

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

Pendaftaran vaksin untuk kanak-kanak masih rendah

Oleh Luqman Arif Abdul Karim
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Kuala Lumpur: Pendaftaran untuk Program Imunisasi COVID-19 Kebangsaan Kanak-Kanak (PICKids), iaitu program vaksinasi untuk kanak-kanak berusia lima hingga 11 tahun yang bermula semalam, masih rendah dengan hanya 15 peratus mendaftar sejak dibuka akhir bulan lalu.

Sehingga kelmarin, hanya 517,107 kanak-kanak dalam kumpulan usia itu daripada jumlah keseluruhan 3.6 juta yang mendaftar melalui ibu bapa mereka untuk PICKids.

Berikutan itu, Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) bercadang memperhebatkan hebahan pemberian vaksin kepada kanak-kanak untuk menggalakkan ibu bapa mendaftar anak mereka, termasuk memberi keyakinan kepada mereka mengenai keberkesanannya.

Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin, berkata beliau sedar ibu bapa berkemungkinan cenderung untuk mengambil pendekatan

“tunggu dan lihat” kerana beberapa faktor seperti keselamatan dan keberkesanan vaksin untuk anak mereka.

“Vaksinasi kepada kanak-kanak akan lebih mencabar berbanding remaja, kerana dari segi keyakinan ibu bapa, kita kena bina (keyakinan mereka), manakala untuk remaja tiada masalah besar.

“Saya rasa kita kena banyakkkan maklumat terbaik dan terkini, berhubung program vaksinasi, bagi memberi keyakinan kepada ibu bapa supaya mendaftar anak kecil mereka.

“This is the last piece (ini adalah langkah terakhir) untuk beralih ke kehidupan seperti sebelum pandemik,” katanya pada ucapan pelancaran PICKids di Hospital Tunku Azizah (HTA) di sini, semalam.

Tempahan janji temu vaksinasi untuk kanak-kanak dibuka secara berperingkat pada 31 Januari lalu, bermula dengan ibu bapa yang tinggal di Lembah Klang.

Nasional 4



Ibu bapa bersama anak-anak mereka yang dibawa untuk mendapatkan suntikan vaksin pada hari pertama Program Imunisasi COVID-19 Kanak-Kanak (PICKids) di Hospital Tunku Azizah Kuala Lumpur, semalam.

(Foto Eizairi Shamsudin/ BH)

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Penularan COVID-19

Usah panik jika kes naik mendadak sebab Omicron

KKM terus pantau perkembangan semasa, selain peratusan tinggi penerima vaksin

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Kuala Lumpur: Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) tidak menolak kemungkinan kadar kes harian COVID-19 akan meningkat mendadak dalam tempoh singkat berikutan varian Omicron.

Menterinya, Khairy Jamaluddin, berkata keadaan sama turut dialami di pelbagai negara, berpunca daripada kebolehan kitaran tinggi Omicron.

Katanya, kementerian akan terus memantau perkembangan semasa dan data terpenting seperti kadar kemasukan ke hospital, unit rawatan rapi (ICU) serta pesakit kategori kritikal.

"Kes akan meningkat, malah berkemungkinan secara mendadak dalam tempoh singkat kerana kita sudah ada Omicron di Malaysia yang mempunyai kebolehan kitaran tinggi.

"Kadar kes harian juga mungkin akan meningkat, berbanding jumlah yang direkodkan dalam tempoh seminggu lalu.

"Tetapi, kita jangan panik kerana kita sudah berada di tahap yang mana masyarakat sudah



Khairy beramah mesra bersama ibu bapa dan kanak-kanak pada Majlis Pelancaran Pelaksanaan Program Imunisasi COVID-19 Kanak-Kanak (PICKids) di Hospital Tunku Azizah, Kuala Lumpur, semalam.

(Foto Eizaiti Shamsudin/BH)

menerima Malaysia perlu hidup dengan COVID-19 dan liputan vaksin antara tertinggi di dunia," katanya pada sidang media di Hospital Tunku Azizah (HTA), di sini, semalam.

Berdasarkan perangkaan semasa, kes harian COVID-19 sejak kebelakangan ini berada sekitar 4,000 hingga 5,000 kes, dengan 95

peratus daripadanya dalam tahap 1 hingga tahap 3.

Khairy berkata, kementerian sedang melakukan perolehan bagi mendapatkan ubat antiviral Paxlovid untuk kegunaan di Malaysia, khususnya golongan berisiko, rentan dan mempunyai komorbiditi.

Katanya, pengurusan wabak dan pesakit COVID-19 di Mala-

ysia juga mencatatkan perkembangan positif dalam tempoh singkat apabila kebanyakan pesakit hanya ditempatkan di rumah, bagi tujuan pengasingan.

"Ini pencapaian memberangsangkan dan dengan Paxlovid, kita akan dapat terus kurangkan bebanan di sektor perkhidmatan kesihatan awam," katanya.

Vaksin beri perlindungan terbaik simptom teruk virus

Putrajaya: Vaksin masih memberi perlindungan terbaik daripada mendapat gejala teruk akibat jangkitan COVID-19, termasuk daripada subvarian Omicron seperti BA.2, yang dikatakan mudah merebak.

Saintis Virologi Institut Perubatan dan Pergigian Teraju, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Dr Muhammad Amir Yunus, berkata data mendapati, kumpulan yang tidak mendapat pelatikan mempunyai longgokan virus (virus load) yang tinggi menyebabkan mereka lebih mudah menyebarkan jangkitan kepada individu lain.

Beliau berkata, keadaan berbeza dengan individu yang sudah mendapatkan vaksin, dengan longgokan virus dan kemungkinan untuk menyebarkan virus kepada orang lain, lebih rendah.

"Ini berdasarkan pemerhatian daripada ujian RT-PCR bagi mereka yang divaksin atau sudah menerima dos penggalak, walaupun positif, nilai kitaran ambang (CT) tinggi, menggambarkan longgokan virus rendah," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian ketika diminta mengulas mengenai kemungkinan subvarian Omicron berbahaya kepada golongan rentan, termasuk warga emas dan kanak-kanak.

Dr Muhammad Amir berkata, data menunjukkan kebanyakan kes membabitkan subvarian Omicron berlegar di Denmark, diikuti United Kingdom (UK) dan India.

Beliau berkata, walaupun subvarian BA.2 lebih mudah menjangkiti berbanding subvarian BA.1, ia tidak banyak beza dengan Omicron BA.1 dari segi tahap serius.

Media melaporkan, subvarian Omicron kini sudah dikesan di 57 negara.

Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO) dalam laporan epidemiologi mingguan, menyatakan di sesetengah negara, jangkitan oleh subvarian menyumbang kepada lebih separuh daripada kes Omicron.

WHO berkata, ketika ini, Omicron dikesan mempunyai beberapa subvarian iaitu BA.1, BA.1.1, BA.2 dan BA.3 dengan sebahagian daripada negara Eropah serta Asia menunjukkan berlaku penularan BA.2 lebih pantas, berbanding dengan BA.1.

Teliti nilai ambang buka lebih banyak sektor

Kuala Lumpur: Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) masih meneliti bagi menetapkan nilai ambang untuk membolehkan lebih banyak kelonggaran, termasuk pembukaan sektor ekonomi dan sempadan negara.

Antara nilai ambang yang diambil kira ialah liputan dos penggalak dan pemberian vaksin kepada kanak-kanak, bagi memastikan tahap perlindungan daripada jangkitan COVID-19 yang lebih menyeluruh.

Menterinya, Khairy Jamaluddin, berkata beberapa aspek sedang diperhalusi menerusi perbincangan peringkat kementerian itu.

"Kita akan syorkan perkara ini kepada jawatankuasa kuartet. Kita sudah hampir ke peringkat

itu (pembukaan lebih banyak sektor, kelonggaran dan pembukaan sempadan).

"Namun, saya nak lihat sikit lagi perkembangan dalam liputan dos penggalak dan PICKids (Program Imunisasi COVID-19 Kebangsaan Kanak-Kanak).

"Saya merayu untuk semua ambil dos penggalak supaya kita boleh buka sempadan negara dan syorkan lebih banyak kelonggaran," katanya pada sidang media di Hospital Tunku Azizah, di sini, semalam.

Khairy berkata, antara kelonggaran yang dipertimbangkan adalah melanjutkan tempoh operasi kedai makan dan premis perniagaan seperti sebelum pandemik COVID-19.

Bagaimanapun, katanya, ke-

wajipan pemakaian pelitup muka, menjaga penjarakan fizikal dan penjagaan kebersihan diri akan terus diterapkan, bagi mengurangkan risiko jangkitan COVID-19.

Selain itu, beliau berkata, prosedur operasi standard (SOP) yang baharu untuk ibadat umrah akan dimuktamadkan hari ini.

Antara penambahbaikan yang dijangka dimasukkan dalam SOP baharu ialah mewajibkan semua jemaah mempunyai insurans kesihatan bagi keperluan rawatan, pengasingan dan kuarantin COVID-19 ketika di Arab Saudi dan pulang ke Malaysia.

SOP itu juga akan memastikan jemaah lengkap pelatikan, terma-

suk dos penggalak.

KKM sebelum ini menangguhkan pemergian jemaah umrah berkuat kuasa 8 Januari lalu berikutan penularan COVID-19 varian Omicron.

Khairy kemudian berkata, jemaah dibenarkan ke Makkah bermula 15 Februari ini, selepas SOP baharu dimuktamadkan, namun Kementerian Pelancongan, Seni dan Budaya menyatakan jemaah boleh ke Tanah Suci bermula Selasa ini.

Persatuan Agensi Pelancongan Umrah dan Haji Malaysia berkata, hampir 1,000 jemaah umrah yang terkandas susulan penutupan sementara Januari lalu, dijadual berlepas ke Tanah Suci pada hari pertama pembukaan semula, 8 Februari.

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Program Imunisasi COVID-19 untuk Kanak-kanak

Pemberian vaksin kanak-kanak lancar

Ramai ibu bapa hadir lebih awal pastikan anak tenang terima suntikan

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Kuala Lumpur: Pemberian vaksin pada hari pertama Program Imunisasi COVID-19 untuk Kanak-kanak (PICKids) berjalan lancar, malah ramai ibu bapa dan kanak-kanak hadir lebih awal daripada waktu janji temu ditetapkan.

Mengikut perancangan, kanak-kanak berusia lima hingga 11 tahun mula menerima suntikan vaksin dos pertama di hospital pakar dan pusat vaksin bersepadu (integrasi) di Lembah Klang mulai jam 12 tengah hari semalam, namun ramai ibu bapa hadir lebih awal bagi memastikan suntikan dibuat pada masa sudah disediakan, selain dapat menenangkan perasaan anak masing-masing.

Pegawai Komunikasi Korporat INTEC Education College, Azlin Haryatie Ibrahim, 39, berkata beliau pada mulanya turut bimbang berikutan pelbagai maklumat diterima berhubung vaksin untuk kanak-kanak sehingga mendengar sendiri penerangan pakar kesihatan mengenai kesan berlaku apabila tidak divaksin.

"Sejak itu, kami tidak lagi ragu-ragu kerana kita sendiri sudah lengkap vaksinasi, mengapa tidak diberikan kepada anak-anak, lagipun vaksin itu bagi melindungi diri dan keluarga."

"Memang anak saya agak gemuruh, tetapi kami menenangkaninya dan menjelaskan kesan mungkin dialami selepas suntikan. Anak juga tahu daripada awal mengenai COVID-19 dan vaksinasi. Sekarang kami lega kerana anak sudah divaksin," katanya.

PICKids didasarkan kepada 4.1 juta kanak-kanak untuk menerima vaksin bagi melindungi mereka daripada COVID-19 selepas kerajaan mengumumkan pelaksanaan program itu pada 22 Januari lalu.

Tinjauan BH pada hari pertama operasi pusat pemberian vaksin (PPV) Pusat Dagangan Dunia Kuala Lumpur (WTCKL)

mendapati sambutan diterima amat menggalakkan apabila orang ramai mula mengunjungi PPV itu seawal jam 8 pagi.

Pesara tentera, Zulkiflee Abdul Latiff, 49, berkata selain enam anak yang sudah divaksin sebelum ini, beliau turut bersyukur dua anaknya kini turut menerima dos melalui PICKids.

"Apabila mendapat notifikasi janji temu MySejahtera, saya terus mengesahkan kehadiran kerana mahu semua anak dilindungi."

"Lagi pun vaksin ini untuk kebaikan semua dan apabila ramai sudah mendapatkan suntikan lengkap, lebih ramai masyarakat akan dilindungi," katanya.

Dua anaknya yang menerima vaksin melalui PICKids adalah Muhammad Latiff Iskandar, 10, dan Muhammad Iskandar Zulkarnain, 7.

Bagi Muhammad Latiff, dia sendiri risau untuk menerima suntikan semalam berikutan kakaknya yang terlebih dulu mengambil vaksin mengalami demam.

"Melihat keadaan mereka, saya jadi gemuruh, tetapi saya berharap tidak berlaku apa-apa selepas ini," katanya.

Pengurus PPV WTCKL, Dr



Seorang kanak-kanak menerima vaksin dos pertama pada program PICKids di PPV WTCKL, semalam. (Foto Rohanis Shukri/BH)

Sharanjit Kaur pula berkata ada ibu bapa dan anak yang mendapat janji temu vaksin hadir seawal jam 8 pagi walaupun masa ditetapkan antara jam 12 tengah hari hingga 6 petang.

"Kapasiti untuk PPV ini seramai 200 orang bagi memastikan semua yang hadir dapat mengikuti prosedur operasi standard (SOP) kerana di sini juga dibuka untuk kepada individu secara datang terus untuk dos penggalak."

"Setakat ini, daripada janji temu MySejahtera, kita terima lebih 200 pendaftaran. Walaupun hari ini (semalam) cuti umum, namun kehadiran sangat menggalakkan."

"Saya menasihati ibu bapa terus memberi galakan dan berharap anak bersedia divaksinasi. Pastikan mereka bersarapan, cukup tidur dan sihat," katanya.

Selain PPV WTCKL, dua PPV Integrasi beroperasi mulai semalam ialah PPV Axiata Arena, Bukit Jalil; PPV Ideal Convention Centre (IDCC) Shah Alam dan Hospital Tunku Azizah.

Sementara itu, Khairy berkata, Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) bercadang menambah kapasiti operasi PPV WTCKL sehingga 600 orang berbanding 200 orang sekarang selepas membuat pemantauan pada minggu pertama PICKids, semalam.

