

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 14

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

KKM dijangka perkenal Akta Kualiti Air Minuman

Bantu kukuhkan perlindungan terhadap ancaman kesihatan akibat air tak selamat

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Putrajaya: Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) dijangka memperkenalkan Akta Kualiti Air Minuman (DWQA) tidak lama lagi.

Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin, berkata pengenalan undang-undang itu kekal akan membantu dalam memperkukuhkan perlindungan terhadap ancaman kesihatan akibat air minuman yang tidak selamat.

"Biar pun air minuman adalah hak asasi manusia, namun seorang daripada tiga individu di dunia berdepan kekangan akses kepada air minuman yang selamat dan mudah diperolehi.

"KKM sedang merancang untuk memperkenalkan DWQA dalam masa terdekat, untuk terus memperkukuhkan perlindungan kami terhadap ancaman kesihatan akibat air minuman yang tidak selamat," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian ke-

tika merasmikan webinar Sambutan Hari Kesihatan Sedunia Peringkat Kebangsaan 2022 dengan tema 'Planet Kita, Kesihatan Kita: Ke Arah Udara, Air dan Makanan Yang Bersih' yang berlangsung secara maya, petang semalam.

Khairy berkata, bagi membolehkan masyarakat luar bandar di negara ini mendapat akses kepada bekalan air bersih, KKM melaksanakan program kesihatan alam sekeliling iaitu Unit Bekalan Air Kesihatan Sekeliling (BAKAS).

Katanya, usaha memberi akses bekalan air bersih itu dilaksanakan dengan reka bentuk, pembinaan dan penyenggaraan yang menggunakan prinsip teknologi mudah.

"Selama lebih 50 tahun BAKAS berperanan besar dan menyumbang kepada hampir keseluruhan rangkaian bekalan air yang bersih dan selamat di negara ini.

KKM sedang merancang memperkenalkan DWQA dalam masa terdekat, untuk terus memperkukuhkan perlindungan kami terhadap ancaman kesihatan akibat air minuman yang tidak selamat

Khairy Jamaluddin,
Menteri Kesihatan

"Bersama-sama implementasi Program Pengawasan Kualiti Air Minuman Kebangsaan, Kementerian berupaya membantu meningkatkan kualiti kesihatan dengan menjamin keselamatan air minuman kepada orang ramai, memastikan ia berada dalam piawaian tertentu.

"Ia sekali gus mengurangkan kejadian jangkitan penyakit bawaan air atau penyakit berakut dengan bekalan air awam yang berkualiti rendah," katanya.

Pada masa sama, Khairy menyentuh kesan pengenalan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP) terhadap alam sekeliling negara apabila Malaysia menyaksikan peningkatan kualiti udara ketara sepanjang 2020.

Beliau berkata, sejak 2010, trend kualiti udara persekitaran tahunan Malaysia secara berterusan bertambah baik.

Namun katanya, negara mengalami kualiti udara teruk jangka pendek berikutan feno-

mena jerebu, yang sebahagian besar disebabkan pembakaran hutan sama ada di dalam mahupun luar negara.

"Episod jerebu terkini berlaku pada September 2019. Pun begitu, beberapa siri PKP dilaksanakan kerajaan pada 2020 berikutan pandemik COVID-19, kualiti udara mengalami peningkatan ketara berbanding dengan kualiti pada tahun sebelumnya.

"Sembilan daripada 10 penduduk menghidu udara tercemar dengan bahan bakar fosil seperti minyak, arang batu dan gas asli. Tatkala penggunaan bahan bakar pepejal untuk memasak terus menjadi sumber utama pencemaran udara dalam ruang tertutup di negara membangun, ia tidak lagi menjadi isu besar di Malaysia.

"Bagaimanapun, udara tercemar akibat tabiat merokok masih menjadi masalah yang perlu diatasi," katanya.

Khairy berkata, keadaan itu serta pelbagai alasan lain menyebabkan Malaysia kini membawa agenda pengakhiran kepada generasi tembakau.

"Ia dilaksanakan melalui penggabungan undang-undang baharu untuk mengharamkan tabiat merokok dan pemilihan produk tembakau termasuk rokok elektronik yang akan dibentangkan pada Julai depan," katanya.



Penularan COVID-19

'Negara kena bersedia hadapi varian XE'

Kuala Lumpur: Malaysia perlu bersedia dengan risiko kehadiran varian baharu Omicron dikenali XE yang kini dikesan di beberapa negara, termasuk Thailand.

Pakar Epidemiologi dan Biostatistik Universiti Islam Antarabangsa Malaysia (UIAM), Prof Dr Jamalluddin Ab Rahman, berkata ini kerana risiko penularan tetap ada mengambil kira COVID-19 sukar dikawal dengan ciri mutasi itu juga lebih mudah merebak.

"Kehadiran varian baharu virus SARS-CoV-2 memang dijangka dan ia bukan sesuatu yang luar biasa. Kehadiran varian XE, iaitu hibrid BA.1 dan BA.2 lebih mudah merebak dan ia juga menepati jangkaan pakar.

