

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : LOKAL

CACAR MONYET**Fasiliti kesihatan
diminta siap siaga**

Putrajaya: Langkah awal sudah diambil oleh Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) berikutan pengumuman Kejadian Kecemasan Kesihatan Awam Yang Menjadi Kebimbangan Antarabangsa (PHEIC) oleh Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO) berkaitan jangkitan *monkeypox* atau cacar monyet.

Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin berkata, ia termasuk mengingatkan fasiliti kesihatan supaya peka dengan situasi semasa jangkitan.

Menurutnya, sehingga Sabtu lalu, sembilan kes

disyaki *monkeypox* sudah dinotifikasikan kepada pihaknya namun semua kes disahkan negatif.

"Selain itu KKM meminta fasiliti kesihatan kerajaan dan swasta memaklumkan kes disyaki atau disahkan *monkeypox* dalam kadar segera bagi memastikan langkah kawalan diambil, termasuk mengenal pasti kontak rapat kes. KKM mewujudkan survelan sentinel di klinik swasta dan kerajaan bagi memantau penyakit ruam atau lesi kulit, mempertingkatkan kapasiti makmal bagi mengesan virus *monkeypox*," katanya.

AKHBAR : KOSMO
MUKA SURAT : 4
RUANGAN : NEGARA



KES cacar monyet kini menjadi antara kebimbangan antarabangsa.

KKM pertingkat kawalan hindari kes cacar monyet

PUTRAJAYA – Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) mengingatkan kepada semua fasiliti kesihatan supaya peka dengan situasi semasa cacar monyet serta meningkatkan pengesanan kes yang menjadi antara kebimbangan antarabangsa ketika ini.

Menterinya, Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar berkata, setakat ini sebanyak sembilan kes disyaki cacar monyet didakwa dikesan di negara ini telah disahkan negatif.

“Kita telah meningkatkan surveilans dan advokasi mengenai cacar monyet dan memaklumkan kepada fasiliti kesihatan supaya mengambil tindakan segera bagi memastikan pencegahan dan kawalan dapat diambil.

“KKM juga mewujudkan surveilans sentinel di beberapa buah klinik bagi membuat paman-

tauan kes dan meningkatkan kapasiti makmal,” katanya dalam satu kenyataan.

Menurut Khairy Jamaluddin, pemantauan di pintu sempadan dipertingkatkan dengan kerjasama imigresen, syarikat penerbangan, agensi berkaitan dan pelbagai kementerian.

Tambahnya, sejak 1 Mei hingga kelmarin, seramai 531,630 pengembara direkodkan tiba dari negara yang mempunyai kes cacar monyet dan notifikasi melalui aplikasi MySejahtera telah dikeluarkan buat golongan tersebut.

“KKM menyeru individu yang mempunyai gejala cacar monyet untuk segera ke fasiliti kesihatan untuk pemeriksaan dan rawatan lanjut serta elakkan kontak dengan individu lain bagi mengelak penularan jangkitan,” ujarinya.

AKHBAR : KOSMO
MUKA SURAT : 6
RUANGAN : NEGERI

Gelaran doktor tidak dibenarkan untuk iklan produk

KUALA LUMPUR – Pengusaha produk kecantikan atau kosmetik tidak dibenarkan menggunakan gelaran profesional seperti doktor untuk mengesyorkan bagi melariskan produk bagi melindungi pengguna daripada kekeliruan.

Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan 1, Datuk Dr. Noor Azmi Ghazali berkata, larangan itu dibuat selari dengan garis panduan untuk iklan kosmetik yang dikeluarkan oleh Bahagian Regulatori Farmasi Negara.

"Larangan itu dibuat kerana penggunaan profesional itu secara tidak langsung memberi tanggapan bahawa individu tersebut telah memberi nasihat profesional dan pengesahan kepada kosmetik terlibat.

"Tindakan regulatori seperti amaran iklan dan pembatalan notifikasi kosmetik akan diambil sekiranya produk didapati diiklankan dengan tuntutan perubatan atau tun-

tutan yang melampaui skop takrifan kosmetik seperti yang ditetapkan dalam garis panduan iklan," katanya pada sidang Dewan Rakyat di sini semalam.

Beliau menjawab soalan lisan Sabri Aziz (**Pas-Jerai**) berhubung tindakan pemantauan bagi menangani doktor media sosial yang berleluasa melariskan jualan kosmetik hingga menyebabkan kesan sampingan kepada para pengguna.

Jelasnya, Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) sentiasa menjalankan pemeriksaan dan serbuan ke atas premis-premis atau penjual termasuk di media sosial bagi mengekang penjualan kosmetik tidak bernotifikasi dengan pihaknya.

"Syarikat atau individu yang didapati memiliki atau menjual kosmetik tidak bernotifikasi akan disiasat dan didakwa di mahkamah di bawah Akta Jualan Dadah 1952," ujarnya.



