

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 14

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

# Tiga langkah tangani isu kekurangan ubat

**Fasiliti kesihatan awam boleh pinjam bekalan untuk kegunaan kecemasan**

(Oleh Noor Atiqah Sulaiman  
bhnews@bh.com.my)

**Kuala Lumpur:** Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) merumuskan tiga langkah penyelesaian sementara untuk menangani isu kekurangan bekalan ubat-ubatan yang kini berlaku di fasiliti kesihatan kerajaan dan swasta.

Menterinya, Khairy Jamaluddin berkata, langkah pertama dengan membenarkan fasiliti kesihatan swasta memohon pinjaman bekalan ubat-ubatan dari fasiliti kesihatan swasta lain atau fasiliti kesihatan kerajaan yang terdekat.

Beliau berkata, dalam soal ini fasiliti kesihatan kerajaan boleh menimbang untuk meminjamkan bekalan ubat-ubatan untuk kegunaan ketika kecemasan, krisis dan bencana dengan memastikan terlebih dahulu ketersediaan dan baki stok ubat-ubatan mencukupi untuk kegunaan aktiviti harian di fasiliti kesihatan kerajaan terbabit.

"Selain itu, pesakit juga boleh dirujuk ke fasiliti kesihatan kerajaan terdekat untuk meneruskan rawatan sekiranya perlu, namun pesakit mungkin memerlukan



Keratan akhbar BH 8 Jun lalu.

kan perubahan regimen ubat-ubatan berdasarkan ketersediaan di fasiliti kerajaan yang dirujuk. Langkah akhir, pesakit boleh membeli ubat-ubatan berkenaan dari Farmasi Komuniti dengan preskripsi dari klinik atau hospital swasta berkenaan," katanya dalam kenyataan, semalam.

BH sebelum ini melaporkan beberapa jenis ubat-ubatan mengalami kekurangan di pasaran, termasuk di klinik swasta berikutan kegagalan pembekal dari luar negara menghantar bekalan mengikut tempoh ditetapkan akibat kekurangan bahan mentah.

Antara ubat didakwa mengalami kekurangan adalah ubat batuk, demam dan antibiotik yang disifatkan penting untuk rawatan harian pesakit, selain ubat untuk merawat penyakit kaki, tangan dan mulut (HFMD) disebabkan peningkatan kes itu di seluruh negara.

Susulan pendedahan itu, KKM mencari strategi bagi penyelesaian jangka masa sederhana dan panjang berhubung isu kekurangan bekalan ubat termasuk meneroka sumber baharu atau bekerjasama dengan industri far-

maseutikal tempatan.

Dalam pada itu, Khairy berkata pihaknya mengambil maklum isu kekurangan bekalan ubat-ubatan di klinik dan hospital swasta serta farmasi komuniti di Malaysia yang dilaporkan mutakhir ini.

"KKM memandang serius isu kekurangan bekalan ubat-ubatan sama ada di fasiliti kesihatan kerajaan ataupun swasta.

"Justeru, KKM berharap semua langkah ini dapat memberi penyelesaian sementara terhadap isu kekurangan bekalan ubat-ubatan ke fasiliti kesihatan swasta supaya kesinambungan perkhidmatan kesihatan yang berkualiti kepada rakyat dapat diteruskan," katanya.

Pada masa sama, beliau berkata KKM memulakan perkongsian maklumat senarai ubat-ubatan yang mengalami gangguan dan cadangan produk alternatif bagi ubat-ubatan terbabit dengan pihak pengamal perubatan swasta, hospital swasta dan farmasi komuniti.

Senarai ini, katanya akan dikemas kini dari semasa ke semasa dan langkah ini dilakukan untuk mengurangkan impak kepada situasi semasa dan penggunaan secara optimum ubat-ubatan generik lain sebagai alternatif, yang masih mempunyai bekalan di pasaran.

"Penyelesaian jangka panjang sedang diusahakan KKM dalam menangani isu ini dan pementauan berterusan dibuat untuk memastikan ketersediaan ubat-ubatan di seluruh Malaysia," katanya.