"Demi kelangsungan hidup, virus akan bermutasi supaya lebih menjangkiti, namun ia tidak harus membunuh perumah, iaitu manusia," katanya kepada BH.

Kelmarin, Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin mengesah-

kan kehadiran varian XE belum dikesan dalam negara, namun pihaknya sedang mengikuti perkembangan berkaitan varian baharu itu dan masih belum mengetahui ciri-ciri berkaitan varian berkenaan.

Dr Jamalluddin berkata, amat sukar untuk mana-mana negara mengelak daripada penularan sebarang varian, termasuk XE ini, bahkan adalah mustahil untuk menutup sempadan negara sepenuhnya.

"Kehadiran XE ke Malaysia adalah sesuatu yang boleh dan mungkin akan berlaku. Lihat sahaja China yang menjaga sempadan begitu ketat dan masih mengamalkan 'lockdown' (sekatan pergerakan), tidak berdaya mencegah kemasukan Omicron dan sekarang berlaku lonjakan kes serta kematian di negara itu.

"Apa yang kita boleh lakukan masih sama, iaitu teruskan langkah vaksinasi, terutama dos penggalak kepada golongan rentan seperti mereka yang berpe-

nyakit kronik serta warga tua.

"Pada masa sama, langkah kesihatan awam lain seperti memakai pelitup muka dan penjarakan fizikal juga masih mampu mengurangkan sebarang kes COVID-19," katanya.

Beliau pada masa sama, menyarankan pemantauan KKM dari semasa ke semasa diteruskan bagi melihat tahap kes COVID-19 dan kapasiti semasa sistem kesihatan awam.

"Ia indikator utama bagi menentukan sekiranya langkah lebih drastik diperlukan bagi menangani penularan disebabkan varian sedia ada atau baharu," katanya.

Sementara itu, Pakar Perubatan Kesihatan Masyarakat, Fakulti Perubatan Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Prof Dr Sharifa Ezat Wan Puteh, menyarankan kerajaan mengambil langkah segera menangani kemungkinan berlaku penularan varian baharu itu, khususnya membabitkan negara dikenali pas-

ti terdapat kes berkaitan gelombang berkenaan seperti Thailand, Taiwan dan United Kingdom.

"Sempadan dibuka atas dasar ekonomi. Jadi undang-undang kemasukan sedia ada harus dipakai dan ujian genetik virus turut dilakukan untuk pelawat dari negara yang terjejas.

"Ia hanya menunggu masa sahaja sebelum varian rekombinan baharu ini juga turut dikesan dalam negara.

"Status endemik ketika ini akan memudahkan merebaknya virus berkenaan. Varian ini mudah berjangkit, tetapi kadar virulensnya dianggap sama seperti jangkitan BA.2 sekarang," katanya.

Beliau berkata, vaksin dos primer dan penggalak sedia ada dianggap masih dapat melindungi sekiranya mendapat jangkitan COVID-19 teruk, namun dos penggalak kedua mungkin diperlukan sekiranya ada peningkatan kes yang teruk membabitkan wabak berkenaan.

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 11

RUANGAN : KOMENTAR

Tingkat kesedaran vaksinasi kanak-kanak lawan varian XE

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Negara kini memasuki fasa peralihan ke endemik selepas selepas lebih 90 peratus populasi menerima vaksin lengkap pelalihan COVID-19 dan dos penggalak.

Data ini menunjukkan majoriti masyarakat menyokong usaha kawalan dan pencegahan COVID-19 menerusi program vaksinasi, walaupun golongan antivaksin menolak kaedah itu.

Apabila berada dalam fasa peralihan ke endemik, pemantauan potensi kes jangkitan pasti tertumpu kepada kelompok masih belum lengkap vaksin dan mereka tidak boleh divaksin.

Harus diingat, COVID-19 akan terus melalui proses perubahan susunan genetik seterusnya menghasilkan varian baharu.

Sebelum ini, kita mengetahui varian virus SARS2 (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome 2) penyebab COVID-19, antaranya Alpha, Beta, Kappa, Mu, Delta dan Omicron. Terbaru, varian XE, kombinasi varian asal Omicron (BA 1) dan subvarian Omicron (BA 2) dikesan di beberapa negara, bermula United Kingdom (UK), Januari lalu.

Sehingga Mac lalu, sejumlah 22,000 kes varian XE dikesan di negara berkenaan. Pada masa sama, China dan Thailand juga memaklumkan penemuan varian itu. Dalam konteks kesihatan awam, kesan sebenar varian baharu XE terhadap jangkitan dan tahap kesannya perlu diketahui menerusi ujian klinikal.

Seandainya ia mudah berjangkit namun memberikan kesan tidak ketara dari aspek klinikal dan kemasukan ke wad, situasi semasa akibat jangkitan COVID-19 adalah kekal sama seperti dilalui ketika Omicron menganas.

Ini yang disebut sebagai kesan tidak berpasangan (decoupling effect), iaitu situasi jangkitan tidak lagi menyebabkan peningkatan beban kemasukan ke hospital dan kematian.

Bagaimanapun, keseimbangan ketara pada masa ini adalah pada kelompok kanak-kanak berusia kurang 12 tahun.

