AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 5
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Penularan COVID-19

Ismail Sabri bersama penduduk setempat bergotong-royong memotong daging korban pada Majlis Korban Perdana Parlimen Bera, semalam.
(Foto Farizul Hafiz Awang/BH)

PM nasihat tujuh juta individu segera ambil dos penggalak

Suntikan pastikan perlindungan lebih baik, elak dijangkiti varian baharu

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Bera: Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob menasihatkan kira-kira tujuh juta penduduk Malaysia yang belum mengambil suntikan dos penggalak vaksin COVID-19 supaya segera berbuat demikian susulan lonjakan kes baharu ketika ini.

Perdana Menteri berkata, walaupun dos penggalak tidak diwajibkan, pengambilannya akan dapat memastikan perlindungan lebih baik daripada jangkitan virus berbahaya itu, terutama dengan kemunculan varian baharu yang lebih mudah menjangkiti.

Ismail Sabri bagaimanapun memberi jaminan kerajaan tidak bercadang menutup semula sektor ekonomi atau sebagainya walaupun kes COVID-19 kembali meningkat.

"Walaupun tiada paksaan, saya nasihatkan mereka yang belum menerima suntikan itu untuk ambil 'booster' (penggalak) bagi melindungi diri daripada jangkitan dan jika mempunyai gejala, segera jumpa doktor untuk kepastian," katanya.

Beliau yang juga Ahli Parlimen Bera memberitahu pemberita demikian selepas menghadiri Majlis Korban Perdana Parlimen Bera 2022 di Masjid Darul Fikri, di sini, semalam.

Perdana Menteri juga memaklumkan, keperluan membuka semula Pusat Pemberian Vaksin (PPV) dalam skala besar dengan mengambil kira jumlah mereka yang belum menerima dos penggalak akan ditentukan oleh Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM).

Kes harian lebih 3,000

Ketika ini, katanya, kes harian sudah meningkat melebihi 3,000. Sebelum ini, jangkitan membabitkan subvarian Omicron BA1 serta BA2 dan kini ada jangkitan BA5 yang meningkat.

Perdana Menteri meminta rakyat mengambil langkah proaktif untuk melindungi diri dan keluarga, dengan satu daripadanya adalah mendapatkan suntikan dos penggalak.

"Kehidupan akan berjalan seperti biasa cuma kita perlu mengambil langkah proaktif untuk melindungi diri dan keluarga, termasuk mengambil suntikan dos penggalak.

"Pelbagai kelonggaran diberikan sejak negara memasuki fasa peralihan ke endemik pada 1 April lalu. Contohnya, walaupun tidak lagi wajib pakai pelitup muka di kawasan terbuka, kita boleh ambil inisiatif sendiri untuk melindungi diri jika berada di kawasan yang ramai orang," katanya.

Sementara itu, sebanyak 3,264 jangkitan baharu COVID-19 direkodkan, kelmarin menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan kes sebanyak 4,595,974.

Selangor mencatatkan jumlah kes tertinggi iaitu 1,326 kes, disusuli Kuala Lumpur (847), Perak (230), Sabah (206), Pulau Pinang (144), Negeri Sembilan (131), Putrajaya (84), Johor (75) dan Melaka (62).

Sementara, Sarawak mencatatkan 47 kes, Kedah (37), Pahang (38), Kelantan (14), Terengganu (12) Labuan (5) dan Perlis, empat kes.

Berdasarkan laporan COVID-Now, sebanyak 3,259 kes, membabitkan jangkitan tempatan dan lima kes import.

Data GitHub Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) melaporkan, terdapat dua kematian akibat COVID-19 dengan masing-masing membabitkan satu kes di Sarawak dan Selangor, menjadikan jumlah kematian akibat COVID-19 di Malaysia meningkat kepada 35,811 kes.

Peningkatan kes ketara dari 3 Julai hingga Sabtu lalu

Putrajaya: Beberapa indikator yang menggambarkan situasi COVID-19 negara, menunjukkan peningkatan ketara pada Minggu Epidemiologi 27/2022 (ME 27/2022), dari 3 Julai hingga Sabtu lalu.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata bilangan kes baharu COVID-19 meningkat sebanyak 27.9 peratus berbanding minggu sebelumnya iaitu daripada 16,694 kes kepada 21,355 kes.

Katanya, peningkatan itu membabitkan kes penularan tempatan iaitu sebanyak 28.1 peratus bersamaan 16,650 kes kepada 21,325 kes.

Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah

"Selain itu, bilangan kes kematian disebabkan jangkitan berkenaan turut meningkat sebanyak 46.2 peratus berbanding minggu sebelumnya iaitu daripada 26 kes kepada 38 kes.

"Bilangan kes aktif setiap hari bagi ME 27/2022 adalah 32,145 kes iaitu peningkatan sebanyak 11 peratus," katanya dalam kenyataan media, semalam.

Turut menunjukkan peningkatan ialah bilangan kes sembuh dengan 14.6 peratus, membabitkan 14,293 kes kepada 16,379 kes.

Mengulas mengenai kemasukan pesakit ke hospital awam bagi setiap 100,000 penduduk, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, ia meningkat sebanyak 15 peratus.

"Pesakit kategori satu dan dua meningkat sebanyak 14 peratus, manakala bagi pesakit kategori tiga hingga lima, meningkat sebanyak 17 peratus, sekali gus meningkatkan penggunaan katil di Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU) serta di Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan COVID-19 (PKRC).

Kes dirujuk PKRC bertambah

"Bilangan kedatangan pesakit ke pusat penilaian COVID-19 (CAC) juga meningkat sebanyak 27.8 peratus dan bilangan kes COVID-19 baharu yang menjalani pemantauan di rumah meningkat 12.6 peratus.

"Bilangan kes COVID-19 yang dirujuk CAC ke PKRC dan ke hospital meningkat sebanyak 67.5 peratus. Untuk trend kes aktif harian COVID-19 yang dipantau secara maya (CAC Maya), pada akhir ME 27/2022, ia meningkat 23.4 peratus berbanding pada akhir ME 26/2022 (daripada 43,203 kes kepada 53,306 kes)," katanya.

