor Tuanku Muhriz dan disahkan meninggal dunia 22 Mac lalu (kelmarin)," katanya pada sidang media di sini, semalam.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, kematian ke-12 pula ialah kes ke-1,114 iaitu lelaki berumur 70 tahun yang juga warga tempatan.

"Beliau ialah jemaah tabligh yang menghadiri perhimpunan di Masjid Seri Petaling dan dirawat di Hospital Kluang. Beliau disahkan meninggal dunia pada hari ini (semalam).

"Kematian ke-13 adalah kes ke-1,006 ialah lelaki berumur 49 tahun warganegara Malaysia.

"Beliau yang dirawat di Hospital Umum Sarawak adalah anak kepada kes ke-1,031. Beliau disahkan meninggal dunia pada hari ini (semalam)," katanya.

Beliau berkata, kematian ke-14 pula ialah kes ke-595, iaitu wanita



Dr Noor Hisham pada sidang media berkenaan COVID-19 di Kementerian Kesihatan, Putrajaya, semalam.

(Foto BERNAMA)

51 tahun warga Malaysia.

"Mangsa adalah kontak rapat dengan kes positif COVID-19 daripada kluster tabligh dan dirawat di Hospital Miri sebelum disahkan meninggal dunia hari ini (semalam)," katanya.

Mengulas lanjut, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, daripada 212 kes baharu yang dilaporkan semalam, sebanyak 123 kes adalah berkaitan dengan kluster perhimpunan tabligh di Masjid Jamek Seri Petaling.

"Sehingga kini, 57 kes positif COVID-19 sedang dirawat di Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU) dan daripada

jumlah itu, 27 kes memerlukan bantuan pernafasan," katanya.

Sementara itu, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, terdapat 20 kes yang sudah pulih dan dibenarkan pulang semalam, menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes yang pulih sepenuhnya daripada COVID-19 dan dibenarkan pulang dari wad, sebanyak 159 kes.

Dalam pada itu beliau berkata, sehingga kini pihak Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) berjaya memperoleh stok bekalan peralatan perlindungan diri (PPE), sebanyak 33 juta unit.

Beliau berkata, stok berkenaan mampu menampung penggunaan di semua fasiliti kesihatan dan akan diedarkan dalam minggu ini.

"Selain itu, pihak kerajaan juga sudah menerima sumbangan bekalan PPE daripada pelbagai pihak dan sejumlah tiga juta unit PPE sedang diagihkan ke fasiliti-fasiliti kesihatan, mengikut keperluan.

"Pihak KKM ingin merakamkan setinggi-tinggi penghargaan kepada semua pihak atas sumbangan mereka," katanya.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 6
RUANGAN : MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19

Covid-19 ragut nyawa ke-14

Empat lagi kematian dicatatkan di Malaysia, dua berkaitan kluster tabligh

Oleh **TUAN BUQHAI RAH TUAN MUHAMAD ADNAN**

PUTRAJAYA

Tiga lelaki dan seorang wanita menjadi korban terbaru Covid-19 di Malaysia. Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, pertambahan kes berkenaan menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kematian sebanyak 14 kes. Menurutnya, kes kematian ke-11 merupakan kes ke-1,070 positif wabak berkenaan iaitu lelaki tempatan berumur 70 tahun dan mempunyai sejarah perjalanan ke luar negara. "Dia dirawat di Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU) Hospital Canselor Tuan-ku Muhriz UKM dan disahkan meninggal

dunia semalam (kelmarin)," katanya pada sidang akhbar di sini semalam. Beliau berkata, kes kematian ke-12 melibatkan seorang jemaah tabligh yang menghadiri perhimpunan di Sri Petaling dan disahkan meninggal dunia semalam. "Mangsa berumur 70 tahun merupakan kes ke-1,114 positif Covid-19 dan dirawat di Hospital Kluang, Johor," katanya. Beliau berkata, bagi kes kematian ke-13, ia melibatkan anak kepada kes ke-1,031. "Lelaki berkenaan yang berusia 49 tahun merupakan kes ke-1,006 dan disahkan

meninggal dunia di Hospital Umum Sarawak," katanya. Dr Noor Hisham berkata, kes kematian ke-14 pula merupakan wanita berusia 51 tahun yang mempunyai kontak rapat daripada kluster tabligh dan dirawat di Hospital Miri. Mangsa meninggal dunia semalam.