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 9

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

## Penularan COVID-19

# Kemasukan pesakit ke hospital meningkat

**Putrajaya:** Jumlah kemasukan pesakit COVID-19 ke hospital awam bagi setiap 100,000 penduduk di negara ini, meningkat sebanyak 20 peratus pada Minggu Epidemiologi 23/2022 (ME 23/2022) dari 5 hingga 11 Jun lalu.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata kemasukan pesakit ke Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan COVID-19 (PKRC) awam bagi setiap 100,000 penduduk bagaimanapun menurun sebanyak 10 peratus, berbanding minggu sebelumnya.

Selain itu, beliau berkata, jumlah pesakit jangkitan kategori satu dan dua juga meningkat sebanyak 33.3 peratus, manakala kategori tiga hingga lima pula naik sembilan peratus.

"Penggunaan katil bukan kri-

tikal pula meningkat sebanyak lapan peratus, katil unit rawatan rapi (ICU) menurun 17 peratus dan katil PKRC Berisiko Rendah naik 200 peratus.

"Bilangan kes memerlukan alat bantuan pernafasan menurun 20 peratus," katanya semalam.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, bilangan kes positif di seluruh negara yang dipantau Pusat Penilaian COVID-19 (CAC) mencatatkan penurunan.

"Bilangan pesakit ke CAC menurun 8.7 peratus, dan kes baharu COVID-19 yang menjalani pemantauan di rumah menurun 0.5 peratus. Namun, kes COVID-19 yang dirujuk CAC ke PKRC atau hospital meningkat sebanyak 51.9 peratus.

"Statistik kes aktif harian COVID-19 yang dipantau secara ma-

ya (CAC Maya) pada akhir ME 23/2022 menunjukkan peningkatan enam peratus kepada 21,591 kes berbanding 20,363 pada minggu sebelumnya," katanya.

Secara keseluruhan, Dr Noor Hisham memaklumkan, bilangan kes sembuh pada ME 23/2022 menurun sebanyak 21.7

peratus kepada 10,806 kes berbanding 13,797 minggu sebelumnya.

"Bilangan kes baharu COVID-19 pada ME 23/2022 meningkat 0.4 peratus (daripada 11,052 kepada 11,096 kes), kes tempatan naik 0.5 peratus (daripada 11,022 kepada 11,076 kes) dan kes im-

port menurun 33.3 peratus (daripada 30 kepada 20 kes).

"Selain itu, kes kematian menurun 3.8 peratus (daripada 26 kepada 25 kes), manakala purata kes aktif setiap hari bagi ME 23/2022 ialah 22,013 kes (menurun 5.5 peratus berbanding minggu sebelumnya)," katanya.

Dalam pada itu, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, hasil surveilans COVID-19 di lokasi sentinel seluruh negara pada ME 23/2022 mendapati kadar positif sampel kes Penyakit Seperti Influenza (ILI) bagi COVID-19 menurun kepada 3.8 peratus berbanding 10.9 peratus pada ME 22/2022.

"Kadar positif sampel Jangkitan Pernafasan Akut Teruk (SARI) bagi COVID-19 pada ME 23/2022 meningkat kepada 8.8 peratus berbanding 6.8 peratus minggu sebelumnya," katanya.

**Jumlah pesakit jangkitan kategori satu dan dua juga meningkat sebanyak 33.3 peratus, manakala kategori tiga hingga lima pula naik sembilan peratus**

**Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah,**  
Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan



AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : LOKAL

**Kuala Lumpur:** Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) mengumumkan secara keseluruhan jumlah kemasukan pesakit Covid-19 ke fasiliti kesihatan hospital dan Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan Berisiko Rendah (PKRC) Awam bagi setiap 100,000 penduduk menurun 10 peratus pada minggu epidemiologi (ME) ke-23.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, bagaimanapun jumlah kemasukan pesakit Covid-19 ke hospital awam bagi setiap 100,000 penduduk meningkat sebanyak 20 peratus.