Peningkatan kes jangkitan COVID-19 dalam kumpulan berkenaan masih ketara dicatatkan sejak tujuh hingga lapan minggu lalu.

Pakar perubatan kanak-kanak mengesahkan peningkatan kes kanak-kanak perlu dirawat dalam unit kecemasan rapi (ICU) dan terdapat da-

lam kalangan mereka yang mendapat komplikasi teruk, multi organ inflammatory syndrom for children (MIS-C), iaitu sindrom radang pelbagai organ dalam kalangan kanak-kanak. Namun, dengan adanya vaksin ditawarkan kepada golongan berusia lima hingga 11 tahun, ia diharap melindungi kelompok berkenaan.

Namun, sasaran awal 70 hingga 80 peratus untuk dicapai sebelum fasa peralihan ke endemik belum menjadi kenyataan.

Sehingga hari ini, kurang 40 peratus kanak-kanak berusia lima hingga 11 tahun divaksin dengan dos pertama, manakala 0.2 peratus sudah menerima dos kedua.

Fasa peralihan ke endemik pada masa ini yang membolehkan lebih banyak interaksi sosial berlaku mendedahkan golongan berkenaan kepada kemungkinan jangkitan serius. Ini bermakna perlindungan terhadap golongan berusia kurang 12 tahun perlu diberikan perhatian.

Pada masa sama, sebahagian besar mereka sudah memulakan persekolahan dan turut terbahit dalam pelbagai aktiviti dalam suasana menyambut Ramadan serta bersedia untuk sambutan Aidilfitri nanti.

Kesedaran individu dan masyarakat untuk mengambil berat kepentingan golongan kanak-kanak untuk dilindungi perlu dipertingkatkan.

Fasa peralihan ke endemik adalah fasa 'percubaan' untuk negara menamatkan pandemik sebelum beralih sepenuhnya kepada fasa itu.

Semua pihak perlu bersungguh dan bersama memastikan rakyat selamat apabila melangkah bersama ke fasa endemik sepenuhnya nanti.



Perlindungan terhadap golongan berusia kurang 12 tahun perlu diberikan perhatian.
(Foto hiasan)

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 7

RUANGAN : LOKAL

26,005 LAPORAN AEFI VAKSIN SEHINGGA 1 APRIL

Hanya 1,823 kes kategori **serius**

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Putrajaya

Sebanyak 26,005 laporan membabitkan Kesan Advers Imunisasi (AEFI) Vaksin Covid-19 diterima oleh Sistem Pelaporan Bahagian Regulatori Farmasi Negara (NPRA) sehingga 1 April lalu.

Pengarah NPRA, Dr Roshayati Mohamad Sani, berkata, jumlah itu termasuk 1,526 laporan membabitkan penerima dos penggalak serta 264 laporan lagi adalah kanak-kanak.

Katanya, kadar aduan diterima melalui Sistem AEFI

NPRA ini secara keseluruhannya direkodkan pada 377 laporan bagi setiap sejuta dos.

"Hasil penilaian ke atas laporan diterima, 93 peratus atau 24,182 kes AEFI dilaporkan adalah bagi kes yang tidak serius. Antara yang kerap dilaporkan adalah demam, sakit pada tempat suntikan, sakit kepala, sakit otot dan keletihan.

"Daripada jumlah keseluruhan laporan AEFI diterima, terdapat 1,823 laporan yang dikategorikan sebagai

AEFI serius berdasarkan klasifikasi Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO).

"Ia menyebabkan kemiskinan ke dalam wad atau pemanjangan tempoh di wad, membahayakan nyawa, menyebabkan kehilangan upaya yang signifikan atau memerlukan intervensi untuk mencegah kerosakan kekal tubuh, menyebabkan kecacatan semasa lahir atau disyaki menyebabkan kematian," katanya.

Dr Roshayati berkata, semua laporan AEFI serius yang diterima ini memerlukan penyiasatan lengkap dan penilaian terperinci sebelum hubungkait kesan dilaporkan dan vaksin yang diterima dapat ditentukan.

"Jumlah laporan AEFI serius diterima ini termasuk 609 laporan yang membabitkan kematian dalam kalangan penerima vaksin Covid-19.

"Daripada jumlah ini, 460 laporan sudah selesai penyiasatan dan penilaian oleh Jawatan Kuasa Khas Farmakovigilans Vaksin Covid-19

(JFK), yang mana tiada kes kematian yang dilaporkan mempunyai hubung kait secara langsung dengan vaksin diterima.

"Selain itu terdapat sejumlah 149 laporan masih dalam proses penyiasatan sebelum dinilai oleh JFK," katanya.

SEBANYAK 93 peratus atau 24,182 kes AEFI dilaporkan adalah bagi kes yang tidak serius.



AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 7

RUANGAN : COVID-19

5 hari kes baharu kekal bawah 15k

Kuala Lumpur: Angka kes sembuh Covid-19 yang direkodkan di Malaysia kelmarin mengatasi jumlah kes baharu dengan 21,029 kes, menjadikan kumulatif kes pulih kini 4,083,183, kata Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

Beliau berkata kes baharu pula kekal di bawah paras 15,000 untuk lima hari berturut-turut namun menunjukkan sedikit peningkatan kes positif Covid-19 dengan 12,105 kes kelmarin berbanding 12,017 kes pada Selasa (5 April), menjadikan kumulatif kes di negara kini 4,280,591 kes.