KKM sentiasa melakukan operasi ke premis-premis yang menjual produk kesihatan di seluruh negara. – GAMBAR HIASAN

AKHBAR : KOSMO
 MUKA SURAT : 7
 RUANGAN : NEGARA

Wanita merokok dianggap 'buruk' – Mufti P. Pinang

GEORGE TOWN – Mufti Pulau Pinang, Datuk Seri Wan Salim Wan Mohd. Noor berpandangan fenomena wanita merokok dalam apa jua bentuk dan caranya adalah satu manifestasi kemelesetan akhlak wanita Muslim masa kini.

Wan Salim berkata, merokok dalam kalangan wanita juga merupakan amalan yang dianggap suatu kebiasaan buruk pada pandangan golongan berakal.

Menurutnya, pada masa lalu, wanita yang merokok dipandang tidak sopan dan maruahnyanya akan terjejas di mata masyarakat awam.

"Ini menunjukkan kegagalan sistem pendidikan agama dan moral di negara kita dalam memberi didikan yang mampu menanam nilai-nilai moral yang baik kepada generasi muda.

"Majlis Fatwa Kebangsaan di dalam muzakarahnya di Hotel Sama-Sama KLIA pada 21 Disember 2015 telah memutuskan hukum penggunaan rokok elektronik dan vape adalah haram.

"Keputusan ini dibuat setelah mempertimbangkan kesannya dari sudut kesihatan dan



WAN SALIM

ekonomi berdasarkan kepada kaedah syarak saddu zara' iaitu menyekat pintu keburukan ke atas individu dan masyarakat awam," katanya kepada *Kosmo!* di sini semalam.

Justeru, beliau memberitahu, sepatutnya pihak kerajaan bertegas untuk melarang kehinaan bahan yang memudaratkan kesihatan rakyat Malaysia.

"Ini juga membazir wang yang sepatutnya digunakan bagi tujuan-tujuan yang memberi faedah dan manfaat kepada warga negara," tambahnya.



WANITA yang menghisap rokok atau vape menunjukkan kemelesetan akhlak Muslim. – AFP

AKHBAR : KOSMO
MUKA SURAT : 7
RUANGAN : NEGARA



UNDANG-UNDANG lebih ketat mengenal vape telah dilakukan di beberapa negara. - AFP

CAP gesa kerajaan buat keputusan segera isu e-rokok **Larang segera budak bawah umur beli vape**

Oleh SAFINA RAMLI

GEORGE TOWN - Persatuan Pengguna Pulau Pinang (CAP) menyeru agar kerajaan mengenakan larangan sepenuhnya terhadap penjualan, import, pembuatan dan pengedaran vape dan e-rokok kepada kanak-kanak di bawah umur.

Pegawai pendidikan CAP yang juga aktivis anti rokok, N.V. Subbarow berkata, kerajaan mesti membuat keputusan segera untuk mengharamkan vape dan e-rokok sebelum semakin ramai remaja terjebak dengan nikotin menerusi penggunaan vape dan e-rokok.

"Sehingga kini lebih 20 negara kebanyakannya di Amerika Selatan, Timur Tengah dan Asia Tenggara telah mengharamkan penjualan produk e-rokok.

"Thailand juga mempunyai undang-undang yang ketat mengenai vape dan e-rokok, malah di Australia, Kanada dan Norway juga telah memperkenalkan ba-



KERATAN Kosmo! semalam.

nyak sekatan, namun di Malaysia ia adalah produk yang mudah didapati," katanya dalam kenyataannya di sini semalam.

Menurut Subbarow, dalam kaji selidik yang dijalankan oleh CAP, pihaknya mendapati, semakin ramai kanak-kanak termasuk gadis dari sekolah rendah dan menengah kini ketagihan vape dan e-rokok.

"Kanak-kanak dan belia kini membelanjakan lebih banyak wang untuk membeli vape daripada makanan atau membeli buku," ujarnya.

Selain itu, katanya, vape dan e-rokok kini menjadi seperti gula-

gula lolipop kepada kanak-kanak memandangkan peranti itu kini boleh diperoleh di dalam perisa cecair buah-buahan.

Subbarow berkata, vape dan e-rokok boleh dibeli di mana-mana sahaja, malah gerai yang menjual gula-gula dan majalah turut menjual vape dan e-rokok secara terbuka.

"Tinjauan CAP di beberapa sekolah di sekitar pulau dan Seberang Perai serta Kulim, Kedah mendapati, vape dan e-rokok ini menjadi seperti 'lolipop' kepada kanak-kanak termasuk murid sekolah rendah kerana ada dijual dalam bentuk cecair berperisa buah-buahan.

"Banyak pasar raya yang terletak berdekatan dengan sekolah juga menjual produk ini kepada pelajar, malah ramai orang muda yang tidak pernah menghisap rokok tradisional menghisap vape dan e-rokok yang boleh didapati dalam lebih 16,000 perisa," katanya.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 1

RUANGAN : MUKA HADAPAN



AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NEGERI

Doktor tidak boleh bantu promosi produk kosmetik, makanan tambahan

KUALA LUMPUR - Mana-mana doktor yang didapati terlibat dalam pengiklanan produk kosmetik dan makanan tambahan boleh dikenakan tindakan.

Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan I, Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali berkata, ini berikutan perbuatan adalah melanggar Peraturan-Peraturan Kawalan Dadah dan Kosmetik (PKDK) 1984.

"Dalam Peraturan Kawalan Dadah dan Kosmetik 1984, mereka (syarikat kosmetik atau produk makanan tambahan) tidak boleh menggunakan profesional doktor sebagai contoh untuk hadir dalam iklan bagi mempromosikan atau mengesyorkan produk itu.

"Tindakan yang seolah-olah membuat iklan adalah salah (dilakukan oleh doktor) dan kalau berlaku kita akan siasat dan ambil tindakan berdasarkan peruntukan undang-undang sedia ada.

"Doktor yang terlibat pula kita akan maklumkan kepada badan profesional yang menyelia amalan seseorang doktor," katanya ketika menjawab soalan tambahan Datuk Dr Mohd Hatta Md Ramli (PH-Lumut) mengenai tindakan oleh Kementerian

Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) terhadap syarikat produk kosmetik dan makanan tambahan yang mengiklankan produk mereka di stesen televisyen secara berlebihan.

Katanya, orang ramai juga dinasihatkan supaya memberi kerjasama sekiranya mendapati ada syarikat atau pemilik produk kesihatan yang melakukan kesalahan ketika membuat iklan terutama di media sosial.

Sebelum itu, Dr Noor Azmi berkata, sebanyak 104 kosmetik dibatalkan status notifikasi kerana membuat tuntutan perubatan atau melampaui skop takrifan kosmetik sejak tahun 2021 hingga Jun lalu.

Katanya, secara keseluruhan sejumlah 1,775 iklan kosmetik bernetifikasi dipantau sepanjang tempoh itu.

"Syarikat atau individu yang didapati memiliki atau menjual kosmetik tidak bernetifikasi akan disiasat dan didakwa di bawah Akta Jualan Dadah 1952," katanya.

Beliau menjawab soalan Sabri Azit (Pas-Jerai) yang memintanya menyatakan tindakan bagi menangani doktor media sosial yang melariskan jualan kosmetik hingga menyebabkan kesan sampingan kepada pengguna.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Jangan tunggu kalau bergejala...

Khairy gesa individu
ada simptom
jangkitan cacar
monyet untuk segera
ke fasiliti kesihatan

Oleh **TUAN BUQHAIKHAH
TUAN MUHAMAD ADNAN
PUTRAJAYA**

Individu yang mempunyai gejala cacar monyet digesa segera ke fasiliti kesihatan untuk pemeriksaan dan rawatan lanjut.

Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar berkata, gesaan itu dibuat susulan pengumuman Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO) bahawa jangkitan cacar monyet yang berlaku pada masa ini adalah sebagai Kejadian Kecemasan Kesihatan Awam Yang Menjadi Kebimbangan Antarabangsa (PHEIC).

"Gejala cacar monyet adalah

demam, keletihan, sakit kepala dan ruam makulopapular yang bermula di muka, kemudian menyebarkan ke tapak tangan dan tapak kaki diikuti bahagian tubuh yang lain," maklumnya menerusi kenyataan pada Isnin.

Beliau berkata, sekiranya mengalami gejala berkenaan, individu tersebut perlu elak daripada kontak dengan orang lain bagi mengelakkan penularan jangkitan.

"Bagi pengendali premis yang menyediakan perkhidmatan melibatkan kontak kulit seperti spa, urutan dan lain-lain aktiviti berisiko, dimohon untuk sentiasa mengamalkan kebersihan diri dan persekitaran serta memastikan pelanggan sihat tidak mengalami gejala cacar monyet dan tiada ruam makulopapular," katanya.

Khairy berkata, sekiranya terdapat pelanggan yang mempunyai gejala tersebut, nasihat mereka untuk segera mendapatkan rawatan.

"Pekerja bergejala dinasihatkan untuk tidak hadir bertugas dan segera mendapatkan pe-



Seramai 531,630 pengembara direkodkan tiba dari negara yang melaporkan kes cacar monyet di aplikasi MySejahtera dan mengeluarkan Health Alert Monkeypox kepada mereka.

meriksaan kesihatan," menurut Khairy.

Ujarnya, Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) sentiasa bekerjasama dengan agensi kerajaan dan bukan kerajaan termasuk hospital serta klinik

swasta dalam pemantauan serta pengesanan kes cacar monyet.

"Sehingga 23 Julai lalu, sebanyak sembilan kes disyaki cacar monyet telah dinotifikasi kepada KKM dan kesemuanya disahkan negatif," katanya.