"Jika tiada kesesakan dan semua berjalan lancar, kita akan tambah kapasiti untuk lebih banyak suntikan dapat dibuat."

"Bagaimanapun, ini masih dalam pemantauan dan dilaksanakan jika operasi pada hari berikutnya lancar," katanya yang hadir meninjau operasi hari pertama WTCKL di sini.

Dos diberi hanya satu pertiga daripada dewasa

Dari Mukla 1

Formulasi vaksin yang digunakan bagi PICKids adalah formulasi khas untuk kanak-kanak dan dibekalkan di dalam bebuli 10-dos (penutup jingga) dan perlu dicampur dengan 1.3 mililiter (ml) larutan garam biasa. Setiap dos diberikan adalah 0.2 ml dan mengandungi 10mcg vaksin mRNA.

Dos untuk kanak-kanak adalah satu pertiga daripada dos digunakan untuk orang dewasa.

Khairy berkata, KKM menyasarkan 50 peratus daripada 3.6 juta kanak-kanak berusia lima hingga 11 tahun di negara ini mendapat suntikan imunisasi COVID-19 menjelang akhir Februari ini dan 70 peratus bagi kumpulan berusia tujuh hingga bawah 12 tahun yang berada di sekolah dalam tempoh sama.

Khairy juga mengesahkan sudah membuat tempahan untuk

anaknya berusia enam tahun mendapat suntikan vaksin.

"Semalam (kelmarin) saya sendiri buat tempahan untuk anak saya. Ini bagi menjawab tohmahan yang kata saya tak vaksin, malah anak pun tak vaksin," katanya.

Beliau berkata, cabaran utama KKM adalah untuk memberi keyakinan kepada masyarakat bahawa vaksin untuk kanak-kanak adalah selamat.

"Ramai terutamanya di media sosial meminta supaya tidak dipaksa (pengambilan vaksin) dan sebagainya. Saya memberi jaminan, contohnya jika orang dewasa tak lengkap vaksin, kita tak benarkan mereka masuk ke kedai makan, pusat beli-belah dan sebagainya, tetapi untuk kanak-kanak tiada syarat itu," katanya.

Khairy juga menjelaskan sela masa lapan minggu antara dos pertama dan kedua untuk kanak-kanak dibuat bersandarkan beberapa asas.

"Ada negara menetapkan sela masa yang lebih singkat, bagaimanapun kita menetapkan sela masa lapan minggu selepas meneliti data daripada pelbagai negara, selain syor kumpulan pakar."

"Asas yang digunakan di sebalik penentuan lapan minggu ini ialah untuk mengurangkan risiko kesan sampingan selepas imunisasi, sekali gus menambak keyakinan orang ramai khususnya ibu bapa."

"Selain itu, kita buat ketetapan sela masa lebih panjang kerana mahu kesan perlindungan imunisasi yang lebih baik dan berkesan," katanya.

Mengulas mengenai peningkatan kluster pendidikan, Khairy berkata keputusan menutup institusi pendidikan adalah langkah terakhir, bersandarkan penilaian berisiko.

"Bagi tempoh dari 1 Januari hingga semalam (kelmarin), sekolah menengah berasrama merekodkan jumlah kluster paling

tinggi iaitu 108, berbanding institusi pendidikan lain seperti menengah harian (12), rendah harian (13), prasekolah (10) dan kolej berasrama (19).

"Jumlah sekolah ditutup akibat COVID-19 setakat ini hanya 14, dengan kluster pendidikan yang masih aktif kini 180."

"Meskipun wujud kluster, saya ingin jelaskan ia terkawal kerana kes dalam lingkungan kategori 1 hingga 3, iaitu yang mengalami gejala ringan atau tiada gejala langsung."

"Sehingga kini, tiada pesakit institusi pendidikan berada pada tahap kategori 4 atau 5," katanya.

Dalam perkembangan lain, Khairy berkata kerajaan cuba untuk beralih ke fasa endemik, namun perlu memastikan semua golongan berisiko tinggi, rentan dan mempunyai komorbiditi dilindungi sepenuhnya.

Beliau berkata, hanya 70 peratus daripada warga emas di

negara ini, iaitu individu berusia 60 tahun ke atas sudah mendapatkan suntikan dos penggalak mereka setakat ini.

"Sebanyak 30 peratus lagi belum dapatkan dos penggalak, justeru saya merayu supaya mereka dapatkan suntikan kerana kita ingin elakkan risiko jangkitan COVID-19 yang serius."

"Kita nak beralih ke endemik, tetapi ada beberapa sasaran yang perlu dicapai, namun keadaan semasa menyaksikan pengurusan wabak di Malaysia adalah terkawal."

"Contohnya, penutupan Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan Berisiko Rendah (PKRC) di Taman Ekspo Pertanian Malaysia (MAEPS), Serdang adalah petunjuk perkembangan positif."

"Justeru, saya boleh beri jaminan bahawa kelonggaran untuk pulang ke kampung, meraikan perayaan seperti pada Tahun Baharu Cina, Deepavali dapat diberikan menjelang Aidilfitri kelak," katanya.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : LOKAL

Kuala Lumpur

Bernama

KHAIRY

Menteri Kesihatan Khairy Jamaluddin memfailkan saman fitnah terhadap Datuk Lokman Noor Adam dan Mohd Rasyiq Mohd Alwi atau dikenali sebagai Ustaz Abu Syafiq berhubung vaksin Covid-19 yang dimuat naik di media sosial.

Khairy, 46, selaku plaintif memfailkan dua saman itu secara berasingan di Mahkamah Tinggi di sini, menerusi Tetuan Rashid Zulkifli pada 25 Januari lalu dengan menamakan Lokman, 49, dan Mohd Rasyiq, 41, sebagai defendan.

Berdasarkan pernyataan tuntutan, Khairy yang juga Ahli Parlimen Rembau memfailkan saman itu atas kapasiti peribadi mendakwa Lokman memfitnahnya menerusi dua video serta memuat naik gambar di Facebook Lokman Noor Adam Official pada 6 Januari lalu, membuat kenyataan menerusi dua siaran langsung di Facebook itu dan Youtube Lokman Adam pada 10 Januari.

Khairy mendakwa Mohd Rasyiq memfitnahnya dengan membuat empat kenyataan fitnah, menyiarkan tiga video dan gambar di Instagram Ustaz Abu Syafiq pada 20 Oktober tahun lalu serta 6 dan 10 Januari lalu.

Dakwa plaintif, kenyataan fitnah dalam dua saman itu membawa maksud antaranya beliau berbohong dan menipu orang ramai dengan mendakwa dia sudah diberi vaksin Covid-19 serta menerima dos ketiga serta memalsukan maklumat berkenaan status vaksinasi.

Menurut plaintif, penerbitan fitnah itu menyebabkan reputasi dan integriti-



FITNAH BABIT ISU VAKSIN

Khairy saman 2 individu



MOHD Rasyiq



LOKMAN

nya terjejas teruk serta mengurangkan kepercayaan serta keyakinan orang ramai terhadapnya sama ada melalui kapasiti peribadi dan profesional selain menyebabkan reputasinya direndahkan dalam kalangan masyarakat yang berfikirannya waras.

Plaintif juga mendakwa penerbitan fitnah itu adalah bertentangan dengan kepentingan awam dan ia mengganggu usaha serta semua yang terbabit dengan Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) dan kerajaan dalam perjuangan menentang Covid-19, menjejaskan tindak balas masyarakat terhadap pandemik dan menjejaskan data serta fakta rasmi yang diberikan oleh KKM kepada orang ramai.

Oleh itu, plaintif memohon suatu perintah injunksi supaya kedua-dua defendan memadam kenyataan dan video bersama-sama kapsyen, tajuk dan komen dalam tempoh 24 jam dan suatu injunksi menghalang defendan daripada menerbitkan semula hantaran itu.

Plaintif juga memohon defendan untuk memadam kenyataan fitnah yang diterbitkan semula di semua portal berita serta akaun media sosial dalam tempoh 24 jam.

Plaintif juga menuntut kedua-dua defendan membayar ganti rugi am yang akan ditaksir oleh mahkamah, ganti rugi teladan, teruk, faedah, permohonan maaf daripada defendan-defendan yang dimuat naik di media sosial serta relif lain yang difikirkan wajar oleh mahkamah.

Menerusi semakan sistem mahkamah, mahkamah menetapkan 17 Februari ini untuk pendengaran injunksi inter parte (dua pihak).

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : COVID-19



VAKSIN Comirnaty® 10mcg Concentrate for Dispersion (PfizerBioNTech) yang digunakan dalam PICKids.



SEORANG kanak-kanak ditemani abangnya menerima suntikan vaksin di PPV Integrasi Axiata Arena, Bukit Jalil.



IBU bapa membawa anak mereka menunggu giliran untuk menerima suntikan vaksin Covid-19 pada Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan Untuk Kanak-Kanak (PICKids) di PPV Integrasi Axiata Arena, Bukit Jalil, semalam. - Gambar NSTP/AZHAR RAMLI

'Dah kaji, lihat data'

*Khairy nafi KKM terburu-buru dalam usaha vaksin kanak-kanak

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Kuala Lumpur

Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) tidak terburu-buru memberi vaksin kepada kanak-kanak sebaliknya ia melalui kajian dan data untuk menjamin keselamatan golongan berkenaan.

Menteri Kesihatan Khairy Jamaluddin berkata, Pentadbiran Makanan dan Ubat-ubatan (FDA) Amerika Syarikat sudah pun meluluskan vaksin kanak-kanak ini pada Oktober tahun lalu dan pakar mengambil masa beberapa bulan untuk kajian serta melihat data daripada negara lain.

Katanya, pihaknya juga sudah mendapat data bagi kegunaan sebenar dan pihaknya mendapati bahawa tidak ada banyak kesan sampingan yang serius.

"Kita sudah lihat selama beberapa bulan vaksin ini memang selamat. Hari ini (semalam), Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan Untuk Kanak-Kanak (PICKids) untuk kanak-kanak berusia lima hingga bawah 12 tahun akan dimulakan.

"Vaksin mRNA iaitu Comirnaty® 10mcg Concentrate for Dispersion (PfizerBioNTech)



KHAIRY beramah mesra dengan penerima vaksin kanak-kanak selepas Majlis Pelancaran PICKids di Hospital Tunku Azizah.

akan digunakan. Vaksin Comirnaty formulasi khas untuk kanak-kanak ini diluluskan Pihak Berkuasa Kawalan Dadah (PBKD) Malaysia adalah selamat dan mempunyai efikasi melindungi kanak-kanak daripada jangkitan teruk Covid-19," katanya pada Majlis Pelancaran PICKids di Hospital Tunku Azizah di ibu negara, semalam.

Hadir sama Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan I Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali.

Khairy berkata, pemberian vaksin Covid-19 adalah secara sukarela dan ibu bapa atau penjaga perlu memberi

kebenaran bertulis bagi melayakkan anak mereka mendapat vaksinasi Covid-19.

Katanya, sebagaimana vaksin dewasa dan remaja, vaksin Covid-19 kanak-kanak akan diberikan secara percuma kepada semua kanak-kanak yang tinggal di Malaysia tanpa mengira status kewarganegaraan mereka.

"Kementerian Pendidikan Malaysia turut bekerjasama dengan KKM dalam pemberian vaksin Covid-19 kepada kanak-kanak menerusi pemberian secara jangkaular di sekolah. Kerjasama ini akan membabitkan se-

kolah yang dikenal pasti untuk dijadikan sebagai pusat pemberian vaksin (PPV) sekolah," katanya.

Beliau berkata, dengan adanya program vaksinasi yang antara terbaik di dunia, rakyat di negara ini boleh menjalani kehidupan yang lebih bebas berbanding tahun lalu.

Katanya, menuju ke arah endemik, perkara paling penting ialah melindungi golongan berisiko tinggi.

"Ini sudah pasti golongan warga emas, sebab itu saya selalu merayu supaya mereka menerima dos pengalakkan mereka.

"Kita hendak beri perlindungan kepada golongan kanak-kanak kerana sebelum ini tidak ada vaksin yang diluluskan untuk diberikan kepada mereka. Kita dapat berikan kepada mereka yang berusia lima hingga 11 tahun iaitu seramai 3.6 juta.

"Golongan ini sangat penting kerana walaupun jangkitan Covid-19 dalam kalangan kanak-kanak tidak tinggi berbanding dewasa, ratusan ribu juga dan apa yang paling kita risau adalah jangkitan yang serius di kalangan kanak-kanak seperti komplikasi Multisystem Inflammation Syndrome in Children (MIS-C) yang memerlukan rawatan di unit rawatan rapi," katanya.

Sudah tempah vaksin anak: Khairy

Kuala Lumpur: "Semalam (kelmarin) saya sendiri buat tempahan untuk anak. Ini nak jawab yang kata dia tak vaksin, anak tak vaksin.

"Anak saya, umur enam tahun akan divaksin dan Insya-Allah saya harap yang lain juga akan buat tempahan kepada anak mereka," kata Menteri Kesihatan Khairy Jamaluddin.

Beliau berkongsi perkara itu ketika berucap pada Majlis Pelancaran program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kanak-Kanak (PICKids) di sini, semalam.

Katanya, cabaran utama pihaknya kini adalah untuk memberi keyakinan kepada masyarakat bahawa ia adalah selamat.

"Ramai terutamanya di

media sosial mereka minta tidak dipaksa dan sebagainya, saya memberi jaminan bahawa contoh untuk kalau dewasa, tak lengkap vaksin kita tak benarkan masuk ke kedai makan, tak dibenarkan masuk ke pusat beli-belah dan sebagainya, untuk kanak-kanak, tiada syarat itu.

"Mereka diberikan pengecualian kerana kita nak pastikan ibu bapa yakin dengan proses ini, tidak terasa dipaksa dan vaksin ini akan melindungi anak-anak mereka daripada kesan yang lebih buruk daripada jangkitan Covid-19," katanya.

Beliau yakin dengan terlaksananya PICKids negara dapat mencapai tahap pemberian vaksin yang memuaskan.

RINGKAS

Hanya 15% tak setuju anak divaksin

Kuching: Hanya 15 peratus daripada 40,000 ibu bapa tidak bersetuju terhadap program vaksinasi Covid-19 untuk kanak-kanak berusia lima hingga 11 tahun.

Sebanyak 25.3 peratus pula tidak pasti manakala 59.7 peratus bersetuju dalam tinjauan awam yang dijalankan oleh Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Sarawak dari 26 Januari hingga 31 Januari lalu.