"Daripada kes baharu yang dicatatkan kelmarin, 564 kes dimasukkan ke hospital dengan 221 kes atau 39.2 peratus adalah kategori tiga, empat dan lima ma-

nakala 343 kes atau 60.8 peratus adalah kategori satu dan dua," katanya dalam satu kenyataan, semalam.

Mengenai penggunaan fasiliti kesihatan khusus bagi kes Covid-19, Dr Noor Hisham berkata hanya Selangor mencatat peratusan pengisian 50 peratus atau lebih bagi penggunaan katil Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU) setakat kelmarin iaitu 55 peratus.

Bagi pengisian katil di Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan Covid-19 Berisiko Rendah (PKRC), tiada negeri yang mencatat peratusan pengisian melebihi 50 peratus.

Beliau berkata pesakit Covid-19 yang memerlukan alat bantuan pernafasan menurun kepada 122 pesakit dengan peratusan penggunaan ventilator adalah 14 peratus.

Johor, Selangor rekod kematian tertinggi

Kuala Lumpur: Seramai 44,376 kanak-kanak berumur antara lima dan 11 tahun sudah melengkapkan dua dos suntikan vaksin Covid-19 menerusi Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan Kanak-Kanak (PICKIDS) setakat kelmarin.

Berdasarkan data menerusi laman web Covidnow, sebanyak 1,353,370 atau 38.1 peratus daripada populasi kanak-kanak dari kumpulan umur sama sudah menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos vaksin.

Bagi remaja berusia antara 12 hingga 17 tahun pula, seramai 2,855,208 individu atau 91.8 peratus sudah lengkap divaksinasi dan 2,953,452 individu atau 95 peratus telah menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos vaksin.

Sementara itu, bagi populasi dewasa, seramai 15,888,368 individu atau 67.5 peratus telah menerima dos penggalak, 22,955,102 individu atau 97.6 peratus lengkap vaksinasi dan 23,232,340

atau 98.8 peratus menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos vaksin.

Sebanyak 25,487 dos vaksin diberikan kelmarin, melibatkan 2,631 dos pertama, 11,755 dos kedua dan 11,101 dos penggalak, menjadikan jumlah kumulatif dos diberikan di bawah Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan (Pick) kepada 69,069,817.

Dalam pada itu, menurut portal GitHub Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM), sebanyak 32 kematian akibat Covid-19 dilaporkan di negara ini kelmarin dengan Johor dan Selangor masing-masing merekodkan jumlah tertinggi sebanyak tujuh kematian.

Ia diikuti Perak dengan lima kes, Terengganu (empat) selain Kedah dan Melaka, masing-masing merekodkan tiga kes.

Negeri Sembilan, Kuala Lumpur dan Perlis pula masing-masing mencatatkan satu kes kematian akibat Covid-19.

AKHBAR : KOSMO
MUKA SURAT : 4
RUANGAN : NEGARA

12,105 kes Covid-19, 32 kematian

PUTRAJAYA – Jangkitan Covid-19 kelmarin merekodkan sebanyak 12,105 kes, menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan kes sebanyak 4,280,591.

Berdasarkan data di laman web COVIDNOW, daripada kes yang dilaporkan kelmarin, sebanyak 43 kes adalah kes import yang mendapat jangkitan dari luar negara.

"Kesemua kes tersebut dilaporkan di Selangor (6,783 kes), Negeri Sembilan (826 kes), Kuala Lumpur (733 kes), Perak (622 kes), Pulau Pinang (508 kes), Johor (426 kes), Terengganu (416 kes), Sarawak (415 kes) dan Kedah (400 kes).

"Seterusnya Pahang (320 kes), Melaka (206 kes), Sabah (188 kes),

Kelantan (150 kes), Putrajaya (54 kes), Perlis (41 kes) dan Labuan (17 kes)," katanya semalam.

Dalam masa sama, sebanyak 32 kes kematian Covid-19 dilaporkan menjadikan jumlah kematian terkini sebanyak 35,192 kes serta sebanyak sembilan kes meninggal dunia di luar hospital atau *brought-in-dead* (BID) dengan jumlah kes BID sebanyak 7,434 kes.

Sebanyak 162,216 kes aktif dilaporkan melibatkan 158,343 kes dikuarantin di rumah, 373 kes di Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan Covid-19 (PKRC), 3,279 kes di hospital, 99 kes di Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU) tanpa bantuan pernafasan dan 122 kes di ICU dengan bantuan pernafasan.

Sementara itu, sebanyak 21,029 kes sembuh dilaporkan sekali gus kekal melepasi jangkitan baharu Covid-19 dengan jumlah kumulatif kes sembuh sebanyak 4,083,183.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr. Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, daripada kes jangkitan Covid-19 yang dilaporkan kelmarin, sebanyak 95 kes kategori tiga, empat dan lima.