Risiko penyebaran

Menurutnya, virus cacar monyet boleh disebarkan melalui sentuhan langsung dengan ruam atau lesi yang terjadi pada kulit.

la sama ada lesi baharu atau sudah menjadi kuping ataupun cairan daripada lesi tersebut.

Transmisi virus juga boleh berlaku melalui sentuhan langsung dengan haluan yang dijangkiti sama ada dengan cara digigit atau dicakar oleh haiwan terbabat, atau dengan cara memakan, menggunakan hasil produk haiwan berkenaan.

"Sentuhan dengan peralatan tercemar lesi kulit ataupun cecairannya juga boleh menyebabkan jangkitan," katanya.

Tegas Khairy, cacar monyet boleh menularkan jangkitan kepada individu lain dalam tempoh sehari sebelum terjadinya lesi pada kulit sehingga 21 hari daripada bermula gejala atau sehingga lesi pada kulit menjadi kuping dan pesakit tidak lagi bergejala.

"Kes jangkitan cacar monyet boleh pulih tanpa sebarang rawatan," katanya.

Sejak 1 Mei sehingga 23 Julai, seramai 531,630 pengembara direkodkan tiba dari

negara yang melaporkan kes cacar monyet di aplikasi MySejahtera dan mengeluarkan Health Alert Monkeypox.

Pengembara dikehendaki mengisi pas khabara dalam MySejahtera dan individu yang tiba dari negara melaporkan kes cacar monyet akan menerima pop-up mesej kesihatan setiap hari untuk mengingatkan mereka agar memantau gejala jangkitan cacar monyet dan status kesihatan.

Pada 17 Jun lepas, sebanyak 2,103 kes cacar monyet dilaporkan berlaku di 42 buah negara dengan satu kematian.

Dalam tempoh kurang daripada dua bulan, bilangan kes meningkat kepada 16,836 kes dengan lima kematian dan melibatkan 74 buah negara.

Kadar kematian kes cacar monyet adalah 0.03 peratus.

Kes cacar monyet pertama kali dilaporkan oleh WHO pada 15 Mei lepas dan berlaku di beberapa buah negara yang bukan endemik penyakit ini.

Berdasarkan laporan *Second Meeting of the International Health Regulation (2005) (IHR) Emergency Committee Regarding the MultiCountry Outbreak of Monkeypox* yang diterbitkan oleh WHO, penularan virus cacar monyet pada ketika ini berlaku dalam kalangan gay, biseksual dan lelaki lain yang melakukan hubungan seks dengan lelaki (MSM) atau individu dengan risiko tinggi jangkitan seperti pekerja seks dan transgender.

MALAYSIA SIAP SIAGA HADAPI PENULARAN PENYAKIT CACAR MONYET

KKM sedia pelan strategik berpandukan saranan WHO susulan amaran
dewan keselamatan pertubuhan sedunia

PELAN STRATEGIK

1. Menyelidikan & mengedarkan pangsapurian pengesanan lesi ke semua fasiliti kesihatan pada 23 Mei 2022 meliputi:
 - Tawarakan pengesanan di poliklinik lesi
 - Pengambilan sampel bagi ujian makmal
 - Siasatan & pengurusan lesi serta kontak rapat
 - Langkah pencegahan & kawalan
 - Pantau punca masuk antarabangsa negara
2. IMR & MMAR sedia jalankan ujian pengesanan virus cacar monyet dalam kalangan manusia
3. KKM bantu VIII jalankan ujian pengesanan orthopoxviruses sebagai surveilans dalam kalangan haiwan
4. Meningkatkan kompetensi petugas kesihatan untuk diagnosis & susut kes melibatkan:
 - Pengamal perubatan kerajaan & swasta
 - Agensi kesihatan
5. Hospital bersedia terima kes disyaki cacar monyet untuk:
 - Holistik dalam tempoh inkubasi/jangkitan
 - Rawatan jika perlu
6. Menyelidikan petrus kesihatan amali langkah pencegahan & kawalan infeksi semasa kawal pesakit
7. Heboh notifikasi kesihatan melalui saluran media massa & media sosial rasmi KKM
8. Mengadakan sesi labat virus dengan:
 - Jabatan Perkhidmatan Veterinar (JAVS)
 - Jabatan Perlindungan Haluan (JPH) & (Taman Negara Semerang Malaysia (Pribilatan))
 - Jabatan Perkhidmatan Kuarantin & Pemeriksaan Malaysia (MADIS)
9. Health Alert monkeypox di MySejahtera mulai 22 Mei 2022
 - Pengembara perlu teliti barang pra-pelapasan di MySejahtera
 - Bagi yang tiba dari negara endemik / tinggi kes cacar monyet
 - Akan terima health alert setiap hari selama 21 hari
 - Sebagai peringatan untuk pantau kesihatan sendiri

PENGEMBARA DINASIHATKAN

- Jika berada di negara endemik yang tinggi kes cacar monyet:
 - Elakkan aktiviti dengan memeluk orang asing
- Jika berada di luar negara:
 - Singkirkan semua persembakan haiwan jika bergejala