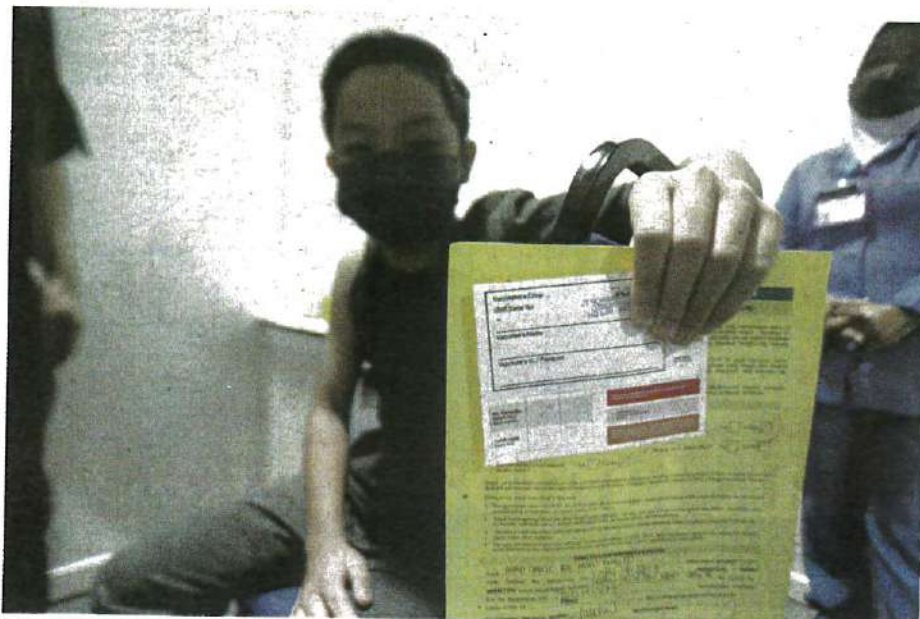
Timbalan Ketua Menteri, Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas berkata, faktor utama menyebabkan responden tidak bersetuju dan tidak pasti itu ialah kerisauan terhadap komplikasi selepas menerima vaksin.

Selain itu, menurutnya, ibu bapa turut meragui tahap keselamatan vaksin terhadap kanak-kanak pada usia itu.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 7

RUANGAN : COVID-19



SEORANG kanak-kanak menunjukkan kad penerima vaksin selepas selesai mendapatkan suntikan vaksin Covid-19 di PPV Integrasi Axiata Arena, Bukit Jalil, semalam.

HARI PERTAMA PROGRAM PICKids

Mahu lindungi anak

Oleh Yusmizal Dolah
Aling
am@hmetro.com.my

Shah Alam

Kecerian jelas terpancar di wajah kanak-kanak yang menjadi kumpulan pertama mengambil vaksin di Pusat Pemberian Vaksin (PPV) Ideal Convention Centre (IDCC) di sini, semalam.

Mereka yang ditemani ibu bapa sedia menunggu sejak awal biarpun pusat berkenaan dibuka bermula jam 12 tengah hari.

Pekerja swasta, Ahmad Syafik Salim, 39, berkata, dia bersama isteri, Rahil Khamrudin, 33, mula mendaftar dua anak mereka sejak pendaftaran di MySejahtera dibuka.

Saya selalu keluar bekerja, jadi perasaan bimbang boleh menjangkiti mereka sentiasa ada. Sekurang-kurangnya bila sudah divaksin, dapat melindungi mereka"

Sharizan

Katanya, dengan suntikan berkenaan, dia berharap dua anaknya, Ahmad Aqra, 9, dan Ahmad Irfan, 7, terlin-
dungi daripada jangkitan Covid-19.

"Saya bekerja kilang dan sudah beberapa kali menjalani ujian swab. Sebelum

ini pernah ada kes di kilang, tetapi selepas vaksin, boleh kata tiada lagi kes jangkitan.

"Sebab itu saya mahu anak-anak mendapat perlindungan sama supaya mereka terus sihat," katanya.

Seorang lagi bapa, Shari-
zan Sumuui, 42, berkata, dia mendaftarkan anaknya, Amir Syakir, 11, dan Sumayyah, 9, untuk menerima vaksin sejak tahun lalu kerana yakin ia adalah usaha terbaik memberi perlindungan kepada mereka.

Katanya, sebelum ini seorang lagi anaknya yang berusia 14 tahun sudah divaksin manakala seorang lagi sedang menunggu giliran.

"Saya selalu keluar bekerja, jadi perasaan bimbang boleh menjangkiti mereka sentiasa ada. Sekurang-kurangnya bila sudah divaksin,

dapat melindungi mereka," katanya.

Sementara itu, Pengurus PPV IDCC, Dr Nur Es Naini Awalludin berkata, segala urusan pemberian vaksin di situ berjalan lancar, semalam.

Katanya, semua 230 tempahan vaksin yang dibuat awal akan diberikan seperti dijadualkan.

Menurutnya, pihaknya menasihati ibu bapa agar datang tepat pada masanya dan memastikan dokumen yang diperlukan dibawa bersama.

"Paling elok jika anak bersarapan terlebih dahulu supaya lebih tenang dan jangan bimbang kerana bertugas di sini akan memberikan bantuan yang diperlukan," katanya.



SEORANG kanak-kanak, Usaid Muzaffar Mohd Azlan, 6 ditemani ibunya, Normaslinda Nasrudin, 37, (kiri) ketika mendapatkan suntikan vaksin di Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kanak-kanak (PICKids) di Hospital Tunku Azizah Kuala Lumpur. - Gambar NSTP/EIZAIRI SHAMSUDIN



KANAK-kanak perempuan kelihatan tenang ketika menerima suntikan vaksin di PPV Integrasi Axiata Arena, Bukit Jalil.



KANAK-kanak tiba di PPV Pusat Dagangan Dunia (WTC) diberi belon bagi menghilangkan rasa gemuruh mereka untuk menerima vaksin Covid-19 pada program PICKids.

51.5% dewasa dah terima dos penggalak

Kuala Lumpur: Jumlah individu dewasa yang menerima dos penggalak Covid-19 terus meningkat apabila 12,055,099 orang atau 51.5 peratus daripada populasi kumpulan ini di negara ini sudah menerima suntikan setakat kelmarin.

Berdasarkan data di laman web COVIDNOW, sejumlah 22,925,835 individu atau 97.9 peratus daripada

populasi dewasa di negara ini sudah melengkapkan vaksinasi mereka, manakala 99.1 peratus atau 23,202,575 individu menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos vaksin.

Bagi populasi remaja berumur antara 12 dan 17 tahun, sejumlah 2,788,874 individu atau 88.6 peratus daripada kumpulan berkenaan sudah melengkapkan vaksi-

nasi, manakala sebanyak 2,867,944 individu atau 91.1 peratus sudah menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos vaksin.

Bagi vaksinasi harian pula, sebanyak 30,194 dos diberikan kelmarin meliputi 257 dos pertama, 449 sebagai dos kedua dan 29,488 dos penggalak, menjadikan jumlah kumulatif dos vaksin yang diberikan di bawah Program

Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan (PICK) sebanyak 63,695,620 dos.

Sementara itu, menurut portal Github Kementerian Kesihatan, tujuh kematian akibat Covid-19 dilaporkan kelmarin dengan masing-masing dua di Pahang dan Kelantan, manakala satu kematian direkodkan masing-masing di Johor, Negeri Sembilan dan Terengganu.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO
MUKA SURAT : 9
RUANGAN : LOKAL

33 ORANG TERJANGKIT

2 kluster baharu pendidikan

Bukit Mertajam

Dua lagi kluster pendidikan direkodkan di Pulau Pinang kelmarin, menjadikan keseluruhan kluster melibatkan pelajar institusi pendidikan dijangkiti Covid-19 yang masih aktif di negeri itu sebanyak 10 ketika ini.

Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Kesihatan, Pertanian, Industri Asas Tani dan Pembangunan Luar Bandar negeri, Dr Norlela Ariffin berkata dua kluster baharu itu ialah kluster Jalan Pekan Darat membabitkan pelajar asrama perempuan Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan (SMK) Permatang Tok Jaya dan kluster Jalan Damai Bukit Mertajam melibatkan Sekolah Menengah Sains Tun Syed Sheh Shahabudin.

"Kluster Jalan Damai Bukit Mertajam mencatatkan 24 kes positif Covid-19 kelmarin manakala kluster Jalan Pekan Darat pula sembilan kes."

"Sehubungan itu, Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Pulau Pinang mengambil beberapa langkah



Kluster Jalan Damai Bukit Mertajam mencatatkan 24 kes positif Covid-19 kelmarin manakala kluster Jalan Pekan Darat pula sembilan kes"

Dr Norlela

segera bagi membendung penularan wabak itu," katanya dalam satu kenyataan, semalam.

Beliau berkata ketika ini sebanyak 15 kluster aktif dilaporkan di Pulau Pinang iaitu 10 melibatkan kluster pendidikan manakala sektor perkilangan dan tempat kerja masing-masing dua kluster serta satu kluster pusat tahanan.

Selain itu, menurutnya 433 kes baharu dilaporkan kelmarin menjadikan jumlah kumulatif positif Covid-19 di Pulau Pinang adalah 168,583 kes.

AKHBAR : KOSMO
MUKA SURAT : 4
RUANGAN : NEGARA

KKM tidak terburu-buru vaksin golongan berusia lima hingga 11 tahun

'Keputusan dibuat ikut kajian, data'

Oleh NUR HUDA MUSA

KUALA LUMPUR - Pemberian vaksin Covid-19 kepada kanak-kanak di negara ini tidak dibuat secara terburu-buru, sebaliknya dilakukan berdasarkan kajian serta data bagi menjamin keselamatan penerimanya.

Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar berkata, Pentadbiran Makanan dan Ubat-ubatan (FDA) Amerika Syarikat sudah meluluskan vaksin bagi kanak-kanak pada Oktober tahun lalu, malah pakar juga mengambil masa beberapa bulan untuk kajian dan data dari negara lain.

"Kita sudah mendapat data bagi kegunaan sebenar dan mendapati bahawa tidak ada banyak kesan sampingan serius. Kita sudah lihat selama beberapa bulan vaksin ini memang selamat.

"Vaksin mRNA iaitu Comirnaty 10mcg Concentrate for Dispersion (PfizerBioNTech) akan digunakan. Vaksin Comirnaty formula khas untuk kanak-kanak ini diluluskan Pihak Berkuasa Kawalan Dadah (PBKD) Malay-



KHAIRY JAMALUDDIN beramah mesra dengan kanak-kanak yang divaksin semasa PICKids yang bermula semalam di PPV WTC, Kuala Lumpur semalam. - AMIR KHALID

sia, adalah selamat dan mempunyai efikasi melindungi kanak-kanak daripada jangkitan teruk Covid-19," katanya pada Majlis

Pelancaran PICKids di Hospital Tunku Azizah di sini semalam.

Turut hadir, Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan I, Datuk Dr. Noor Azmi

Ghazali.

Khairy Jamaluddin berkata, pemberian vaksin bagi kanak-kanak juga adalah secara suka-

rela dan ibu bapa atau penjaga sendiri perlu memberi kebenaran bertulis bagi melayakkan anak mereka mendapat vaksin.

"Sebagaimana vaksin dewasa dan remaja, vaksin Covid-19 kanak-kanak akan diberikan secara percuma kepada semua kanak-kanak yang tinggal di Malaysia tanpa mengira status kewarganegaraan," ujarnya.

Dalam perkembangan berbeza, beliau berkata, sebanyak 14 buah sekolah telah ditutup berikutan terdapat penularan Covid-19 setakat 2 Februari lalu.

"Sejak 1 Januari sehingga 2 Februari tahun ini, terdapat 160 kluster pendidikan yang dikesan di Malaysia dan tiada satu pun kes bagi kategori 4 atau 5, sebaliknya kes-kes hanya melibatkan kategori 1, 2 dan 3.

"Sifar kes dalam kategori tersebut membuktikan vaksinasi berkesan dan membolehkan sekolah terus dibuka. Untuk kluster pendidikan, paling banyak adalah sekolah asrama di peringkat sekolah menengah, 108 kluster," katanya.

Kanak-kanak rasa teruja, ibu bapa tarik nafas lega

KUALA LUMPUR - Pemberian vaksin Covid-19 untuk kanak-kanak berusia lima hingga 11 tahun menerusi Program Imunisasi Covid-19 (PICKids) di Pusat Pemberian Vaksin (PPV), World Trade Centre (WTC) Kuala Lumpur bermula semalam.

Menerusi tinjauan Kosmo! mendapati, sambutan amat menggalakkan daripada ibu bapa

dan anak-anak apabila ada yang dilihat mula hadir seawal pukul 8 pagi.

Pelbagai tarikan dan pengubahsuaian lauan turut dilakukan bagi memberi semangat kepada kanak-kanak.

Menurut pengurus PPV WTC Kuala Lumpur, Dr. Sharanjit Kaur, slot bagi mendapatkan suntikan bagi program PICKids dibuka

bermula pada pukul 12 tengah hari sehingga 6 petang.

"Setakat ini, respons yang diterima sangat baik dan pendaftaran yang telah dibuat melalui MySejahtera juga berjalan lancar," katanya ketika ditemui di sini semalam.

Sementara itu, Foo Fang Le, 10, menyatakan, dia berasa bertuah selain rasa gembira dan teruja

kerana menjadi penerima pertama suntikan vaksin bagi kanak-kanak.

"Saya sangat gembira kerana saya sudah divaksin dan ini adalah kali yang pertama. Saya juga mahu beri galakan kepada kawan-kawan saya juga," ujarnya.

Sementara itu, Mejar (B), Zulkifflee Abdul Latiff, 48, mem-

bad Iskandar Zulqarnain, 7, dan Muhammad Latiff Iskandar, 10, mendapatkan suntikan vaksin semalam.

"Saya mempunyai lapan orang anak dan alhamdulillah kini semuanya telah divaksin. Saya percaya ini adalah usaha kita memerangi penularan Covid-19 dan selebihnya kita serahkan kepada Allah," ujarnya.

AKHBAR : KOSMO
 MUKA SURAT : 8
 RUANGAN : NEGARA

KJ saman fitnah Lokman Adam, Abu Syafiq isu vaksin

KUALA LUMPUR - Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar memfailkan saman fitnah terhadap bekas Ahli Majlis Tertinggi UMNO, Datuk Lokman Noor Adam dan pendakwah bebas, Mohd. Rasyiq Mohd. Alwi atau dikenali Ustaz Abu Syafiq berhubung vaksin Covid-19.