Menurutnya, sebanyak 57 kes positif Covid-19 sedang dirawat di ICU dengan 27 daripada mangsa memerlukan bantuan pernafasan. Katanya, setakat jam 12 tengah hari, sebanyak 212 kes baharu direkodkan menjadikan jumlah kumulatif positif Covid-19 sebanyak 1,518 kes.

KKM perlukan 2,000 lagi petugas barisan hadapan

PUTRAJAYA - Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) menyasarkan 2,000 petugas kesihatan sama ada yang telah penenak untuk kembali bertugas membantu Kementerian menangani wabak koronavirus (Covid-19). Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, pihaknya sedang merangka pelan bagi perancangan tersebut. "Jumlah 2,000 itu termasuk pakar perubatan yang telah bersara, jururawat dan pelatih graduan perubatan," katanya di sini semalam. Menurutnya, kementerian juga sedang meneliti kontrak pegawai perubatan. "Kita dalam proses melihat kembali, graduan perubatan kita perlu latihan terlebih dahulu. "Apa yang penting, jururawat dan pakar yang bersara memiliki kepakaran dalam bidang masing-masing," katanya. Pada 17 Mac lalu, Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba berkata, KKM sedang berusaha menambah 830 jururawat bagi menampung kapasiti di 135 hospital.

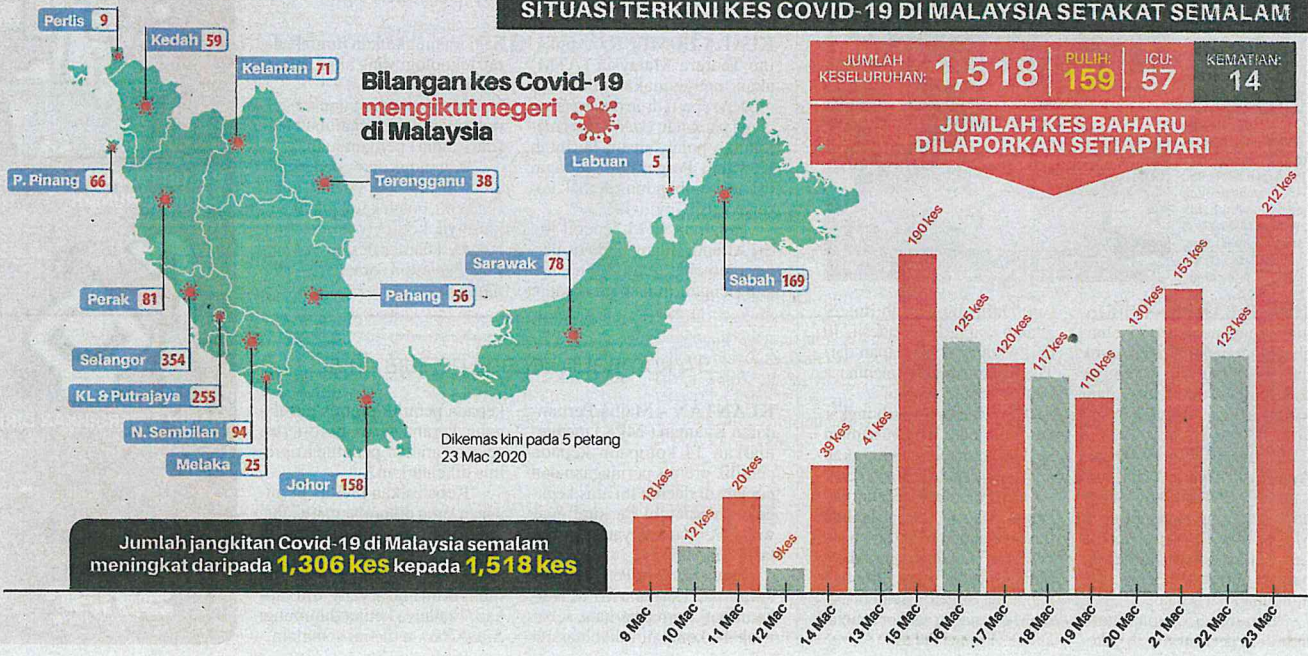


DR NOOR HISHAM

Saring walau tidak bergejala

PUTRAJAYA - Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) memutuskan untuk melakukan saringan terhadap semua jemaah tabligh yang menghadiri perhimpunan di Sri Petaling baru-baru ini walaupun tidak bergejala. Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, keputusan itu dicapai dalam perbincangan semalam. "Kita akan bekerjasama dengan polis untuk mengesan mereka," katanya di sini semalam. Menurutnya, sekiranya disahkan positif, mereka akan dirawat di hospital. "Sekiranya negatif, kita akan susuli rawatan lain," katanya. Beliau berkata, setakat ini, KKM sudah membuat saringan terhadap 13,000 jemaah dan 6,700 sampel telah diambil. "Daripada jumlah itu, 970 disahkan positif. Daripada 1,518 kes positif Covid-19, sebanyak 62 peratus melibatkan kluster tabligh," katanya. Perhimpunan tabligh di Masjid Jamek Sri Petaling baru-baru ini dihadiri oleh 14,500 jemaah. Dr Noor Hisham berkata, KKM telah mengenal pasti beberapa kluster terbaru yang berkaitan dengan kluster tabligh. "Antaranya, kluster perkahwinan dan surau yang secara tidak langsung mempunyai kaitan dengan kluster tabligh," katanya.

SITUASI TERKINI KES COVID-19 DI MALAYSIA SETAKAT SEMALAM



AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : NATION/NEWS

DEATH TOLL AT 14

4 NEW COVID-19 DEATHS RECORDED

212 fresh infections bring tally of coronavirus cases to 1,518

PUTRAJAYA

FOUR deaths linked to Covid-19 were recorded yesterday, while 212 new infections involving the coronavirus were detected nationwide. The latest infections bring the tally of cases in the country to 1,518, while total deaths now stood at 14.

Speaking at the Health Ministry's daily press conference on Covid-19, Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said of the 212 new cases, 123 of them were linked to a cluster at the Sri Petaling Mosque, where a tabligh event was held from Feb 27 to March 1.

He said currently, there were 57 cases that were being treated at the intensive care unit, with 27 requiring ventilators to aid their breathing.