- Tunda perjalanan ke luar negara jika bergejala & mungkin dijangkit virus cacar monyet
- Jika tiba ke Malaysia dari negara endemik yang tinggi kes cacar monyet:
 - Pantau kesihatan sendiri selama 21 hari
 - Ujian darah sekiranya bergejala

KKM - Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia
IMR - Institut Penyelidikan Perubatan
MMAR - Makmal Penyelidikan Makmal Kebangsaan
VIII - Institut Penyelidikan Veterinar
WHO - Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia

Sumber: Mesej Khairy Jamaluddin

Dibekalkan: 27 Mei 2022
Tolak: 27 Mei 2022

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

Setakat ini sembilan notifikasi kes cacar monyet disahkan negatif

Fasiliti kesihatan diarah peka

Oleh KAMARIAH KHALIDI
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PUTRAJAYA: Kementerian Kesihatan mengarahkan semua fasiliti kesihatan peka terhadap situasi semasa cacar monyet dengan meningkatkan pengesanan kes dalam kalangan pesakit yang berisiko.

Menterinya, Khairy Jamaluddin berkata, ia susulan pengumuman kejadian keemasan kesihatan awam yang menjadi kebimbangan antarabangsa (PHEIC) oleh Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO) pada 21 Julai lalu.

Beliau berkata, sehingga kelmarin, sebanyak sembilan kes disyaki cacar monyet yang dilaporkan kepada kementerian disahkan negatif.

"Kementerian sehingga kini mempertingkatkan pengawasan dan advokasi mengenai cacar monyet melalui tindakan me-



KHAIRY JAMALUDDIN

maklumkan kepada fasiliti kesihatan kerajaan dan swasta kes disyaki dan disahkan cacar monyet dengan segera.

"Ini bagi memastikan langkah

kawalan dan pencegahan dapat diambil, termasuk mengenal pasti kontak rapat," katanya dalam kenyataan semalam.

Selain itu, pihak kementerian mewujudkan pengawasan di beberapa klinik swasta dan kerajaan bagi memantau kejadian penyakit ruam atau lesi kulit.

Jelas Khairy, kapasiti makmal yang boleh menjalankan ujian pengesanan virus turut ditingkatkan iaitu dua makmal ditambah menjadi 12 makmal (lapan makmal kerajaan dan empat makmal swasta).

Tambah beliau, pengawasan di pintu masuk antarabangsa negara terus dipertingkatkan dengan kerjasama Jabatan Imigresen Malaysia, syarikat-syarikat penerbangan dan agensi berkaitan termasuk pihak Malaysian Airlines Holding Berhad.

Selain itu, katanya, ia meli-

batkan kerjasama dengan Majlis Keselamatan Negara (MKN), Kementerian Luar, Kementerian Dalam Negeri (KDN), Kementerian Pelancongan, Seni dan Budaya, Kementerian Pengangkutan, Kementerian Pengajian Tinggi serta pertubuhan bukan kerajaan (NGO).

Jelasnya, bermula 1 Mei sehingga kelmarin, seramai 531,630 pengembara direkodkan tiba dari negara yang melaporkan kes cacar monyet dan aplikasi MySejahtera telah mengeluarkan amaran mengenainya kepada pengembara-pengembara ini.

"Kementerian Kesihatan menyeru individu yang mempunyai gejala cacar monyet untuk segera ke fasiliti kesihatan untuk pemeriksaan dan rawatan lanjut serta elakkan kontak dengan individu lain bagi mengelak penularan jangkitan," ujarnya.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 2

RUANGAN : NEWS / STORY OF THE DAY



People wearing face masks waiting to cross the road in Bukit Bintang, Kuala Lumpur, last week. PIC BY GENES GULITAH

INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESSES

RISING CASES LINKED TO EMERGING STRAINS

Population has no or minimal antibodies against these viruses, says expert

NURADZIMMAH DAIM
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THE rising number of cases involving influenza-like illnesses (ILIs) has been attributed to the emergence of new strains of viruses that the population has no or minimal antibodies against.

Associate Professor Dr Malina Osman, an epidemiologist and biostatistician from Universiti Putra Malaysia, said while ILIs were common occurrences in tropical countries such as Malaysia, there was an increased awareness of them due to concerns about Covid-19, monkeypox, dengue and issues related to comorbidities that may expose vulnerable groups to more severe complications.

"Due to the long Covid-19 pandemic, most people stayed indoors with not much interaction.

"This provides a condition where most of us will be susceptible to infections.

"With much relaxed SOP (standard operating procedures) and more physical interactions, the potential spread of these

new strains is causing a rise in infections," she told the *New Straits Times*.

Dr Malina said ILIs were caused by viruses, including the influenza virus, predominantly the influenza A virus and influenza B virus, human respiratory syncytial virus, human parainfluenza viruses, including parainfluenza virus type 4, rhinovirus, adenovirus, human coronaviruses and human metapneumovirus.