Mengenai pesakit jangkitan pernafasan akut teruk (SARI) dan kes Penyakit Seperti Influenza (ILI) membabitkan kes COVID-19, Dr Noor Hisham memaklumkan, hasil survelan di lokasi sentinel seluruh negara turut menunjukkan peningkatan.

"Kadar positif sampel ILI bagi COVID-19 pada ME 27/2022 meningkat sebanyak 94.5 peratus daripada 5.5 peratus pada ME 26/2022 kepada 10.7 peratus pada ME 27/2022, manakala kadar positif sampel SARI bagi COVID-19 kekal 0 peratus pada ME 27/2022," katanya.

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 32
RUANGAN : DUNIA

Penularan COVID-19

Singapura sedia bawa masuk vaksin subvarian Omicron

MOH, pakar vaksinasi sedang kaji keselamatan, keberkesanan

Subvarian Omicron menyebabkan kira-kira separuh daripada kes COVID-19 di Singapura. (Foto hiasan)

Singapura: Republik ini bersedia membawa masuk vaksin penggalak subvarian Omicron yang kini begitu cepat menjadi varian COVID-19 dominan di sini, sekiranya ia diluluskan, kata Kementerian Kesihatan (MOH).

Jurucakap kementerian itu, yang menjawab pertanyaan akhbar *The Straits Times*, berkata MOH, Penguasa Sains Kesihatan dan Jawatankuasa Pakar Vaksinasi COVID-19 sedang mengkaji keselamatan dan keberkesanannya.

"Persiapan sudah dibuat untuk mendapatkan bekalan vaksin penggalak COVID-19 ini, yang turut menyasarkan subvarian Omicron, sekiranya disyorkan untuk digunakan," katanya.

Menurut satu laporan bulan lalu, Moderna sudah mengeluarkan satu dapatan menunjukkan bahawa vaksin penggalak yang dikemas kini melindungi dengan baik daripada subvarian terbaru BA.4 dan BA.5.

Menteri Kesihatan, Ong Ye Kung, memberitahu Parlimen baru-baru ini bahawa subvarian itu membentuk kira-kira separuh daripada kes COVID-19 Singapura dan dijangka menyumbang 70 peratus hingga 80 peratus kes pada minggu akan datang.

Menurut laporan *The New York Times* pula, Pentadbiran Makanan dan Ubat-ubatan (FDA) Amerika Syarikat (AS) mengesyorkan pengeluar menghasilkan vaksin bivalen yang menyasarkan BA.4 dan BA.5 bersama dengan coronavirus asal.

Katanya, padanan antara varian semasa dan penggalak yang dikemas kini boleh memberikan perlindungan lebih kuat dan tahan lama terhadap apa saja subvarian yang menular secara meluas beberapa bulan dari sekarang.

Moderna diguna Oktober

Mengikut laporan sama, Pfizer sebelum ini berkata suntikan vaksin bagi subvarian yang dipilih boleh sedia untuk digunakan seawal Oktober ini, manakala Moderna dijangka siap untuk penggunaan menjelang akhir Oktober atau awal November.

Minggu lalu, Ye Kung menjelaskan kedudukan Singapura dengan dua syarikat yang akan membenarkan negara itu menerima vaksin apabila siap kelak.

"Setakat ini, kontrak kami dengan kedua-dua syarikat farmaseutikal membenarkan kami menerima penghantaran dan melaksanakannya apabila tersedia.

"Ini mungkin berlaku menjelang akhir tahun, jika ia diluluskan, jika data menunjukkan semuanya betul dan kami menerima penghantaran.

"Tetapi, saya harus menambah... jangan tunggu (vaksin), dan tangguh ambil vaksin penggalak anda... formula terkini berfungsi dengan baik dalam mengelakkan anda daripada jatuh sakit, jadi jangan berlengah mengambil vaksin penggalak anda," katanya.

Tambah beliau, 60,000 warga emas berusia 60 tahun ke atas belum mengambil suntikan penggalak pertama dan menggesa mereka berbuat demikian.

Jurucakap MOH berkata, tiada bukti bahawa tempoh penularan BA.4 atau BA.5 adalah berbeza daripada varian Omicron terdahulu dan mereka yang didapati positif COVID-19 harus mematuhi protokol penjagaan kesihatan sedia ada. AGENSI

Jangkitan baharu makin meningkat di Shanghai

Shanghai: Kes COVID-19 di Shanghai meningkat ketara ketika sebahagian kawasan di hab kewangan China itu melaksanakan ujian saringan besar-besaran.

Kadar jangkitan dilaporkan berlipat ganda sejak kewujudan sub varian baharu dikesan, yang memberi cabaran dalam usaha menangani virus terbabit.

Bandar raya itu merekodkan 69 jangkitan baharu pada Ahad, meningkat berbanding 57 pada hari sebelumnya.

Kes baharu naik mendadak dalam tempoh singkat selepas pihak berkuasa mengisytiharkan kejayaan memerangi COVID-19 baru-baru ini, yang menyaksikan bandar raya itu menjalani perintah berkurung selama dua bulan sejak Mei lalu.

Shanghai mengesan kes pertama sub varian Omicron BA.5 pada Jumaat lalu, menyebabkan pihak berkuasa terpaksa melaksanakan ujian saringan besar-besaran di sembilan daerah serta kawasan kes dikesan.

Penduduk beratur untuk membuat ujian saringan COVID-19 di Beijing, kelmarin. (Foto AFP)

Selain itu, daerah Shandong melaporkan 80 kes tempatan dan satu kes di Beijing.

Kes baharu itu turut menyebabkan pihak berkuasa melaksanakan perintah kawalan serta ujian saringan di Hainan dan Guandong pada hujung minggu lalu.

Setakat ini, sebanyak 352 kes coronavirus dilaporkan di seluruh China dan angka terbaru itu menunjukkan peningkatan jangkitan di republik itu, yang bermula minggu lalu.

China pantau BA.5

Pihak berkuasa memantau kehadiran sub varian BA.5, biarpun timbul persoalan mengenai komitmen negara itu ke arah sifar COVID-19.