"Mengikut pecahan, kategori satu sebanyak 6,623 kes (54.71 peratus), kategori dua sebanyak 5,387 kes (44.51 peratus), kategori tiga sebanyak 40 kes (0.33 peratus), kategori empat sebanyak 17 kes (0.14 peratus) dan kategori lima 38 kes (0.31 peratus)," katanya dalam kenyataan semalam.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 8
RUANGAN : LAPORAN KHAS

'Keracunan makanan mungkin meningkat'

Pakar ramal kes bertambah andai segelintir peniaga bazar kitar semula juadah tidak terjual

SHAH ALAM

Kes keracunan makanan pada bulan Ramadan tahun ini dibimbangi meningkat berikutan operasi bazar yang semakin rancak dan kehadiran lebih ramai pengunjung susulan negara berada dalam fasa peralihan endemik.

Pakar kesihatan pekerjaan, kecemasan dan kesihatan awam, Dr Hanafiah Bashirun berkata, beliau menjangkakan kemungkinan kes akan banyak dilaporkan bermula minggu kedua Ramadan ekoran sikap segelintir peniaga yang mengitar semula makanan tidak habis dijual.

"Kebiasaannya, minggu kedua Ramadan, orang (peniaga) sudah mula kitar semula makanan yang tidak laku dijual dengan menyimpannya sebelum menghangatkannya semula.

"Perbuatan menyimpan dan memanaskan semula makanan itu menyebabkan berlaku jangkitan dan pembiakan bakteria atau kuman dalam makanan," katanya ketika dihubungi *Sinar Harian* pada Khamis.

Pada 3 April lalu, Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) merekodkan peningkatan kes keracunan makanan sepanjang Ramadan pada 2021 ber-



Faktor kebersihan diri peniaga bazar Ramadan dan cara mengendalikan makanan juga perlu dititik berat bagi mengelak berlakunya keracunan makanan kepada pelanggan mereka.



DR HANAFIAH

banding tahun sebelumnya.

Dr Hanafiah menjelaskan, kes keracunan juga berlaku disebabkan persediaan makanan yang terlalu awal.

"Contohnya, makanan disiapkan awal pagi menyebabkan ia disimpan dalam tempoh lama dan berlaku jangkitan kuman pada makanan tersebut sedangkan mereka mula jual pada

jam 3 petang.

"Selain itu, sumber air tidak bersih dan bahan mentah yang tidak segar dalam penyediaan makanan akan mempengaruhi tahap kebersihan juadah yang dimasak itu," ujar beliau.

Akuinya, faktor kebersihan diri peniaga ketika menyediakan dan mengendalikan makanan juga boleh menyebabkan keracunan misalnya berku-ku panjang serta tidak mencuci tangan dengan bersih selepas menggunakan tandas.

Menu yang paling mudah tercemar

seterusnya memberi risiko keracunan kepada pembeli adalah makanan laut terutama yang bercengkerang iaitu ketam, kerang, lala, tiram dan kupang selain sotong, udang, ayam dan daging.

Dr Hanafiah berkata, kelazimannya makanan tercemar bakteria *E.coli*, *Salmonella* dan Hepatitis A boleh menyebabkan cirit-birit, sakit perut, muntah dan lebih merisaukan seseorang itu boleh demam hingga dehidrasi.

"Bila keadaan semakin teruk hingga terjadinya dehidrasi badan, ia mengancam nyawa," tegas beliau.

Pembeli juga dinasihatkan lebih waspada dengan memilih makanan yang kelihatan segar serta menjadikan perbuatan memanaskan semula makanan yang dibeli dalam ketuhar gelombang mikro atau atas dapur sebagai satu tabiat.

"Peniaga pula dinasihatkan agar jujur dan tidak mengitar semula makanan yang tidak habis kerana tidak sewajarnya makanan itu dijual semula hari berikutnya," katanya.



AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 9

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Covid-19: 12,105 kes baharu, hanya 95 kategori tiga hingga lima

SHAH ALAM - Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) merekodkan 12,105 kes baharu Covid-19 pada Rabu menjadikan jumlah kumulatif sebanyak 4,083,183 kes.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, jumlah berkenaan melibatkan 12,062 kes tempatan dan 43 kes import.

"Bagi pecahan daripada jumlah tersebut, sebanyak 6,623 kes atau

54.71 peratus daripada pesakit Covid-19 kategori satu, sementara 5,387 kes atau 44.51 peratus pesakit kategori dua.

"Bagi kategori tiga terdapat 40 (0.33 peratus), kategori empat dengan 17 kes (0.14 peratus) dan bagi kategori lima adalah 38 kes (0.31 peratus)," katanya dalam satu kenyataan pada Khamis.

MENDEPANI KRISIS
COVID-19:
APA TINDAKAN
KITA?

Mengulas lanjut, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, berdasarkan jumlah keseluruhan 95 kes bagi pesakit kategori tiga hingga lima, 28 kes dilaporkan tidak divaksinasi atau belum lengkap mendapatkan pelalian berkenaan.

"Sementara 30 kes pula sudah menerima dua dos vaksin Covid-19 tetapi tidak menerima dos peng-

galak, manakala 37 kes telah menerima dos penggalak.