"The infection may be superimposed with bacterial infections later or concurrently. The condition is usually diagnosed clinically.

"The main symptoms are high fever, sore throat, cough, headache, nasal congestion and malaise. Those with severe symptoms may experience chest discomfort, severe cough and may have difficulty in breathing."

Rapid tests could be done to confirm the illness through available kits or from clinical examination, she said.

She believed the statistics on ILIs more or less were within the figures that Malaysia usually encountered yearly, while the Health Ministry had assured that

the situation was still under control and that the majority of cases received outpatient treatment.

Former Malaysian Medical Association president Professor Datuk Dr N.K.S. Tharmaseelan

stressed the importance of preventive measures, including wearing a face mask especially in closed areas, as well as practising good personal hygiene and health habits as repeatedly emphasised as part of measures against Covid-19.

"Each year, according to the World Health Organisation, there are three to five million serious illnesses worldwide causing 290,000 to 650,000 respiratory deaths.

"This is an alarming figure having caused more deaths annually than any other infectious disease. This also results in higher rates of hospitalisation and economic hardship," he said.

He said it was safe to have both flu and Covid-19 vaccines, although they were best

taken at different times, as studies had shown.

The public have been encouraged to take the influenza vaccines at private clinics due to ILI outbreaks.



Associate Professor
Dr Malina Osman



Professor Datuk
Dr N.K.S.
Tharmaseelan

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : NEWS / STORY OF THE DAY

29TH EPIDEMIOLOGICAL WEEK

SPIKE IN FRESH COVID-19 INFECTIONS

Patients at physical Covid assessment centres up by 28pc, says health D-G

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PHYSICAL Covid-19 assessment centres (CAC) nationwide have reported a rise in fresh Covid-19 cases in the 29th epidemiological week (EW29) between July 17 and 23.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said patients visiting the CAC shot up by 28 per cent during EW29, compared with the previous week.

"The number of new Covid-19 cases undergoing home surveillance rose by 26.9 per cent, while those referred to low-risk quarantine and treatment centres and hospitals jumped by 16.1 per cent.

"However, daily active cases monitored through virtual CAC dropped by 1.7 per cent — from 71,326 cases in EW28 to 70,140 cases at the end of EW29.

"Meanwhile, public hospitals saw a 18.3 per cent increase in new Covid-19 admissions during EW29, compared with the previous week. The admission of patients from Categories 1 and 2 increased by 12.5 per cent, while the admission of severe cases (Categories 3 to 5) rose by 25 per cent," he said in his weekly update yesterday.

Besides hospital admissions, Dr Noor Hisham said fresh infections, active cases and fatalities due to Covid-19 also saw a significant rise in EW29.

"Daily new cases saw a 13.5 per cent increase, from 26,335 cases in EW28 to 29,886 cases in EW29.



People registering for the second Covid-19 booster dose at the Pavilion Bukit Jalil vaccination centre in Kuala Lumpur on Sunday. PIC BY AZHAR RAMLI

"The number of local transmissions increased by 13.5 per cent and the number of imported new cases dropped by 26.3 per cent.

"Covid-19 deaths shot up by 61.5 per cent, from 39 cases in EW28 to 63 cases in EW29. The daily average of active cases for EW29 was 45,542 — a 19.5 per cent rise from the previous week."

Dr Noor Hisham said the country's average Covid-19 infectivity

rate remained at a static level during EW29, with a value of 1.10.

Bed occupancy rate at Covid-19 facilities, he said, also logged a slight increase last week.

"Non-critical care bed occupancy increased by three per cent, while Intensive Care Units (ICU) bed occupancy rose by one per cent. Bed occupancy rate at

low-risk quarantine and treatment centres, meanwhile, recorded a two per cent increase," he said.

Despite the surge in new infections, the number of new recoveries also increased by 18.9 per cent — from 19,138 in EW28 to 22,757 recoveries in EW29.

To date, 4,648,931 people have caught Covid-19 in the country,

and of that total, 4,563,474 have recovered from their infections.

Dr Noor Hisham said the positivity rate for influenza-like-illnesses samples also dropped by 0.9 per cent last week.

The positivity rate for severe acute respiratory infection from Covid-19 samples also remained at zero per cent during EW29, he said.

Lowest daily new Covid-19 cases in 10 days registered

KUALA LUMPUR: The country registered 2,720 fresh cases on Sunday — the lowest daily figure in 10 days.

The number of active cases, which recorded a steady rise since last Monday, declined to 48,252.

The country had only 16 active clusters, including one new educational cluster which was detected in the Hulu Perak district on Sunday.

According to the Health Ministry's CovidNow portal, only two people contracted Covid-19 for every 1,000 people in the country in the last two weeks.

Within the same period, three deaths due to Covid-19 occurred for every one million people in the country.

Three people succumbed to the virus on Sunday, including two brought-in-dead cases. The virus had claimed 35,914 lives since the pandemic began.