Presiden, Xi Jinping, dilaporkan berkata kerajaan sedia menanggung kesan sementara akibat kesan ekonomi berbanding membiarkan COVID-19 menjejaskan kesihatan dan keselamatan rakyat.

Sementara itu, Macau juga melaksanakan perintah berkurung selepas kes COVID-19 mencapai tahap tertinggi sejak beberapa minggu lalu, manakala Hong Kong sedang mempertimbangkan perintah berkurung sama seperti diamalkan tanah besar China.

Pihak berkuasa Macau mengumumkan perintah berkurung minggu lalu selepas lebih 1,500 kes dikesan meskipun 650,000 penduduk bandar itu sudah beberapa kali menjalani ujian saringan wajib. AGENSI

AKHBAR : KOSMO
MUKA SURAT : 4
RUANGAN : NEGARA

Kes Covid-19 meningkat, tujuh juta penduduk belum ambil dos penggalak

Tiada cadangan tutup sektor ekonomi

Oleh NORHAFIZAN ZULKIFLI

BERA – Perdana Menteri Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri berkata, kerajaan tidak bercadang untuk menutup sektor ekonomi meskipun kes Covid-19 menunjukkan trend peningkatan yang menyaksikan lebih 3,000 kes direkodkan semalam dengan dua kematian.

Bagaimanapun beliau meminta rakyat negara ini mengambil langkah proaktif dengan mengambil vaksin khususnya dos penggalak bagi melindungi diri dan keluarga masing-masing.

"Walaupun ia tidak diwajibkan oleh pihak kerajaan tetapi untuk melindungi diri sendiri dari varian-varian baharu yang kita juga tidak tahu (pada masa akan datang) jadi eloklah untuk mengambil dos penggalak.

"Setakat ini kehidupan akan berjalan seperti biasa dan tiada perancangan pihak kerajaan untuk menutup sektor ekonomi dan sebagainya," katanya selepas menyempurnakan Majlis Korban Perdana Parlimen Bera melibatkan 79 ekor lembu di Masjid Darul Fikri, di sini semalam.

ISMAIL SABRI memotong daging pada Majlis Korban Perdana Parlimen Bera di pekarangan Masjid Darul Fikri, Bera semalam.

Menurut Ismail Sabri, meskipun kes Covid-19 semakin meningkat, namun difahamkan sekitar tujuh juta rakyat negara ini masih belum mengambil dos penggalak sehingga kini.

Jelasnya walaupun tiada paksaan, namun rakyat digalakkan mengambil langkah proaktif mengambil dos penggalak sebagai langkah untuk melindungi diri dan keluarga masing-masing.

"Jadi sekali lagi saya nasihatkan kepada sesiapa yang belum mengambil dos penggalak segeralah mengambil dos penggalak dan jika terdapat sebarang simptom segeralah berjumpa doktor untuk tindakan lanjut," katanya.

Ujar beliau, setakat ini pihaknya masih belum menerima laporan daripada Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) bagi membuka Pusat Pemberian Vaksin (PPV) untuk mereka yang masih belum mengambil dos penggalak.

Sementara itu, Perdana Menteri menasihatkan rakyat mengambil langkah berhati-hati ketika terlibat dengan sambutan majlis korban yang diadakan di kawasan masing-masing.

"Walaupun tidak memerlukan pemakaian pelitup muka, namun perlu untuk mengambil inisiatif sendiri bagi melindungi diri dengan mengelak daripada berada dekat dan bersentuhan bagi mengelakkan jangkitan Covid-19," ujarnya.

3,264 kes baharu dilaporkan semalam

PUTRAJAYA – Angka jangkitan Covid-19 di negara ini mencatatkan sebanyak 3,264 kes semalam termasuk lima kes import sekali gus menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan sebanyak 4,558,170 setakat ini.

Berdasarkan data pada laman web *COVIDNOW*, sejumlah 2,703 kes sembuh direkodkan dengan jumlah keseluruhan pulih daripada Covid-19 sebanyak 4,524,281.

"Selangor mencatatkan jumlah kes harian tertinggi iaitu sebanyak 1,326 diikuti Kuala Lumpur (847), Perak (230), Sabah (208), Pulau Pinang (144), Negeri Sembilan (131) dan Putrajaya (84).

"Turut menyumbang kepada jumlah kes harian itu ialah Johor (75), Melaka (62), Sarawak (47), Pahang (38), Kedah (37), Kelantan (14), Terengganu (12), Labuan (5) dan Perlis (4)," katanya.

Dalam perkembangan sama, sebanyak dua kematian dilaporkan dengan tiada kes meninggal dunia di luar hospital atau *brought-in-dead* (BID) seterusnya menjadikan jumlah kematian sebanyak 35,811.

Jumlah kematian BID pula kekal sebanyak 7,593 setakat ini.

Sebanyak 34,659 kes dikuarantin di rumah, 24 kes di Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan Covid-19 (PKRC), 1,156 kes di hospital, 17 kes di Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU) tanpa bantuan pernafasan dan 26 kes di ICU dengan bantuan pernafasan.

KIRA-KIRA tujuh juta lagi rakyat negara ini belum menerima dos penggalak. – GAMBAR HIASAN

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO
MUKA SURAT : 5
RUANGAN : LOKAL

Catat 3,264 jangkitan, 2 kematian kelmarin

Kuala Lumpur: Malaysia mencatatkan 3,264 kes jangkitan Covid-19 kelmarin, menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan jangkitan dalam negara ini 4,595,974 kes sejak permulaan pandemik.

Berdasarkan laporan di COVIDNow, sebanyak 3,259 kes baru membabitkan jangkitan tempatan dan lima kes import.

Menurut portal itu, jumlah kes aktif di negara ini adalah 35,882 dengan 96.6 peratus ataupun 34,659 menjalani kuarantin di rumah dan 0.1 peratus dengan jumlah 24 orang pesakit sedang dirawat di pusat kuarantin dan rawatan di seluruh negara.

