

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 1
RUANGAN : MUKA HADAPAN

80 peratus kes COVID-19 jangkitan varian Omicron

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Putrajaya: Data surveilans genom SARS-CoV-2 dalam tempoh enam bulan bermula Ogos 2021 hingga Januari lalu menunjukkan sebanyak 80 peratus daripada keseluruhan 1,244 sampel yang diproses di negara ini, mempunyai jangkitan varian Omicron.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, memaklumkan pada Disember tahun lalu, kes COVID-19 membabitkan varian Omicron hanya dikesan di pintu masuk antarabangsa (PMA), namun situasi itu berubah sejak Januari lalu apabila penularan tempatan varian itu mula dilaporkan

membabitkan hampir semua negeri.

"Bagi mengetahui sejauh mana penularan varian membayangkan (VOC) dalam komuniti, sampel dikumpulkan secara rawak daripada pesakit positif COVID-19 di seluruh Malaysia untuk menjalani proses penjujukan genom virus COVID-19.

"Data dalam tempoh enam bulan menunjukkan varian Omicron merangkumi 80 peratus daripada semua hasil penjujukan genom di Malaysia. Kes pertama varian Omicron di Malaysia dilaporkan pada 3 Disember tahun lalu, iaitu pada Minggu Epidemiologi (ME) 48/2021.

Nasional 6

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Penggunaan katil ICU di Kelantan naik kepada 94 peratus

Putrajaya: Penggunaan katil bagi kes kritikal COVID-19 di unit rawatan rapi (ICU) di Kelantan terus meningkat kepada 94 peratus berbanding 92 peratus kelmarin.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata sebanyak 36 katil diperuntukkan bagi pesakit di ICU dan daripada jumlah itu, 34 sudah diisi.

Beliau berkata, empat negeri lagi turut menunjukkan pengisian melebihi 50 peratus, iaitu Melaka dengan 71 peratus, Johor (67 peratus), Kuala Lumpur (58 peratus) dan Putrajaya (50 peratus).

"Bagi penggunaan katil bukan ICU pula, Kelantan kekal mencatat peratusan tertinggi dengan penggunaan katil melebihi 113 peratus, iaitu 439 katil diperuntukkan, namun sudah menggunakan 494 katil," katanya dalam kenyataan semalam.

Ia diikuti Selangor dengan 104 peratus, Putrajaya (99 peratus), Kuala Lumpur (90 peratus), Perak (88 peratus), Perlis (75 peratus), Pahang (71 peratus), Johor (69 peratus), Sabah (64 peratus), Terengganu (61 peratus), Sarawak (59 peratus) dan Pulau Pinang (59 peratus).

Dalam pada itu, bagi penggunaan katil di Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan COVID-19 (PKRC), Dr Noor Hisham memaklumkan, hanya Melaka menunjukkan pengisian melebihi 50 peratus, iaitu sebanyak 58 peratus.

Penularan COVID-19

Malaysia dijangka hasil vaksin semburan hidung

Data praklinikal pelalian dibangun pakar dari UKM mungkin diperoleh 2 atau 3 tahun lagi

Oleh Mohd Iskandar Ibrahim
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Kuala Lumpur: Malaysia dijangka mengeluarkan vaksin COVID-19 generasi seterusnya, iaitu melalui semburan hidung, bukan lagi secara suntikan.

Ketua Jaringan Industri dan Masyarakat, Fakulti Farmasi Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Dr Fazren Azmi, berkata beliau membayangkan vaksin COVID-19 berteraskan protein antigen yang diformulasikan bersama teknologi nanopartikel untuk penghantaran secara semburan intranasal (semburan dalam hidung).

"Buat masa ini, penghasilan vaksin itu masih pada peringkat awal dan jangkaan untuk mendapat data praklinikal adalah dalam dua atau tiga tahun.

"Selepas itu akan masuk fasa pertama ujian klinikal," katanya kepada BH semalam.

Fazren berkata, sebab utama

beliau menghasilkan vaksin sedemikian adalah kerana jangkitan utama COVID-19 ialah melalui hidung.

Jelasnya, penghasilan vaksin secara semburan intranasal berupaya menghalang virus daripada masuk ke dalam tubuh.

"Sekarang ini kita sudah mendapat vaksin melalui suntikan, tetapi ia tidak menghalang virus itu daripada masuk ke dalam tubuh kerana ia ada di kawasan hidung kita.

"Sebab itu virus terbahit boleh merebak kepada orang lain kerana kita tidak halang di tempat virus masuk ke tubuh kita," katanya.

Sementara itu, katanya, vaksin COVID-19 dihasilkan Malaysia dijangka dapat dikeluarkan dalam tempoh seku-

rang-kurangnya tiga tahun lagi dengan kebanyakan kajian ketika ini masih pada peringkat makmal dan praklinikal.

Beliau berkata, dalam penghasilan vaksin, bagi mendapatkan data kukuh, ujian praklinikal perlu dilaksanakan terhadap haiwan terlebih dahulu bagi mengetahui keberkesanan dan keselamatan pelalian terbahit.

Katanya, kebanyakan penyelidikan sedang berusaha mendapatkan data sebaik mungkin bagi memastikan vaksin yang dihasilkan mampu bergerak ke fasa seterusnya.

"Ramai penyelidik sedang bertungkus-lumus menghasilkan vaksin COVID-19 tempatan, antaranya Prof Datin Paduka Dr Khattijah Yusoff dari Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) yang diberi peruntukan oleh Kementerian

Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi (MOSTI).

"Sebab itu saya menjangkakan untuk sampai ke fasa pertama ujian klinikal, akan ambil masa dua atau tiga tahun lagi.

"Paling cepat pun untuk vaksin ini sampai kepada end user (pengguna), sekurang-kurangnya tiga tahun," katanya.

Mengulas lanjut, Fazren berkata, Malaysia memiliki ramai pakar yang mampu menghasilkan vaksin selain mempunyai saintis muda yang berkebolehan tinggi.

"Apa yang penting sekarang ini adalah dana daripada kerajaan. Industri Malaysia belum cukup kuat seperti syarikat gergasi Pfizer dan sebagainya.

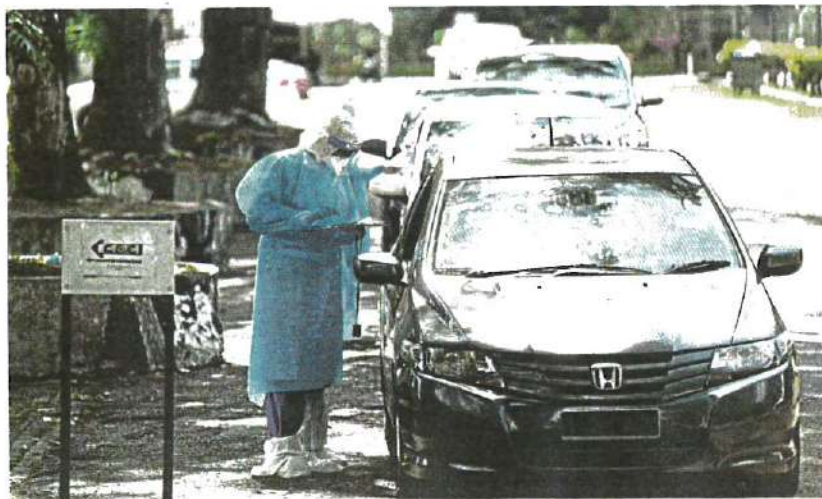
"Ketika ini, dana yang disalurkan kerajaan adalah untuk membuat penyelidikan, tetapi apa langkah selepas itu?" soalnya.