Khairy, 46, selaku plaintif memfailkan dua saman itu atas kapasiti peribadi menerusi Tetuan Rashid Zulkifli di Mahkamah Tinggi di sini pada 25 Januari lalu dengan menamakan Lokman, 49, dan Mohd. Rasyiq, 42, masing-masing sebagai defendan.

Hakim Datuk Rozana Ali Yusoff kemudian menetapkan 17



LOKMAN

Februari ini untuk mendengar injunksi *inter-parte* (kedua-dua



ABU SYAFIQ

belah pihak) bagi kes saman tersebut.

Berdasarkan dokumen yang diperolehi melalui carian mahkamah, Khairy dalam pernyataan tuntutan mendakwa Lokman telah memfitnahnya dengan membuat dua kenyataan serta memuat naik gambar di Facebook 'Lokman Noor Adam Official' pada 6 lalu selain membuat kenyataan menerusi dua siaran langsung di Facebook itu dan YouTube 'Lokman Adam' pada 10 Januari.

Khairy yang juga Ahli Parlimen Rembau mendakwa, Mohd. Rasyiq pula memfitnahnya dengan membuat kenyataan fitnah menerusi penyiaran tiga video serta satu gambar di Instagram

'Ustaz Abu Syafiq' pada 20 Oktober tahun lalu serta 6 dan 10 Januari lalu.

Dakwa plaintif, kenyataan fitnah dalam dua saman itu membawa maksud antaranya beliau berbohong dan menipu orang ramai dengan mendakwa dia telah diberi vaksin Covid-19 serta menerima dos ketiga serta memalsukan maklumat berkenaan status vaksinasi.

Khairy berkata, penerbitan fitnah itu menyebabkan reputasi dan integritinya terjejas teruk dan mengurangkan kepercayaan serta keyakinan orang ramai terhadapnya sama ada melalui kapasiti peribadi dan profesional.

AKHBAR : KOSMO
MUKA SURAT : 18
RUANGAN : NEGARA

Gagal lapor kes positif, cuti di kampung bertukar tragedi'

Oleh ABDUL RASHID
ABDUL RAHMAN

KUANTAN – Kegembiraan sebuah keluarga pulang ke kampung melawat ibu bapa sempena cuti Tahun Baharu Cina bertukar tragedi selepas seorang salah seorang daripada warga emas berkenaan meninggal dunia akibat Covid-19.

Lebih malang, tindakan keluarga berkenaan yang tidak melaporkan jangkitan itu dan hanya mengasingkan warga emas itu memberi kesan buruk selepas dia disahkan maut dan dikategorikan sebagai kes meninggal dunia di luar hospital (BID).

Pengarah Kesihatan Negeri, Datuk Dr. Nor Azimi Yunus berkata, kisah bermula apabila keluarga berkenaan pulang melawat ibu bapa mereka yang mana salah seorangnya tidak sihat dan mempunyai masalah penglihatan dari Kuala Lumpur.

Menurutnya, selepas dua hari berada di kampung, keluarga berkenaan pulang semula ke ibu negara sebelum disahkan positif Covid-19.

Sehubungan itu, katanya, kesemua mereka termasuk di



TINDAKAN tidak melaporkan kes positif terutama membabitkan warga emas boleh mengundang kejadian buruk termasuk meninggal dunia.

kampung melakukan ujian sendiri dan mendapati hanya warga emas itu positif.

"Bagaimanapun, pihak keluarga tidak melaporkan hal ini kepada Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah (PKD). Mereka hanya mengasingkan warga emas berkenaan dan sehari kemudian dia didapati tidak sedarkan diri serta disah-

kan meninggal dunia, ujian RTK-Ag disahkan positif.

"Tidak tahu (tindakan tidak melaporkan kes positif) itu sama ada keluarga kluar arwah seorang diri dibawa ke pusat kuarantin atau bimbang akan dipa-kaikan gelang serta dikuarantin," katanya semalam.

Menurut Nor Azimi, tindakan



NOR AZIMI

keluarga berkenaan tidak melaporkan kepada PKD boleh mengundang komplikasi kepada pesakit terutama warga emas.

Katanya, meskipun keluarga mengambil inisiatif membuat ujian sendiri secara harian ke atas semua ahli keluarga tetapi mereka mungkin tidak mahir untuk memantau kesihatan arwah.

"Jika kes positif tidak dilaporkan, bermaksud warga emas itu di luar pengetahuan PKD dan pemantauan kes tidak akan dibuat. Banyak contoh pesakit nampak sihat tetapi sebenarnya telah

berlaku komplikasi Covid-19," ujarnya.

Dalam pada itu beliau berkata, kes tersebut harus dijadikan iktibar yang mana setiap individu perlu memastikan bebas Covid-19 jika ingin melawat ibu bapa atau keluarga di kampung.

Katanya, semua ujian saliva yang positif mesti dilaporkan supaya PKD boleh membuat pemantauan kes dan pesakit Covid-19 yang berusia sepatutnya dimasukkan ke hospital atau Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan Covid-19 (PKRC) agar pemantauan rapi boleh dibuat.

"Dua dos vaksin tidak mencukupi, pengambilan dos penggalak perlu untuk mengurangkan risiko komplikasi dan kematian, arwah telah lengkap dua dos vaksin cuma belum lagi dos penggalak.

"Kematian akibat Covid-19 sangat menyayat hati yang mana urusan pengebumian tidak sama seperti kematian penyakit lain, bukan sahaja tidak dapat menguruskan jenazah tetapi melihat daripada jauh pun tidak boleh sebab sedang dikuarantin apatah lagi melihat orang tersayang buat kali terakhir," ujarnya.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : VAKSIN UNTUK RAKYAT

PICKids hanya sukarela

Tiada sekatan untuk kanak-kanak tidak divaksinasi

KUALA LUMPUR

Pemberian vaksin di bawah Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan Kanak-kanak (PICKids) akan dilakukan secara sukarela dan tiada sekatan akan dikenakan untuk kanak-kanak tidak divaksinasi.

Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar berkata, perkara itu bagi membina keyakinan kerana pihaknya sedar masih terdapat ramai ibu bapa yang mengambil pendekatan menunggu dan lihat sebelum berdaftar untuk PICKids.

"Setakat tempahan janji temu dibuka semalam (Rabu), sebanyak 15 peratus telah berdaftar. PICKids adalah secara sukarela, untuk memberi masa kepada ibu bapa untuk membuat keputusan yang tepat.



LAPORAN MUKA DEPAN

Khairy (kanan) beramah mesra bersama kanak-kanak yang menerima vaksin Covid-19 di PPV WTC Kuala Lumpur pada Khamis.

"Saya tahu ramai ibu bapa masih bimbang. Tapi tidak mengapa, kita akan terus berikan maklumat terkini kepada mereka," katanya pada sidang akhbar selepas melancarkan PICKids di Hospital Tunku Azizah di sini pada Khamis.

Khairy berkata, program PICKids untuk kanak-kanak berusia lima hingga 11 tahun itu adalah penting bagi meng-

elakkan kumpulan itu daripada komplikasi Multisystem Inflammation Syndrome in Children (MIS-C) yang memerlukan rawatan di unit rawatan rapi (ICU), kesan Long Covid dan kematian.

Beliau berkata, sejak 1 Januari lalu, sebanyak 9,413 kes Covid-19 direkodkan melibatkan kanak-kanak berusia tujuh hingga 11 tahun yang tidak dilindungi vaksin.

Khairy juga memberi jaminan Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) tidak terburu-buru dalam membuat keputusan untuk memberikan vaksin Pfizer untuk PICKids dan keputusan dibuat setelah meneliti data klinikal dan real world data daripada negara lain seperti Singapura.

"Sebenarnya pihak Food and Drug Administration (FDA) atau Pentadbiran Makanan dan Ubat-ubatan di Amerika Syarikat telah pun luluskan vaksin untuk kanak-kanak Oktober lepas, namun pakar kita ambil masa untuk buat kajian terlebih dahulu," katanya.

Beliau berkata, berdasarkan data, didapati pemberian vaksin iaitu satu pertiga daripada dos dewasa, kepada kanak-kanak berusia lima hingga 11 tahun tidak menyebabkan kesan serius, sebaliknya kesan biasa seperti demam.

Menyifatkan PICKids sebagai pelengkap akhir kepada Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan, beliau berkata, KKM menyasarkan pemberian satu dos kepada 70 peratus kanak-kanak di sekolah (usia tujuh hingga 11 tahun) dan 50 peratus untuk keseluruhan 3.6 juta kanak-kanak berusia lima hingga 11 tahun.

PICKids dilaksanakan serentak di seluruh negara pada Khamis untuk kanak-kanak yang mempunyai komorbiditi dan daya tahan imuniti yang rendah di hospital yang merawat mereka.

Seramai 1,200 kanak-kanak juga akan menerima vaksinasi melalui tempahan janji temu di tiga Pusat Pemberian Vaksin (PPV) Integrasi Mega di Lembah Klang iaitu Pusat Dagangan Dunia (WTC) dan Axiata Arena Bukit Jalil, Kuala Lumpur serta Pusat Konvensyen Ideal (IDCC), Shah Alam.

- Bernama

REAKSI



"Saya sekeluarga menyokong pemberian vaksin, namun tidak dinafikan masih ragu-ragu dengan kesan sampingan terhadap anak-anak. Kami sekeluarga merupakan bekas pesakit Covid-19, jadi sebagai ibu bapa memang kami ambil langkah berhati-hati." - Hayati Farhan, 36, Eksekutif Media Sosial.



"Saya menyokong pemberian vaksin terhadap kanak-kanak berumur lima hingga 11 tahun. Berita dari luar negara yang sudah melaksanakannya memang menunjukkan tiada sebarang masalah. Namun saya akan menunggu seminggu dua untuk melihat kesan vaksin terhadap kanak-kanak yang telah mengambilnya." - Azira Shaharuddin, 37, Penserah.



"Perlu ada pemerhatian dan uji kajian vaksin tersebut sekurang-kurangnya lima tahun kerana kesan sampingan tidak muncul dalam masa singkat dan saya tidak mahu mengambil risiko terhadap kesihatan anak saya." - Anis Adlina Azhar, 28, Suri Rumah.



"Seperti sedia maklum daya imunisasi kanak-kanak adalah tinggi dan kadar pulih serta tahap simptom Covid-19 kepada mereka tidak begitu serius. Saya juga ragu-ragu dengan keberkesanan vaksin dan tidak pasti kesan sampingan terhadap mereka nanti." - Irawati Siman, 40, Arkitek.



"Pemberian vaksin untuk kanak-kanak perlu dibuktikan dan kajian yang lebih meluas seluruh dunia. Bunt masa ini Kanak-kanak sihat boleh menumpang 'herd immunity' orang dewasa. Seperti yang kita ketahui 95 peratus orang dewasa telah menerima vaksin dan pemberian perlu diutamakan kepada kanak-kanak yang berisiko kerana antibodi mereka agak lemah." - Hafizah Zawawi, 44, Guru.

Apa itu PICKids?

- Program Imunisasi Covid-19 untuk kanak-kanak berusia 5 hingga bawah 12 tahun.
- Pemberian vaksin adalah sukarela, ibu bapa atau penjaga perlu memberi kebenaran bertulis bagi melayakkan anak mereka mendapat vaksinasi Covid-19.
- Vaksinasi ini adalah percuma kepada semua kanak-kanak yang tinggal di Malaysia tanpa mengira status kewarganegaraan.

Cara membuat janji temu:

- Bagi ibu bapa di Lembah Klang yang telah daftar MySejahtera, pautan bagi tempahan janji temu dikeluarkan secara berperingkat menerusi aplikasi itu.
- Ibu bapa yang belum terima pautan akan menerimanya dalam masa terdekat.
- Pastikan aplikasi MySejahtera dalam telefon adalah versi terkini 1.1.6. Ia boleh dimuat turun dari stor aplikasi.
- Pastikan ibu bapa memilih Pfizer (Children) semasa membuat tempahan janji temu vaksinasi.
- Bawa dokumen pengenalan diri anak anda semasa ke PPV.

Apa yang ibu bapa perlu pantau selepas kanak-kanak disuntik vaksin Covid-19?

- Pantau aktiviti anak dan sebarang kesan sampingan dalam tempoh lima hingga tujuh hari selepas vaksinasi.
- Bjarikan anda menjalankan aktiviti harian seperti biasa. Pastikan mereka tidak melakukan aktiviti yang lebih lasak dari biasa selama seminggu selepas suntikan seperti jogging, berbasikal, berenang dan aktiviti fizikal di sekolah atau bersukan.
- Pastikan anak rehat, makan dan minum secukupnya. Jika terdapat sebarang perubahan seperti kurang aktif, kurang makan dari biasa, sila bawa anak anda berjumpa doktor.
- Kesan sampingan yang paling kerap ialah sakit pada lengan. Kesan sampingan ringan lain yang mungkin adalah demam atau keletihan. Kebanyakannya bersifat sementara dan boleh sembuh.
- Tiada syor daripada kumpulan pakar mengenai keperluan dos penggalak untuk kumpulan remaja atau kanak-kanak.

• Sumber: Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar dan Twitter@UKJAVMY

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 5
RUANGAN : VAKSIN UNTUK RAKYAT

Tiga hari berturut-turut melepasi angka 5,000

5,720 kes baharu positif Covid-19 pada Khamis

Oleh **TUAN BUQHAIKHAIR**
TUAN MUHAMMAD ADNAN

PUTRAJAYA

Kes baharu Covid-19 dalam negara mencatatkan angka melepasi 5,000 untuk tiga hari berturut-turut apabila merekodkan sebanyak 5,720

kes pada Khamis selepas mencatatkan 5,566 kes (Selasa) dan 5,736 kes (Rabu).

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, jumlah itu menjadikan keseluruhan kes Covid-19 sejak wabak itu melanda negara kira-kira dua tahun lalu ialah 2,887,780.

"Daripada jumlah yang dilaporkan hari ini (Khamis), se-



DR NOOR HISHAM

banyak 43 kes merupakan kategori tiga hingga lima, manakala 5,677 kes terdiri daripada kategori satu dan dua," katanya dalam satu kenyataan pada Khamis.

Beliau berkata, seramai 69 rakyat tempatan disahkan positif Covid-19 daripada 130 kes import.

"Sejumlah 5,590 kes merupakan penularan dalam negara membabitkan 5,405 rakyat

tempatan dan 185 warga asing," katanya.