Sebanyak 1,156 pesakit Covid-19, atau 3.2 peratus kes aktif, sedang dirawat di hospital di seluruh negara dengan 43 pesakit dimasukkan ke unit rawatan rapi (ICU).

Daripada kemasukan ke ICU kelmarin, 17 pesakit tidak memerlukan sokongan ventilator manakala 26 memerlukan sokongan ventilator.

Di samping itu, Portal CovidNow juga melaporkan bahawa kadar penggunaan ICU Malaysia berada pada 61.9 peratus secara keseluruhan kelmarin, dengan pesakit Covid-19 menyumbang 10.4 peratus daripada kadar penggunaan ICU.

Sebanyak 2,703 pesakit sembuh daripada Covid-19 kelmarin, menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan sembuh di negara ini kepada 4,524,281 sejak wabak ini bermula.

Sementara itu, repositori data GitHub Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) melaporkan terdapat dua kematian akibat daripada Covid-19 dengan masing-masing membabitkan satu kes di Sarawak dan Selangor, menjadikan jumlah kematian akibat Covid-19 di Malaysia kepada 35,811.

DOS PENGGALAK COVID-19

7 juta rakyat belum disuntik

Bera

Perdana Menteri Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob berkata seramai tujuh juta rakyat Malaysia masih belum mengambil dos penggalak Covid-19 setakat ini dan menasihati mereka segera berbuat demikian.

Beliau berkata walaupun suntikan itu tidak diwajibkan namun ia amat penting memandangkan kes positif Covid-19 kembali menunjukkan peningkatan selain turut membantu berdepan varian baharu wabak itu terutamanya Omicron BA.5 yang lebih mudah menjangkiti.

"Walaupun tiada paksaan (untuk mengambil dos penggalak), tetapi saya menasihatkan mereka yang belum menerima suntikan itu untuk mengambil booster bagi melindungi diri sendiri daripada jangkitan dan jika mempunyai simptom, segera berjumpa doktor untuk kepastian," katanya.

Ismail Sabri yang juga Ahli Parlimen Bera berkata demikian kepada pemberita selepas menghadiri Majlis Korban Perdana Parlimen Bera 2022 di Masjid Darul Fikri di sini, semalam.

Ditanya jika terdapat perancangan untuk kembali membuka Pusat Pemberian Vaksin (PPV) dalam skala besar mengambil kira jumlah mereka yang belum menerima dos penggalak, Ismail Sabri berkata perkara itu akan ditentukan Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) sama ada terdapat keperluan berbuat demikian.

Perdana Menteri juga memberi jaminan bahawa kerajaan tidak mempunyai rancangan untuk menutup semula sektor ekonomi atau sebagainya walaupun kes positif Covid-19 kini kembali meningkat.

"Kehidupan akan berjalan seperti biasa cuma kita perlu mengambil langkah proaktif untuk melindungi diri dan keluarga termasuk mengambil suntikan dos penggalak," katanya.

"Kehidupan akan berjalan seperti biasa cuma kita perlu ambil langkah proaktif
Ismail Sabri

Ismail Sabri berkata rakyat juga dinasihatkan supaya mengambil langkah sewajarnya bagi mengelak dijangkiti Covid-19 walaupun pelbagai kelonggaran telah diberikan sejak negara memasuki Fasa Peralihan ke Endemik pada 1 April lepas.

"Ini termasuk walaupun tidak lagi wajib memakai pelitup muka di kawasan terbuka, namun kita boleh mengambil inisiatif sendiri untuk melindungi diri jika berada di kawasan yang ramai orang," katanya.

Mengenai program semalam, Ismail Sabri berkata menjadi tradisi tahunan di Parlimen Bera untuk mengadakan program korban perdana dengan tahun ini sebanyak 79 ekor lembu diagihkan kepada semua kawasan dan jabatan kerajaan sekitar daerah ini.

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA
MUKA SURAT : 2
RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI

11,000 klinik, farmasi risiko tutup ubat habis

Oleh MOHAMAD SHOFI MAT ISA
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KUANTAN: Kira-kira 11,000 klinik swasta dan farmasi komuniti berisiko menutup operasi perniagaan sekiranya masalah kekurangan bekalan ubat-ubatan asas sejak awal tahun ini yang semakin meruncing terus berlarutan tanpa ada penyelesaian.

Kekurangan ubat seperti paracetamol, batuk dan selesema sehingga 30 peratus merencatkan operasi dan sehingga kini tidak nampak masalah itu diambil peduli walaupun telah disuarakan.

Bercakap kepada *Utusan Malaysia*, Presiden Persatuan Pengamal Perubatan Premier Malaysia (MPCAM), Dr. Raj Kumar Maharajah berkata, kekurangan itu diramal sehingga hujung tahun ini dan jika tidak diberi perhatian, ia boleh menyebabkan operasi tergendala.

11,000 klinik, farmasi risiko tutup ubat habis

Dari muka 1

Katanya, pelbagai alasan diberikan antaranya permintaan ubat melebihi penawaran dan kekurangan bahan baku pembuatan ubat ekoran sekatan pergerakan di Shanghai, China ekoran penularan pandemik Covid-19.

"Kebiasaannya setiap hari antara 30 hingga 50 pesakit diterima klinik swasta dan ada mencecah 80 orang bergantung lokasi serta kepakaran doktor.

"Majoriti pesakit diberikan ubat keperluan asas yang sangat berkurangan ketika ini. Kita berada dalam keadaan cukup tenat.

"Cuba bayangkan seorang pesakit itu mengalami batuk tanpa henti, selsema dan demam yang teruk serta hidung tersumbat. Apabila ke klinik, ubat diperlukan tiada, cuba fikir apa perasaan pesakit tersebut," katanya di sini semalam.

Sementara itu, Presiden Pertubuhan Doktor-doktor Islam Malaysia (Perdim), Dr. Boi Saidi Abd. Razak berkata, pertubuhan itu menerima rungutan ahli-ahlinya berhubung ketiadaan ubat di pasaran yang begitu membimbangkan ketika ini.