"Selain itu, 51 kes melibatkan mereka yang berumur 60 tahun ke atas manakala 57 kes lagi mempunyai komorbid dan tiada kes melibatkan ibu mengandung," jelasnya.

Bagaimanapun, beliau berkata, tiada kluster baharu direkodkan pada Rabu menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan kluster aktif sebanyak 151.



DR NOOR HISHAM

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA

MUKA SURAT :

RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI

44,376 children fully vaccinated

KUALA LUMPUR: A total of 44,376 children aged between five and 11 have completed the two doses of the Covid-19 vaccine under the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme for Children as of Wednesday.

Based on the CovidNOW website, a total of 1,353,370 children or 38.1% have received at least one dose of the vaccine.

For adolescents aged between 12 and 17, a total of 2,855,208 or 91.8% have completed the vaccination and 2,953,452 or 95% have received their first dose.

A total of 15,888,368 adults or 67.5% have received the booster dose, while 22,955,102 or 97.6% have completed both vaccine doses and 23,232,340 or 98.8% have received one dose.

The Health Ministry's GitHub portal reported 32 deaths due to Covid-19 on Wednesday. Johor and Selangor recording seven deaths each, followed by Perak five, Terengganu four and three each in Kedah and Malacca. - Bernama

Recoveries surpass new cases: Health DG

KUALA LUMPUR: The country's Covid-19 recovered cases exceeded the number of new infections on Wednesday when 21,029 were reported, bringing the cumulative number of recoveries to 4,083,183.

Health Director-General Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said new cases remained below the 15,000 mark for five consecutive days, but showed a slight increase to 12,105 from 12,017 on Tuesday, bringing the cumulative total of cases to 4,280,591, Bernama reported.

"Of the new cases, 564 were admitted to hospitals with 221 or 39.2% of cases in categories three, four and five, while 343 or 60.8% were in categories one and two," he said.

On the use of specialised health facilities, Noor Hisham said only Selangor recorded over 50% usage of intensive care unit beds at 55%.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : NATION/NEWS

'BIG BROTHER WATCHING'

FIRM: MYSEJAHTERA DATA IS SECURE

Details stored in 'demilitarised zone', deleted after 90 days, says MySJ chief business officer

TEH ATHIRA YUSOF
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MYSJ Sdn Bhd has assured that data in the MySejahtera application belonged solely to the government and was for pandemic management purposes only.

Its chief business officer Aiza Azreen Ahmad said there was no abuse of user data as the application was subject to provisions under the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Act 1988 (Act 342).

"The data we have is in the cloud (network) in Malaysia and has never been anywhere else.

"After 30 days, it will be archived and be placed in a sort of demilitarised zone, where the public have no access to it.

"And after 90 days, there will be



A man showing his MySejahtera app after crossing into Malaysia at the Thai-Malaysian border in Bukit Kayu Hitam, Kedah, recently. BERNAMA PIC.

an auto-deletion process of the data.

"The data is owned by the government, where we will archive then delete. We are aware of the public's concern, but this is also a way for us to save lives during the Covid-19 pandemic," she told *Malaysia Hari Ini* programme

which was aired on TV3 yesterday.

Aiza, who is also MySJ Sdn Bhd acting chief executive officer, stressed that the use of the MySejahtera application was based on the Health Ministry's Digital Health Strategies.

"It was also discussed that if there is a need for other industry

players (to take over), we must oblige ...but for now, we want to help Malaysians."

Aiza said there were currently 29 million active MySejahtera users and 47 million downloads based on MySJ statistics.

"The use of the application is not just about tracing close contacts; I

think it became a concern among users because it was like 'Big Brother was watching' them because of the MySJ Trace function.

"But people must be aware that Covid-19 has not gone away, it is still happening. For example, several London flights had to be rescheduled because the ground staff were found positive.

"As a MySejahtera user myself, even though my data is in there, the transition to endemicity must be in stages as we still needed the application to save lives.

"Now, even our borders are open and our vaccine certification has been recognised by the European Union."

On the possibility of a data breach or abuse, Aiza said the country had a Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA) 2010.

"The important part is to address the concerns and complaints of the people, there are others who are trying to sensationalise this, but we need to be aware of the existence of the PDPA.

"The government, Health Ministry and minister Khairy Jamaluddin had even addressed this issue and provided a detailed explanation where the data is only for pandemic management, and there is no need to be worried," she said.

More than 1 million children have taken first vaccine dose

KUALA LUMPUR: The Covid-19 vaccine take-up rate for the first dose involving children aged between 5 and 11 is at 38.1 per cent up to Wednesday.

The Health Ministry's Covid-Now website reported that under the Covid-19 National Immunisation Programme for Children (PICKids), 1,353,370 children had received their first jab, and 44,376 of them had the second dose.

Ninety-five per cent or 2,953,452 of adolescents aged between 12 and 17 had received at least one dose of the vaccine and 91.8 per cent or 2,855,208 had both doses.