"Jumlah pesakit kategori 1

## Jumlah kemasukan pesakit Covid-19 ke hospital naik 20%

dan 2 meningkat sebanyak 33.3 peratus manakala kategori 3, 4, dan 5, meningkat sebanyak sembilan peratus. "Untuk makluman, kes positif Covid-19 yang dipantau oleh Pusat Penilaian Covid-19 (CAC) di seluruh negara semakin menunjukkan penurunan," katanya dalam satu kenyataan, semalam.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, sebanyak 4,524,727 kumulatif kes baharu direkodkan antara 25 Januari hingga 11

Jun lalu.

"Dalam tempoh sama, 4,466,305 kumulatif kes sembuh, 35,711 kumulatif kematian dan kumulatif kluster sebanyak 7,015 kluster.

"Selain itu, perbandingan antara ME 22/2022 dan ME 23/2022 menunjukkan bilangan kes sembuh pada ME 23/2022 menurun sebanyak 21.7 peratus (13,797 kes kepada 10,806 kes).

"Manakala bilangan kes

baharu pada ME 23/2022 meningkat sebanyak 0.4 peratus (11,052 kes kepada 11,096 kes)," katanya.

Menurutnya, bilangan kes tempatan meningkat 0.5 peratus (11,022 kes kepada 11,076 kes) kes import menurun sebanyak 33.3 peratus (30 kes kepada 20 kes).

"Berdasarkan kes kematian pada ME 23/2022 menunjukkan penurunan kepada 3.8 peratus (26 kes kepada 25 kes)," katanya.

## Angka jangkitan HFMD di Johor turun 401 kes

**Batu Pahat:** Bilangan kes penyakit tangan, kaki dan mulut (HFMD) di negeri ini menunjukkan penurunan bagi Minggu Epidemiologi (ME) 23 (Epid 23) (5 hingga 11 Jun) kepada 1,090 kes iaitu penurunan sebanyak 401 kes berbanding minggu sebelumnya iaitu 1,491 kes.

Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Kesihatan dan Perpaduan Johor Ling Tian Soon berkata penurunan tersebut

dipercayai berikutan cuti sekolah dan pihaknya akan terus memantau perkembangan kes penyakit berkenaan setiap minggu.

"Berkemungkinan penurunan kes HFMD ini adalah disebabkan pada minggu berkenaan (Epid 23) adalah waktu cuti sekolah iaitu kebanyakan kanak-kanak berada di rumah dan bukannya di pusat jagaan, tadika atau tawaka," katanya.

## Penularan Covid-19 di bar teruk: China

**Beijing:** Pihak berkuasa Beijing mengklasifikasikan penularan Covid-19 yang bermula di sebuah bar mewah di kawasan kejiranan Chaoyang yang ramai penduduk sebagai teruk selepas sekurang-kurangnya 166 orang dijangkiti, lapor Sputnik.

"Penularan Covid-19 di bar Heaven di Chaoyang adalah teruk daripada segi skala dan kepadatan. Kali ini ia lebih sukar dikawal dan dicegah daripada merebak berbanding sebelumnya," kata jurucakap kerajaan bandar Xu Hejian.

Wabak itu dikesan minggu ini, merebak ke 14 daerah Beijing dalam beberapa hari.

Pihak berkuasa bandar merancang untuk membuat ujian terhadap penduduk Chaoyang dari Isnin hingga Rabu.

Beijing mula melonggarkan sekatan Covid-19 di kebanyakan daerah pada Isnin. Bar, restoran, tempat kebudayaan dan hiburan, taman dan ruang awam lain dibuka semula, dan pengangkutan awam beroperasi seperti biasa.

## Subvarian Covid-19 mudah merebak dikesan di Rusia

**Moscow:** Subvarian Covid-19 Omicron yang lebih mudah menular sudah merebak di Rusia, lapor Sputnik, memetik kenyataan pegawai kanan di badan pemerhati kesihatan kebangsaan Rospotrebnadzor.