A total of 1,542 Covid-19 patients were receiving treatment at hospitals, including 557 new admissions, on Sunday.

One-third of new hospital admissions (188 patients) on Sunday came from the Klang Valley.

Meanwhile, 54 patients were undergoing further treatment in intensive care units and more than half of them (32 cases) required breathing assistance.

On a brighter note, 4,012 individuals had recovered from their infections on Sunday. To date, a total of 4,613,781

people in the country had been infected with Covid-19 and of that total, 4,567,485 had recovered from their infections.

Meanwhile, nearly half of the country's population (16,175,453 people) had taken their first booster shots up to Sunday.

A total of 284,275 people have taken their second booster jabs.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NEWS / NATION

MAKING MALAYSIA TOBACCO FREE

TOBACCO LAW 'BIRTH' BAN MOVED TO 2007

Pushing back year limit will allow for more education and planning, says Khairy

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THE tobacco generational endgame (GEG) law will apply to those born after 2007, and

not 2005. Initially, the Tobacco and Smoking Control Bill banned smoking and the ownership of tobacco and vape products for those born after 2005.

However, Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin said the government decided to push it to 2007 after considering the views of stakeholders.

"This allows more time (two years) for community education, a robust implementation plan and to ramp up enforcement."

"GEG is still a go!" he tweeted yesterday.

Khairy said he would also release videos daily for the next one week, citing facts and evidence, to gather support for the generational ban.

"All of us can play a part to get

this bill passed.

"If you want your kids and grandchildren to live in a smoke-free environment, speak up about it. Tell your MPs to support the law," he said.

Khairy has been pushing for the Tobacco and Smoking Control Bill in line with efforts to make Malaysia a tobacco-free country by 2040.

He said cigarette smoking would cost the government RM8 billion to treat lung cancer, heart problems and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease by 2030.

The cabinet gave the green light for the bill on July 14 and it will be tabled and put to a vote in the Dewan Rakyat this week.

If the bill is passed, Malaysia would become the first country to ban smoking and prohibit the ownership

of tobacco and vape products by those born after 2007.

Close to 80 per cent of respondents in a *New Straits Times* online poll favoured the bill.



This allows more time (two years) for community education, a robust implementation plan and to ramp up enforcement. GEG is still a go!

KHAIRY JAMALUDDIN
Health minister

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : PARLIAMENT/NEWS

RAKYAT

EXCESSIVE CLAIMS

NOOR AZMI: COSMETIC SELLERS CAN'T USE 'DR' TITLE

Continuing to do so will lead to Health Ministry cancelling product ads, says deputy minister

COSMETIC product founders and sellers are not allowed to use the professional title "doctor" to their names when advertising their brands and merchandise, Deputy Health Minister Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali said.

If they continue to do so, he said it would lead to consequences including cancellation of product advertisements and notifications by the ministry.

Dr Noor Azmi said the regulation on preventing misleading advertisements was in the advertising guidelines for cosmetics issued by the National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Division (NPD).

"Based on the advertising guidelines for cosmetics issued by NPD, the use of professional titles like 'doctor' is not allowed.

"If the sale of cosmetics involves a professional person, such as a doctor, the information will be channelled to the professional body that regulates the practice of doctors for further action.



Deputy Health Minister Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali speaking at the Dewan Rakyat yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

"Regulatory actions, such as advertising warnings and cancellation of product notifications, will be taken if they are found to have made advertisements (by including) medical claims or (any) claims that go beyond the

scope of the definition of cosmetics," he told the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

Dr Noor Azmi said cosmetic sellers were not allowed to make excessive claims about their products without concrete proof.

"Founders of cosmetic brands cannot make medical or excessive claims about their products to the extent that they go beyond the scope of the definition of cosmetics, such as on cleaning, scenting or beautifying."

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : NATION

Cosmetic products with fantastical claims recalled

OVER 100 cosmetic products have been pulled off the shelves for making outlandish claims, says Deputy Health Minister Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali.

This comes after the ministry conducted investigations into dubious claims involving 1,775 cosmetic products advertised for sale between 2021 and June this year.

"Of this total, warnings were issued to the companies producing these products, involving 263 advertisements that made claims prohibited under the guidelines for cosmetic products."

"The notification status for 104 products was revoked as they went beyond medical claims as well as claims beyond the scope of the definition of cosmetics," he told Sabri Aziz (PN-Jerai).

Dr Noor Azmi said all cosmetics must get approval from the ministry before they could be made, imported or sold because of the Control of Drugs and Cosmetics Regulations.

He added that the ministry's pharmaceutical enforcement division had investigated 86 complaints about online ads for cosmetic products, although they had yet to receive notifications from the ministry allowing them to do so.

"Raids were also carried out on



Latest updates:
Dr Noor Azmi
addressing the
Dewan Rakyat at
the Parliament
building in Kuala
Lumpur.
— Bernama

444 premises during the same period where products worth RM4.338mil were seized," he added.