The website also reported 15,888,368 adults had their booster jabs up to Wednesday, adding that 22,955,102 adults (97.6 per cent) had received two doses of the vaccine, while 98.8 per cent or 23,232,340 people had received at least one dose of the vaccine.

Under the Covid-19 National Immunisation Programme, 69,069,817 doses of the vaccine had been administered, with 25,487 doses given on Wednesday.

On daily new cases, Malaysia recorded 12,105 fresh infections on Wednesday, bringing the cumulative caseload to 4,268,486.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said 6,623 of Wednesday's cases were in Category 1, 5,387 cases in Category 2, 40 cases in Category 3, 17 cases in Category 4 and 38 cases in Category 5.

"From 95 of the new cases in Category 3, 4, and 5, 28 cases were unvaccinated or partially vaccinated; 30 have received two doses of the vaccine, but have yet to receive boosters; and, 37 have received the booster doses.

"A total of 51 cases (47.74 per cent) were aged 60 and above; and 57 had comorbidities," he said in a statement.

There were currently 162,216 active cases in the country.

Dr Noor Hisham also said of the 564 cases admitted to hospitals on Wednesday, 343 were Category 1 and 2 patients; and the remaining 221 were in Category 3, 4 and 5.

He said Covid-19 patients who



A child receiving his first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine in Seberang Jaya, Penang, recently. PIC BY DANIAL SAAD

required breathing assistance had dropped to 122 on Wednesday from 131 patients the day before, adding that ventilator usage was now at 14 per cent, he said.

Malaysia's Covid-19 death toll stood at 35,192, with 32 fatalities recorded on Wednesday, and nine of them were brought-in-dead cases.

On adverse events following immunisation (AEFI), the Na-

tional Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency (NPRA) had recorded 26,005 incidents up to April 1, with 1,526 reported among booster dose recipients.

A total of 131 reports were classified as serious. For recipients aged between 5 to 11, 264 incidents were reported, with 15 categorised as serious.

NPRA director Dr Roshayati Mohamad Sani said 93 per cent, or 24,182 of the overall AEFI cases reported were not serious.

The side effects included fever, headache, muscle aches, fatigue, and pain at the injection site, which all subsided within two days.

"Of the total, 1,823 reports (equivalent to 26 reports per million doses) were classified as serious, based on the World Health Organisation (WHO) classification."

She said serious AEFI reports received by NPRA also included 609 fatalities.

"Four hundred and sixty of these deaths had been assessed by the Covid-19 Vaccine Special Pharmacovigilance Committee (JFK), and they were found to have no links with the vaccine received. Another 149 are still under investigation before being evaluated by JFK," she said.



Dr Roshayati Mohamad Sani

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NATION

Healthcare reforms to include NCDs, says Health DG

PETALING JAYA: The "chronic underinvestment" in the treatment of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) will be addressed by the Health Ministry's White Paper on health, says Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

The Health director-general said: "The ministry is in the process of putting forth the document to reform the national healthcare system which includes service delivery, financing, governance as well as organisation for the next 15 years."

"We recognise the chronic underinvestment towards addressing NCDs."

"The White Paper will certainly be critical in reducing the burden of NCDs and premature mortality due to NCDs among Malaysians from a systemic standpoint," Dr Noor Hisham told *The Star* yesterday.

"As part of its implementation

strategy, the ministry will be tabling this White Paper in Parliament to garner bipartisan support and establish a Health Reform Commission that shall be accountable to Parliament," he said.

He admitted that there were not enough resources to deal with NCDs.

"Even before the Covid-19 pandemic, various healthcare system reviews showed that the current healthcare system would not be able to cope with the increasing burden of NCDs, together with the rapidly ageing population."

"In other words, our current healthcare system is not sustainable."

"We agree that we have had good health indices over the years despite spending just over 4% of our gross domestic product on health."

"However, we cannot continue to

deliver quality care to people living with NCDs, and ensure equity of care, if we do not increase health spending," he said.

"Malaysia is also in need of a more robust, resilient and future-proof healthcare system moving forward."

"This is to cope not only with NCDs, but the ageing population, newly emerging communicable diseases and other pandemics as well as planetary health issues," he said.

He also said Covid-19 had affected more of those with NCDs.

"Despite NCDs being preventable, there are still many Malaysians unwilling to change their unhealthy lifestyles."

"The movement restrictions exacerbated the exposure of vulnerable populations to NCD risk factors such as physical inactivity, unhealthy eating, smoking and alcohol consump-

tion but we can't lay all the blame on the movement control order," he said.

On the Health Ministry's National Strategic Plan for Non-Communicable Diseases (NSP-NCD) 2016-2025, Dr Noor Hisham said the targets set out would not be achieved without a whole-of-nation effort.

"We need the community to do this with us, to recognise the scope and seriousness of NCDs as a collective issue," he said.

Dr Noor Hisham said the government took many measures to minimise the disruption of healthcare services, including to NCD patients.

These include outsourcing services to the private healthcare sector, which has been less disrupted by the pandemic, and embracing digital transformation such as virtual appointments, virtual clinics and teleconsultations.

The Health Ministry also promotes a wider option of "uberisation" of health services such as for collection and delivery of repeat prescriptions, and acceleration of telemedicine services for the private sector.