Ketua penyelidikan genom di Institut Penyelidikan Pusat Epidemiologi Rospotrebnadzor, Kamil Khafizov, memberitahu pemberita bahawa dua makmal kebangsaan sudah menyerahkan sampel genom virus jenis BA.4 ke pangkalan data VGARus.

"Sampel diperoleh pada akhir Mei," kata Khafizov.

Bagaimanapun, saintis

itu memaklumkan subvarian BA.2 masih menyumbang 95 peratus daripada semua kes baharu di Rusia.

"Beberapa kajian yang diterbitkan baru-baru ini mendedahkan subvarian yang dikenali sebagai BA.4 dan BA.5, lebih mudah berjangkit berbanding Omicron asal," katanya.

Ketua Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO) memberi amaran pada Mei bahawa Omicron BA.4 dan BA.5 mendorong peningkatan kes di negara dengan kadar pemberian vaksin rendah, meskipun subvarian BA.2 kekal dominan di seluruh dunia.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 10

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

# Pinjam bekalan ubat dari fasiliti lain

Khairy ulas mengenai isu kekurangan bekalan ubat di Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR

**K**ementerian Kesihatan (KKM) mengambil beberapa langkah penyelesaian sementara bagi mengatasi isu kekurangan bekalan ubat-ubatan di klinik dan hospital swasta serta farmasi komuniti dalam negara.

Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar dalam kenyataan pada Isnin berkata, fasiliti kesihatan swasta boleh memohon pinjaman bekalan ubat-ubatan daripada fasiliti kesihatan swasta yang lain atau fasiliti kesihatan kerajaan terdekat.

"Fasiliti kesihatan kerajaan boleh menimbang untuk meminjamkan bekalan ubat-ubatan bagi kegunaan ketika kecemasan, krisis dan bencana dengan memastikan terlebih dahulu ketersediaan serta baki stok ubat-ubatan mencukupi untuk kegunaan aktiviti harian fasiliti kesihatan kerajaan tersebut," katanya.

Khairy berkata, sekiranya perlu, pesakit boleh dirujuk ke fasiliti kesihatan ke-

rajaan terdekat untuk meneruskan rawatan, namun pesakit berkenaan mungkin memerlukan perubahan regimen ubat-ubatan berdasarkan ketersediaan di fasiliti kerajaan yang dirujuk.

Menurut Khairy, pesakit juga boleh membeli ubat-ubatan berkenaan daripada farmasi komuniti dengan preskripsi daripada klinik atau hospital swasta terabit.

"KKM berharap langkah-langkah ini dapat memberi penyelesaian sementara terhadap isu kekurangan bekalan ubat-ubatan ke fasiliti kesihatan swasta agar kesinambungan perkhidmatan kesihatan yang berkualiti kepada rakyat dapat diteruskan," ujarnya.

Jelas Khairy, pada masa sama, pihak KKM juga telah memulakan perkongsian



KHAIRY JAMALUDDIN

maklumat senarai ubat-ubatan yang mengalami gangguan dan cadangan produk alternatif bagi ubat-ubatan tersebut dengan pihak pengamal perubatan swasta, hospital swasta dan farmasi komuniti.

"Senarai ini akan dikemaskini dari masa ke masa. Langkah ini dilakukan untuk mengurangkan impak kepada situasi semasa dan penggunaan secara optimum ubat-ubatan generik lain sebagai alternatif, yang masih mempunyai bekalan di pasaran.

"Penyelesaian jangka panjang sedang diusahakan KKM dalam menangani isu ini dan pemantauan berterusan dibuat untuk memastikan ketersediaan ubat-ubatan di seluruh Malaysia," katanya. - Bernama

## Kes baharu Covid-19 meningkat 0.4 peratus minggu lepas

**KUALA LUMPUR** - Bilangan kes baharu Covid-19 di negara ini bagi Minggu Epidemiologi (ME) ke-23 dari 5 hingga 11 Jun meningkat sebanyak 0.4 peratus iaitu 11,096 kes berbanding 11,052 kes pada minggu sebelumnya (ME ke-22).