On the 11th fatality, Dr Noor Hisham said the 70-year-old man had a travel history abroad and was treated at the Hospital Tunku Muhriz Canselor UKM.

"On the 12th death case, the 70-year-old man attended the high gathering, while the 13th case involved a 49-year-old who was the son to Case No.

14th death case was a 51-year-old woman who was a close contact of a positive victim from the cluster," he said.

Dr Noor Hisham said 19 patients had fully recovered and were allowed to



Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah speaking at a press conference in Putrajaya yesterday. With him is Deputy Director-General (Medical) Datuk Dr Rohaizat Yon (left). PIC BY MOHD FADLI HAMZAH

return home, bringing the number of people who have been cured of the coronavirus in Malaysia to 159.

Yesterday marked the sixth day since the government announced the Movement Control Order (MCO) starting March 18 to help curb the spread of Covid-19.

On a related issue, he said 33 million units of personal protective equipment (PPE) would be distributed to Health Ministry facilities within this week.

He said the PPE supply, secured by the ministry, could accommo-

date the usage in all its health facilities.

"In addition, the government has also received donations in the form of PPE from various parties.

"A total of three million PPE units are being distributed to health facilities as needed, and the ministry would like to express our sincere thanks to all for their contribution."

Videos of medical staff making PPE from plastic bags, dustbin liners and cling wrap went viral on social media. Supposedly, the self-made gear was made due to inadequate PPE at Health Min-

istry facilities.

Dr Noor Hisham said the issue right now was the redistribution of PPE.

"We do have stock but the issue is redistribution because (at) 'fast-moving' hospitals such as Sungai Buloh Hospital, their utilisation is very high.

"I don't think there is an issue because we have ample stock of face masks and PPE," he said.

Dr Noor Hisham added that the ministry would ensure adequate supply of PPE at all health facilities through coordination with the state health departments.

"The ministry has always given priority to the safety aspects of its members," he said.

On another issue, the Health Ministry is targeting to recruit 2,000 retired doctors and nurses to assist frontliners to face the Covid-19 outbreak.

Dr Noor Hisham said the ministry was looking at enhancing its health services, particularly in the management of patients.

"We are in the process of increasing our human resources, be it nurses or doctors. If (it involves) medical officers, we have to train them first, hence we are looking at those with experience, namely retired nurses and specialists, to assist us."

He said the ministry was working on registering those who were interested.

Meanwhile, Dr Noor Hisham reiterated that it was not necessary for the public to wear face masks.

"The need to wear face masks is when you have symptoms, taking care of patients or when it is a requirement for you to do so.

"But generally, social distancing is more than enough and it is not necessary for you to wear face masks.

"However, some of us overdo it. For example, (they) want to wear it (face masks) despite the advisory given."