Tahun lalu, Menteri Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi ketika itu, Khairy Jamaluddin mendedahkan MOSTI Combating COVID-19 Fund (MCCOF) meluluskan dua permohonan pembiayaan khusus bagi projek Penyelidikan, Pembangunan, Pengkomersialan dan Inovasi (R&D&C&I) dalam memerangi dan mengawal wabak COVID-19.

Permohonan yang diluluskan itu membolehkan projek diketuai Khattijah dan projek diketuai Prof Sazaly Abu Bakar dari Universiti Malaysia.

Sekarang ini kita sudah mendapat vaksin melalui suntikan, tetapi ia tidak menghalang virus itu daripada masuk ke dalam tubuh kerana ia ada di hidung kita. Sebab itu virus terbahit boleh merebak kepada orang lain kerana kita tak halang di tempat virus itu masuk ke tubuh kita

Dr Fazren Azmi,
Ketua Jaringan Industri dan Masyarakat,
Fakulti Farmasi UKM



Rakyat Malaysia yang semakin prihatin dengan jangkitan COVID-19 memanfaatkan kemudahan ujian saringan secara pandu lalu di Pulau Pinang, baru-baru ini. (Foto MIKAIL ONG/BH)

Negara ASEAN belum capai kemuncak jangkitan Omicron

Dari Muka 1

"Ia melibatkan pengembara warga asing dari Afrika Selatan dan sejak itu, varian berkenaan merebak pantas dalam kalangan komuniti berbanding varian Delta.

Hingga 19 Februari lalu, Malaysia melaporkan sebanyak 950 kes varian Omicron dengan 764 adalah jangkitan dari luar negara dan 186 lagi penularan tempatan.

"Malaysia mula menunjukkan lonjakan jangkitan COVID-19 pada ME 6/2022 dengan 115,032 kes, meningkat 167 peratus berbanding 43,062 kes pada ME 5/2022. Bagaimanapun, peningkatan kes ini juga dapat dilihat di beberapa negara ASEAN lain, iaitu Singapura, Thailand, Indo-

nesia dan Filipina," katanya dalam kenyataan semalam.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, setakat 20 Februari lalu, 169 negara melaporkan pengesanan sebanyak 1,571,345 kes varian Omicron, melalui media dan Internet, manakala 153 negara dengan 1,406,717 kes varian Omicron dilaporkan dalam laman 'Global Initiative on Sharing All Influenza Data' (GISAIID).

"Tiga negara sudah melepasi puncak gelombang varian Omicron, iaitu United Kingdom dengan 498,510 kes, diikuti Amerika Syarikat dengan 438,156 dan Denmark sebanyak 80,324 kes. Negara ASEAN pula menunjukkan peningkatan kes, tetapi belum lagi mencapai puncak gelombang varian Omicron," katanya.

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 7
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

27,299 kes baharu dilaporkan kelmarin

Putrajaya: Sebanyak 27,299 kes baharu COVID-19 dilaporkan kelmarin, menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes kini meningkat kepada 3,395,170 kes.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata daripada jumlah itu, sebanyak 27,043 kes adalah penularan tempatan dan 256 kes import yang mendapat jangkitan dari luar negara.

Beliau berkata, majoriti kes, iaitu 18,324 kes atau 67.12 peratus adalah pesakit kategori dua dengan gejala, 8,846 kes (32.41 peratus) kategori satu iaitu tidak bergejala, kategori tiga (62 kes), kategori empat (33 kes) dan kategori lima (34 kes).

"Daripada pesakit dalam kategori tiga hingga lima, sebanyak 71 kes atau 55.04 peratus membabitkan pesakit yang sudah mendapatkan dua dos vaksin, namun belum menerima dos penggalak. Kumpulan ini mungkin kerana imuniti COVID-19 sudah menurun.

"Sebanyak 65 kes atau 50.39 peratus membabitkan pesakit berusia 60 tahun dan ke atas, mempunyai komorbid 35 kes, tidak divaksinasi atau belum lengkap mendapatkan pelalian 32 kes, sudah mendapatkan dos penggalak 26 kes dan satu kes ibu mengandung," katanya dalam kenyataan semalam.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, daripada jumlah keseluruhan kes aktif di negara ini, sebanyak 348 kes sedang dirawat di unit rawatan rapi (ICU), iaitu 153 kes disahkan COVID-19 dengan 195 kes lagi disyaki, berkemungkinan dan dalam siasatan.

Bagi kes dirawat dalam ICU dan memerlukan alat bantuan pernafasan, beliau memaklumkan, setakat ini, terdapat 348 pesakit, iaitu 91 kes sudah disahkan dengan 112 kes disyaki, berkemungkinan dan dalam siasatan, manakala bagi kluster pula, tujuh kluster baharu dikenal pasti kelmarin, menjadikan 494 kluster masih aktif di negara ini.

Daripada pesakit dalam kategori tiga hingga lima, sebanyak 71 kes atau 55.04 peratus membabitkan pesakit yang sudah mendapatkan dua dos vaksin

Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah,
Ketua Pengarah
Kesihatan



AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 10

RUANGAN : COVID-19

43 kematian Covid-19 direkodkan kelmarin

Kuala Lumpur: Sebanyak 805,676 individu atau 22.7 peratus populasi kanak-kanak berusia lima hingga 11 tahun di Malaysia telah menerima dos pertama vaksin Covid-19 melalui Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan Kanak-Kanak (PICKIDS) setakat kelmarin.

Berdasarkan data menerusi laman web Covidnow, sejumlah 14,517,869 atau 61.7 peratus populasi dewasa di dalam negara pula telah menerima dos penggalak Covid-19 dan seramai 22,948,037 atau 97.5 peratus lengkap vaksinasi manakala 23,227,580 atau 98.7 peratus sudah menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos.

Bagi remaja berusia 12 hingga 17 tahun, sejumlah 2,800,421 individu atau 90 peratus daripada kumpulan itu sudah melengkapkan vaksinasi mereka manakala 2,893,860 atau 93 peratus

menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos vaksin.

Sebanyak 118,275 dos vaksin sudah diberikan kelmarin membabitkan 54,858 suntikan dos pertama, 577 suntikan dos lengkap dan 62,840 suntikan dos penggalak menjadikan jumlah kumulatif pemberian vaksin bagi Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan (PICKIDS) kini meningkat kepada 66,986,213 dos.

