

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 14
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Penularan COVID-19

Buka sempadan selepas Rt turun, keadaan terkawal

Pelbagai aspek akan dinilai bagi menjamin keselamatan semua pihak

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Putrajaya: Masih terlalu awal untuk menganggap Malaysia sudah melepasi kemuncak penularan varian Omicron, walaupun kadar kebolehhangkitan atau R-naught (Rt) COVID-19 mencatat penurunan ketika ini.

Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin, berkata pembukaan semula sempadan negara hanya akan dilakukan sepenuhnya jika kadar Rt mencatat trend penurunan dengan keadaan terkawal yang berterusan.

"Nilai harian Rt kini terus menurun kepada 1.05, (namun) terlalu awal untuk menyatakan bahawa kita sudah melepasi kemuncak Omicron."

"Sebanyak 96 peratus kes aktif COVID-19 pulih di rumah dan

kapasiti hospital berada dalam keadaan terkawal.

"Jika trend berterusan, pembukaan semula sempadan yang sepenuhnya serta langkah domestik lebih longgar bakal menyusul. #ReopeningSafely," katanya dalam ciapan melalui Twitter, semalam.

Media sebelum ini melaporkan Khairy berkata, tarikh bagi pembukaan semula sempadan negara sudah ditetapkan, namun perkara itu akan diumumkan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob.

Majlis Pemulihan Negara (MPN) turut dilapor mengesyorkan kerajaan membuka semula sempadan negara pada hari ini, namun Ismail Sabri memaklumkan Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) memerlukan masa untuk meneliti prosedur operasi standard (SOP).

Kerajaan menutup sempadan negara pada 18 Mac 2020, dua bulan selepas negara merekodkan kes pertama COVID-19.

Sementara itu Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, dalam ciapan be-

rasangan pula kongsi data nilai Rt bagi semua negeri.

Berdasarkan maklumat itu, hanya Johor berada di bawah nilai Rt kebangsaan dengan kadar 1.00, manakala Perak pula mendahului dengan 1.32.

Seterusnya, Labuan (1.27); Sarawak (1.24); Terengganu (1.22); Perlis (1.21); Negeri Sembilan (1.17); dan Pahang (1.15).

Selangor, Pulau Pinang dan Kuala Lumpur (masing-masing 1.13); Kedah (1.11); Kelantan dan Melaka (masing-masing 1.08), serta Sabah (1.07).

Dalam pada itu, Perak muncul negeri terkini yang mencatat penggunaan lebih 50 peratus katil bagi kes kritikal COVID-19 di Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU), kelmarin.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, perkembangan itu membawa kepada jumlah enam negeri, kelmarin, berbanding lima pada Sabtu lalu.

Beliau berkata, Kelantan masih mendahului dengan merekod-



Khairy Jamaluddin



Petugas perubatan memberikan suntikan dos penggalak di Pusat Pemberian Vaksin (PPV) Offsite Dewan Ang Si Chong, di Butterworth, semalam. (Foto Dhanial Saad/BH)

kan 94 peratus penggunaan katil itu, diikuti Johor (69 peratus), Putrajaya (67 peratus), Kuala Lumpur (62 peratus), Perak (58 peratus) dan Melaka (58 peratus).

"Bagi katil bukan ICU, dua negeri mencatat penggunaan melebihi 100 peratus, iaitu Kelantan dan Selangor."

"Kelantan merekodkan 108 peratus yang mana sebanyak 439 katil diperuntukkan tetapi penggunaannya kini meningkat kepada 479 katil."

"Di Selangor yang mencatat 101 peratus pula, sebanyak 1,322 katil disediakan tetapi penggunaan telah mencecah 1,336 katil," katanya dalam kenyataan, semalam.

Selain itu, beliau berkata, sebanyak 95 peratus penggunaan katil bukan ICU dicatatkan di Putrajaya, disusuli Kuala Lum-

pur (94 peratus) dan Perak (87 peratus).

Seterusnya, Perlis (74 peratus), Johor (70 peratus), Pahang (66 peratus), Sabah (60 peratus), Pulau Pinang (60 peratus), Terengganu (57 peratus) dan Sarawak (56 peratus).

Dr Noor Hisham turut memaklumkan, hanya Melaka mencatat penggunaan lebih 50 peratus katil di Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan COVID-19 (PKRC), dengan 55 peratus.

"Dalam pada itu, penggunaan alat bantuan pernafasan bagi kes COVID-19 meningkat kepada tujuh peratus membabitkan 193 pesakit."

"Penggunaan keseluruhan alat bantuan pernafasan adalah sebanyak 35 peratus meliputi untuk pesakit COVID-19 dan bukan COVID-19," katanya.



VTL darat membabitkan Stesen Bas Queen Street, Singapura, ke Terminal Larkin Sentral, mula dilaksana pada 29 November lalu, dengan kuota 1,440 individu pada minggu pertama. (Foto hiasan)

Johor bersedia ke fasa endemik secepat mungkin

Kulai: Johor bersedia untuk melangkah ke fasa endemik secepat mungkin bagi membolehkan pembukaan sempadan Malaysia-Singapura diperluaskan.

Menteri Besar, Datuk Seri Hasni Mohammad, berkata peningkatan jumlah peratusan individu sudah mendapat dos penggalak, menjadi indikator kerajaan sudah bersedia melangkah ke fasa endemik.

Beliau berkata, melihat perkembangan positif itu, kerajaan juga wajar menambah kuota pengembara kedua-dua negara melalui inisiatif Laluan Perjalanan Lengkap Vaksin (VTL) darat.

"Saya mendapat petunjuk daripada Kerajaan Pusat bahawa bilangan jumlah pengembara

yang menggunakan VTL darat sedang dikaji dari semasa ke semasa."

"Ia adalah usaha berterusan secara bersama antara Kerajaan Pusat dengan Singapura bagi menambah bilangan pengembara menggunakan inisiatif berkenaan," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian pada sidang media selepas merasmikan Majlis Kepimpinan Pusat Sahabat Usahawan Amanah Ikhtiar Malaysia Wilayah Johor 2022, di sini, semalam.