"The Malaysian Medical Council had issued an Advisory on Virtual Consultation during the Covid-19 pandemic specifically to facilitate the use of telemedicine services."

"A consultation with a healthcare professional takes up only a minute amount of time in a patient's life but what happens when they are outside of a healthcare setting is arguably more important in managing NCDs," he said.

On March 5, Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin told the Dewan Rakyat that he expected to table the White Paper on healthcare reforms in November.

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 7
RUANGAN : NATION

'Extra booster may not be needed against Omicron XE'

By R. SEKARAN
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GEORGE TOWN: Current Covid-19 booster jabs are good enough to counter the highly transmissible Omicron XE variant, says a virologist.

Dr Kumitaa Theva Das from Universiti Sains Malaysia said the XE variant only accounts for a small fraction of cases (less than 1%), though it is over 10% more transmissible than the BA.2 sub-variant.

The "extremely high transmissibility" of the variant could mean that it will become the dominant variant soon, she said.

"Despite this variant being first discovered in January, there do not seem to be many reports of it in other countries.

"The only neighbouring country which has detected XE so far is Thailand, with one case over the weekend, where the spread was brought under control due to quick detection, and it did not affect us," she said.

This suggested the possibility of a high level of protection from boosters shots and natural immunity from earlier infections.

Dr Kumitaa said an additional booster jab (fourth dose) may most likely not be necessary as the standard procedures of physical distancing, being in well-ventilated places, and practising good hygiene, can help control the spread.

"Beyond the estimated transmissibility, we have yet to discover other important aspects about the new variant, such as its severity,

whether it causes reinfection, or if our current vaccines work against it," she added.

Dr Kumitaa also said the opening of international borders may not necessarily put the country at high risk as was seen with the Mu and Lambda variants.

"As long as we maintain a robust surveillance system, it would not be a high risk if we are able to identify cases to enable timely treatment or isolation and reduce the risk of Covid-19," she said.

She added that measures such as pre-departure testing as well as on-arrival testing, and ascertaining a person's vaccination status, go a long way in protecting not only those on flights but the country as well.

Dr Kumitaa said the United

Kingdom was able to pick up on the XE variant quickly because of its robust surveillance system with a global database showing that it submitted more than a million Omicron samples for genome sequencing.

"So the quick identification of XE shows that a good public healthcare system can keep case numbers small," she said.

As for the types of masks which would best guard against the virus, Dr Kumitaa said the XE variant is currently not designated a variant-under-monitoring by the World Health Organisation, unlike XD (which is a hybrid of Delta and Omicron).

"As such, the N95, KN95 and KF94 masks previously recommended for Omicron should be sufficient for XE," she said.

Slight spike in cases but still below 15,000 mark

KUALA LUMPUR: The number of Covid-19 recoveries outpaced new infections on Wednesday, says Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

A total of 21,029 recoveries were reported, bringing the cumulative number to 4,083,183 since the outbreak began in March 2020.

He said new cases remained below the 15,000 mark for the fifth consecutive day, but showed a slight increase to 12,105 from 12,017 on Tuesday, bringing the cumulative total of Covid-19 cases to 4,280,591.

"Of the new cases, 564 were admitted to hospitals, with 221 cases (39.2%) in Categories Three, Four and Five, while 343 (60.8%) were in Categories One and Two," he said in a statement yesterday, Bernama reported.

day, Bernama reported.

Dr Noor Hisham also said only Selangor recorded over 50% usage of intensive care unit (ICU) beds, at 55%, while no state recorded over 50% bed usage at Low-Risk Quarantine and Treatment Centres.

He said the number of Covid-19 patients requiring respiratory support decreased to 122, with the ventilator usage rate being 14%.

Dr Noor Hisham added that no new clusters were recorded on Wednesday, leaving the number of active clusters at 151.

The national Covid-19 infectivity rate, or Rt, remained at 0.86, with Selangor recording the highest value at 0.99 and Labuan the lowest at 0.00.

A total of 44,376 children aged

between five and 11 in Malaysia have completed two doses of a Covid-19 vaccine under the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme for Children as at yesterday.

Based on the CovidNow website, a total of 1,353,370 children in the same group, or 38.1% of their population, have received at least one dose.

For adolescents aged between 12 and 17, a total of 2,855,208 individuals (or 91.8%) have completed their vaccination while 2,953,452 individuals (95%) have received at least their first dose.

In the adult population, 15,888,368 individuals, or 67.5%, have received their booster dose, while 22,955,102 people (97.6%) have completed both doses, and

23,232,340 (98.8%) have received at least one dose.

A total of 25,487 doses of the vaccine were dispensed on Wednesday, with 2,631 given as first dose, 11,755 as second dose, and 11,101 as booster dose, bringing the cumulative number of doses administered under the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme to 69,069,817.

According to the Health Ministry's GitHub portal, a total of 32 deaths due to Covid-19 were reported in the country, with Johor and Selangor recording seven deaths each, followed by Perak, which recorded five; Terengganu four; and Kedah and Melaka with three each.

Negri Sembilan, Kuala Lumpur and Perlis recorded one case each.