Menurutnya, terdapat 114 kes ditempatkan di unit rawatan rapi dan 56 pesakit memerlukan bantuan pemafasan.

"Jumlah kes sembuh ialah 3,968 kes dengan jumlah keseluruhannya 2,794,354 kes," jelas beliau.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, sebanyak 15 lagi kluster baharu dikenal pasti menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan 6,457 kluster.

"Daripada jumlah itu, 6,125 telah diisytiharkan tamat dan 332

lagi masih aktif," katanya.

Perlis merekodkan kadar kebolehan jangkitan (Rt) tertinggi iaitu 1.24 melebihi Rt negara, 1.14.

Beberapa negeri mencatatkan nilai Rt tinggi ialah Johor (1.20), Pulau Pinang (1.19), Kedah (1.17), Sabah (1.16), Melaka (1.14), Putrajaya (1.14), Selangor (1.13), Negeri Sembilan (1.12), Kuala Lumpur (1.09), Kelantan (1.08), Perak (1.07) dan Pahang (1.06).

Masing-masing 1.02 bagi Terengganu dan Sarawak, manakala nilai Rt Labuan adalah sifar.

Farmasi komuniti pandu lalu pertama di Malaysia bantu jaga SOP Covid-19

KOTA BHARU - Superbig Healthcare menjadi farmasi komuniti yang pertama di negara ini menyediakan konsep pandu lalu, sekali gus mengambil kira penjagaan bagi mengelakkan penularan wabak Covid-19.

Konsep pandu lalu itu diperkenalkan syarikat swasta terbabit bagi memudahkan orang ramai mendapatkan perkhidmatan dengan prosedur operasi standard (SOP) ditetapkan serta menjimatkan masa.

Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Kumpulan Superbig Capital Berhad, Dr Wan Sazrina Wan Zaid berkata, konsep pandu lalu itu beroperasi sejak 1 November lalu dan semakin mendapat sambutan mengelakkan daripada orang ramai.

"Buat masa sekarang, kita mempunyai 11 cawangan. Kita menjangkakan dapat membuka 100 buah farmasi dalam tempoh empat tahun dengan sasaran jualan minimum sebanyak RM1 juta setahun untuk setiap cawangan," katanya kepada pemberita pada majlis perasmian farmasi berkenaan di sini pada Khamis.

Perasmian disempurnakan Exco Kebajikan, Pembangunan Keluarga dan Wanita negeri, Datuk Muntaz Md Nawi.

Mengulas lanjut, Dr Wan Sazrina berkata, beliau dan seorang rakan menjalankan perniagaan farmasi komuniti sejak 26 tahun lalu.



Dr Wan Sazrina (tengah) menyampaikan kad pandu lalu kepada Mumtaz sebagai gimik perasmian farmasi komuniti Superbig Healthcare di Kota Bharu pada Khamis.

Menurutnya, sudah tiba masanya perkhidmatan dinaik taraf mengikut peredaran dan keperluan semasa.

"Konsep baharu ini memberi penyelesaian kepada pelanggan yang kini lebih menyukai sistem pandu lalu di premis terpilih, di samping membantu memudahkan orang ramai menjaga SOP terutama yang mempunyai penumpang kanak-kanak atau warga emas. Pelanggan juga tidak perlu memikirkan isu parkir kereta.

"Selain itu, faktor pendorong ialah ketika saya menjaga arwah ibu yang sakit di Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia (HUSM) Kubang Kerian.

Saya sukar membeli ubat di farmasi berhampiran kerana kekangan tempat letak kereta.

"Sejak itu saya nekad untuk meningkatkan perkhidmatan farmasi dan memperkenalkan konsep pandu lalu serta memastikan lokasi berdekatan dengan HUSM untuk memudahkan orang ramai mendapatkan bekalan perubatan mereka," jelas beliau.

Dr Wan Sazrina bagaimanapun berkata, persiapan sistem pandu lalu mengambil masa selama enam bulan kerana mencari peralatan yang sesuai, berkualiti dan vendor yang berpengalaman.

Dua lagi kluster pendidikan direkodkan di Pulau Pinang

BUKIT MERTAJAM - Dua lagi kluster pendidikan direkodkan di Pulau Pinang pada Rabu menjadikan keseluruhan kluster melibatkan pelajar institusi pendidikan dijangkiti Covid-19 yang masih aktif di negeri itu sebanyak 10 ketika ini.

Exco Kesihatan, Pertanian, Industri Asas Tani dan Pembangunan Luar Bandar negeri, Dr Norlela Ariffin berkata, dua kluster baharu itu ialah kluster Jalan Pekan Darat membabitkan pelajar asrama perempuan Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan (SMK) Permatang Tok Jaya dan kluster Jalan Damai Bukit Mertajam melibatkan Sekolah Menengah Sains Tun Syed Sheh Shahabuddin.

"Kluster Jalan Damai Bukit Mertajam mencatatkan sebanyak 24 kes positif Covid-19 pada semalam (Rabu), manakala kluster Jalan Pekan Darat pula sembilan kes. Sehubungan itu, Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Pulau Pinang telah mengambil beberapa langkah segera bagi membanding penularan wabak itu," katanya dalam satu kenyataan pada Khamis.

Sebelum ini, lapan kluster pendidikan dilaporkan di Pulau Pinang iaitu Pusat Asuhan Tunas Islam (Pati) di Solok Nelayan di daerah Barat Daya dan empat pusat tahfiz iaitu Kluster Jalan Sungai Nipah, Permatang Binjai, Kubang Semang dan Jalan Lembah.

Dua lagi ialah institusi kemahiran di Jalan Berapit dan Bukit Panchor serta sebuah politeknik di Jalan Sungai Burang. - *Bernama*

Usul pembukaan semula sempadan apabila kadar dos penggalak lebih baik

KUALA LUMPUR - Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) akan mengusulkan kepada kerajaan pembukaan semula sempadan negara dan lain-lain ke-longgaran seperti tempoh kuarantin apabila kadar pemberian dos penggalak untuk dewasa dan vaksinasi Covid-19 bagi kanak-kanak mencapai tahap lebih baik.

Menterinya, Khairy Jamaluddin Abu

Bakar berkata, walaupun kadar pemberian dos penggalak untuk golongan dewasa sudah melepasi 50 peratus setakat Khamis, beliau mahu melihat angka lebih tinggi sebelum membuat cadangan tersebut.

"KKM sedang menjalankan perbincangan dalaman apakah nilai ambang yang kita rasa selesa daripada segi pemberian vaksin kepada kanak-kanak dan

dos penggalak. Kita akan membuat usul kepada mesyuarat kuartet.

"Saya mahu lihat sedikit lagi (kadar dos penggalak). Saya merayu kepada mereka yang masih belum mendapatkan dos penggalak untuk berbuat demikian dan ibu bapa untuk mendaftarkan anak-anak mereka," katanya pada sidang akhbar selepas melancarkan Program Imunisasi

Covid-19 Kebangsaan Kanak-kanak (PICKids) di Hospital Tunku Azizah di sini pada Khamis.

Menurut Khairy, setakat ini sebanyak 30 peratus golongan warga emas belum menerima dos penggalak, manakala untuk kumpulan remaja dan kanak-kanak, pakar belum mengesyorkan pemberian suntikan tersebut.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 15

RUANGAN : MAHKAMAH & JENAYAH

Khairy saman Lokman, Ustaz Abu Syafiq

Berhubung isu vaksin Covid-19 yang dimuat naik di media sosial

KUALA LUMPUR

Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar memfailkan saman fitnah terhadap Datuk Lokman Noor Adam dan Mohd Rasyiq Mohd Alwi atau dikenali sebagai Ustaz Abu Syafiq berhubung isu vaksin Covid-19 yang dimuat naik di media sosial.

Khairy, 46, selaku plaintif memfailkan dua saman itu secara berasingan di Mahkamah Tinggi di sini, menerusi Tetuan Rashid Zulkifli pada 25 Januari lepas menamakan Lokman, 49, dan Mohd Rasyiq, 41, sebagai defendan.

Khairy yang juga Ahli Parlimen Rembau memfailkan saman itu atas kapasiti peribadi mendakwa Lokman telah memfitnahnya menerusi dua video serta memuat naik gambar di Facebook 'Lokman Noor Adam Official' pada 6 Januari lepas membuat kenyataan menerusi

dua siaran langsung di Facebook itu dan YouTube 'Lokman Adam' pada 10 Januari.

Khairy mendakwa Mohd Rasyiq membuat empat kenyataan fitnah, menyiarkan tiga video dan gambar di Instagram 'Ustaz Abu Syafiq' pada 20 Oktober tahun lepas, 6 dan 10 Januari lalu.

Dakwa plaintif, kenyataan fitnah dalam dua saman itu membawa maksud antaranya beliau berbohong dan menipu orang ramai dengan mendakwa dia telah diberi vaksin Covid-19 serta menerima dos ketiga serta memalsukan maklumat status vaksinasi.

Menurut plaintif, penerbitan fitnah itu menyebabkan reputasi dan integritinya terjejas serta mengurangkan kepercayaan orang ramai terhadapnya sama ada secara peribadi dan profesional selain menyebabkan reputasinya direndahkan dalam kalangan masyarakat yang berfikir waras.

Plaintif juga mendakwa penerbitan fitnah itu bertentangan dengan kepentingan awam dan mengganggu usaha semua yang terbabit dengan Kementerian



KHAIRY JAMALUDDIN

Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) dan kerajaan dalam menentang Covid-19, menjejaskan tindak balas masyarakat dan menjejaskan data serta fakta rasmi oleh KKM.

Oleh itu, plaintif memohon suatu perintah injunksi supaya kedua-dua

defendan memadam kenyataan dan video bersama-sama kapsyen, tajuk dan komen dalam tempoh 24 jam dan suatu injunksi menghalang defendan menerbitkan semula hantaran itu.

Plaintif juga memohon defendan-defendan untuk memadam kenyataan fitnah yang diterbitkan semula di semua portal berita serta akaun media sosial dalam tempoh 24 jam.

Plaintif juga menuntut kedua-dua defendan membayar ganti rugi am, ganti rugi teladan, teruk, faedah, permohonan maaf yang dimuat naik di media sosial serta relif lain yang difikirkan wajar.

Mahkamah menetapkan 17 Februari ini untuk pendengaran injunksi *inter parte* (dua pihak).
Bernama

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA
MUKA SURAT : 3
RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI

Sekolah berasrama catat 108 kluster



KHAIRY Jamaluddin beramah mesra dengan kanak-kanak yang divaksin dalam Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kanak-kanak (PICKids) berumur lima hingga bawah 12 tahun di PPV Pusat Dagangan Dunia (WTC), Kuala Lumpur, semalam. - UTUSAN/AMIR KHALID

Oleh **ZAREEN HUMAIRAH**
SEJAHAN
zareen.hs@mediamula.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR: Sekolah berasrama menjadi penyumbang terbesar bagi Kluster Pendidikan selepas mencatatkan jumlah kes tertinggi sepanjang Januari tahun ini.

Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin berkata, walaupun terdapat banyak Kluster Pendidikan yang masih aktif, keseriusan kes masih terkawal apabila tiada pesakit positif Covid-19 yang kritikal daripada kluster itu.

"Kluster pendidikan yang berdasarkan peringkat petsekolahan bermula 1 Januari hingga 2 Februari tahun ini, kita melihat paling banyak jangkitan berlaku di sekolah berasrama di peringkat sekolah menengah dengan 108 kluster.

"Yang lain semua tidak tinggi sangat iaitu sekolah menengah harian merekodkan 12 kluster, sekolah rendah harian merekodkan 13 kluster dan prasekolah merekodkan 10 kluster.

"Kita juga mengambil rekod daripada kolej dan setakat ini kolej berasrama merekodkan 19 kluster," katanya dalam sidang akhbar pelancaran Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan Kanak-kanak (PICK Kids) di sini, semalam.

Walaupun begitu, Khairy berkata, pihaknya kini mengambil inisiatif menjalankan penilaian risiko sebelum membuat sebarang keputusan berkenaan penutupan sekolah.

"Daripada keseluruhan jumlah itu, hanya 14 sekolah yang ditutup. Maksudnya walaupun ada kluster tetapi kita mengambil pendekatan penilaian risiko.

"Kita tidak terus tutup tetapi kita akan pastikan kita buat penilaian terlebih dahulu dan jika kita dapat melakukan pengasingan pelajar positif dan negatif maka sekolah boleh beroperasi.

"Penutupan sekolah adalah pilihan terakhir. Sehingga hari ini ada 190 kluster pendidikan yang masih aktif namun tidak ada langsung kes daripada kategori empat dan lima," katanya.

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA

MUKA SURAT : 10

RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI

Khairy saman Lokman, Mohd. Rasyiq

KUALA LUMPUR: Mahkamah Tinggi di sini semalam menetapkan 17 Februari ini untuk pendengaran permohonan injunksi *inter-parte* (kedua-dua belah pihak) dalam kes saman fitnah di antara Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaludin Abu Bakar dengan bekas Ahli Majlis Tertinggi UMNO, Datuk Lokman Noor Adam dan pendakwah bebas, Mohd. Rasyiq Mohd. Alwi.

Menurut semakan dalam sistem mahkamah, tarikh tersebut ditetapkan oleh Hakim Datuk Rozana Ali Yusoff pada prosiding yang dijalankan secara dalam talian semalam. Pendengaran permohonan injunksi itu juga akan dijalankan secara dalam video.

Pada 25 Januari lalu, Khairy, 46, yang memfailkan saman tersebut selaku plaintif dan atas kapasiti peribadi mendakwa Lokman, 69, dan Mohd Rasyiq, 41, yang dinamakan sebagai defendan dalam saman berasingan mendakwa kedua-dua individu tersebut telah memfitnahnya berhubung program vaksinasi negara dan vaksin serta dos penggalak yang diterimanya.

Menurut pernyataan tuntutan yang diperoleh melalui carian mahkamah, Ahli Parlimen Rembau itu mendakwa Lokman telah memfitnahnya dengan membuat dua kenyataan serta memuat naik gambar di Facebook 'Lokman Noor Adam Official' pada 6 Januari lalu.

Lokman juga didakwa telah membuat kenyataan berbaur fitnah melalui Facebook Live di akaun laman sosial yang sama pada 10 Januari lalu.

Mohd. Rasyiq pula didakwa telah memfitnah Khairy melalui empat kenyataan berbaur fitnah, menyiarkan tiga video serta satu gambar di Instagram 'Ustaz Abu Syafiq' pada 20 Oktober 2021, 6 dan 10 Januari lalu.