Hadir sama, Pengarah Urusan AIM, Mohamed Shamir Abd Aziz, dan Timbalan Pengerusi AIM, Mohd Najib Mohd Noor.

Skim VTL darat dan udara Malaysia-Singapura mula dilaksa-

nakan pada 29 November lalu, dengan kuota 1,440 individu pada minggu pertama.

VTL darat membabitkan Stesen Bas Queen Street, Singapura, ke Terminal Larkin Sentral dekat sini, manakala VTL udara antara Lapangan Terbang Changi dan Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa Kuala Lumpur (KLIA).

Kuota penggunaan VTL darat dikurangkan hingga 50 peratus pada Januari lalu berikutan penularan varian Omicron.

Isu VTL darat dan pembukaan semula sempadan menjadi antara isu dibangkitkan oleh parti politik pada kempen Pilihan Raya Negeri (PRN) Johor, ketika ini.

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 15

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Penularan COVID-19

Kelantan negeri terendah dapat dos penggalak vaksin

Kemasukan pesakit meningkat, penggunaan katil ICU 94 peratus

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Putrajaya: Kelantan menjadi negeri yang mencatat peratusan terendah jumlah penerima dos penggalak vaksin COVID-19, iaitu sekitar 22.7 peratus daripada keseluruhan populasi dewasanya.

Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin, berkata perkara itu merunsingkan pihaknya, terutama apabila Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU) di negeri berkenaan semakin penuh.

"Loloni Kelate paling rendah skali ambik booster (Ketika ini, Kelantan paling rendah mengambil dos penggalak).

"Ambo (saya) rusing, ICU sana koho-penuh (ICU sana semakin penuh). Ambo mitok sangat puok kita di Kelate pakat cocok vaksin & booster (Saya minta sangat rakyat Kelantan mendapat suntikan vaksin dan dos penggalak).

"Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) saye ore Kelate, pakat gi cocok deh (KKM sayang orang Kelantan, tolong pergi cucuk (vaksin)," katanya dalam ciapan di Twitter.

Berdasarkan data dalam COVIDNOW, Kelantan secara keseluruhan merekodkan pemberian sebanyak 2,298,896 dos vaksin COVID-19.



Petugas perubatan memberikan suntikan dos penggalak kepada penerima di PPV Offsite Dewan Ang Si Chong, semalam. (Foto Daniel Saad/BH)

Daripada jumlah itu, 1,005,200 sudah lengkap vaksinasi dan 1,020,322 menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos, manakala hanya 281,219 mendapat dos penggalak.

Selain itu, Kelantan kini mencatat 94 peratus penggunaan katil ICU, dan melebihi 100 peratus bagi penggunaan katil bukan ICU.

Sementara itu, sebanyak 23.8 peratus atau 846,486 kanak-kanak berusia lima hingga 11 tahun di negara ini sudah mendapatkan sekurang-kurangnya satu dos vaksin berkenaan.

Menurut laman web COVIDNOW, angka harian vaksin yang diberi kelmarin melalui Program Imunisasi COVID-19 Kebangsaan Kanak-Kanak (PICKids) adalah sebanyak 40,588 dos.

Bagi pemberian vaksin kepada golongan remaja berusia 12 hingga 17 tahun hingga kini pula, 2,894,898 (93 peratus) sudah mendapatkan sekurang-kurangnya satu dos, dan 2,800,661 (90 peratus) lengkap dua dos.

Seramai 14,578,408 (62 peratus) populasi dewasa telah menerima dos penggalak, manakala 22,948,424 (97.5 peratus) lengkap imunisasi.

Secara keseluruhan, sebanyak 101,136 dos vaksin diberi, kelmarin, membabitkan 42,144 dos pertama, dos kedua (537) dan dos penggalak (58,455). Ia menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan pemberian vaksin di negara ini adalah sebanyak 67,089,834 dos.

Dalam perkembangan lain, Malaysia merekodkan 40 kematian baharu akibat COVID-19, kelmarin, menjadikan jumlahnya kini mencecah 32,674 kes.

Kematian baharu itu meliputi lapan kes di Kedah; Pulau Pinang dan Johor (masing-masing lima); Perak dan Sabah (masing-masing empat kes); serta Kelantan dan Pahang (masing-masing tiga).

Seterusnya, Kuala Lumpur, Selangor dan Melaka (masing-masing dua); serta Negeri Sembilan dan Terengganu (masing-masing satu).

Sebanyak 17 kes kematian terbahit dilaporkan di luar fasiliti kesihatan (BID), iaitu empat di Kedah; Sabah (tiga); Johor, Kelantan dan Selangor (masing-masing dua); serta Negeri Sembilan, Perak, Pulau Pinang dan Terengganu (masing-masing satu). Ia membawa kepada jumlah 6,690 kes BID.

Kanak-kanak perlu divaksinasi elak sindrom MISC

Kuala Lumpur: Kanak-kanak berusia lima hingga 11 tahun perlu dilindungi dengan vaksinasi berikutan kumpulan usia itu didapati lebih cenderung kepada sindrom keradangan pelbagai sistem dalam kanak-kanak (MISC) yang berupaya menyebabkan kematian jika dijangkiti COVID-19.

Syor itu dipersetujui ramai kalangan pakar perubatan yang mempunyai kepakaran berbeza, selain turut menggesa kanak-kanak pernah dijangkiti supaya mendapatkan perlindungan vaksin secepat mungkin.

Pakar Perunding Pediatrik dan Neonatologi, Datuk Dr Musa Mohd Nordin berkata ibu bapa tidak perlu bimbang kesan selepas vaksin kerana vaksin yang diluluskan kegunaannya sudah melepasi kajian dan mempunyai peratus keberkesanan tinggi.

"Vaksin perlu diberikan kepada kanak-kanak kerana dalam keadaan sekarang, jumlah jangkitan terhadap golongan ini amat membimbangkan dan jika dilihat kepada pesakit dewasa, mereka yang dirawat menunjukkan kadar kesembuhan tinggi bagi yang mendapat suntikan vaksin.