Jelasnya, ubat cecair seperti batuk, selsema, lelah dan antibiotik tiada dalam pasaran dan klinik swasta gagal untuk menempah bekalan itu melalui wakil perubatan yang memaklumkan stok ubat terbabit belum pulih.

"Perdim berharap Menteri Kesihatan dapat campur tangan dalam menyelesaikan masalah ini. Keperluannya cukup mendesak yang perlu diselesaikan segera.

"Jika stok ubat-ubatan asas tiada di pasaran, klinik-klinik swasta tidak dapat memberikan rawatan terbaik kepada masyarakat.

"Meminjam stok ubat dari klinik kesihatan kerajaan adalah salah satu cara yang boleh dipertimbang," katanya.

Dalam pada itu, Pengerusi Persatuan Farmasi Malaysia (MPS) Pahang, Abd. Aziz Jamaludin berkata, kekurangan ubat-ubatan asas tersebut bermula pada April lalu dan ia begitu kritikal ketika ini.

"Yang paling ketara adalah ubat demam, ubat batuk, ubat untuk rawatan penyakit tangan, kaki dan mulut (HFMD) seperti ubat sakit tekak tiada stok.

"Ia sudah pun kritikal pada ketika ini. Pesakit di farmasi komuniti setiap hari semakin ramai, tetapi bekalan ubat-ubatan asas itu semakin berkurangan dan banyak tiada stok.

"Jika masalah ini terus berlarutan dalam dua bulan lagi, kami nak jual apa? Jualan pasti jatuh dan mungkin ada farmasi terpaksa ditutup kerana tiada ubat," katanya.

Abd. Aziz berkata, beliau difahamkan isu utama yang menyebabkan masalah itu berlaku adalah kekurangan bahan mentah atau bahan baku pembuatan ubat.

"Kerajaan perlu segera mencari penyelesaian tentang masalah ini supaya ia tidak berpanjangan," katanya.

> **"Majoriti pesakit diberikan ubat keperluan asas yang sangat berkurangan ketika ini. Kita berada dalam keadaan cukup tenat."**
>
> RAJ KUMAR

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

Tujuh juta rakyat dinasihat ambil dos penggalak Covid-19

Oleh MOHAMAD SHOFI MAT ISA
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ISMAIL Sabri Yaakob bersama penduduk dalam program Korban Perdana Parlimen Bera di Masjid Darul Fikri, Bera, Pahang, semalam. - UTUSAN/NORHAFIZAN ZULKIFLI

BERA: Kira-kira tujuh juta rakyat Malaysia masih belum mengambil dos penggalak sedangkan kes jangkitan Covid-19 kembali menunjukkan peningkatan selain kehadiran subvarian baharu Omicron BA.5 yang telah dikesan mula menular dalam negara ini.

Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob berkata, walaupun pengambilan dos penggalak tidak diwajibkan tetapi ia disarankan terutama negara ketika ini berdepan dengan gelombang baharu wabak tersebut.

"Jadi saya nasihat rakyat yang belum mengambil dos penggalak supaya segera berbuat demikian.

"Ia penting untuk kita melindungi diri daripada jangkitan dan varian baharu. Apa lagi akan muncul selepas ini kita tidak tahu kerana kita berdepan gelombang baharu dari semasa ke semasa.

"Jadi, langkah terbaik ambil booster untuk keselamatan diri dan keluarga," katanya dalam program Korban Perdana Parlimen Bera 2022 di Masjid Darul Fikri di sini, semalam.

Kementerian Kesihatan sehingga 30 Jun lalu mengesahkan terdapat 13 kes subvarian Omicron yang sedang dipantau rapi melibatkan enam kes BA.2, lima kes BA.5 dan dua kes BA.52 manakala setakat ini tiada kes melibatkan BA.4 dilaporkan.

Semalam, negara merekodkan semula peningkatan kes positif Covid-19 dengan 3,264 kes berbanding 2,799 kes kelmarin.

Berdasarkan laman web, *https://covidnow.moh.gov.my*, hari ini, Selangor kembali menjadi negeri tertinggi kes positif iaitu 1,326 kes diikuti Kuala Lumpur (847), Perak (230), Sabah (208), Pulau Pinang (144), Negeri Sembilan (131), Putrajaya (84), Johor (75) dan Melaka (62).

Sarawak (47), Kedah (37), Pahang (38), Kelantan (14), Terengganu (12) Labuan (5) dan Perlis, empat kes.

Mengulas lanjut, Ismail Sabri berkata, kerajaan tiada perancangan untuk menutup sektor ekonomi walaupun kes positif jangkitan Covid-19 meningkat.

Ditanya adakah kerajaan akan membuka semula Pusat Pemberian Vaksin (PPV) bagi membolehkan tujuh juta rakyat terbabit mengambil dos penggalak, beliau berkata, ia bergantung kepada Kementerian Kesihatan jika ada keperluan perkara tersebut.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES
MUKA SURAT : 4
RUANGAN : NATION / NEWS

PM URGES 7 MILLION TO GET A BOOSTER

Although getting it is not mandatory, it gives better protection, says Ismail Sabri

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THE seven million Malaysians who have yet to take their Covid-19 booster shot are encouraged to get it following a surge in cases.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob yesterday said although a booster shot was not compulsory, receiving it would ensure better protection against infection, especially with new variants.

"Daily cases have risen above 3,000. Previously, the BA.1 and BA.2 Omicron subvariants posed a threat. Now BA. 5 variant cases are rising.

"Those who have not received their booster shot, please do so immediately. It is not mandatory but it will give you better protection."

He said this after attending the Bera parliamentary constituency's Aidiladha sacrificial event at Darul Fikri Mosque here.

A total of 2,572,611 adults above 60 had taken a dose of the booster shot, and 84,238 were administered with a second booster.

Ismail Sabri, who is Bera member of parliament, said: "Life goes on.

"There are no plans by the government to close the economy. We will continue with our routine. What is important is that we take measures to protect ourselves.

"Although face masks are no longer mandatory outdoors, we must always be cautious and take the initiative to wear them, especially in crowded places.

"We need to contain the virus from spreading and it is now in our hands (to protect ourselves)."