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA

MUKA SURAT : 16

RUANGAN : RENCANA



Dialisis: Takuk lama 20 tahun

MUKADIMAH

TEMPOH 20 tahun tidak dikaji kadar rawatan dialisis untuk pusat rawatan swasta mungkin perlu diberikan perhatian sewajarnya oleh kerajaan khususnya Kementerian Kesihatan.

Dalam situasi kos kehidupan semasa yang serba-serbi tinggi, pastinya membebaskan untuk pengusaha pusat rawatan dialisis swasta menyediakan perkhidmatan yang lebih berkualiti.

Kepada wartawan *Utusan Malaysia*, **ZABRY MOHAMAD MADZLAN**, Pengerusi Persatuan Profesional Dialisis Malaysia, **DATUK DR. ZULKIFLI ABDUL AZIZ** berkongsi pandangan berhubung isu ini.

UTUSAN: Berapa jumlah pusat dialisis swasta di negara ini?

ZULKIFLI: Hampir 900 pusat dialisis termasuk di Sabah dan Sarawak. Terdapat kira-kira 50,000 pesakit menerima rawatan di sini.

Apa sumbangan pusat-pusat ini kepada masyarakat dan negara?

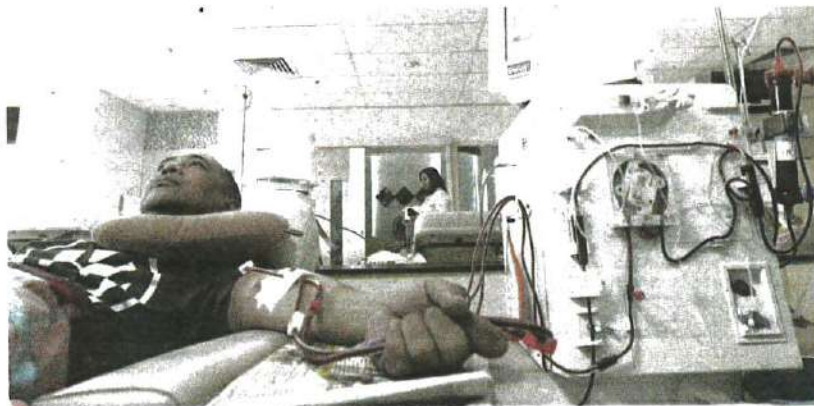
Ramai pengusaha berkorban terutama sewaktu penularan pandemik Covid-19 untuk membantu kerajaan. Mereka umpama wira yang tidak didendang. Kebanyakan mereka tidak menerima insentif besar daripada kerajaan dan terpaksa menanggung kos tambahan untuk membiayai gaji serta insentif kakitangan dan pada masa sama membantu pesakit di kala Covid-19. Kos operasi meningkat terutama apabila terpaksa menyediakan peralatan perlindungan diri (PPE), kuarantin staf, proses sanitasi dan lain-lain lagi.

Jadi, saya yakin semua pengusaha sudah berusaha memberikan yang terbaik untuk membantu pesakit semasa pandemik, seterusnya membantu kerajaan dengan menyediakan rawatan terbaik.

Justeru, kita kalau boleh harap kerajaan menghargai pengorbanan pusat-pusat dialisis swasta ini dengan memberikan perhatian sewajarnya.

Apa yang Datuk mahu dengan perhatian sewajarnya?

Mungkin kerajaan boleh kaji semula kadar rawatan yang hampir 20 tahun tidak



KERAJAAN perlu memperketatkan lagi kelulusan permohonan pengusaha pusat rawatan dialisis yang baharu kepada mereka yang betul-betul layak.

“Mungkin kerajaan boleh kaji semula kadar rawatan yang hampir 20 tahun tidak dibuat penilaian. Kadar rawatan tidak pernah naik dalam tempoh tersebut.”

dibuat penilaian. Kadar rawatan tidak pernah naik dalam tempoh tersebut sedangkan kos-kos lain seperti peralatan, perkhidmatan meningkat dan kos operasi yang meningkat dengan syarat-syarat dan piawaian yang telah ditetapkan oleh Kementerian Kesihatan.

Tapi kadar rawatan masih sama dibayar sejak

sekitar lama. Kita juga harus buat perbandingan dengan negara luar yang mana kadar tuntutan rawatan jauh lebih tinggi berbanding negara kita. Perkara ini juga akan menjejaskan kualiti rawatan terhadap pesakit. Ini kerana kadar yang diterima tidak ada tidak lagi rasional dan tidak dapat menampung kos yang semakin meningkat.

Jadi, untuk menyediakan perkhidmatan dan rawatan yang lebih baik pada masa akan datang, kadar tersebut mesti dikaji.

Berapa kadar rawatan sekarang?

Sekali rawatan adalah kira-kira RM150 hingga RM200. Pastinya kos kehidupan yang semakin meningkat, harga semua barang meningkat, ia memberi beban kepada pengusaha.

Apa kesan jika kadar ini tidak dikaji?

Kualiti rawatan akan

terjejas (kurang berkualiti). Banyak pengusaha akan mencari peralatan atau kaedah yang lebih menjimatkan. Untuk jangka masa panjang, ia akan beri kesan kepada pesakit. Maksudnya, pesakit terpaksa mendapatkan rawatan lanjut di hospital, secara tidak langsung meningkatkan semula kos kerajaan.

Itulah sebabnya kita minta perkara ini dikaji. Memanglah pesakit boleh tuntut bayaran rawatan daripada pihak penaja tapi tujuan kita adalah mengurangkan jumlah kemasukan ke hospital. Secara objektif, kos kerajaan dalam menjaga pesakit di hospital akan berkurangan. Saya yakin penjimatan ini agak besar sebab pesakit yang menerima rawatan dialisis antara yang mempunyai komplikasi tertinggi. Dengan sedikit kadar peningkatan kos rawatan, pesakit akan mendapat rawatan lebih berkualiti seperti

penggunaan *single use dialyzer* dan sebagainya.

Sudah ajukan isu ini kepada kerajaan?

Kita dalam peringkat perbincangan. Penerimaan baik buat masa ini dan kita harap kajian secara menyeluruh daripada pihak kerajaan dalam memperhalusi perkara ini dengan sewajarnya serta mengambil kira semua faktor demi kebaikan pesakit dan pengusaha.

Selain itu, kerajaan juga perlu memperketatkan lagi kelulusan permohonan pengusaha pusat rawatan dialisis yang baharu. Berikan kepada mereka yang betul-betul layak.

Betul-betul layak? Boleh ulas lanjut?

Kita nampak banyak juga pengusaha baharu yang muncul cuba menjalankan perniagaan ini. Kami dapati ada yang tidak menepati piawaian sepenuhnya. Jadi, perkara ini perlu diteliti semula supaya perkhidmatan pusat rawatan dialisis swasta dalam satu standard yang cukup baik.

Boleh berikan contoh-contoh tidak menepati piawaian?

Sebagai contoh, dari segi pengalaman. Ada pengaruh yang tidak mempunyai pengalaman dalam bidang rawatan dialisis secukupnya. Kebanyakan mereka ini bermatlamat untuk mendapatkan keuntungan semata-mata, *business minded*, bukannya untuk berkhidmat kepada masyarakat atau membantu pesakit. Inilah salah satu puncanya.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 2

RUANGAN : NEWS / STORY OF THE DAY

'LAST PIECE OF THE PUZZLE'

VAX KIDS, SAYS KHAIRY, AS PICKIDS ROLLS OUT

Vaccination drive extended as 3,557 children infected in past week, making up 10pc of cases

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HEALTH Minister Khairy Jamaluddin yesterday urged parents to vaccinate their children, "the last missing piece of the puzzle" of the country's Covid-19 vaccination strategy.

He said, 26 Covid-19 deaths from 147,282 infections involving children aged between 5 and 11 had been recorded in the last six months.

This week alone, 3,557 children were infected, making up 9.9 per cent of Covid-19 cases.

Khairy said the ministry decided to extend the national vaccination drive to this age group due to the worrying numbers.

"This is the last missing piece of the puzzle, after our adult and teenage immunisation programmes," he said at the launch of the vaccination drive for children aged 5 to 11 called PICKids at Tunku Azizah Hospital here.

Malaysia has opted to administer the two doses of the vaccination regimen eight weeks apart to reduce incidences of adverse events following immunisation (AEFI), and boost parental confidence. The decision was taken based on observing vaccine rollouts in other countries.

He said some countries had opted for shorter intervals.

Khairy said children would be given a reduced dose of 10 micrograms of the Pfizer-BioNTech



Ahmad Ramdhani Jafri, 11, being administered the Covid-19 vaccine by Deputy Health Minister Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali, as the boy's mother, Hasmah Hashim (third from left), Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin and Tunku Azizah Hospital staff look on. PIC BY EIZAIRI SHAMSUDIN

vaccine, equivalent to about one-third given to adults.

He said the dosage was not based on ethnicity and the ministry was studying data from various countries to ensure safety and efficacy.

"We are also looking at data from Singapore, which has a similar racial composition to us compared with the United States."

The ministry has targeted for 70 per cent of schoolgoing children, aged between 7 and below 12, to receive their first dose in two months, and for 50 per cent of the 3.6 million children (including those aged 5) to receive their first vaccine dose by the end of this month.

So far, 15 per cent of these children have been registered online.

Khairy said from Jan 1 to yesterday, secondary school hostels made up the highest number of clusters linked to education institutions, with 108 clusters.

This was followed by college hostels (19), primary schools (13), regular secondary schools (12) and preschools (10).

"So far, only 14 schools have been closed due to Covid-19 and the number of active clusters are at 180."

"Although there are clusters in schools, I would like to stress that they are under control as the cases are between Categories 1 and 3, which are lightly symptomatic or asymptomatic."

"Until now, there have been no cases related to education institutions that have Categories 4 and 5 infections."

Khairy said schools would only be closed as a last resort.

PICKids would be conducted nationwide, with priority given to immunocompromised children and those with comorbidities.

Vaccination appointments are being given out in stages through the MySejahtera app of parents or guardians in the Klang Valley.

Khairy gave an assurance that vaccinations would be voluntary.

Page 1 pic: Children waiting for their Covid-19 vaccination at Tunku Azizah Hospital in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

4 of 8 new clusters linked to educational institutions

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia reported eight clusters on Wednesday, bringing the number of active clusters to 322.

Four of the new clusters were linked to education centres, two clusters were from workplaces and high-risk groups (one).

The education clusters were reported in Penang (two), Negri

Sembilan (one) and Pahang (one).

Seven Covid-19 deaths were recorded on Wednesday, including two brought-in-dead (BID) cases, bringing the overall death toll to 31,992.

The fatalities were reported in Kelantan and Pahang with two cases each and Johor, Negri Sem-

bilan and Terengganu with one case each. The two BID cases were reported in Negri Sembilan and Pahang.

On Wednesday, 5,736 cases were logged, bringing the total number of cases to 2,882,060.

There are now 60,117 active cases, after 3,196 recoveries were reported on Wednesday.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : STORY OF THE DAY / NEWS

CAPACITY MAY BE RAMPED UP

VACCINATION OFF TO SMOOTH START **FOR KIDS**

Some brought their children to vaccination centre at WTCKL 4 hours ahead of opening

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THE Covid-19 National Immunisation Programme for Children (PICKids) started yesterday in the Klang Valley.

At the World Trade Centre Kuala Lumpur (WTCKL) parents brought their children aged 5 to 11 as early as 8am, despite the vaccination drive only starting at noon.

Retired military man Zulkiflee Abdul Latif, 49, said he registered his two sons, Muhammad Latiff Iskandar, 10, and Muhammad Iskandar Zulkarnain, 7, after it was announced that parents could register their children via the MySejahtera application.

"When we received the notification for the slot yesterday (Wednesday), we immediately

accepted the appointment.

"I believe that vaccination is the best way to protect my children from contracting the virus," he said yesterday.

Zulkiflee, his wife and six children, with the eldest who is 25, have been completely vaccinated.

Before the appointment, Zulkiflee said he told his two children on the need to get vaccinated.

"I told them it was crucial to get vaccinated to protect them from Covid-19. Furthermore, school will resume soon."

Latiff Iskandar said he was initially a bit reluctant to get his jab. "I was afraid of its side effects after my sister experienced a fever after her jab."

"But my parents told me it was important for me to get vaccinated for my own good, and to protect me against Covid-19."

Foo Fang Le, 10, said he looked



A volunteer handing out balloons to children who got their Covid-19 vaccine shots at World Trade Centre Kuala Lumpur yesterday. PIC BY ROHANIS SHUKRI

forward to meeting his friends after all of them were vaccinated.

"I cannot wait to play with all my friends after we get vaccinated," he said.

Father Foo Chuan Liang said the vaccination process for his son went smoothly.

"When I received a message for the slot yesterday, I immediately filled in the details and came with my son today."

"I believe that getting vaccinated is the best defence for now."

"I understand there is a risk of side effects, but the effects of Covid-19 far outweigh the risks."

He said the flow of people at the WTCKL was systematic.

"It was efficient with many volunteers ready to assist."

Jagdeep Singh, 41, said he was excited when he got a slot for his 8-year-old son Jashn Singh.

"I'm satisfied with the arrangement and the process was efficiently managed."

"Everything went well with the vaccination drive, be it for children or adults. We just need to register via the app and everything was sorted out."

Jagdeep said he looked forward to sending his son to school after the vaccination.

"School is important for children, as that is where they learn their social skills, appreciating

differences and engage in physical activities," he said.

Asked if he was worried about the after effects of the vaccination, he replied: "Not at all, because my wife and I have already taken our shots. Therefore, it is a good step forward."

At noon yesterday, Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin inspected WTCKL.

Khairy said the daily capacity for PICKids at WTCKL was 200 doses.

Asked if the capacity will be increased, Khairy said: "We will monitor how the first week goes and if everything goes smoothly, we might increase the capacity."

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NEWS / NATION

'HARD TO PREDICT YOUNG VOTERS' PICK'

They bring new challenges to parties, says Bersatu info chief

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PARTI Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (Bersatu) said it is difficult to predict the choice of candidates by young voters in the Johor election.

The party said the involvement of voters aged 18 to 21, most of whom will cast their ballots for



Datuk Wan Saiful Wan Jan

the first time, would not only pose challenges to Bersatu but also to other parties.

Bersatu information chief Datuk Wan Saiful Wan Jan said no party could claim to have confirmed voters, as young people would be the deciding factor.