"Saya mempunyai cucu yang dijangkiti teruk dengan COVID-19 di Oman, namun negara itu tidak meluluskan lagi penggunaan vaksin kepada kanak-kanak," katanya.

Beliau antara panel sesi webinar 'COVID-19: Patutkah anda vaksin anak anda?' anjuran Immunise4Life, yang turut menampilkan Pakar Pediatrik dan Kardiologi, Datuk Dr Zul-kifli Ismail, sebagai pengacara.

Ahli panel lain ialah Pakar Perunding Kanan Pediatrik (Komuniti), Datuk Dr Amar Singh HSS, Pakar Perunding

Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU) Pediatrik, Hospital UTM dan Hospital Selayang, Prof Madya Dr Anis Siham Zainal Abidin; dan Pakar Perunding Pediatrik, Dr Fong Siew May.

Dr Musa berkata, kajian global mengesahkan, vaksin COVID-19 tidak menjejaskan sistem reproduktif, mengakibatkan keguguran yang sering menjadi penyebab seseorang tidak mahu divaksinasi.

"Kesan sampingan vaksin ini boleh dikatakan sangat rendah, jadi ibu bapa perlu memainkan peranan membenarkan anak mereka divaksinasi kerana mereka adalah pihak memberikan kebenaran untuk tujuan itu," katanya.

Sementara itu, Dr Anis Siham berkata, keadaan dalam ICU tahun lalu amat teruk dan keadaan sekarang jauh lebih baik berikutan program

vaksinasi negara sangat baik.

"Vaksin perlu diambil segera untuk mengelakkan sindrom MISC kerana ia berisiko menjadikan keadaan teruk dan sangat tenat, mengurangkan denyutan jantung serta keadaan kritikal mendapat jangkitan berulang, jadi vaksin amat diperlukan," katanya.

Bagi Dr Fong yang menjawab pertanyaan mengenai vaksin Sinovac, berkata garis panduan Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) sangat jelas kerana Sinovac belum lagi mempunyai data mencukupi, malah ia dipersetujui Dr Musa bahawa vaksin itu tidak mencatat peratus keberkesanan tinggi.

Sementara itu, Dr Amar menegaskan kanak-kanak yang disyorkan mendapatkan vaksin, perlu segera berbuat demikian, selain pada masa sama perlu memakai pelitup muka yang selamat dan menambah baik sistem pengudaraan.



Musa Mohd Nordin

Ketetapan solat Jumaat dapat perkenan Sultan Selangor

Shah Alam: Ketetapan terkini solat Jumaat di Selangor yang dikeluarkan Jabatan Agama Islam Selangor (JAIS) baru-baru ini, sudah mendapat perkenan Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah Al-Haj.

Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Tetap Agama Islam, Mohd Zawawi Mughni, berkata perkenan itu adalah keprihatinan baginda un-

tuk mengelakkan jangkitan COVID-19 selepas mendapat nasihat Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Selangor berikutan perkembangan terkini pandemik di negeri itu.

"Kerajaan negeri prihatin dengan keluhan dan rungutan umat Islam di Selangor yang tidak dapat menunaikan solat Jumaat pada 25 Februari lalu berikutan belum menerima

dos penggalak.

"Kerajaan negeri menegaskan ketetapan itu berdasarkan perkenan Sultan Selangor melalui surat arahan JAIS nombor rujukan JALSEL.BPM/01/006/2.JLD.6(13), bertarikh 21 Februari 2022, bertajuk, Arahan Mempertingkatkan Penguatkuasaan Pematuhan Prosedur Operasi Standard (SOP) di Masjid, Surau

dan Musolla Negeri Bagi Mengawal Pandemik COVID-19.

"Pendekatan menggalakkan rakyat negeri ini mengambil dos penggalak adalah bertepatan dengan satu daripada prinsip Maqasid Syariah iaitu memelihara nyawa," katanya dalam kenyataan semalam.

Mohd Zawawi berkata, kerajaan negeri amat prihatin terhadap

kesihatan dan kemakmuran rakyat jelata dan sentiasa berusaha mengambil tindakan terbaik untuk mencapai maksud itu.

"Kerajaan juga yakin bahawa perkenan Sultan Selangor mewujudkan pengambilan dos penggalak bagi menyertai solat Jumaat di masjid adalah berasaskan konsep Fiqhiyyah, iaitu sadd adz-dzara'i," katanya.

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 32

RUANGAN : WANITA & KELUARGA

Kanak-kanak ceria di Pusat Perubatan Sunway

Kuala Lumpur: Pusat Perubatan Sunway, Sunway City menceria-kan kanak-kanak berusia 5 sehingga 11 tahun yang mendapatkan suntikan di pusat itu dengan pelbagai perhiasan menarik selain turut menyediakan 400 kit penjagaan khas kepada mereka.

Usaha itu membuatkan ibu bapa yang hadir membawa anak mereka terkejut dengan persiapan sedemikian termasuk pemberian kit penjagaan khas yang mengandungi pelitup muka, pembasmi kuman, pembalut luka dan mesej yang dapat menaikan semangat mereka.

Pengarah Kesihatan Bersekutu dan Ketua Program Vaksin COVID-19 Pusat Perubatan Sunway, Sherry Woo, berkata pihaknya teruja dan mengalu-alukan kedatangan kanak-kanak berusia 5 sehingga 11 tahun mendapatkan suntikan vaksin menerusi Program Imunisasi COVID-19 Kebangsaan Kanak-Kanak (PICKIDS).

Katanya, sebagai seorang ibu dia memahami perasaan gemuruh anak yang mahu mendapatkan suntikan itu.

"Oleh itu pihak kami membuat

keputusan menghiaskan kawasan tempat pemberian vaksin dengan menjadikannya mesra kanak-kanak dan lebih penting, membuatkan mereka kurang gemuruh.

"Kami bangga dengan keberanian kanak-kanak ini dan tidak sabar berjumpa mereka untuk menerima dos kedua lapan minggu lagi," katanya.

Turut menceria-kan suasana adalah penampilan maskot hospital, Elfy yang tampil bersama Bellabot iaitu robot yang membuat penghantaran ke wad kanak-kanak.