On the possibility of reopening mega vaccination centres to cater for those who have yet to receive their booster shots, he said the matter would be decided by the Health Ministry.

On Sunday, the country logged 3,246 daily cases, an increase from 2,799 cases the day before.

According to CovidNow and Github data, 3,249 were local infections.

Most cases were reported in Selangor with 1,326, followed by 847 in Kuala Lumpur. The rest of the states reported below 250 cases.

Two deaths were recorded: one in Sarawak and another in Selangor. The death toll stood at 35,811 cases.

Active cases stood at 35,882 after 2,703 recoveries were reported on Sunday.

A total of 34,659 cases were under home quarantine, 24 at Low-Risk Quarantine and Treatment Centres, 1,156 hospitalised, and 43 receiving treatment at intensive care units with 26 on ventilators.

On hospitalisation, Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said it had increased by 15 per cent in the 27th Epidemiological Week (ME27) compared with the previous week.

He said Category 1 and 2 hospital admissions went up by 14 per cent while Category 3, 4 and 5 cases rose by 17 per cent.

"ICU admissions rose by one per cent, while admissions to Low-Risk Covid-19 Quarantine and Treatment Centres saw a two per cent increase."

Cases referred to Covid-19 Assessment Centres (CACs) saw a 27.8 per cent surge, while home quarantine observations jumped by 12.6 per cent.

He added that there was a 67.5 per cent hike in the number of cases referred from CACs to quarantine centres.

Recoveries rose by 14.6 per cent from 14,293 cases in ME26 to 16,379 cases in ME27, he added.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob distributing meat to people at the Bera parliamentary constituency's Aidiladha sacrificial event at Darul Fikri Mosque yesterday. PIC BY FARIZUL HAFIZ AWANG

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 5
RUANGAN : NATION

No shortage of influenza vaccines, say doctors

PETALING JAYA: There is a sufficient supply of influenza vaccines in the country.

Technical Committee chairman for the Immunise4Life Programme Prof Datuk Dr Zulkifli Ismail said contrary to news reports, hospitals and clinics had been procuring supplies from several sources.

"Hence, there is no shortage of influenza vaccines," he said.

The consultant paediatrician and paediatric cardiologist at KPJ Selangor Specialist Hospital said there were enough doses left at his hospital and these could last until September.

"Our usage is about 30 doses a month. We take our flu vaccines from a number of suppliers, not just one," he said, adding that as such, supply was sufficient.

Dr Zulkifli was responding to news reports that claimed that influenza vaccines would only be available in 2024.

President of Malaysian Medical Association Dr Koh Kar Chai concurred with Dr Zulkifli.

"The current disruption to supply is due to an increase in uptake of the vaccines which the distributors were unprepared for.

"I understand that this situation is being rectified by those in the industry to ensure the availability of the vaccines," he added.

However, Association of Private Hospitals Malaysia president Datuk Dr Kuljit Singh said the stock was "low" at some private hospitals as compared to a year ago.

"If there are too many people coming in for the jabs, then there is a likelihood that we may not have enough for a while because some vendors will only be able to get the supplies within two weeks," he said.

Dr Kuljit Singh said that while some brands could replenish the stock within two weeks, others were not able to provide answers as yet.

"Factors, such as the Ukraine-Russia war, are at play," he said.

Flurona a double whammy

Experts: Infection of influenza and Covid-19 can be deadly

By RAGANANTHINI VETHASALAM
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PETALING JAYA: It is possible to contract Covid-19 and influenza concurrently, health experts say, warning that if this should happen, the outcome can be life-threatening.

What's worse is that it's hard to tell the two infections apart, and the only way to differentiate them is through a medical test.

And the Health Ministry said the positive rate for influenza-like illness was up 10.7% in the week between July 3 and July 9, compared to 5.5% in the previous week.

Technical Committee chairman for the Immunise4Life Programme Prof Datuk Dr Zulkifli Ismail said dual infection of influenza and Covid-19, known as "flurona", was rare.

"But it is possible to get multiple infections," he said.

Dr Zulkifli said those who were over 65 years old, pregnant women, children under the age five and those with comorbidity were the vulnerable groups for influenza.

"It is almost the same as the risk of Covid-19," he said.

Universiti Putra Malaysia dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Prof Dr Zamberi Sekawi, said the overlap of symptoms could be tricky, given the similarities between the two.

"The symptoms can overlap, but if we talk about influenza, the patient normally has a high fever, cough, lethargy, and joint pain," he said.

Common treatment: Influenza is usually treated with anti-viral drugs. – YAP CHEE HONG/ The Star

"These last for about one week."

Severe influenza among the vulnerable groups could turn fatal, he added.

"Actually, the risk of death more than doubles when someone is infected by both the flu and Covid-19 viruses," he said, adding that the risk and severity also depended on the immunity of the patient.

Influenza is usually treated with anti-viral drugs.

"We have anti-viral drugs to be given to patients, but it has to be given as early as possible," said Dr Zamberi.

"It works within 24 to 48 hours. That would alleviate the symptoms and prevent complications."

Dr Koh Kar Chai, president of the Malaysian Medical Association, said that with the Omicron variant of Covid-19 spreading, it was difficult to distinguish its symptoms from influenza.

"We will need to rely on tests to identify the infection," he said.

"There are rapid swab tests for both the diseases that can be done at a clinic for a diagnosis to be made."

Dr Koh added that co-infection of Covid-19 and influenza could cause complications in diagnosis, treatment and recovery.

"It can be fatal for those with debilitating comorbidity," he added.

Medical Practitioners Coalition Association of Malaysia president Dr Raj Kumar Maharajah said the standard operating procedure associated with Covid-19 applied to influenza.

"The precautions for all three – influenza, the normal flu and Covid-19 – are the same.

"Wear a mask, practise physical distancing, personal hygiene and avoid crowded places.

"If you are sick, stay home; don't go to work," he said.

Go for your influenza shot too, public urged

PETALING JAYA: The awareness of influenza and its vaccination is low in Malaysia.

This is despite doctors saying that they have been seeing more such cases lately.