Sementara itu, menurut portal GitHub Kementerian Kesihatan, 43 kes kematian akibat Covid-19 direkodkan kelmarin dengan Sabah melaporkan sembilan kes, diikuti Selangor dengan lapan kes, Johor (tujuh), enam kes di Perak, Kedah (lima), dua kes masing-masing di Kelantan dan Pahang manakala satu kes masing-masing di Melaka, Sarawak, Terengganu dan Kuala Lumpur.

ICU di lima negeri catat lebih 50%

Kuala Lumpur: Lima negeri merekodkan penggunaan katil di wad unit rawatan rapi (ICU) bagi merawat pesakit Covid-19 melebihi 50 peratus dengan Kelantan dilaporkan tertinggi iaitu mencecah 94 peratus.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, Melaka merekodkan penggunaan katil ICU sebanyak 71 peratus diikuti Johor (67 peratus), Kuala Lumpur (58 peratus) dan Putrajaya (50 peratus).

Bagi katil bukan ICU, katanya, terdapat 12 negeri merekodkan penggunaan katil melebihi 50 peratus.

"Negeri berkenaan adalah Kelantan sebanyak 113 peratus, Selangor (104 peratus), Putrajaya (99 peratus), Kuala Lumpur (90 peratus), Perak (88 peratus), Perlis (75 peratus).

"Selain itu, Pahang sebanyak 71 peratus, Johor (69 peratus), Sabah (64 peratus), Terengganu (61 peratus) dan masing-masing 59 peratus di Sarawak serta Pulau Pinang," katanya dalam kenyataan, semalam.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, hanya satu negeri iaitu Melaka menunjukkan peratusan pengisian lebih 50 peratus bagi katil di Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan Covid-19 (PKRC).

Menurutnya, pesakit Covid-19 yang memerlukan alat bantuan pernafasan (ventilator) pula meningkat kepada 203 pesakit dan peratusan penggunaan bantuan itu adalah 35 peratus daripada keseluruhan ventilator untuk pesakit Covid-19 dan bukan Covid-19.



"Kelantan sebanyak 113 peratus, Selangor (104%), Putrajaya (99%), KL (90%), Perak (88%), Perlis (75%) Dr Noor Hisham"



GOLONGAN warga emas menerima vaksin dos penggalak Covid-19 di Pusat Pemberian Vaksin (PPV) Axiata Arena, Bukit Jalil, kelmarin. - Gambar NSTP/AIZUDDIN SAAD

950 kes jangkitan Omicron dikesan

764 kes direkodkan dari luar negara, 186 jangkitan tempatan

Oleh Raja Noraina Raja Rahim
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Kuala Lumpur

Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) mengesan 950 kes varian Omicron di negara ini setakat 19 Februari lalu.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, daripada jumlah itu sebanyak 764 kes adalah jangkitan dari luar negara manakala 186 kes lagi jangkitan tempatan.

Menurutnya, kes varian membimbangkan (VOC) itu dilaporkan oleh Institut Pe-

nyelidikan Perubatan (IMR); Institut Kesihatan dan Perubatan Komuniti (IHCM) Universiti Malaysia Sarawak; Institut Genom dan Vaksin Malaysia (MGVI) serta Pusat Penyelidikan dan Pendidikan Penyakit Berjangkit Tropika (TIDREC) Universiti Malaya.

Katanya, turut melaporkan kes itu Institut Biologi Molekul Perubatan Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UMBI-UKM); Integrative Pharmacogenomics Institute (iPROMISE) Universiti Teknologi Mara; Hospital Pengajar Universiti Putra Malaysia (HP-UPM); Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM); Universiti Malaysia

Sabah (UMS) dan Universiti Islam Antarabangsa Malaysia (UIAM) Kuantan.

"Kes pertama varian Omicron di Malaysia dilaporkan pada 3 Disember 2021 (Minggu Epidemiologi 48/2021) membabitkan pengembara asing dari Afrika Selatan. Sejak itu, katanya, varian Omicron merebak dengan cepat di kalangan komuniti berbanding varian Delta.

"Malaysia mula menunjukkan lonjakan kes Covid-19 pada ME 6/2022 dengan 115,032 kes berbanding 43,062 kes pada ME 5/2022.

"Peningkatan kes ini juga dapat dilihat di beberapa negara Asean lain iaitu Singapura, Thailand, Indo-

nesia dan Filipina," katanya dalam kenyataan, semalam.

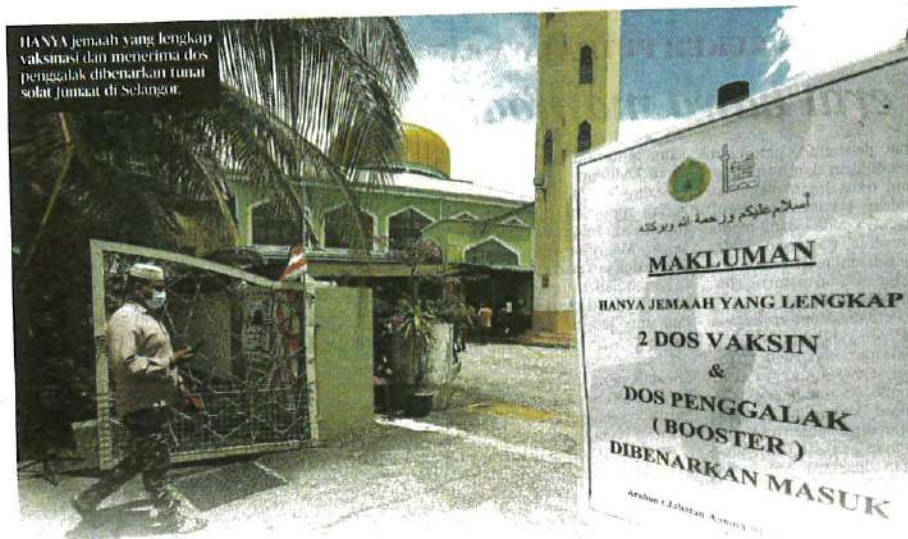
Beliau berkata, walaupun varian Omicron menyebabkan gejala dan komplikasi lebih ringan berbanding varian lain, namun langkah komprehensif perlu dilaksanakan bagi melandaikan lengkung Covid-19.

Katanya, antaranya adalah memperkasakan komuniti dalam mengawal jangkitan dengan meningkatkan amalan sendiri dan penjagaan prosedur operasi standard (SOP), mengoptimumkan perkhidmatan Pusat Penilaian Covid-19 (CAC), kesiapsiagaan perkhidmatan hospital serta meningkatkan liputan vaksin.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 11

RUANGAN : COVID-19



HANYA jemaah yang lengkap vaksinasi dan menerima dos penggalak dibenarkan masuk solat Jumaat di Selangor.

JEMAAH SOLAT JUMAAT PERLU DOS PENGALAK

SOP hanya untuk masjid di Selangor

Bernama

Putrajaya

Prosedur operasi standard (SOP) yang menetapkan jemaah lengkap dua dos vaksin Covid-19 dan dos penggalak dibenarkan hadir menunaikan solat Jumaat hanya terpakai di masjid dan surau di Selangor.