He said individuals promoting cosmetic products in advertisements were also prohibited from using the title "doctor" when doing so or making outlandish claims about their products.

"A complaint will be lodged with

the relevant authorities governing the profession if a doctor is found to have used his title in the advertisements," he added.

Dr Noor Azmi also assured the public that the ministry conducted constant checks, including analysing product samples to ensure their safety.

"Companies offering products

found to pose a danger to the public will be ordered to recall them within 24 hours," he said, adding that a 30-day recall period would be given for products which were less of a health threat.

Besides this, those flouting regulations involving the sale of cosmetic products could also be hauled to court.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 13

RUANGAN : VIEWS

Smoking is not cool anymore

ADULTS addicted to smoking cannot be weaned off that easily.

Smokers themselves admit that quitting the habit is agonising, and wish they had never started smoking in the first place.

Smoking is not that cool anymore. We are running out of air.

Now is the time to entrust our parliamentarians with the duty to do the right thing – when the proposed Tobacco and Smoking Control Bill is tabled next week by the Health Ministry.

Our representatives should vote with the interests of the rakyat, especially the children, in mind.

The vote should not be political or backed with another dossier in their briefcases. If at all there is a sub-plot in their narrative, it would indeed be visible to the rakyat who do painstakingly stalk them.

The “we will wait and see” attitude of some of the MPs towards the Tobacco Bill, reflects an indifference to the fact that there are about 600,000 children (aged 11-18) who are part of an epidemic of vaping.

These children are being lured by tobacco companies with vaping devices and deceptive flavours.

The Bill touted as the “generational end game” ensures that children born in 2005 and thereafter do not ever smoke or vape nor worry about quitting.

For everyone else, they will be able to smoke and vape in permitted locations.

This is just a “gradual generational end-game ban” with a long-term phasing out of nicotine by 2040.

The last few weeks, facts and figures have been pushed by the Malaysian Health Coalition, and medical specialists, civic societies as well as parents and teachers have called out to MPs to use their political will to support this Bill.

The chilling facts and their plea cannot be disregarded.

Smoking offers zero health benefits but is the main contributor to nearly 30,000 tobacco-related deaths, causing a dent of RM132.7mil per year. This money could be spent on treating unpreventable cancers with unknown causes.

“Smoking before the age of 16 is associated with an increased risk of developing lung cancer, which is also the forerunner for the cause of heart disease, cancer of the bladder and many other malignancies,” says Tan Sri Datuk Dr K. Ampikal-pakan, senior respiratory physician and one of the Founders of the Malaysian Thoracic Society.

Lung cancer is the third most common cancer in Malaysia with one of the highest mortality rates.

“Giving up smoking is the easiest thing in the world. I know because I’ve done it a thousand times.”

– Mark Twain

With 90% of lung cancer cases diagnosed in the late stages, it has the lowest survival rate compared to other cancers.

Malaysia has grown to be the largest vaping market in South-East Asia. The vape industry is estimated to be worth RM2.3bil, with 330 manufacturers and importers as well as 3,000 retail shops, employing around 15,000 people.

The new epidemic of vaping or other e-cigarette uses among young people and non-smokers still has its known and unknown potential risks. Researchers have found hazardous, cancer-causing agents in e-cigarette liquids as well.

There are now 4.9 million smokers, and millions others who are prone to getting cancer due to second-hand smoke exposure. Victims include children who are involuntarily inhaling smoke.

This crisis was in the making for generations. The system was all gamed. The children suffer the negligence of our past and present eras. We cannot pretend that we had nothing to do with it, nor will the crisis magically disappear.

“A situation, if left unchecked, would force the government to bear treatment costs of about RM8bil for health problems linked to smoking,” says Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin.

This is not about the Health Ministry alone. Constitutional implementation is only the beginning of curbing smoking on the ground. This Bill is long awaited – 12 years in the making.

Smoking bans in public places started to be implemented in the 1980s and in 1994, the sale of cigarettes to persons under the age of 18 was forbidden.

The process will only be sustainable if there is effective involvement and enforcement from all authorities concerned.

Public health measures of this impact are often unpopular or may even be controversial when intro-

duced, especially if they are perceived to take away liberties. Unfortunately, public health and the good of the community will always have to prevail over some liberties.

Today, tobacco is slowly becoming an unwanted product with a stigma associated with smokers, who are criticised for their inability to give up the habit.

The future of tobacco should be intertwined with humanity because of the adverse health effects. It is reversible. All of us have a moral stake in health.

Representatives involved in education, enforcement and the media should be the ones to empower themselves with proper housekeeping skills, with an intent to deliver this promise.

Malaysia is already making world news, as the first country in the world to announce a decisive pathway towards legislation.

For a change, we will be known for the right reasons as we lead the way for a tobacco-free future generation.

There are few times we have called our representatives to step up and exercise their political will to do the right and most responsible thing. This is one of those times.

VASANTHI RAMACHANDRAN
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