Selain itu, kanak-kanak turut diberikan sijil vaksinasi yang direka khas dengan pelekat Elfy.

Sementara itu, Fauziah Ismail yang membawa dua anaknya mendapatkan suntikan vaksin berkata, sebelum ini dia dan suami, Derek Alphonso turut mendapatkan suntikan di situ dan gembira dengan perkhidmatan yang diberikan.

"Sebagai ibu bapa kami berasa lega apabila anak sudah mendapatkan suntikan vaksinasi kerana percaya mereka kini dilindungi sekali gus dapat mengu-



Fauziah dan Derek membawa dua anak mereka, Ayden dan Aleena untuk mendapatkan vaksinasi di Pusat Perubatan Sunway, Sunway City.

rangkan kebimbangan terhadap virus COVID-19," katanya.

Dua anak pasangan itu, Ayden, 9, dan Aleena, 11, berkata mereka sangat teruja apabila dimaklumkan akan mendapatkan suntikan vaksin.

"Kami juga gembira apabila dapat keluar rumah kerana sebelum ini kami tidak dibenarkan berbuat demikian," katanya.

Ditanya pula sama ada sakit

apabila disuntik vaksin, anak kepada Tang Chee Chung, Lucas, 7, dengan pantas menggelengkan kepalanya.

Cheng Chung berkata, anak keduanya itu teruja selepas dimaklumkan akan menerima suntikan vaksin.

Pengarah Kesihatan yang juga Pemangku Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Pusat Perubatan Sunway, Dr Seow Vei Ken, berkata pihak-

nya mengalu-alukan kedatangan ibu bapa dan anak mereka dalam usaha meningkatkan perkhidmatan untuk golongan wanita dan kanak-kanak di pusat itu.

Katanya, dengan penambahan tiga lagi menara, pihaknya akan dapat memberikan perkhidmatan yang lebih baik selain melancarkan lebih banyak perkhidmatan kelas pertama secara berperingkat.

Ketika ini Pusat Perubatan Sunway memberikan 400 dos vaksinasi kanak-kanak pada setiap hari Khamis dan Jumaat dan setakat ini, pemberian vaksin itu adalah temu janji melalui aplikasi MySejahtera sahaja.

Selain pemberian vaksinasi COVID-19 untuk kanak-kanak, hospital terus memberikan suntikan dos penggalak kepada golongan dewasa pada setiap hari Isnin dan Selasa.

Pusat Perubatan Sunway terlibat dengan Fasa 1 Program Imunisasi COVID-19 Kebangsaan (PICK) sejak 2021 dan sehingga kini sudah memberikan lebih 350,000 dos untuk membantu melindungi negara daripada COVID-19.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 10

RUANGAN : COVID-19

KHAIRY
Jamaluddin

Kadar Rt kini turun 1.05

Terlalu awal menyatakan Malaysia sudah lepaasi kemuncak jangkitan Omicron

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Putrajaya

Pembukaan sempadan akan dibuat sepenuhnya sekiranya kadar kebolehjangkitan atau R-naught (Rt) terus menunjukkan trend penurunan.

Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin berkata, kadar Rt kini dilihat turun secara berterusan dan

kini berada di tahap 1.05.

"(Nilai) Rt harian kini menurun berterusan namun terlalu awal untuk mengatakan kita melepasi puncak Omicron. Sebanyak 96 peratus kes aktif Covid-19 pulih di rumah dan kapasiti perkhidmatan di hospital dalam keadaan terkawal.

"Jika trend berterusan, pembukaan sempadan sepenuhnya dan langkah domestik lebih santai akan dilakukan

#ReopeningSafely," katanya dalam ciapan di Twitter, semalam.

Sebelum ini, Khairy dalam sidang medianya memaklumkan tarikh pembukaan sempadan negara sudah ditetapkan namun perkara itu akan diumumkan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri.

Malah, Majlis Pemulihan Negara (MPN) turut mengesyorkan kerajaan membuka pintu sempadan pada 1 Mac namun

Ismail Sabri dilaporkan berkata, ia tidak berlaku kerana Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) memerlukan masa meneliti prosedur operasi standard (SOP).

Penutupan sempadan dibuat kerajaan pada 18 Mac 2020, dua bulan selepas negara merekodkan kes pertama Covid-19.

Sementara itu, Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah dalam ciapan lain turut berkongsi data nilai Rt di semua negeri, menerusi data berkenaan hanya Johor berada di bawah nilai Rt negara iaitu pada kadar 1.00.

Sebanyak 96 peratus
kes aktif Covid-19
pulih di rumah

Kuala Lumpur: Sebanyak 24,466 kes baharu Covid-19 direkodkan di negara ini kelmarin, menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan penularan wabak itu meningkat kepada 3,419,636 kes setakat ini.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, 246 kes daripada keseluruhan kes harian yang dilaporkan itu adalah kes import.

Beliau berkata, 24,361 kes atau 99.57 peratus terdiri daripada pesakit positif kategori satu dan dua manakala 105 kes atau 0.43 peratus lagi pesakit kategori tiga hingga lima.

"Berdasarkan pecahan kes kategori tiga hingga lima, 25 kes tidak divaksinasi atau belum lengkap vaksinasi, menerima dua dos vaksin (56 kes) dan sudah menerima dos penggalak (24 kes).

"Pesakit kategori berkenaan juga adalah dalam kalangan berusia 60 tahun ke atas (53 kes) dan mempunyai komorbid (36 kes)," katanya dalam satu kenyataan, semalam.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, 353 kes memerlukan rawatan di unit rawatan rapi

Jumlah keseluruhan meningkat 3,419,636 kes



ORANG ramai menunggu giliran untuk mendapatkan suntikan vaksin Covid-19 dos penggalak di Pusat Pemberian Vaksin (PPV) Offsite Dewan Ang Si Chong, Butterworth, semalam. - Gambar NSTP/DANIAL SAAD

24,466

Jumlah kes baharu
Covid-19 direkodkan
kelmarin

(ICU) membabitkan 146 kes disahkan Covid-19 manakala 207 kes disyaki, kemungkinan dalam siasatan.