Timbalan Ketua Pengarah (Dasar) Jabatan Kemajuan Islam Malaysia (Jakim) Datuk Hakimah Mohd Yusoff berkata, SOP solat berjemaah di masjid dan surau di lain-lain negeri masih seperti biasa dan tertakluk ke-



pada keputusan pihak berkuasa agama negeri masing-masing.

"Sukacita dimaklumkan bahawa syarat berkenaan ditetapkan oleh pihak berkuasa agama negeri Selangor dan hanya terpakai kepada masjid dan surau di negeri berkenaan sahaja."



Syarat berkenaan ditetapkan oleh pihak berkuasa agama negeri Selangor dan hanya terpakai kepada masjid dan surau di negeri berkenaan sahaja."

Hakimah

or dan hanya terpakai kepada masjid dan surau di negeri berkenaan sahaja.

"Jakim menghormati ketetapan yang dibuat oleh pihak berkuasa agama ne-

geri Selangor dan mematuhi SOP yang ditetapkan bagi memastikan usaha menjaga dan memelihara masalah dalam mengawal penularan wabak Covid-19 mencapai matlamat," katanya dalam satu kenyataan di sini semalam.

Selasa lalu, Jabatan Agama Islam Selangor melalui surat pekeliling bertarikh 21 Februari menetapkan syarat menerima vaksin lengkap dua dos dan vaksin penggalak bagi membolehkan jemaah hadir ke masjid dan surau untuk menunaikan Solat Jumaat bermula 25 Februari.



SEORANG lelaki menerima dos penggalak vaksin Covid-19 di Klinik Kesihatan Sungai Beretel, Klang.

KKM kesan tujuh kluster baharu

Kuala Lumpur: Kes baharu Covid-19 di negara ini kelmarin direkodkan sebanyak 27,299 kes menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan meningkat kepada 3,395,170 kes.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, sebanyak 256 kes daripada keseluruhan kes harian yang dilaporkan itu adalah kes import.

Menurutnya, sebanyak 27,170 kes atau 99.53 peratus terdiri daripada pesakit positif kategori satu dan dua manakala 129 kes atau 0.47 peratus lagi pesakit kategori tiga hingga lima.

"Berdasarkan pecahan kes kategori tiga hingga lima, 32 kes tidak divaksinasi atau belum lengkap vaksinasi, menerima dua dos vaksin (71 kes) dan sudah menerima dos penggalak (26 kes).

"Pesakit dalam kategori berkenaan juga adalah kalangan berusia 60 tahun ke atas (65 kes), mempunyai komorbid (35 kes) dan ibu mengandung (satu kes)," katanya dalam kenyataan, semalam.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata,

22,710

Jumlah kes pulih Covid-19 direkodkan kelmarin.

sebanyak 348 kes memerlukan rawatan di unit rawatan rapi membabitkan 153 kes disahkan Covid-19 manakala 195 kes disyaki, kemungkinan dan dalam siasatan.

Katanya, kes yang memerlukan bantuan pernafasan pula sebanyak 203 kes iaitu 91 kes disahkan Covid-19 dan 112 kes disyaki, kemungkinan serta dalam siasatan.

"Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) turut merekodkan 22,710 kes pulih Covid-19 semalam (kelmarin) menjadikan jumlah kumulatif meningkat kepada 3,063,560 kes iaitu 90.2 peratus daripada keseluruhan kes," katanya.

Dalam pada itu, beliau berkata, sebanyak tujuh kluster baharu dikesan sekali gus menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan kluster meningkat kepada 6,774 dengan 494 kluster aktif.



ORANG ramai hadir bagi menerima suntikan dos penggalak di Pusat Pemberian Vaksin (PPV) Lebuh Acheh, Georgetown, semalam.

AKHBAR : KOSMO
 MUKA SURAT : 6
 RUANGAN : NEGARA

Langkah landaikan lengkung Covid-19

PUTRAJAYA – Sebanyak 80 peratus daripada keseluruhan 1,244 sampel yang diterima dari Ogos tahun lalu hingga Januari lalu dikesan mempunyai jangkitan varian Omicron.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr. Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, kes pertama varian Omicron di negara ini dilaporkan pada 3 Disember 2021 melibatkan pengembara warga asing dari Afrika Selatan.

“Sejak itu, varian Omicron telah merebak dengan cepat dalam kalangan komuniti berbanding varian Delta,” katanya dalam satu kenyataan di sini semalam.

Beliau berkata, Malaysia mula menunjukkan lonjakan kes Covid-19 pada Minggu Epidemiologi (ME) 6/2022 dengan 115,032 kes iaitu peningkatan sebanyak 167 peratus berbanding 43,062 kes pada ME 5/2022.

Malah katanya, lonjakan itu juga dapat dilihat di beberapa negara Asean lain iaitu Singapura, Thailand, Indonesia dan Filipina.

Jelasnya, sehingga 19 Februari, Malaysia telah melaporkan sebanyak 950 kes varian Omicron dengan 764 kes adalah jangkitan dari luar negara, manakala 186 kes adalah jangkitan tempatan.

“Tiga negara telah melepasi puncak gelombang varian Omicron iaitu United Kingdom (UK) dengan 498,510 kes, diikuti oleh Amerika Syarikat 438,156 kes dan Denmark 80,324 kes.



RAYYAN FAHMI SHAMDUDDIN LAW, 6, menerima suntikan vaksin di Pusat Pemberian Vaksin Pusat Dagangan Dunia (WTC), Kuala Lumpur semalam.

“Negara-negara Asean pula menunjukkan peningkatan kes tetapi belum lagi mencapai puncak gelombang varian Omicron,” ujarnya.

Sementara itu, Dr. Noor Hisham memberitahu, biarpun varian Omicron menyebabkan gejala dan komplikasi lebih ringan berbanding varian-varian yang lain, beberapa langkah komprehensif perlu dilaksanakan bagi melandaikan lengkung Covid-19 di negara ini.

Katanya, antara langkah-langkah tersebut ialah memperkasakan komuniti dalam mengawal dan mencegah penyakit Covid-19 dengan mempertingkatkan ama-

lan sendiri dan penjagaan prosedur operasi standard (SOP).

“Selain itu, mengoptimalkan perkhidmatan Covid-19 Pusat Penilaian Covid-19 (CAC) di seluruh negara untuk rawatan pesakit Covid bagi kategori satu dan 2a dengan meningkatkan kapasiti virtual CAC.

“Dalam masa sama, kesiapsiagaan perkhidmatan hospital dalam rawatan pesakit kategori 2b ke atas, meningkatkan liputan vaksin Covid-19 dengan meningkatkan liputan dos penggalak dalam kalangan dewasa dan meningkatkan liputan vaksin dalam kalangan kanak-kanak lima hingga 11 tahun,” ujarnya.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 14
RUANGAN : MAHKAMAH & JENAYAH

16 individu merokok di kedai makan dikompaun RM4,000

KUALA LUMPUR - Seramai 16 individu dikompaun RM4,000 kerana didapati merokok di kedai makan dan kedai berhawa dingin dalam operasi penguatkuasaan oleh Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) di sekitar ibu negara pada Sabtu.