Technical Committee chairman for the Immunise4Life Programme Prof Datuk Dr Zulkifli Ismail said the uptake for the influenza vaccine could be better than what it was now.

"It is not that encouraging. It is still low. I think people haven't caught up to the idea of getting vaccinated for influenza yet.

"More could be vaccinated, especially the high-risk groups.

"We should be encouraging people to come forward to get their jabs," the consultant paediatrician and paediatric cardiologist at KPJ Selangor Specialist Hospital said.

He added that while there were few cases of influenza during the peak of Covid-19, there had recently been more.

"At least one or two children are admitted with influenza," he said.

While awareness of the influenza jab is still low, its importance should not be ignored.

"Basically, people don't know that they need to have the flu vaccine," Dr Zulkifli said.

Cases of influenza A and B, which are bad and require admission and possibly ICU treatment, have gone up in recent times.

Universiti Putra Malaysia dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Prof Dr Zamberi Sekawi, said vaccination was the main precautionary measure for influenza.

"Obviously, the lockdowns were effective for influenza in addition to Covid-19. Now because everything has opened up and people are moving around, the cases are going up too," he said, adding that the standard operating procedure for Covid-19 worked for influenza too.

"People are aware of the disease, but they are not aware of the vaccines."

Association of Private Hospitals Malaysia president Datuk Dr Kuljit Singh said the push for influenza vaccination was not so strong in Malaysia when compared with countries that had colder climates.

"Now, the awareness is more towards Covid-19," he said.

Dr Kuljit Singh said the flu outbreak in colder countries was worse than it was in Malaysia.

"Vulnerable groups should take the flu vaccine," he said.

Covid-19 numbers up across the board

KUALA LUMPUR: New Covid-19 cases increased by 27.9% from July 3 to 9 compared with the week before, says Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

The Health director-general said 21,355 cases were reported during that week as opposed to 16,694 cases from June 26 to July 2.

"Recoveries also went up by 14.6% from 14,293 cases to 16,379 cases," he said in a statement.

Dr Noor Hisham said the cumulative number of cases in the country now stood at 4,592,710 with the number of recoveries at 4,521,579.

On Covid-19-related deaths, he said there was a 46.2% increase from 26 fatalities to 38 last week, bringing the total number of deaths to 35,809 so far.

According to Bernama, Dr Noor Hisham said the average daily active cases for last week was 32,145, an increase of 11%.

He added that the number of Covid-19 admissions to public hospitals per 100,000 population also went up by 15% last week with Categories One and Two up by 14%, and Categories Three, Four and Five by 17%.

"As for the daily active case trend, monitored virtually by the Virtual Covid-19 Assessment Centre, it increased by 23.4% from 43,203 cases to 53,306 cases," he said.

The infectivity rate also showed an increase of 4.8% last week.

There are 13 active clusters currently being monitored.

'Get your Covid-19 booster'

KUALA LUMPUR: Those who have not yet taken their Covid-19 booster dose are advised to do it in view of the rising number of infected cases.

Non-boosted Malaysians who have tested positive for the virus or are at high risk are also urged to get the anti-viral drug Paxlovid, which has been made available at the Health Ministry's facilities since April 15.

Paxloid is the first oral antiviral drug in Malaysia to treat Covid-19 patients with mild to moderate symptoms (Categories Two and Three).

"Get boosted, if you haven't. Get Paxlovid, if you're high-risk and Covid-19 positive," Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin tweeted yesterday.

He reminded Malaysians to wear face masks when being in enclosed or crowded areas, besides practising the TRIIS (Test, Report, Isolate, Inform, Seek) method, Bernama reported.

Khairy said Paxlovid was also available free of charge at private health facilities but patients who frequent these places would be subjected to consultation service and other related charges.

AKHBAR : THE SUN

MUKA SURAT : 1

RUANGAN : FRONT PAGE

Vaping has been shown to be just as dangerous as smoking, if not more damaging. – **AMIRUL SYAFIQ/THSUN**

Vaping unsafe: DG

BY **MUHAMMAD YUSRY**
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

E-cigarette damages lungs, lining of respiratory system, warns Noor Hisham

PETALING JAYA: Vaping is not a safe alternative to smoking. This is the clear message from Health Director-General Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, who warned that vapers were damaging their lungs and the cell lining of their respiratory system, and should cease the habit immediately.

What is just as bad is the design and branding of vaping products that make their content appear safe to use, undermining the credibility and effectiveness of health warnings, he said.

Noor Hisham was speaking to *theSun* on the growing popularity of vaping, which the Malaysian Vape Chamber of Commerce confirmed is worth RM2.27 billion annually.

The Health Ministry (MoH) 2019 National Health and Morbidity Survey stated there were 1.12 million vapers in the country.

He said the Control of Tobacco Product Regulations 2004 has specific regulations on packaging and labelling of tobacco products, which include mandatory health warnings.

"This measure is important to decrease smoking initiation and increase smoking cessation. Under a proposed Act, new smoking products such as e-cigarettes will need to follow regulations on packaging and labelling."

He said vaping involves breathing in aerosol from a container that holds several chemicals, including nicotine and flavouring, which can damage the cells lining the respiratory system.

"Not only that. Existing research has linked chemicals in e-cigarettes to lung and respiratory issues, changes in the brain and organ damage. And in July 2019, a large series of pulmonary illnesses were reported in Illinois and Wisconsin in the US that were linked to it (vaping)," he added.

Noor Hisham said these were patients with a history of e-cigarette use within 90 days of the onset of symptoms. They had pulmonary infiltrate on imaging with no other contributable cause of the illness. They were termed as E-cigarette or Vaping Product Use-Associated Lung Injury (Evali).

Until Feb 18, 2020, there were a total of 2,807 cases of Evali in the US. They contributed to 68 deaths as reported to the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

Several cases of probable Evali had been highlighted among clinicians in Malaysia. However, the number of cases may be under-reported due to lack of awareness.

"Therefore, the Health Ministry developed evidence-based Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPG) on the Management of Evali. This CPG will guide Malaysian healthcare providers on the best practices in the management of Evali.