Katanya, kes yang memerlukan bantuan pernafasan pula 193 kes iaitu 86 kes disahkan Covid-19 dan 107 kes disyaki, kemungkinan serta dalam siasatan.

"Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) merekodkan 22,380 kes sembuh Covid-19 semalam (kelmarin), menjadikan jumlah kumulatif meningkat kepada 3,085,940 kes iaitu 90.2 peratus daripada keseluruhan kes," katanya.

Dalam pada itu, beliau berkata, lima kluster baharu dikesan, sekali gus menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan kluster meningkat kepada 6,779 dengan 484 kluster aktif.

40 kematian Covid-19 direkodkan

Kuala Lumpur: Sebanyak 846,486 individu atau 23.8 peratus daripada populasi kanak-kanak berusia lima hingga 11 tahun di Malaysia sudah menerima dos pertama vaksin Covid-19 melalui Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan (PICKids) setakat kelmarin.

Berdasarkan data menerusi laman web Covidnow, sejumlah 14,578,408 atau 62.0 peratus populasi dewasa di dalam negara pula sudah menerima dos penggalak Covid-19 dan seramai 22,948,424 atau 97.5 peratus

lengkap vaksinasi manakala 23,228,204 atau 98.7 peratus menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos.

Bagi remaja berusia 12 hingga 17 tahun, sejumlah 2,800,661 individu atau 90 peratus daripada kumpulan berkenaan sudah melengkapkan vaksinasi mereka manakala 2,894,898 atau 93 peratus menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos vaksin.

Sebanyak 101,136 dos vaksin sudah diberikan kelmarin membabitkan 42,144 suntikan dos pertama, 537 suntikan dos lengkap dan

58,455 suntikan dos penggalak menjadikan jumlah kumulatif pemberian vaksin bagi Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan (PICK) kini meningkat kepada 67,089,834 dos.

Sementara itu, menurut portal GitHub Kementerian Kesihatan, 40 kes kematian akibat Covid-19 direkodkan kelmarin dengan Kedah mencatatkan lapan kes, diikuti Johor dan Pulau Pinang masing-masing lima kes, masing-masing empat kes di Perak dan Sabah, tiga kes masing-masing di Kelantan serta Pahang.



SU Yong Xiang (kiri) dan Su Yong Hao melakukan proses Nasopharyngeal Swab ujian Covid-19 pada program Virus Hunter (pemburu virus) di Penang Science Cluster (PSC), semalam. Program terabit dijangka PSC, dengan sokongan kedutaan Amerika Syarikat. Ia merupakan sumber berharga untuk belia Malaysia belajar berkaitan penyakit berjangkit, pembangunan vaksin dan mewujudkan kesedaran mengenai laluan kerjaya yang berpotensi.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 11

RUANGAN : COVID-19

DOS PENGALAK UNTUK SOLAT JUMAAT

Dapat perkenan Sultan Selangor

Bernama

Shah Alam

Kerajaan Selangor menegaskan ketetapan membenarkan hanya individu yang sudah mengambil dos penggalak Covid-19 mendirikan solat fardu Jumaat adalah berdasarkan perkenan Sultan Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah.

Pengerusi Jawatankuasa negeri Hal Ehwal Agama Islam, Hal Ehwal Pengguna dan Industri Halal Selangor, Mohd Zawawi Ahmad Mughni berkata, perkenan daripada Sultan Selangor itu adalah melalui surat arahan

Jabatan Agama Islam Selangor (Jais) bertarikh 21 Februari lalu.

"Surat arahan itu bertajuk Arahan Mempertingkatkan Penguatkuasaan Pematuan Prosedur Operasi Standard (SOP) di Masjid, Surau Dan Musolla Negeri Bagi Mengawal Pandemik Covid-19."

"Sesungguhnya perkenan ini adalah keprihatinan Baginda untuk mengelakkan jangkitan pandemik Covid-19 selepas mendapat nasihat daripada Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Selangor berikutan perkembangan terkini jangkitan pandemik berkenaan," katanya dalam satu kenyataan di sini, semalam.



Sesungguhnya perkenan ini adalah keprihatinan Baginda untuk mengelakkan jangkitan pandemik Covid-19 selepas mendapat nasihat daripada Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Selangor berikutan perkembangan terkini jangkitan pandemik berkenaan"

Mohd Zawawi Ahmad Mughni



Menurut beliau, pendekatan menggalakkan rakyat di negeri ini mengambil dos penggalak adalah bertepatan dengan salah satu prinsip Maqasid Syariah iaitu memelihara nyawa dan kerajaan negeri amat prihatin terhadap kesihatan serta kemakmuran rakyat serta sentiasa berusaha mengambil tindakan terbaik untuk mencapai maksud itu.

"Kerajaan juga yakin bahawa perkenan

Duli Yang Maha Mulia Sultan Selangor yang mewajibkan pengambilan dos penggalak bagi menyertai solat fardu Jumaat di masjid adalah berasaskan konsep Fiqhiyyah, iaitu sadd adz-dzara'i.

"Konsep ini bermaksud mencegah sesuatu perkara yang boleh membawa ke arah kerosakan dan bahaya," katanya.

Mohd Zawawi turut menasihatkan rakyat Selangor agar segera mengambil dos penggalak vaksin Covid-19 di pusat pemberian vaksin berhampiran bagi memastikan kesihatan diri sendiri, keluarga dan kepentingan awam.

Dua mangsa bah positif Covid-19

Kuala Lumpur: Dua kes Covid-19 dikenal pasti dalam kalangan mangsa banjir di Terengganu dengan jumlah kumulatif sebanyak 25 kes.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, kesemua kes Covid-19 yang dilaporkan dikenal pasti dan diasingkan daripada mangsa banjir yang lain di pusat pemindahan sementara (PPS) khas.

Beliau berkata, tiada kluster dalam kalangan mangsa banjir dilaporkan di PPS.

"Sebanyak 54 pusat pemindahan sementara (PPS) membabitkan 15 daerah dibuka dengan jumlah mangsa sebanyak 9,741 orang."