KKM dalam satu kenyataan pada Ahad berkata, tiga pemilik perniagaan turut dikompaun RM500 setiap seorang kerana tidak memaparkan papan tanda larangan merokok di premis masing-masing.

Menurutnya, operasi tersebut dijalankan oleh Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah Kepong untuk memastikan pematuhan larangan merokok yang telah diwartakan di bawah Peraturan-Peraturan

Kawalan Hasil Tembakau (PPKHT) 2004.

"Hasil operasi 16 individu dikompaun RM250 seorang di bawah Peraturan 11(1)(d) PPKHT kerana merokok di dalam mana-mana tempat makan atau kedai berhawa dingin. Nilai keseluruhan kompaun RM4,000.

"Tiga pengusaha perniagaan dikompaun RM1,500 di bawah Peraturan 12(1)(a) PPKHT atas kesalahan tiada tanda larangan merokok," menurut kenyataan tersebut.

Sementara itu, seramai tujuh individu dikompaun RM7,000 kerana didapati melanggar prosedur operasi standard (SOP) Fasa Empat Pelan Pemulihan Negara (PPN) dalam operasi

sama.

Mengulas lanjut, KKM serius dalam usaha menangani masalah merokok dalam kalangan masyarakat dan satu akta baharu akan dibentangkan khusus untuk membanteras gejala tersebut.

"Sebagaimana yang telah diumumkan oleh KKM, di bawah akta baharu ini turut melarang generasi yang lahir pada 1 Januari 2005 dan seterusnya untuk memiliki dan membeli sebarang produk rokok," kata kenyataan itu lagi.

Sebarang aduan berkaitan kesalahan merokok di tempat awam boleh disalurkan menerusi aplikasi WhatsApp di talian 010-860 8949.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 20

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Kes kematian Covid-19 tahun ini rendah

Tahun lalu catat angka yang tinggi kerana ramai belum dapat vaksin

Oleh DIANA AZIS

SHAH ALAM

Kes kematian harian akibat Covid-19 pada tahun ini rendah berbanding 2021 ketika rakyat masih belum menerima vaksin berkenaan.

Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar berkata, walaupun kes harian Covid-19 mencatatkan angka melebihi 30,000 sehari berikutan gelombang Omicron yang mudah merebak, namun kes kematian yang

dicatatkan masih rendah.

"Berbanding tahun lepas ketika kes melebihi 20,000 sehari, kadar kematian juga tinggi. Ketika itu masih ramai yang belum divaksin lengkap atau mendapat vaksin penggalak."

"Kini, walaupun kes tinggi kerana gelombang Omicron yang mudah dan cepat merebak, kes kematian lebih rendah, bermakna kes tidak kritikal. Ini sesuatu yang dialami sendiri di hospital yang sedang merawat pesakit Covid-19 seperti di Hospital Sungai Buloh," katanya dalam video yang dikongsikan menerusi laman Twitter pada Ahad.

Dalam pada itu, Khairy turut berkongsi penerangan daripada pakar forensik Hospital Sungai Buloh, Dr



KHAIRY JAMALUDDIN

Tan Ran Zhi mengenai keadaan semasa pesakit Covid-19 di hospital berkenaan.

Menerusi video tersebut, Ran Zhi menjelaskan, hospital itu mencatatkan kes kematian sehingga 30 orang sehari ketika kemuncak gelombang varian Delta pada Julai hingga Ogos tahun lalu.

"Kini Hospital Sungai Buloh hanya mencatatkan tiga hingga empat kematian sehari."

"Tahun lepas kita mempunyai lima kontena yang hampir penuh dengan jenazah dan mayat pesakit Covid-19 tetapi sekarang hanya dua kontena sahaja digunakan," kongsiinya.

43 kematian baharu, 13 BID

SHAH ALAM - Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) melaporkan sebanyak 43 kematian baharu akibat Covid-19 pada Sabtu.

Daripada jumlah tersebut, sebanyak 13 kes adalah kematian di luar hospital atau *brought-in-dead* (BID).

Menurut laman sesawang *CovidNow*, ia menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan kematian di negara ini disebabkan oleh virus berkenaan adalah sebanyak 32,634.

Laporan berkenaan turut memaklumkan bahawa purata 36 daripada 100,000 populasi kematian akibat Covid-19 di negara ini direkodkan bagi tempoh enam bulan lepas.

Pulau Pinang menjadi negeri tertinggi purata kematian setakat ini dengan 65 kematian, diikuti Johor (50) dan Perlis (46).

Setakat Sabtu, KKM merekodkan 27,043 kes baharu positif Covid-19 menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes positif adalah 3,373,116.

Pada masa sama, kadar penggunaan katil di Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU) ialah 60.8 peratus dan penggunaan alat bantuan pernafasan sekitar 35.2 peratus.

Deaths (including BID)	43
32,634	+43
Brought In Dead	13
6,673	+13

43 kematian baharu, 13 BID dilaporkan pada Sabtu.

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA
MUKA SURAT : 12
RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI

Rebut peluang ambil dos penggalak

Oleh **ARIF AIMAN ASROL**
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PETALING JAYA: Lanjutan tempoh status lengkap vaksinasi dos penggalak sehingga hujung bulan depan adalah peluang kepada kira-kira 2.7 juta penerima vaksin premier Sinovac yang belum mengambil suntikan tambahan itu berbuat demikian.

Pakar Kesihatan Komuniti Fakulti Perubatan Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Prof Dr. Sharifa Ezat Wan Puteh berkata, peluang itu perlu dimanfaatkan masyarakat dengan mengambil dos penggalak bagi melindungi diri dan orang sekeliling daripada jangkitan wabak serta mengelakkan peningkatan kes kategori bahaya.

Katanya, kira-kira 2.7 juta penerima vaksin premier Sinovac belum tampil mengambil dos penggalak kerana terdapat perasaan ragu-ragu dan takut dengan kesan sampingan suntikan itu.

"Jika kita lihat pada Covid-Now, sudah capai 61 peratus



Jika kita lihat pada CovidNow, sudah capai 61 peratus yang mengambil dos penggalak dan ia menunjukkan perkembangan positif. Dengan harapan apabila makin ramai masyarakat mengambil suntikan tersebut."

SHARIFA EZAT WAN PUTEH

yang mengambil dos penggalak dan ia menunjukkan perkembangan positif. Dengan harapan

apabila makin ramai masyarakat mengambil suntikan tersebut, semakin kurang kes-kes teruk melibatkan kematian," katanya semasa dihubungi *Utusan Malaysia*.

Sebelum ini, Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin mengumumkan lanjutan tempoh status lengkap vaksinasi dos penggalak Covid-19 sehingga 31 Mac bagi memberi peluang kepada mereka yang belum mengambil dos penggalak untuk berbuat demikian.