"Young voters are the group that brings new challenges to parties. So we must show our seriousness and sincerity by approaching them with meaningful pledges.

"This is one of the good things about democracy and politics in

the country.

"We cannot be sure (who will win), because they (young people) can vote for party A or party B, or not at all," he said after attending an event in Kampung Parit Haji Ali on Wednesday.

He said there was a 28 per cent increase in the number of voters in Johor, with 749,731 voters aged 18 and above, following automatic voter registration and Undi18.

"Armada (Bersatu Youth) and Perikatan Nasional (PN) Youth members are tasked with coming up with a strategy to reach out to young people.

"PN will also come up with a balanced line-up in the election, consisting of young people, women, individuals with professional backgrounds and experienced candidates."

Wan Saiful added his party had

obtained the names of potential candidates from the state level and PN parties.

"But we need to go through several processes. We have to remember that Bersatu is in PN, so PN will make the decision.

"The situation in Johor is different, as it is a big state with diverse demographics. So our strategy will be different."

He said he hoped that campaigning would be more flexible to allow candidates and parties to convey their messages to the people in the most effective way.

"While online (campaigning) still applies and should be given priority, many people prefer to engage through ceramah and house-to-house visits, which should be allowed with strict adherence to the standard operating procedures."



A child receiving his Covid-19 vaccination on the first day of the Covid-19 Children's Immunisation Programme (PICKids) at Axiata Arena, Bukit Jalil, Kuala Lumpur, yesterday. PIC BY AZHAR RAMLI

Election will be different due to Omicron, says KJ

KUALA LUMPUR: The Johor election will be different from last year's Sabah and Melaka polls because it will coincide with the Covid-19 Omicron wave, said Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin yesterday.

"It will be different, because during the Sarawak and Melaka elections, there was no spike in cases.

"I can't say this for Johor because it comes at the same time as the Omicron wave. There will be a spike." However, he said, the ministry had projected that hospitalisations and serious cases would not increase.

Asked whether walkabouts would be allowed as per the Election Commission's requests, he said the ministry was discussing

it. "The standard operating procedures are almost finalised."

He said this on the first day of the Covid-19 Children's Immunisation Programme (PICKids) at World Trade Centre Kuala Lumpur.

The Johor state assembly was dissolved on Jan 22 after Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar consented to its dissolution.

The Election Commission will meet on Feb 9 to decide on nomination and polling days.

The election was called after the government led by Menteri Besar Datuk Hasni Mohammad had its majority reduced to one following the death of Kempas assemblyman and former menteri besar Datuk Osman Sapi-an.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 7

RUANGAN : COURTS / NEWS

KJ FILES SUITS AGAINST LOKMAN, PREACHER

Statements by duo on the national vaccination programme injure his reputation as health minister and public figure, he claims

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HEALTH Minister Khairy Jamaluddin has filed defamation suits against Datuk Lokman Noor Adam and an Islamic preacher over the national vaccination programme.

The Rembau member of parliament filed the suits separately at the High Court here via Messrs Rashid Zulkifli and named Lokman and Mohd Rasyiq Mohd Alwi, who is also known as Ustaz Abu Syafiq, as defendants.

According to Khairy's statement of claim, Lokman had defamed him by publishing two statements and uploading a picture on his Facebook account 'Lokman Noor Adam Official' on Jan 6.

The plaintiff also claimed Lokman had made the same defamatory statements during his live YouTube session on Jan 10.

Meanwhile, Khairy claimed Rasyiq defamed him by making



Datuk Lokman Noor Adam

defamatory statements in his postings on Instagram between October last year and January this year.

Khairy claimed the statements made by both defendants would injure his reputation as the health minister and a well-known public figure.

He also claimed the nature of the publications was clearly designed to undermine the government's efforts in the existing battle against the Covid-19 pandemic.

"The defamatory publications



A health worker preparing vaccines during a vaccination programme in Kota Kinabalu recently. FILE PIC

spread false news and information in respect of the Covid-19 vaccination and the third dose," the statement added.

Khairy is seeking for both defendants to pay general, exemplary, aggravated damages and

other relief deemed fit by the court.

The minister is also seeking a court order for Lokman and Rasyiq to take down the video and posts as well as an injunction to restrain the defendants from re-

publishing them.

He has filed an injunction order at the High Court to restrain both defendants from republishing them.

Judge Datuk Rozana Ali fixed Feb 17 to hear the application.

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 2
RUANGAN : NATION

All set to move into endemic phase

Return to normalcy in sight as vaccination drive for children begins

By JOSEPH KAOS Jr
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KUALA LUMPUR: With Malaysia's vaccination coverage now extended to children, the country is gearing itself for the lifting of Covid-19 curbs and a return to pre-pandemic normalcy.

Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin described the newly-launched National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme for Children (PICKids) as "the final puzzle piece", with nearly the entire population eligible to receive protection from Covid-19.

However, he said the lifting of Covid-19 curbs will be done carefully and gradually, which will likely see business hours allowed to operate around-the-clock but mask-wearing to remain.

"Now that we have kick-started PICKids, we can give protection to the last group of our population,

"Once we have completed vaccinating this group and when the number of people who have received booster shots has reached a satisfactory level, the ministry will propose to the government to allow more relaxations.

"There are few restrictions that we still have such as border control and mandatory quarantine. I already have a plan of how we can reach a stage where we feel safe and comfortable to open up even more.

"With a good health system in place, we will be able to expand our economic recovery plans," he said at the launch of PICKids at Hospital Tunku Azizah here yesterday.

Khairy said the government will not lift Covid-19 restrictions drastically like Denmark and England have done recently, where face coverings are no longer mandatory and nightclubs are allowed to reopen.

"Our approach in terms of reopening the economy will be calibrated, targeted and proportionate.

"Even though we have one of the best vaccination programmes in the world, we will still adopt a careful approach.

"We will allow more freedom but as for mask-wearing, that will stay for the foreseeable future.

"As for extending opening hours of businesses, yes, we will be looking into that," said Khairy.

He added that the ministry is also looking to review its current Covid-19 quarantine requirements, but it will only do so after monitoring the infection situation following the Chinese New Year festivities.

Khairy said the ministry is still deciding on the best vaccination take up rate where the country can start opening up.

"The ministry is still undergoing an internal discussion on what the threshold should be in terms of

booster or children vaccination rates before recommending the government to open up.

"I have an idea, but I do not want to announce just yet. But we are almost there. Once we are firm, we will make the recommendation to the Ministerial Quartet," he said.

He said that while the country has hit a 55% vaccination rate for adults, there are still many adults who are reluctant to get their booster shots.

"We want to open borders and ease up on restrictions, so for those who are eligible for boosters but have not taken them, please do so.

"As for children, we are not aiming for 100% but we would like to achieve a good percentage. The threshold will be determined later," Khairy added.

Separately, Senior Defence Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein confirmed that the Covid-19 Quartet Ministers Meeting will

be held soon to discuss Malaysia's transition to the endemic phase.

He told *The Star* that the meeting will be fixed soon according to the ministers' availability now that the Chinese New Year holiday is over.

"At the moment all the matters mentioned by the Health Minister are on the agenda for the quartet.

"I am working very closely with him. Now that Chinese New Year is over, we will try and fix a meeting soon when everyone is available," Hishammuddin said when contacted yesterday.

On Jan 11, Hishammuddin had said the government was postponing the plan to move into the endemic phase, saying that it would only proceed once the country can manage several unexpected incidents in the country.

This included the massive floods affecting several states as well as the spread of the Omicron variant among returnees from abroad.

I want to travel, says first child recipient of jab in S'wak

By SHARON LING
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KUCHING: It was a proud moment for 10-year-old Ivann Muammar Imaan when he became the first child in Sarawak to receive the Covid-19 jab under the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme for Children (PICKids).

The SK Green Road pupil was among 30 children selected to kick off the state-level PICKids at the Sarawak General Hospital (SGH) here yesterday.

"I felt a little nervous but I'm happy to be vaccinated. I'm also excited to get the second dose later.

"I want to be vaccinated so that I can travel.

"I read about the benefits of vaccination in the news," he said when met after getting the jab.

Ivann also said he would tell his friends not to be afraid of getting vaccinated.

"It only hurt a little," he added.

His mother Dayang Syafiza Abang Yakub, a nurse at SGH, said she was in favour of vaccination for children as it would put them at less



risk of Covid-19 infection.

"We shouldn't just want protection for adults, we want our children to be protected too.

"Yes, there are standard operating procedures but they may not be strictly complied with all the time. "When our children are vaccinated,

the protection will be in their bodies," she said.

Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah said 272,500

Watch the video
TheStarTV.com



children or 9.6% of Sarawak's population were eligible for PICKids.

He said the state aimed to give the first dose to 70% of the children within two months from now, while 80% of those who had received the first dose were targeted to complete their vaccination within six months.

"Vaccination for children with comorbidities will be carried out at public and private hospitals throughout Sarawak," he told reporters after launching the state-level PICKids.

Starting tomorrow, school-going children will be given their jabs at their respective schools or designated vaccination centres.

"The vaccination will be done according to appointments at the schools.

"We are coordinating with the state Education Department to plan how to reach out to parents," said Uggah.

The first jab:
Ivann getting vaccinated at the launch of PICKids at SGH in Kuching.
— ZULAZHAR SHEBLEE/The Star

KJ: Parents will not be forced to vaccinate their kids

KUALA LUMPUR: Parents will not be forced to vaccinate their children against Covid-19 as the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme for Kids (PICKids) is voluntary, says Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin.

He said the ministry wants to ensure that parents make an informed decision when they choose to allow their children to receive Covid-19 jabs.

Children will also not be subjected to vaccine mandates like adults, and will be allowed to enter premises even if they are unvaccinated, he added.

"Adults are not allowed to enter eateries or shopping malls if they

are not fully vaccinated, but we will not subject children to the same conditions.

"What we want is for parents to be convinced when they decide to vaccinate their children and not feel like they are being forced to do it," he said at the launch of PICKids at Hospital Tunku Azizah here yesterday.

Khairy, however, said children who do not have vaccine protection are at risk of getting multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) or Long Covid if they are infected with Covid-19.

"Since January, there have been 9,413 Covid-19 cases involving children aged between seven and

Watch the video
TheStarTV.com



below 12 years old.

"Although this is not a lot compared to adults, children who are infected are at risk of MIS-C as well as Long Covid, of which we do not know the true effects.

"So the best way to get children to be protected from the effects of Covid-19 is to get them vaccinated," he said, adding that he has already registered his six-year-old child under PICKids.

Khairy said the Health Ministry and its experts have conducted a

thorough study on the children vaccination programme in other countries such as the United States, Singapore and Australia, before approval was given.

"We did not make a hasty decision when agreeing to vaccinate children. The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Pfizer-BioNTech's Comirnaty vaccine for children in October.

"Our experts took a few months to study the data produced by the countries who have started vaccinating children.

"It showed that there were not many cases of serious side effects, apart from the mild, common ones like fever," he added.

To date, Khairy said 15% or more than 500,000 children aged five and under 12 have registered for PICKids.

He said the ministry is aiming for 50% of eligible children to receive their first doses by the end of the month, adding that the country has an ample supply of vaccines for the programme.

PICKids kicked off in the Klang Valley yesterday at several integrated vaccination centres (PPV).

Under PICKids, children will be receiving the Comirnaty vaccine by Pfizer-BioNTech, with the dosage lowered to 1/3 of what is given to adults. The interval between two doses has been set at eight weeks.

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 4
RUANGAN : NATION

SOP fatigue behind surge

Experts warn public complacency may have led to rise in cases

By JUNAID IBRAHIM
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PETALING JAYA: Complacency towards the standard operating procedure (SOP) is one of the main factors that the daily Covid-19 cases are rising again, say health experts. They are of the view that this could be due to "SOP fatigue".

Furthermore, the public could take part in socio-economic activities, which have begun at full scale again, they said.

Volunteers For Community Engagement and Empowerment For Covid-19 chairman Datuk Datuk Dr Zainal Ariffin Omar said that it is almost impossible to ensure strict adherence to the SOP, especially during gatherings or events.

"Even in public places such as public transportation, theme parks and malls, (the managements) are not doing proper enforcement and monitoring of SOP," he said.

Malaysia, he said, would continue

to record an increasing number of new infections for some time due to the opening up of more sectors, the hosting of public and social events, and cross-border travel for holidays.

However, he believed that the vaccination programme, enforcement of guidelines and continuous surveillance of cases and variants would be important.

"The government has to monitor, anticipate and prepare for an upsurge in cases. We can't leave it to chance," he said, adding that the public should go for self-testing and quarantine if they were found positive.

The epidemiologist and public health expert also said that the authorities must share the statistics of adverse events following immunisation (AEFI) to solidify confidence among the public in getting booster shots.

Last week, Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin said that the

Omicron wave had begun in Malaysia and that the number of cases would rise.

He, however, said that the situation was under control as the country had a high vaccination rate.

Daily infections in Malaysia have been on an uptrend since mid-January.

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia health economics, hospital and health management Prof Dr Sharifa Ezat Wan Puteh said that the new cases might be caused by variants such as Omicron and Delta.

She added that most of the cases might have occurred through close contacts, adding that they were also mostly Category One and Two, which were low risk.

"The rise in cases can be attributed to new clusters from the working and education sectors," she said.

Prof Sharifa, however, believed that going to an endemic stage, the number of daily cases is not a sufficient indicator as many cases will

exhibit milder symptoms such as coughs.

"So, a more robust indicator would include cases under severe categories, the number of admission into intensive care units, percentage of beds devoted to Covid-19 patients and deaths due to Covid-19," she added.

As for the increase in daily infections, Prof Sharifa also attributed it to the public being lax with the SOP, especially at work and at educational institutions.

As people want to have "more freedom" socio-economically, she said that the least they could do is to continue observing Covid-19 guidelines, carry out self-testing and get vaccine booster shots.

"The third dose is highly encouraged for adults who are at high risk," she added.

"The protection by two (primary) doses have been shown to wane and may expose people to the virus."

Sabah's virus figures continue gradual climb

KOTA KINABALU: Sabah's Covid-19 case numbers continue to climb, recording 476 new infections yesterday compared with Wednesday's 446 cases.

"A total of 232 (or 48%) from the overall number are symptomatic cases, while almost 40% are from close contact screenings," said Datuk Seri Masidi Manjun, the minister who is overseeing Covid-19 matters in Sabah.

He said 469 of these cases were placed under Categories One and Two.