"Bilik gerakan banjir di kedua-dua negeri sudah diaktifkan pada 26 Februari (Sabtu lalu)," katanya dalam satu kenyataan media, semalam.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, terdapat tujuh kes jangkitan saluran pernafasan akut (ARI) dan satu kes penyakit kulit dilaporkan se-



DR Noor Hisham

takat kelmarin.

Katanya, tiada kes konjunktivitis, typhoid, kolera, leptospirosis dan denggi dilaporkan.

"Selain itu, dua fasiliti kesihatan di Terengganu terjejas banjir tahap 1 iaitu Klinik Kesihatan (KK) Wakaf Tapai, Marang dan Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah (PKD) Kuala Nerus."

"Bagaimanapun, kedua-dua fasiliti terbabit dilaporkan masih beroperasi seperti biasa," katanya.



PETUGAS perubatan memberikan suntikan vaksin Covid-19 dos pertama kepada kanak-kanak di Pusat Pemberian Vaksin (PPV) Offsite Tapak Ekspo Seberang Jaya, semalam. - Gambar NSTP/DANIAL SAAD

Kuala Lumpur: Enam negeri merekodkan penggunaan katil di wad unit rawatan rapi (ICU) bagi merawat pesakit Covid-19 melebihi 50 peratus.

Kelantan kekal mencatatkan rekod tertinggi dengan 94 peratus penggunaan katil ICU sehingga kini.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, Jo-

hor merekodkan penggunaan katil ICU sebanyak 69 peratus diikuti Putrajaya (67 peratus), Kuala Lumpur (62 peratus), Perak dan Melaka masing-masing 58 peratus. Bagi katil bukan ICU, terdapat 12 negeri merekodkan penggunaan katil melebihi

50 peratus.

"Negeri berkenaan adalah Kelantan 108 peratus, Selangor (101 peratus), Putrajaya (95 peratus), Kua-

la Lumpur (94 peratus), Perak (87 peratus) dan Perlis (74 peratus).

"Selain itu, Johor (70 peratus), Pahang (66 peratus), Sabah

dan Pulau Pinang 60 peratus, Terengganu (57 peratus) serta Sarawak (56 peratus)," katanya dalam satu kenyataan, semalam.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, hanya satu negeri iaitu Melaka menunjukkan peratusan pengisian lebih 50 pe-

ratus bagi katil di Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan Covid-19 (PKRC).

Menurutnya, pesakit Covid-19 yang memerlukan alat bantuan pernafasan (ventilator) pula meningkat kepada 193 pesakit dan peratusan penggunaan bantuan itu adalah 35 peratus daripada keseluruhan ventilator untuk pesakit Covid-19 dan bukan Covid-19.

Enam negeri guna katil ICU lebih 50%

Kelantan kekal catat rekod tertinggi guna katil ICU dengan 94 peratus

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO
MUKA SURAT : 12
RUANGAN : LOKAL

Kuala Lumpur

Peralihan Malaysia menuju ke fasa endemik Covid-19 perlu dilaksanakan secara berhati-hati, titah Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah.

Seri Paduka bertitah, Malaysia berada di kedudukan ke-13 daripada 122 negara dalam indeks pemulihan Covid-19 Nikkei Asia dan Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan berjaya mencapai liputan vaksinasi lengkap sehingga 98 peratus populasi dewasa.

Titah Seri Paduka, sebagai langkah pertahanan menghadapi penularan varian baharu, rakyat diseru mendapatkan dos penggalak vaksin Covid-19.

"Bagi memastikan imuniti kekal pada tahap optimum dan sebagai benteng dalam menghadapi varian baharu, beta menyeru agar rakyat beta untuk mendapatkan dos penggalak menerusi program yang sedang dilaksanakan kerajaan.

"Walaupun negara kini semakin bersedia untuk beralih ke fasa endemik, beta berharap agar peralihan ini dilaksanakan secara berhati-hati," titah Seri Paduka pada Istiadat Pembukaan Mesyuarat Pertama Penggal Kelima Parlimen ke-14, di De-



PERALIHAN KE FASA ENDEMIK

Laku secara hati-hati

Al-Sultan Abdullah seru rakyat ambil dos penggalak perkuat imuniti

wan Rakyat di sini, semalam.

Al-Sultan Abdullah turut menyokong Strategi Pengujian Covid-19 Kebangsaan dan tindakan afirmatif ke-

rajaan untuk mengurangkan harga kit ujian sendiri sebagai langkah pengukuhan tindakan kesihatan awam dan pemerkasaan komuniti.

"Melalui pendekatan ini, pembukaan semula sektor ekonomi dan sosial boleh direalisasikan secara selamat," titah Seri Paduka.

Yang di-Pertuan Agong turut menghargai Pelan Hala Tuju Pembangunan Vaksin Negara (PPVN) termasuk strategi pembangunan vak-

sin sendiri, sebagai usaha meningkatkan kesiediaan negara menghadapi pandemik dan ancaman wabak lain pada masa hadapan.

Selain itu, Seri Paduka juga menyambut baik Pelan Strategik Kebangsaan Kesihatan Mental 2020-2025, yang dirangka bagi menangani isu kesihatan mental rakyat terutama yang terkesan akibat pandemik Covid-19 melalui pelbagai langkah intervensi dan bantuan.

"Beta menyeru kepada rakyat beta supaya terus memelihara kesihatan termasuklah kesihatan mental dan sentiasa mengamalkan budaya hidup sihat bagi menyayakan matlamat agenda nasional 'Malaysia Sihat,'" titah Seri Paduka.

Al-Sultan Abdullah menyokong aspirasi kerajaan untuk merakatkan sains dan menginsankan teknologi kerana pembudayaan sains melalui inovasi sosial bakal melahirkan modal insan yang bersifat altruistik dalam menangani isu kemiskinan, kesihatan dan kesejahteraan masyarakat.