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, jumlah kumulatif kes Covid-19 di Malaysia kini berjumlah 4,524,727 kes.

Bellau berkata, purata kes aktif setiap hari bagi ME ke-23 pula menurun sebanyak 5.5 peratus iaitu 22,013 kes berbanding minggu sebelumnya.

"Purata kadar kebolehhangkitan Covid-19 (nilai Rt) pula menunjukkan peningkatan sebanyak 5.5 peratus iaitu 0.96 berbanding 0.91 pada minggu sebelumnya," katanya dalam satu kenyataan pada Isnin.

Menurut bellau, bilangan kes sembuh pada ME ke-23 menurun sebanyak 21.7 peratus (13,797 kes kepada 10,806 kes) berbanding ME ke-22, menjadikan kumulatif kes sembuh sebanyak 4,468,305.

Jelasnya, kes kematian pada ME ke-23 juga menunjukkan penurunan kepada 3.8 peratus dengan 25 kes berbanding 26 kes pada minggu sebelumnya menjadikan kumulatif kematian kini 35,711.



DR NOOR HISHAM

Sementara itu, menurut bellau, jumlah kemasukan pesakit ke fasiliti kesihatan iaitu hospital dan Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan Covid-19 (PKRC) bagi setiap 100,000 penduduk menurun sebanyak 10 peratus untuk ME sama berbanding ME sebelumnya.

"Namun begitu, jumlah kemasukan pesakit Covid-19 ke hospital awam bagi setiap 100,000 penduduk meningkat sebanyak 20 peratus. Jumlah kes memerlukan alat bantuan pernafasan pula menurun sebanyak 20 peratus.

"Secara keseluruhan, penggunaan katil PKRC meningkat sebanyak 200 peratus dan penggunaan katil bukan kritikal juga meningkat sebanyak lapan peratus manakala penggunaan katil unit rawatan rapi (ICU) menurun sebanyak 17 peratus," jelasnya.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, kes-kes positif Covid-19 yang dipantau oleh Pusat Penilaian Covid-19 (CAC) di seluruh negara semakin menunjukkan pengurangan dengan kedatangan pesakit ke CAC berkurangan sebanyak 8.7 peratus dan bilangan kes baharu yang menjalani pemantauan di rumah juga menurun sebanyak 0.5 peratus. - Bernama

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NEWS/NATION

JUNE 5 TO 11

## 10pc drop in Covid health facility admissions, says Health D-G

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The number of Covid-19 patients admitted to health facilities — hospitals and Covid-19 quarantine and treatment centres (PKRC) — per 100,000 population dropped by 10 per cent during epidemiological week 23 (EW23, June 5 to 11) compared with EW22.

However, Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah yesterday said Covid-19

hospital admissions per 100,000 people had increased by 20 per cent.

"Categories 1 and 1 admissions increased by 33.3 per cent, while Categories 3, 4 and 5 admissions increased by nine per cent."

Dr Noor Hisham said the Covid-19 bed utilisation rate had also increased.

"Non-critical bed use rate increased by eight per cent, Inten-

sive Care Unit bed use decreased by 17 per cent, and PKRC bed use increased by 200 per cent.

"Cases that required ventilator support, however, dropped by 20 per cent."

He said cases being monitored by the Covid-19 Assessment Centre also showed that the coronavirus infection was on a downward trend.

"The total number of Covid-19

patients who arrived at Covid assessment centres (CACs) was reduced by 8.7 per cent from 3,704 in EW22 to 3,383 in EW23.

"However, cases that CACs referred to PKRC or hospitals increased by 51.9 per cent from 81 to 123.

"Also, cases being monitored by the virtual CAC are on an upward trend."

Meanwhile, Dr Noor Hisham

said total recoveries had dropped by 21.7 per cent from 13,797 to 10,806 cases.

He added that total new infections increased by 0.4 per cent from 11,052 to 11,096.

He said total average active cases had dropped 5.5 per cent to 22,013.