Sementara itu, Pakar Epidemiologi dan Biostatistik, Prof. Dr. Jamalludin Ab Rahman berkata, pengambilan dos penggalak adalah satu langkah yang perlu dilaksanakan bagi mengurangkan kesan buruk Covid-19.

"Bagi mereka yang menerima vaksin Sinovac, dos tambahan diperlukan kerana data menunjukkan keberkesanan dua dos sebelum ini tidak mencukupi lagi untuk melindungi mereka, terutama mereka yang berumur 60 tahun ke atas," katanya.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 2

RUANGAN : NEWS / NATION

GENOMIC SEQUENCING

'80pc OF AUGUST-JANUARY CASES ARE OMICRON'

Covid-19 infections surged 167pc in epidemiological week six this year, says Health D-G

THARANYA ARUMUGAM
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THE Health Ministry's genomic sequencing of the SARS-CoV-2 virus from August last year to January this year found that 80 per cent of swab samples tested showed up the Omicron variant.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said Malaysia started seeing a surge in Covid-19 cases in epidemiological week six this year (EW 6/2022), logging 115,032 cases, which was a 167 per cent increase from 43,062 cases in EW 5/2022.

"Up to Feb 19, the country has recorded a total of 950 Omicron cases, 764 of which are imported and 186 locally transmitted," he said yesterday.

Health Ministry data from August last year to January showed that the Delta variant remained the dominant one in Malaysia up to November last year.

Omicron began to dominate infections in December, when almost 50 per cent of 1,679 samples collected for genomic surveillance involved the variant.

In January, 80 per cent of 1,244 samples taken involve Omicron and only 20 per cent involve Delta.

Dr Noor Hisham said Omicron cases were reported by many institutions nationwide, namely the ministry's Institute for Medical Research, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak's Institute of Health and Community Medicine, Malaysia Genome & Vaccine Institute, Universiti Malaya's Tropical Infectious Diseases Research & Education Centre, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia's Medical Molecular Biology Institute, Universiti Teknologi Mara's Integrative Pharmacogenomics Institute, Universiti Putra Malaysia Teaching Hospital, Universiti Sains Malaysia Hospital, Universiti Malaysia Sabah and International Islamic University Malaysia Kuantan.

He said although the Omicron variant caused milder symptoms and complications than other variants, the ministry had to im-



A health worker administering a Covid-19 vaccine booster dose at the Dewan Ang Si Chong vaccination centre in Butterworth yesterday. PIC BY DANIAL SAAD

plement comprehensive measures to contain its spread.

"The measures include community empowerment in controlling and preventing Covid-19 by improving self-care, SOP (standard operating procedures) and optimisation of Covid-19 Assessment Centre services nationwide for categories 1 and 2a patients by improving virtual capacity.

"The ministry also improved hospital readiness to treat Category 2b and above patients, as well as increased Covid-19 vaccination coverage among adults and children."

Dr Noor Hisham said patients in Category 2A are those with mild symptoms, including sore throat or flu without fever or shortness of breath, cough without fever or shortness of breath, loss of sense of taste but still comfortable eating, loss of sense of smell, bouts of diarrhoea within 24 hours, nausea, vomiting, fatigue and muscle pain, but are still able to perform daily activities.

Category 2B patients are those who have moderate symptoms, like prolonged fever for two days or more, or have fever again after recovering, difficulty breathing when doing some activities (exertional dyspnoea), chest pain, are unable to eat or drink, worsening fatigue, especially during daily activities or when waking up from sleep, need help walking, cough, nausea, vomiting or diarrhoea worsening or persisting, brain fog and confusion.

Malaysia reported its first Omicron case on Dec 3, 2021 (EW

48/2021), involving a foreign traveller from South Africa.

Dr Noor Hisham said Omicron had spread rapidly in the community, overtaking Delta.

"In December 2021, Omicron cases were detected only at international entry points. But the situation changed in January, which saw local transmission of Omicron in almost all states."

South Africa reported the first Omicron case to the World Health Organisation (WHO) on Nov 24, detected in specimens from Nov 9. The Omicron variant with 32 mutations on its spike protein has spread rapidly worldwide.

On Nov 26, the WHO declared Omicron a variant of concern, replacing Delta as the dominant variant.

Dr Noor Hisham said up to Feb 20, 169 countries had reported 1,571,345 cases of Omicron in the media and online.

"Meanwhile, 153 countries with 1,406,717 cases of Omicron have been reported to the Global Initiative on Sharing All Influenza Data website.

"Three countries have passed the peak of the Omicron wave — the United Kingdom with 498,510 cases, the United States with 438,156 cases and Denmark with 80,324 cases.

"While Asean countries are beginning to show an increase in cases, they have not yet reached the Omicron wave peak.

"A spike in fresh infections can be seen in several Asean countries, namely Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines."

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NEWS / NATION

'PROTECT KIDS'

Rise in Covid infections in children under 11

KUALA LUMPUR: Covid-19 cases involving children under age 11 have continued to rise in the past two weeks.

According to data on the Health Ministry's CovidNow portal, the number of infants and children (0 to 11 years old) who caught Covid-19 rose steadily from 2,492 cases on Feb 13 to 3,863 on Friday.

Covid-19 cases among adolescents age 12 to 17 also rose from 1,496 on Feb 13 to 1,849 on Friday.

Adults (age 18 to 59) continue to make up the bulk of new infections, rising from 12,634 on Feb 13 to 20,771 on Friday.

Cases involving senior citizens (age 60 and above) rose from 1,334 on Feb 13 to 2,261 on Friday.

Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin had said the death rate of unvaccinated Covid-19 patients was significantly higher than the rate of those who had completed primary vaccination and received a booster shot.



Khairy Jamaluddin

Up to Saturday, 21.2 per cent of children aged 5 to 11 in Malaysia had received the first dose of a vaccine under the Covid-19 National Immunisation Programme for Children (PICKids).

Sarawak had the highest child vaccination rate at 39.6 per cent. It is followed by Melaka (34.1 per cent), Penang (29.3 per cent), Perak (26.2 per cent), Klang Valley (24.4 per cent), Johor (23.6 per cent), Negri Sembilan (22.7 per cent), Labuan (21.6 per cent), Pahang (18.5 per cent), Perlis (16.1 per cent), Kedah (14.9 per cent), Sabah (10 per cent), Terengganu (8.1 per cent) and Kelantan (6.8 per cent).

On Twitter, Khairy said 805,676

children under 11, or 23 per cent of the age group, had received the first dose under PICKids.

He said parents' confidence in Covid-19 vaccination for children was growing following extensive engagement sessions by paediatricians and specialists.

"Confidence is growing after explanations and engagements with paediatricians and family health specialists.

"To parents, do not wait any longer.

"Register your children (for Covid-19 vaccination) and protect them," he tweeted.

Based on data from CovidNow, 14,453,640 people have received booster jabs and 25,747,814 have completed primary vaccination.