"Beta berharap kerajaan akan terus memperkukuh program penyelidikan, pembangunan, pengkomersialan dan inovasi dalam bidang keutamaan termasuk kecerdasan buatan, robotik, biosains dan angkasa," titah Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

AKHBAR : KOSMO
MUKA SURAT : 10
RUANGAN : NEGARA

'Hari kebebasan' untuk kontak rapat

BERMULA hari ini, kontak rapat kes Covid-19 yang tidak bergejala, telah menerima dos penggalak dan berusia 18 tahun ke atas, tidak lagi perlu kuarantin diri di rumah seperti sebelum ini.

Mereka hanya perlu melakukan ujian pantas antigen (RTK) sendiri pada hari pertama dan ketiga dari tarikh akhir terdedah kepada kes positif. Hasil ujian perlu dilaporkan menerusi aplikasi MySejahtera.

Tidak seperti sebelum ini, kontak rapat wajib menjalani kuarantin dan turut dipakaikan gelang bagi mengelakkan mereka keluar rumah sesuka hati.

Bagaimanapun kini, mereka bukan sahaja boleh bekerja seperti biasa, malah menghadiri majlis sosial walaupun suami, isteri atau anak-anak yang dijangkiti Covid-19 sedang menjalani kuarantin di rumah, tempat tinggal sama dengan kontak rapat.

Oleh itu, jangan terkejut, takut atau panik jika rakan-rakan anda yang merupakan kontak rapat kes Covid-19 hadir ke pejabat seperti biasa dan duduk bersama anda.

Tindakan mereka tidak lagi menjadi kesalahan selepas kerajaan memansuhkan prosedur pengasingan bagi kontak rapat itu. Kecuali jika majikan menetapkan syarat sendiri dengan melarang mereka hadir ke pejabat dalam tempoh beberapa hari.

Namun, sejauh mana kesanggupan majikan berbuat demikian kerana tindakan itu akan menyebabkan syarikat mengalami kekurangan tenaga kerja.

Bayangkan andai lebih 30 peratus daripada jumlah keseluruhan pekerja menjadi kontak rapat dan dijangkiti Covid-19 tidak dapat bekerja, maka operasi syarikat akan terjejas, kecuali amalan kerja dari rumah dilaksanakan.

Kejujuran dalam mengisytiharkan status kontak rapat amat penting kerana sesiapa sahaja boleh memberi maklumat palsu dalam MySejahtera. Tindakan ini sukar dipantau pihak berkuasa.

Sebelum ini, semua pesakit Covid-19 perlu pergi ke Pusat Penilaian Covid-19 (CAC) untuk penilaian tahap kesihatan, namun sekarang tidak lagi, mereka pun boleh mengisi butiran penilaian itu melalui MySejahtera sahaja sambil baring di atas katil.

Jika seseorang menjadi kontak rapat kes Covid-19 yang bergejala, mereka wajib dikuarantin sekurang-kurangnya lima hari. Usahlah menipu MySejahtera dengan mengisi maklumat palsu terutama mereka yang berniaga atau bekerja sendiri.

Bagi mereka yang makan gaji, jangan pula memaklumkan kononnya diri sebagai kontak rapat yang bergejala, sedangkan keadaan sebenar sebaliknya, semata-mata malas mahu pergi kerja.

Ketika ini, jangkitan Covid-19 sememangnya masih tinggi. Setiap hari, pasti ada sahaja ahli keluarga, rakan-rakan atau jiran-jiran kita yang dijangkiti.

Bagi mereka yang belum dijangkiti, mungkin menunggu masa sahaja, namun majoriti mereka yang terkena Covid-19 akhirnya sembuh dan jumlah kematian juga amat kecil.

Maka tidak hairanlah kerajaan semakin melonggarkan atau mengurangkan prosedur operasi standard (SOP), cuma yang tidak berkurangan adalah suntikan vaksin Covid-19 yang bertambah menjadi dos penggalak dan mungkin kita kelak perlu diucuk setiap tahun.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 22

RUANGAN : SINAR NEGERI . SELANGOR/KL

Sultan Selangor prihatin kesihatan rakyat

Syarat dos penggalak solat Jumaat diperkenan • baginda susulan kes Covid-19 meningkat

Oleh ENKGU SHARIFUL AZNI

SHAH ALAM

Kerajaan Selangor prihatin dengan keluhan dan rungutan umat Islam di negeri ini yang tidak dapat memunaikan solat Jumaat pada Jumaat lalu berikutan belum menerima dos penggalak Covid-19.

Exco Hal Ehwal Agama Islam, Pengguna dan Industri Halal Selangor, Mohd Zawawi Ahmad Mughni berkata, ketetapan tersebut adalah berdasarkan perkenan Sultan Selangor, Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah melalui surat arahan dikeluarkan oleh Jabatan Agama Islam Selangor (JAIS) pada 21 Februari.

Menurutnya, perkenan tersebut tanda keprihatinan baginda untuk mengelakkan jangkitan Covid-19 setelah mendapat nasihat daripada Jabatan Kesihatan

Negeri Selangor (JKNS) berikutan perkembangan terkini wabak tersebut.

"Pendekatan menggalakkan rakyat Selangor mengambil dos penggalak adalah bertepatan dengan salah satu prinsip Maqasid Syariah iaitu 'memelihara nyawa'."

"Kerajaan Selangor amat prihatin terhadap kesihatan dan kemakmuran rakyat serta sentiasa berusaha mengambil tindakan terbaik untuk mencapai maksud tersebut," katanya dalam satu kenyataan pada Isnin.

Dalam pada itu, Mohd Zawawi berkata, kerajaan Selangor yakin bahawa perkenan Sultan Sharafuddin yang mewajibkan pengambilan dos penggalak bagi menyertai solat Jumaat di masjid adalah berasaskan konsep Fiqhiyyah iaitu *sadd ad-dzara'i*.

"Konsep ini bermaksud mencegah sesuatu perkara yang boleh membawa ke arah kerosakan dan bahaya."

"Kerajaan Selangor menasihati rakyat negeri agar segera mengambil dos penggalak vaksin



MOHD ZAWAWI

Covid-19 bagi memastikan kesihatan diri sendiri, keluarga dan kepentingan awam," kata beliau.