Malaysia reported 1,571 new infections and one death on Sunday.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 18

RUANGAN : -

# The case for vaccination

Covid-19 vaccine effectiveness relates to the ability of vaccines to prevent hospitalisation and death, writes **Meera Murugesan**

## FAST FACTS

- 65.4 per cent of the world's population has received at least one dose of the vaccine
- 11.62 billion doses have been administered globally
- 10.52 million doses are being administered each day
- 15.8 per cent of people in low-income countries have received one dose

Source: Our World in Data — ourworldindata.org

## MALAYSIA (Up to May 6)

- Total doses administered: 70,345,153
- Total number of those with at least one dose: 27,775,478
- Total number of people with two doses: 26,744,537
- Total number of people with booster shots: 16,038,512
- 81.9 per cent of the population has received two doses and 49.1 per cent has been given booster shots

Source: covidnow.moh.gov.my

**C**OVID-19 vaccination has been one of the most talked-about subjects in the past year. In Malaysia, almost 82 per cent of the population has received two doses of the vaccine.

Many have come to accept vaccination as the most effective means to fight the pandemic and return to normalcy. Current data supports this view.

In the past two years, we have witnessed the devastation caused by the pandemic, which has claimed millions of lives and caused enormous economic and social destruction, says Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO) Tropical Medicine and Public Health (TROPMED) Network secretary-general Dr Pratap Singhavan.

Speaking during a media roundtable on "Understanding Covid-19 Vaccine Effectiveness", Dr Pratap, a former dean of the Faculty of Tropical Medicine at Mahidol University, Thailand, says Covid-19 has tested global health systems beyond their limits and remains an ever-changing challenge.

But one thing is clear, he says. Vaccinations have and continue to be the best protection against the most serious consequences of Covid-19, which are hospitalisation and death.

"The most effective way to minimise the impact of Covid-19 on lives and livelihoods is through comprehensive vaccination programmes," says Dr Pratap.

ASTRAZENECA'S Covid-19 vaccine and mRNA Covid-19 vaccines, the world's most-used vaccines, provide equivalent protection against hospitalisation and death following two doses, a new expert review of data from 79 real-world studies reveals.

The newly reviewed data shows that both AstraZeneca, which is one of the available viral vector vaccines, and mRNA Covid-19 vaccines offer equivalent protection against hospitalisation (91.3 per cent and 92.5 per cent respectively) and death (91.4 per cent and 93.3 per cent respectively) regardless of age, with no statistical difference.

While initial antibody response levels can vary across vaccines, their ability to prevent being hospitalised or dying from Covid-19 is equivalent.

The data, reviewed by infectious disease experts from across Asia, comes from Viewhub, an interactive platform for visualising global data on vaccine use and impact developed by Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and the International Vaccine Access Centre.

## NEED FOR VACCINATION

Dr Pratap explains that how well a vaccine performs in terms of preventing the recipient from developing severe Covid-19, leading to hospitalisation or even death, is an accurate measure of its effectiveness.

Philippine College of Physicians secretary Dr Rontgene Solante agrees with this view.

He says all vaccines are able to generate good antibody responses but that alone is not an indication of how effective they are. Antibody profiles are not effective predictors of vaccine effectiveness against severe disease.

Protection against severe Covid-19 effects like hospitalisation and death is the best measure of how effective a vaccine is.

Dr Solante says antibodies also wane over time after vaccination, but this doesn't mean that our protection against severe infection is diminished.

"Even with waning antibody levels, there is still good protection against severe infection, hospitalisation and death from Covid-19," he says.

While antibodies may drop after the initial flood when one first gets the vaccine, the protection remains.

Vaccination is the best option to battle the pandemic. PICTURE: CREATED BY FREEPIK — WWW.FREEPIK.COM

## TO BOOST OR NOT?

Booster shots also play a role in providing a crucial extra layer of protection against Covid-19.

AstraZeneca Vaccines and Infectious Diseases Asia area medical director Dr Bruce Mungall says vaccines have and continue to provide very high efficacy against severe Covid-19 outcomes. But vaccine effectiveness against the Omicron variant is lower than the Delta.