Meanwhile, Malaysia saw 27,043 new Covid-19 cases on Saturday, bringing the cumulative number to 3,373,116, with 298,976 active cases.

Of the new infections, 256 were imported.

A total of 286,969 patients (96 per cent of active cases) were undergoing home quarantine, 3,758 (1.3 per cent) were at quarantine and low-risk treatment centres, 7911 (2.6 per cent) were hospitalised, 145 were in the intensive care unit (ICU) and 203 were in the ICU and required intubation.

The data showed that 22,710 more people had recovered from Covid-19, bringing total recoveries to 3,063,560.

Hospitalisations continued to rise, from a seven-day average of 944 admissions on Feb 1 to 2,262 on Friday.

Active ICU cases rose from a seven-day average of 121 on Feb 1 to 287 on Friday.



People visiting the grave of a family member who died of Covid-19 at the Seksyen 21 Muslim cemetery in Shah Alam on Saturday. BERNAMA PIC

MOST ARE ELDERLY

SPIKE IN COVID-19 DEATHS, B.I.D. CASES

Deaths rise almost sixfold from 10 on Feb 10 to 57 on Friday, CovidNow data shows

KUALA LUMPUR

MALAYSIA is seeing a spike in deaths and brought-in-dead (BID) cases caused by Covid-19 complications.

According to data on the CovidNow portal and GitHub sites, the Health Ministry saw an almost sixfold increase in Covid-19 deaths since Feb 10.

From 10 deaths on Feb 10, the number rose to 57 on Friday and 43 on Saturday.

BID cases increased from one on Feb 10 to 14 on Friday and 13 on Saturday.

Up to Saturday, the cumulative death toll stood at 32,634, including 6,673 BID cases.

Most deaths involved elderly patients aged 60 and above, followed by adults aged 18 to 59.

CovidNow data showed that

deaths involving the elderly rose from seven on Feb 1 to 28 on Feb 19. Only three adults died due to Covid-19 complications on Feb 1, rising to 10 on Feb 19.

According to the data on deaths per 100,000 population and vaccination status, a seven-day average of 9.1 unvaccinated patients died for every 100,000 people on Feb 19.

This is far higher than the seven-day average of 0.7 deaths for patients who completed primary vaccination and 0.2 deaths for those who had a booster shot.

In the past two weeks, Malaysia, recorded 14 deaths per million people. Johor, Sabah and Kedah had the highest rates at 25, 22 and 21 deaths per million people respectively.

They were followed by Melaka (19), Perak (16), Pahang (13), Negri Sembilan (12), Perlis (12), Selangor (11), Klang Valley (10), Penang (10), Labuan (10), Terengganu (eight), Kelantan (six), Kuala Lumpur (six) and Sarawak (one).

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the intensive care unit (ICU) bed-use rate for Covid-19 patients in five states had exceeded 50 per cent.

Kelantan was at 94 per cent. It

was followed by Melaka (71 per cent), Johor (67 per cent), Kuala Lumpur (58 per cent) and Putrajaya (50 per cent).

The non-ICU bed-use rate for Covid-19 cases in 10 states and two federal territories were also above 50 per cent.

"Bed use in Kelantan is at 113 per cent, followed by Selangor 104 per cent, Putrajaya 99 per cent, Kuala Lumpur 90 per cent, Perak 88 per cent, Perlis 75 per cent, Pahang 71 per cent, Johor 69 per cent, Sabah 64 per cent, Terengganu 61 per cent, Sarawak 59 per cent and Penang 59 per cent," he said yesterday.

He said only one Covid-19 quarantine and treatment centre, in Melaka, was operating at more than 50 per cent capacity.

He said 203 Covid-19 patients required intubation, with ventilator use at seven per cent.

"Total ventilator use is at 35 per cent, including Covid and non-Covid patients."

Dr Noor Hisham said there were differences between the number of new Covid-19 hospitalisations and new categories 1 to 5 cases logged daily due to the dynamic condition of patients, who could worsen or improve over time. **By Tharanya Arumugam**

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NATION

Jakim: Booster requirement for Friday prayers only applies to S'gor

PUTRAJAYA: The requirement for congregants to have completed two doses and a booster jab of the Covid-19 vaccine to be able to perform Friday prayers only applies to mosques and surau in Selangor, says the Department of Islamic Development Malaysia (Jakim).

Its deputy director-general (policy) Datuk

Hakimah Mohd Yusoff said the standard operating procedure (SOP) for congregational prayers at mosques and surau in other states remains the same and subject to the decision of their respective state religious authorities.

"I wish to inform everyone that the condition was set by the Selangor religious author-

ities and only applies to mosques and surau in that state.

"Jakim respects the ruling made by the Selangor religious authorities and advises all Muslims (in the state) to abide by the SOP to control the spread of the Covid-19 virus," Hakimah said in a statement released yesterday.

On Tuesday, the Selangor Islamic Religious Department through a circular dated Feb 21 announced the two-dose and booster dose vaccine requirement for congregants performing Friday prayers at mosque and surau in the state.

The requirement took effect on Feb 25. — Bernama

Fewer serious cases

Most of those in Category 3 to 5 were not fully vaxxed

KUALA LUMPUR: Only 129 cases or 0.47% of the 27,299 new Covid-19 cases reported on Saturday were of Categories 3 to 5, says Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

He said the majority of cases — 27,170 or 99.53% — was in Categories 1 and 2.

The latest figure brings the cumulative number of cases in Malaysia to 3,395,170.

"Of the 129 cases in Categories 3, 4 and 5, 32 were individuals who were unvaccinated or had yet to complete their vaccination, 71 were fully vaccinated but yet to receive the booster dose, and 26 have received the booster dose," he added.

As of Saturday, a total of 1,624 cases were admitted to hospitals, of which 598 (36.8%) were in Categories 3 to 5, while the remaining 1,026 (63.2%) were in Categories 1 and 2.

Dr Noor Hisham said 22,710 recoveries were reported, bringing the cumulative figure to 3,063,560.

On intensive care unit (ICU) bed usage, he said five states recorded bed usage of 50% or more, namely Kelantan (94%), Melaka (71%), Johor (67%), Kuala Lumpur (58%) and Putrajaya (50%).

Bernama reported him as saying in a statement that Malaysia recorded a 167% increase in Covid-19 cases from 43,062 cases in the fifth epidemiological week (EW 5) to 115,032 cases in EW 6.

He said as at Feb 19, Malaysia reported 950 cases of the Omicron variant involving 764 imported cases and 186 cases of local transmission.

Other Asean countries including Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines have

also seen a rise in such cases.

Dr Noor Hisham said the results of SARS-CoV-2 genome surveillance data for the past six months from August 2021 to January this year showed that the Omicron variant comprised 80% of all genome sequencing results in Malaysia.

Although the Omicron variant causes milder symptoms and complications than other variants, he said among the measures that need to be implemented to flatten the Covid-19 curve is to increase vaccination coverage.