There was some confusion on the need for the public to wear face masks. Some people were instructed to do so by the authorities when they were grocery shopping, and some were banned from entering shops for not donning face masks.

On a report that a Malaysian died due to Covid-19 in London, Dr Noor Hisham said the ministry had yet to receive information on the matter.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : NATION

Record 212 new cases registered in a day

PETALING JAYA: Malaysia saw its highest number of new Covid-19 cases in a day, with 212 new cases.

This is the highest number of new cases recorded in a day, with the previous record at 190 new cases on March 15.

Out of the 212 new Covid-19 cases, 13 cases were linked to the cluster in the Sri Petaling tabligh event. Health director-general, Datuk Dr Hisham Abdullah, said the total cumulative number of Covid-19 cases is 1,518.

He added that about 62% of posi-

tive Covid-19 cases were linked to the cluster from the tabligh event at the Sri Petaling mosque.

He added that as of now, about 13,000 tests were conducted on the participants of the tabligh event.

"We have conducted about 13,000 tests and have taken about 6,700 samples. From that number, those who tested positive were 940 cases," he told the media yesterday.

He added that tests will be run for all the participants of the tabligh event, regardless of whether they displayed any symptoms or not.

No test fees will be imposed on the tabligh participants who are foreigners, he said.

"For the tabligh participants, we will test all of them – even those without symptoms.

"At the start (we followed) the World Health Organisation, we would test only those who display symptoms. But now we have decided to test them even if they do not have any symptoms.

"If foreigners come to the health clinics or hospitals – if they are looking for treatment that is not Covid-

19 related, they will be charged a fee that has been set.

"But if it's related to Covid-19, no fee will be charged – whether they are foreigners who are rich or poor," he said.

He added that the Health Minister is working with the police authorities to track tabligh participants and encourage them to come forward to be tested.

Four new deaths were also reported to the Crisis Preparedness and Response Centre, which brings the death toll to 14.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : NATION

'Face masks not needed for all'

Wear it only if you are a frontliner or with symptoms, says DG

PETALING JAYA: It is excessive to make everybody wear face masks in public, says Health director-general Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah. He said only frontliners and those with symptoms of Covid-19 needed to put on the masks.

Dr Noor Hisham said the Health Ministry followed the World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines on the wearing of face masks outside the home.

"According to the WHO, you wear face masks if you have symptoms, are taking care of Covid-19 patients or are working in an environment where you are constantly facing the public.

"Generally, social distancing is more than enough. It is not necessary to wear a mask but some of us do it despite the advisory given by health authorities," said Dr Noor Hisham at a media briefing on the status of the Covid-19 pandemic

in the country.

He was asked if as part of the movement control order, there was a ruling that people must wear masks when they were on the road or in stores.

Under the guidelines issued by the Health Ministry, face masks need only to be worn by individuals who have respiratory symptoms (including cough and cold-like symptoms) or who are frontliners in healthcare and public order.

There has been some confusion among the public about this matter because some premises have insisted on visitors wearing masks.

However, several supermarkets say they will follow the Health Ministry's guidelines and will not force shoppers to wear masks.

Mydin Mohamed Holdings Bhd managing director Datuk Ameer Ali Mydin said that as of now all Mydin stores nationwide would observe

the guidelines.

"We can encourage but not force customers to wear face masks, especially as there are no stocks of masks in the market anyway at whatever price," said Ameer Ali.

A Tesco (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd spokesman said the retailer would also abide by the guidelines.

"We will keep to the guidelines issued by the health authorities on the use of face masks in our stores nationwide.

"However, because our employees deal with the customers, we have provided them with cloth masks," said the spokesman.

Tesco acknowledged that there had been mixed messages from various local authorities and that had caused confusion over the use of masks.

A spokesman for GCH Retail Malaysia, which runs retail outlets that include Giant hypermarkets, TMC,

Cold Storage, GEKspres, Shoppers and Mercato, said: "In accordance with the Health Ministry guideline we are advising our customers as well as team members to only wear a mask should they have any of the symptoms."

"The well-being of our customer and team members remains our top priority and we ask everyone to exercise good personal hygiene at all times."

Meanwhile, Senior Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob assured the public that there would be no crackdown on the wearing of masks.

"At the roadblocks, those who have no essential needs to be on the streets will be asked to go home. We do not check if they are wearing masks," said the Defence Minister who advised the public to abide by the Health Ministry guidelines on Covid-19 precautions.