"This is largely what is driving the large number of Omicron cases around the world. Fortunately, the majority of these infections are much milder compared with Delta," says Dr Mungall.

But the most important thing is keeping people out of hospitals and preventing them from dying, he adds, and vaccines continue to do a very good job in that aspect, even with Omicron.

Covid-19 has tested global health systems beyond their limits. PICTURE: CREATED BY STARLINE — WWW.FREEPIK.COM



The battle against Covid-19 is an ever-changing one. FILE PICTURE

But what's clear, particularly with data from the United Kingdom, is that two doses are probably not enough to prevent the majority of hospitalisation or deaths with the Omicron variant. With an additional booster dose, however, protection is rapidly restored.

"Two doses probably don't provide optimal protection from Omicron as data from the UK shows. There is compelling evidence that a booster dose is important to provide the best protection against Omicron."

He adds that the general perception is that Omicron is mild and if one is well-vaccinated, it is going to remain mild. However, Omicron in an unvaccinated person is not necessarily a mild disease.

meera@mediaprima.com.my



Vaccination is generally accepted as the most effective means to return to normalcy. FILE PICTURE

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NATION

# Govt facilities to bridge meds gap

## Khairy: Private sector can 'borrow' medicines to beat supply shortage

By ALIZA SHAH  
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**PETALING JAYA:** Private health establishments are allowed to borrow supplies of medicines from government facilities, said Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin.

The measure, along with a few others, will be able to curb the issue of shortages of medicines currently faced by some private health facilities and community pharmacies, he said.

Other measures include having the patients referred to the near-

est public facility, where their medication regimens might be adjusted based on the availability of the medicine.

Alternately, patients can also buy their own medication at community pharmacies using the prescriptions given.

"The Health Ministry hopes the measures can give a temporary solution to the issue of medication shortages at private health facilities and ensure continuous quality health services to the people," he said in a statement yesterday. He was responding to reports claiming med-

icine shortages at certain places.

Khairy said his ministry is working on long term solutions to address the issue. He added that the ministry has also shared information on alternative medicines that private health facilities and community pharmacies can offer patients to cope with current supply issues. The list will be updated from time to time.

This measure is taken to reduce the impact of the current shortage and to ensure optimal use of the other generic drugs which are still available in the market, he said.



**Thank you:** Khairy giving a speech at Hospital Sultanah Bahiyah, Alor Setar, during a medical equipment presentation ceremony by the Japanese government. — Bernama

AKHBAR : THE SUN

MUKA SURAT : 4

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## Covid-19 cases increase by 0.4%: Health DG

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysia recorded a 0.4% increase in new Covid-19 cases for Epidemiological Week 23 (June 5 to June 11), with 11,096 cases compared with 11,052 reported in the previous week.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the cumulative number of cases currently stood at 4,524,727.

He said the average daily active cases recorded a 5.5% drop, which was 22,013 cases compared with the

preceding week.

"The average infectivity rate showed a 5.5% increase at 0.96, compared with 0.91 previously," he said in a statement yesterday.

The number of recovered cases also dropped by 21.7% last week from 13,797 to 10,806, bringing the cumulative recoveries to 4,466,305.

He said the number of deaths showed a 3.8% drop, with 25 cases compared with 26 cases, bringing the cumulative deaths to 35,711.

Meanwhile, Noor Hisham said the admission of Covid-19 patients into health facilities, namely public hospitals and Quarantine and Treatment Centres per 100,000 population, decreased by 10% compared with the preceding week.

"Overall, bed occupancy at Quarantine and Treatment Centres increased by 200% and non-critical bed occupancy also increased by 8%, while the use of intensive care

unit beds dropped by 17%."

Noor Hisham said positive cases monitored by the Covid-19 Assessment Centres nationwide also dropped, with patient arrivals down by 8.7% and the number of new cases undergoing home monitoring dropped by 0.5%.

However, the number of cases referred to Quarantine and Treatment Centres or hospitals increased by 51.9%, he said.  
- Bernama