"Healthcare providers are also required to report Evali cases to MoH," he said.

Turn to page 4

AKHBAR : THE SUN
MUKA SURAT : 4
RUANGAN : NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS

'Youths believe vaping safer than smoking'

300,000 students in Malaysia use e-cigarettes because they want to try something new, drawn by the taste and smell and think the products are a healthier option: Health DG

BY **MUHAMMAD YUSRY**
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

PETALING JAYA: The misconception that e-cigarettes are safer than conventional cigarettes is among the factors youths are vaping, Health Director-General Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah told *theSun*.

In February, Health Ministry Tobacco Control Sector head Dr Nor Aryana Hassan said 9.1% or 300,000 students in Malaysia are using e-cigarettes.

"A total of 40.9% vape once a day while 33.9% vape two to five times a day."

Noor Hisham said the majority of teens use e-cigarettes because they want to try something new, are attracted to the taste and smell of the flavours in e-cigarette liquid and have the misbelief that the products are safer than conventional cigarettes.

"There is evidence that e-cigarettes used among adolescents is associated with cigarette smoking, alcohol and drug use, indicating that e-cigarettes may be a gateway to using other substances.

Noor Hisham said smoking and vaping have side effects and risks to human health, while the long-term health effects of electronic cigarettes are still not fully understood. Yet, a growing number of studies have shown that vaping is not a safe alternative to smoking.

He said Malaysians should quit smoking and vaping immediately if they want to maintain good health.

"Both are equally bad and may cause serious health and respiratory problems," he added.

Meanwhile, a survey by *theSun* showed that many brands of vaping products have few health warnings, apart from nicotine being an addictive substance.

K. Krishnamoorthy, 22, said he switched from smoking to vaping because it is cheaper than cigarettes in the long term, and he felt it was safer for his health.

"It is also less offensive to non-smokers as vaping products generally smell nice. Even the mamak restaurants don't stop us from vaping during late evenings and at night since there is no enforcement then," he said.

A parent, who provided her name only as Evelyn, 46, said the colourful packaging of e-cigarette products made vaping attractive to teenagers.

"I caught my son having a vaping product in his bedroom. When questioned, he said unlike cigarettes, vaping is healthier as it only contained nicotine and not other chemicals.

"Of course, this is ridiculous. All smoking products are dangerous to health and contain various health-threatening chemicals. I am surprised my son believed otherwise. We come from an educated family, and if he can be deceived, imagine those from less educated families."

Noor Hisham reiterated that it was best to quit smoking and vaping altogether.

Noor Hisham said smoking and vaping have side effects and risks to human health. – SYED AZAHAR SYED OSMAN/THESUN

Public urged to get third vaccine shot

KUALA LUMPUR: Covid-19 numbers are on the rise and it is advisable that those who have not taken their booster dose do so immediately, said Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin.

He also suggested that non-boosted Malaysians, who have tested positive for Covid-19 or are at high risk, get the antiviral drug Paxlovid, which has been made available at Health Ministry's facilities since April 15.

Paxlovid is the first oral antiviral drug in Malaysia to treat Covid-19 patients with mild to moderate symptoms (categories Two and Three).

"Get boosted, if you haven't. Get Paxlovid, if you are high-risk and Covid-19 positive," he tweeted yesterday.

Khairy also urged Malaysians to wear a face mask in enclosed or crowded areas, besides practising the TRIIS (Test, report, isolate, inform, seek) procedure.

He said the distribution of Paxlovid is also available at private health facilities for free, but patients are still subject to consultation and other related charges determined by the private health facility. – Bernama

Seven million M'sians yet to take booster dose, says PM

BERA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob yesterday said seven million Malaysians have yet to take their booster dose against Covid-19, and advised them to do so immediately.

He said although the booster dose was not mandatory, it is still vital as not only have positive cases returned with an upward trend, the dose would also help in facing new variants of the virus, especially the more infectious Omicron BA.5 variant.

"I would like to advise those who have yet to take the booster dose to immediately take it to protect themselves from infection, and if they are having symptoms, go see a doctor for confirmation," he said after attending the Korban Perdana programme in conjunction with Aidiladha at the Darul Fikri Mosque here yesterday.

Asked if there was a plan to reopen large-scale vaccination centres to accommodate those who have yet to take the booster dose, he said it was up to the Health Ministry to decide.

Ismail Sabri, who is also Bera member of Parliament, added that the government had no plans to shut economic sectors despite an increase in the number of positive cases.

"Life will go on as usual but we need to take proactive measures to protect ourselves and our families, including taking the booster dose against Covid-19."

He said the people are also advised to take appropriate measures to avoid infection even though many relaxations had been given since the country entered the transition to the endemic phase on April 1.

"This includes not having to wear a face mask outdoors, but we can still take our own initiative to protect ourselves, especially when we are in a crowded area," he said.

On the Korban Perdana programme, he said it has been a tradition for his constituency to hold the programme and this year, 79 cows were purchased for the purpose. – Bernama

New Covid cases on the rise: Noor Hisham

KUALA LUMPUR: New Covid-19 cases increased by 27.9% from July 3 to July 9 compared with the week before, said Health Director-General Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

Some 21,355 cases were reported as opposed to 16,694 from June 26 to July 2.

"Recoveries during that week also went up by 14.6%, from 14,293 cases to 16,379," he said in a statement on the country's latest Covid-19 situation yesterday.

Noor Hisham said this brought the cumulative number of cases to 4,592,710 and recoveries to 4,521,579. On Covid-19-related deaths, he said there was a 46.2% increase from 26 fatalities to 38 last week, taking the total number of deaths in the country to 35,809.

Noor Hisham added that the average daily active cases was 32,145, an increase of 11% compared with the previous week.

He said the number of admissions to public hospitals per 100,000 population also increased by 15% last week, with Category One and Two patients up by 14%, and categories Three, Four and Five patients up by 17%.

"As for the daily active case trend, monitored virtually by the Virtual Covid-19 Assessment Centre, it increased 23.4% compared with the previous week (from 43,203 cases to 53,306)." – Bernama