Sandakan district has the most number of new cases at 93, followed by Kota Kinabalu (77), Penampang (71), Tuaran (44), Tawau (32) and Ranau with 22 cases.

No new cases were reported in the districts of Nabawan, Sipitang and Tongod.

Neither were any new clusters recorded yesterday, he said in his daily Covid-19 briefing.

Parents focus on prevention and early detection

By LO TERN CHERN
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BUTTERWORTH: As the Covid-19 vaccination programme for children took off, some parents here say they will remain focused on prevention and early detection of the deadly disease.

Restaurant operator Izyan Mohd Zaini, 38, who has four children aged seven to 11, said she tested them twice weekly.

"All my children are schooling and also undergo random self-tests in school."

"My husband and I are fully vaccinated and we even received our booster doses as we need to work, but children have more options."

"We avoid bringing them to crowded places with high risks, and we prevent them from going to school if they show the slightest symptoms of illness," she said yesterday.

Another parent, K. Kalaimani, said she would wait and see before registering her 11-year-old daughter.



Ready for shots:

Parents accompanying their children who are waiting for their turn to receive the Covid-19 vaccine in Hospital Tunku Azizah, Kuala Lumpur.
— FAIHAN GHANI/
The Star

"Just like adults, we waited and saw others before taking ours."

"We understand that substantial laboratory tests have been conducted to ensure the safety and effectiveness of the vaccines, but we have the final call on whether to take them."

"After two years of Covid-19 and still being safe, I think we can wait a little longer to see the responses of other children towards the vaccines," she said.

Engineer Geraldine Khoo, 36, said she was ready to see her kids vaccinated and would register her

11-year-old son and 12-year-old daughter.

She was even prepared to take a few days off from work to monitor them.

"I've yet to register them. I am busy with work and I don't want them to face side effects while I am

busy. I hope both of them will get their vaccines on the same day and I can take a week off from work to be with them," she said.

Although Penang has yet to start Covid-19 vaccination for children aged five to 11 years, state health committee chairman Dr Noriela Ariffin said health authorities are in discussion about its implementation.

"We will wait for the outcome of vaccination for children in the Klang Valley first."

"When it starts, it will be held at hospitals and will be opened for children with higher risks first," she said.

The National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme for Children (PICKids) kicked off in the Klang Valley yesterday.

Under PICKids, an estimated four million children aged between five and 11 are eligible to receive the mRNA vaccine, Comirnaty 10mcg Concentrate for Dispersion (Pfizer-BioNTech), which will be administered under the programme.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 8

RUANGAN : NATION

Khairy: SOP for Johor will be different due to Omicron

KUALA LUMPUR: The health standard operating procedures for the Johor election will be slightly different from the Melaka and Sarawak polls due to the emergence of the Omicron variant, says Khairy Jamaluddin.

He said Covid-19 cases were likely to increase because of the transmissibility of the Omicron variant.

"The SOP for Melaka and Sarawak elections were successful as there

was no spike in cases following the two polls.

"For Johor, the SOP will be slightly different because of Omicron and it is being finalised.

"We expect cases to rise but what we do not want is for serious cases to go up," said the Health Minister after launching the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme for Children (PICKids) at Hospital Tunku Azizah here.

The Melaka and Sarawak elections saw campaigning restrictions being put in place due to Covid-19 concerns. While the Melaka election banned all forms of physical campaigning, the Sarawak polls gave some leeway in constituencies with limited Internet coverage.

The Election Commission is meeting on Feb 9 to set the dates for nominations and polling for the Johor election which must be held

by March 22, which is 60 days after the state assembly was dissolved.

Khairy added that the trend of the Omicron variant so far had shown that while the number of positive cases went up, it had not translated to an increase in serious cases.

"If the number of hospital admissions goes down, we should continue with our plans to open up the country," he said.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 10

RUANGAN : NATION

Khairy sues duo over social media posts on Covid-19 jabs

KUALA LUMPUR: Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin has sued former Umno supreme council member Datuk Lokman Noor Adam and preacher Mohd Rasyiq Mohd Alwi, also known as Ustaz Abu Syafiq, over their social media posts on Covid-19 vaccinations.

He named Lokman and Mohd Rasyiq as defendants in two separate writs of summons filed through Messrs Rashid Zulkifli on Jan 25.

The case was brought up for case management here yesterday.

According to his statement of claim, the Rembau MP said Lokman, 49, had uploaded two videos on the Facebook page "Lokman Noor Adam Official" and posted a photo accompanied with a caption on Jan 6.

He said Lokman had also conducted a Facebook Live video and YouTube Live stream on Jan 10, where the same content was uploaded on both platforms.

Meanwhile, in his statement of claim against Mohd Rasyiq, Khairy said the defendant had posted a video on the Instagram page "Ustaz Abu Syafiq" on Oct 20, 2021.

Mohd Rasyiq, 41, also uploaded two posts and a video on Instagram on Jan 6 and two posts, a photo with a caption and a video on the same Instagram page on Jan 10.

Khairy, 46, claimed that all the impugned posts by Lokman and Mohd Rasyiq were false, untrue, unwarranted, unsubstantiated, malicious and mischievous statements against him.

The alleged defamatory publications, Khairy said, were meant to say that he had lied and deceived the public by dishonestly claiming to have been vaccinated for Covid-19 and to have received the third booster dose, and that he had doctored the information regarding his vaccination and third dose status, and that he had lied and deceived the public in respect of the requirement of third dose for umrah.

A check on the court's e-filing system showed that the case has been fixed for an inter-parte hearing on injunction on Feb 17.

AKHBAR : THE SUN ON FRIDAY

MUKA SURAT : 2

RUANGAN : NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS

SOP for Johor polls being finalised: Khairy

KUALA LUMPUR: The Health Ministry is finalising the standard operating procedures (SOP) for the Johor state election before it is submitted to the Election Commission.

Its minister Khairy Jamaluddin said the ministry is still conducting risk assessment as the election would be held in a different environment from that of the Sarawak and Malacca polls, due to the spread of the Omicron variant in the country.

"What we know is that the SOP for the Malacca and Sarawak polls was a success as there was no significant increase in the number of Covid cases."

He was speaking at a media conference after launching the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme for Children at the Tunku Azizah Hospital yesterday.

Khairy also did not rule out the possibility of an increase in the number of Covid-19 cases following the Johor election.

"However, there will be no significant rise in the number of serious cases and hospital admissions."

Asked on the SOP for umrah travel, Khairy said it is being finalised and would be presented to him soon.

On Jan 26, the Cabinet decided to allow Muslims in the country to continue performing the umrah from Feb 8 after being temporarily suspended. - Bernama

AKHBAR : THE SUN ON FRIDAY

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS

Vaccination for children voluntary: Khairy

KUALA LUMPUR: The vaccination of children aged between five and 11 under the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme for Kids (PICKids) will be done on a voluntary basis and no restrictions will be imposed on unvaccinated children.

Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin said this was to boost the confidence of parents as the ministry was aware that many of them were taking a wait-and-see approach before enrolling their children in PICKids.

"So far, 15% (of children eligible for vaccination) were registered after vaccination appointment bookings were opened on Wednesday. It is on a voluntary basis, to give parents time to make an informed decision."

"I know many parents are still worried. But it's okay, we will continue providing them with the latest information," he told a press conference after launching PICKids at Tunku Azizah Hospital yesterday.

Khairy said PICKids was important to prevent children from Multisystem Inflammation Syndrome in Children complications, long Covid and death, as 9,413 cases of Covid involving unvaccinated children aged seven to 11 were recorded since Jan 1.

He said the Health Ministry did not make the decision to use Comirnaty 10mcg Concentrate for Dispersion (PfizerBioNTech) vaccine for PICKids in haste as clinical and real-world data from other countries such as Singapore had

been carefully studied prior to making the decision.

"Actually, the United States Food and Drug Administration had approved the vaccine for children last October, but our experts had taken extra time to do some research."

He said based on the research data, the vaccine for children, which is one-third of the adult dose, would not cause serious side effects but only common ones, such as fever.

Describing PICKids as the "last piece of the puzzle" to the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme, Khairy said the ministry aims to administer one dose of the vaccine to 70% of schoolchildren aged seven to 11 within the next two months, and 50% of the total of 3.6 million

children aged five to 11 by the end of the month.

PICKids started simultaneously nationwide yesterday for children with comorbidities and immunocompromised children under the low immunity group.

The vaccine will be given to children in those categories at their treating hospitals.

The children would also receive their vaccine through appointment bookings at three mega integration vaccination centres, namely at the World Trade Centre Kuala Lumpur, Axiata Arena Bukit Jalil and Ideal Convention Centre Shah Alam.

Khairy said the implementation of PICKids will be expanded to health clinics and schools soon. — Bernama

'Govt doing fine job'

Health expert lauds move to bar large gatherings and pilgrimage travel to Saudi Arabia

BY MUHAMMAD YUSRY
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PETALING JAYA: While restrictions are being eased, the government is doing the right thing in ensuring that it does not lead a new wave of Covid-19 infections, said Prof Sanjay Ramphal of the Universiti Malaya Epidemiology and Public Health Faculty.

He commended the authorities for controlling infections that come through entry points nationwide, adding that the Omicron variant is more likely to be imported and spread in places with a more porous border.

"Our numbers are currently low but it may increase in the coming months due to a few factors. Firstly, (it could be the) establishment of the Omicron strain as the predominant strain that is more transmissible than the Delta variant."

"Secondly, if our public health services aimed at isolation and quarantine become strained. Thirdly, (if were to allow) large events that promote mass gatherings like a general election."

However, Sanjay pointed out that it is unlikely for our hospital services to become overwhelmed with proactive planning of Covid-19 services and a concerted effort to include the entire society in combating the virus.

One of the early preventive measures taken by the government was the suspension of umrah travel, as most of the Omicron variant cases were imported from Saudi Arabia.

"Umrah travel was likely suspended because of the high percentage of tests that were positive among those who came back during the specified period," Sanjay said.

"The high positivity rates pointed to higher transmission of Covid-19 within the umrah travel groups compared with the population average. These imported cases may also invariably lead to the introduction of other variants in Malaysia."

Malaysian Medical Association president Dr Koh Kar Chai said the people should not fear the Omicron variant, but take all available preventive measures against Covid-19 such as full vaccination, boosters and strict adherence

to standard operating procedures.

"With these steps, we should be safe. We are still looking at worldwide developments to help us understand more about Omicron before we can safely say that it is under control."

"But for the moment, we need to do all we can to stay safe. We have come this far and are now in the recovery phase. Let's all do our part to keep one another safe and help the country fully recover," he said.

"Get fully vaccinated, get the booster jabs when it is time and don't let your guard down when around people."

Meanwhile, Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin said yesterday the severity of cases is his ministry's main concern rather than the number of daily infections.

He said hospital admissions, intensive care unit cases and the fatality index were the main indicators to decide whether more public health regulations would be eased.

"If we look at other countries, their cases have increased exponentially," he was quoted as saying after launching the National Covid-19 Vaccination Programme for children at the Tunku Azizah Hospital in Kuala Lumpur.

"But the most important thing is not really the number of cases but the severity of those cases. If the severity of the cases has been lessened, we can continue to reopen the country."



GOOD SIGN ...
Health workers packing up equipment in preparation to close the MAEPS Quarantine and Treatment Centre in Serdang following a decline in low-risk Covid cases. — BERNAMAPIX

15% parents polled in Sarawak against shots for kids

KUCHING: As many as 15% of 40,000 respondents among parents surveyed in Sarawak disagreed with having their children vaccinated under the Covid-19 Immunisation Programme for Children (PICKids), said Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas.

He said the results of the Sarawak Health Department survey from Jan 26 to 31 also found that 69.7% agreed to it, while 25.3% were unsure.

He added that one of the main reasons respondents disagreed or were unsure was

because of concerns about the complications that would occur after taking the vaccine.

"Some are worried about the safety of the vaccine and want to be given the option of choosing the type of vaccine," said Amar, who is also State Disaster Management Committee chairman after the launch of the state-level PICKids at the Sarawak General Hospital yesterday.

On Wednesday, Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin was quoted as saying that a total of 517,107 children nationwide aged five to 11 have

been registered by their parents as of Feb 1 to receive the Pfizer vaccine.

Khairy was reported as saying that the figure covered about 15% of the total of 3.6 million children eligible to receive the shots.

Amar said a total of 272,500 children aged five to 11 in Sarawak were eligible for PICKids registration.

"We are targeting 70% of eligible children in the education system to be given the first dose of the Pfizer vaccine within two months," he said. — Bernama

AKHBAR : THE SUN ON FRIDAY

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS

Khairy files defamation suits over vaccine posts

KUALA LUMPUR: Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin has filed defamation suits against Datuk Lokman Noor Adam and Mohd Rasyiq Mohd Alwi, also known as Ustaz Abu Syafiq, over videos on the Covid-19 vaccines that were uploaded on social media.

Khairy, 46, as the plaintiff, filed two suits separately at the High Court yesterday, through Messrs Rashid Zulkifli on Jan 25, naming Lokman, 49, and Mohd Rasyiq, 41, as defendants.

Based on the statement of claim, Khairy filed the suits in his personal capacity alleging that Lokman had defamed him by uploading two

videos with pictures on his official Facebook page on Jan 6 and making statements through two live posts on Facebook and the "Lokman Adam" channel on YouTube on Jan 10.

Khairy claimed that Mohd Rasyiq had defamed him by making four slanderous statements and posting three videos and a picture on his Instagram account on Oct 20, Jan 6 and Jan 10 respectively.

Khairy further claimed that the libelous statements implied that he had lied and cheated the public by claiming he had been given the Covid-19 vaccine and received a booster dose, as well as falsifying information on his vaccination status.

He claimed that the defamatory posts had severely tarnished his reputation and integrity, thus reducing public trust and confidence in him either in his personal or professional capacity.

According to Khairy, the defamatory posts were against public interest and disrupted the efforts of the Health Ministry and government in the fight against Covid-19, and affected public response to the pandemic, including the official data and facts provided by the ministry.

Khairy is seeking an injunction for both defendants to delete the videos and posts with the captions, headlines and comments within 24

hours and another injunction to restrain them from republishing the posts.

He also demanded the defendants delete the slanderous statements published on all news portals and social media platforms within 24 hours.

Khairy is seeking general damages to be assessed by the court, apart from exemplary, aggravated and punitive damages, public apologies from both defendants that are to be uploaded on social media, as well as other relief deemed fit by the court.

The inter parte injunction application is scheduled to be heard on Feb 17. — Bernama