"In addition, Covid-19 Assessment Centre (CAC) services nationwide need to be optimised for the treatment of Categories 1 and 2a patients by increasing the virtual capacity of CACs as well as hospital service readiness in the treatment of patients in Category 2b and above," he added.

KJ: Don't treat Covid-19 as a mild flu

PETALING JAYA: People should continue being vigilant and not treat Covid-19 as a mild flu, says Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin.

"Every death is serious. It is less severe now but it's not a mild flu. We must continue to focus on protecting our high-risk groups. Please get boosted," said Khairy in a post on his Twitter account on Sunday.

However, he added that the country is currently seeing a drastically reduced death rate compared to the Delta wave last year.

"Last year, Covid-19 cases were high, surpassing 25,000 cases daily as many were not fully vaccinated or had yet to receive their booster.

"Now, although case numbers are high again due to the Omicron variant, we are seeing lower death rates," said Khairy.

AKHBAR : THE SUN ON MONDAY

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS

Khairy: Voters have adequate protection

► Health minister says booster shot rate for Johor populace has reached 70% and can protect even senior citizens with health complications

KLUANG: Johor's rate of Covid-19 booster vaccination shots has reached 70% so far, which will be adequate in protecting voters throughout the Johor state election.

Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin said it was the target set by the Health Ministry for the state election taking place on March 12.

"It offers good protection to voters, especially senior citizens with health complications, with all the campaigning activities being conducted."

"We have laid all our plans. The standard operating procedures (SOP) for the state election has been eased compared to Malacca. The information we received at the ministry indicates that although cases have

risen, the impact is not as serious compared to several past months," he said during a press conference at the Simpang Renggam health clinic Covid-19 assessment centre here yesterday.

He also said that children vaccinations have achieved 25%, with over 103,000 children inoculated under the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme for Children (PICKids) in Johor. The percentage is higher than the national percentage of 23%.

Khairy said the ministry has created teams under the Public Health Unit to monitor the election SOP and to issue compounds to anyone who violates the SOP, no matter what party they are in or who they are.

"I have asked, firstly to issue reminders of not crowding around leaders, secondly, we ask that physical distancing is practiced during walkabouts, we ask enforcers to use their discretion," he said.

On a media practitioner being issued a compound of RM1,000 last Saturday for alleged SOP violations, Khairy said the compound has been cancelled.

"I have requested the compound be cancelled after concluding it was not his (the reporter's) fault upon reviewing the report."

"I told enforcement if reporters are carrying out their duties, warn and admonish them first. If it isn't his fault, he really is looking for an interview and as such, no need to compound," he added.

A media practitioner covering candidates' nominations for the Johor state election was issued a compound of RM1,000 for allegedly violating the Covid-19 SOP at the Larkin constituency nomination centre here. - Bernama



Khairy being briefed by specialist Dr Fatimah Hassan during his visit to Simpang Renggam health clinic Covid-19 assessment centre in Kluang, Johor yesterday. - BERNAMA PIX

Over 800,000 children given first dose

KUALA LUMPUR: A total of 805,676 children aged between five and 11, or 22.7% of the group in Malaysia, have received the first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine as of last Saturday, under the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme for Children (PICKids).

Based on the CovidNOW website, a total of 14,517,869, or 61.7% of the adult population in the country, have received the booster dose, and a total of 22,948,037, or 97.5%, have completed vaccination while 23,227,580, or

98.7%, have received at least one dose of the vaccine.

As for adolescents aged 12 to 17, a total of 2,800,421 individuals, or 90%, have completed their vaccination while 2,893,860 individuals, or 93%, have received at least one dose of the vaccine.

A total of 118,275 vaccine doses were dispensed as of last Saturday, with 54,858 first doses, 577 second doses and 62,840 booster shots, bringing the cumulative total vaccine

doses administered under the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme to 66,988,213.

Meanwhile, according to the Health Ministry's Github portal, 43 Covid-19 deaths were reported last Saturday, with Sabah recording nine; Selangor, eight; Johor, seven; Perak, six; Kedah, five; with two each in Kelantan and Pahang while Malacca, Sarawak, Terengganu and Kuala Lumpur recorded one each. - Bernama

Only 0.47% of cases in categories three to five

KUALA LUMPUR: Only 129 cases, or 0.47%, of the 27,299 new Covid-19 cases reported last Saturday were in categories three, four and five.

Health Director-General Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said in a statement yesterday that the majority of the cases, which is 27,170 or 99.53%, were in categories one and two.

This brings the cumulative total of cases in Malaysia to 3,395,170.

"Of the 129 cases in categories three, four and five, 32 were individuals who were unvaccinated or had yet to complete vaccination, 71 were fully vaccinated but yet to receive the booster dose and 26 had received the booster dose," he said.

As of Feb 26, a total of 1,624 cases were admitted to hospitals, of which 598 (36.8%) were in categories three, four and five while the remaining 1,026 (63.2%) were in categories one and two.

He said 22,710 cases of recoveries were reported, bringing the cumulative figure to 3,063,560.

On the intensive care unit bed usage, Noor Hisham said five states recorded bed usage of 50% or more, namely Kelantan (94%), Malacca (71%), Johor (67%), Kuala Lumpur (58%) and Putrajaya (50%).

Meanwhile, he said Malaysia recorded a 167% increase in Covid-19 cases, from 43,062 in the fifth epidemiological week to 115,032 in the sixth week.

He said as of Feb 19, Malaysia reported 950 cases of the Omicron variant, involving 764 imported cases and 186 local transmissions.

Other Asean countries including Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines have also seen a rise in such cases.

Noor Hisham said the results of SARS-CoV-2 genome surveillance data for the past six months from August 2021 to Jan 2022 recorded that the Omicron variant comprised 80% of all genome sequencing results in Malaysia.

He said although the Omicron variant causes milder symptoms and complications than other variants, among the measures that need to be implemented to flatten the Covid-19 curve is to increase vaccinations.

"In addition, Covid-19 Assessment Centre services nationwide need to be optimised for the treatment of categories one and 2a patients by increasing the capacity of Covid-19 Assessment Centres as well as hospital service readiness in the treatment of patients in categories 2b and above," he added. - Bernama

Friday prayers rule applies to Selangor

PUTRAJAYA: The standard operating procedures (SOP) which requires congregants to have completed two doses and booster dose of Covid-19 vaccines to be able to perform Friday prayers only applies to mosques and suraus in Selangor, according to the Department of Islamic Development Malaysia (Jakim).

Jakim deputy director-general (Policy) Datuk Hakimah Mohd Yusoff said the SOP for congregational prayers in other states remained the same and are subject to the decision of the respective state religious authorities.

"I wish to inform that the condition was set by the Selangor religious authorities and only applies to mosques and suraus in the state."

"Jakim advises Muslims to abide by the SOP set to ensure that efforts to control the spread of the Covid-19 virus achieve their objectives," she said in a statement here yesterday.

On Feb 22, the Selangor Islamic Religious Department, through a circular dated Feb 21 set the two-dose and booster dose requirement to be able to perform Friday prayers at mosques and suraus in the state effective Feb 25. - Bernama