Tambahnya, dos penggalak tersebut boleh diambil secara percuma di pusat-pusat pemberian vaksin (PPV) berhampiran.

Pada 22 Februari lalu, JAIS menetapkan hanya jemaah lengkap dua dos vaksin dan dos penggalak dibenarkan hadir menunaikan solat Jumaat di masjid seluruh Selangor berkuat kuasa 25 Februari.

Bagaimanapun, pelaksanaan prosedur operasi standard (SOP) tersebut menimbulkan rasa kurang senang segelintir jemaah yang menularkan video rasa tidak puas hati tersebut di platform media sosial.

Namun begitu, Jabatan Kemajuan Islam Malaysia (Jakim) menegaskan syarat berkenaan hanya terpakai kepada masjid dan surau di negeri Selangor sahaja dan SOP solat berjemaah di negeri lain masih seperti biasa iaitu lengkap dua dos.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 24

RUANGAN : SINAR NEGERI . PERAK . P.PINANG . N.SEMBILAN

Berita palsu antara punca tolak vaksin

Masyarakat Melayu di Pulau Pinang ragu-ragu benarkan anak disuntik

Oleh SYAJARATULHUDA
MOHD ROSLI

GEORGETOWN

Berita palsu yang disebarkan melalui aplikasi WhatsApp menjadi antara faktor masyarakat Melayu di Pulau Pinang menolak pemberian suntikan vaksin Covid-19 kepada anak mereka.

Exco Agroteknologi dan Keselamatan Makanan, Pembangunan Luar Bandar serta Kesihatan, Dr Norlela Ariffin berkata, selain itu, masih ramai dalam kalangan masyarakat Melayu yang ragu-ragu terhadap status vaksin walaupun mereka telah diberi penjelasan termasuk daripada mufti.

Menurutnya, liputan vaksinasi kanak-kanak menerusi Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan

Kanak-Kanak (PICKids) dalam kalangan masyarakat Melayu di Pulau Pinang masih lagi rendah dan ia disebabkan oleh kurangnya keyakinan terhadap vaksin dalam kalangan mereka.

"Ramai yang terpengaruh dengan berita palsu ini walaupun Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) giat menyampaikan fakta yang tepat dan benar mengenai vaksin," katanya ketika dihubungi pada Isnin.

Sebelum ini, Pulau Pinang menjadi negeri ketiga tertinggi dalam pemberian vaksin untuk kanak-kanak berusia lima hingga 11 tahun menerusi PICKids dengan 25.7 peratus.

Dalam pada itu, Norlela berkata, kerajaan negeri mengambil pelbagai inisiatif untuk memberi keyakinan kepada ibu bapa mengenai kebaikan vaksin.

"Kita akan meneruskan sesi libat urus bersama ibu bapa di sekolah agama rakyat serta sekolah kebangsaan untuk meyakinkan mereka mengenai kepentingan vaksinasi kepada kanak-



NORLELA

kanak.

"Mengikut data setakat 25 Februari lalu, 69 peratus daripada jumlah murid di Sekolah Jenis Kebangsaan Cina (SJKC) telah menerima vaksinasi manakala hanya 3.9 peratus kanak-kanak yang mendaftar di sekolah agama telah diberi vaksin," jelasnya.

Mengulas lanjut Norlela berkata, selain sesi libat urus yang dijalankan bersama Jabatan Pendidikan Negeri (JPN), pihaknya juga akan bekerjasama dengan Jabatan Hal Ehwal Agama Islam Pulau Pinang (JHEAIPP) bagi mengadakan sesi tersebut di sekolah-sekolah.

"Selain penerangan dari segi saintifik, kita juga memerlukan penjelasan dari sudut agama Islam supaya ibu bapa tidak menaruh syak wasangka terhadap vaksin," ujarnya.

Sehingga jam 7 pagi Isnin, sebanyak 32.8 peratus kanak-kanak berusia lingkungan lima hingga 11 tahun di Pulau Pinang telah menerima vaksinasi PICKids.

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 2
RUANGAN : NATION

King pleased with recovery

His Majesty calls for careful transition into endemic phase

By MARTIN CARVALHO
 and FATIMAH ZAINAL
 newsdesk@thestar.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR: Praising Malaysia's success in its vaccination coverage and the handling of Covid-19, the King hopes that the country's transition into the endemic phase will be done carefully.

Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah also urged the people to obtain the Covid-19 vaccine booster dose to ensure optimum level of immunity against the new variant.

"While the nation at the moment is increasingly ready to enter the endemic phase, we hope that the transition will be made carefully.

"We support the National Covid-19 testing strategy and the affirmative action taken by the government to reduce the price of self-test kits as a means to strengthen public health actions and community empowerment.

"Such an approach will enable the safe opening of economic and social sectors," said the King in the royal address delivered at the First Meeting of the Fifth Session of the 14th Parliament here yesterday.

Malaysia, said His Majesty, had succeeded in being among the best in Asia, ranking 13th out of 122 countries in the Nikkei Asia Covid-19 Recovery Index, while the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme had achieved complete vaccination coverage of up to 98% of the adult population.

"To ensure optimum level of immunity and guard against the new Covid-19 variant, we urge the people to obtain the booster dose provided by the government," said the King.

After having contracted 5.6% in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the King said Malaysia's economic growth of 3.1% in 2021 showed the



Royal speech: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob presenting the royal address to the King at the First Meeting of the Fifth Session of the 14th Parliament in Kuala Lumpur. — Bernama

effectiveness of the government's RM530bil economic assistance and stimulus packages in addition to the annual Budget allocation.

Malaysia's outstanding trade performance last year also saw the country breaching the RM2 trillion mark for the first time, with total exports valued at RM1.24 trillion, added the King.

"Consequently, the nation's total export target of RM1.25 trillion for 2025 as outlined in the 12th Malaysia Plan has been achieved four years earlier.

"We believe this success reflects foreign investors' confidence in our economic fundamentals and invest-

ment ecosystem," said His Majesty.

The King also expressed his great appreciation for the loyalty and invaluable contributions by the nation's front line personnel, civil service, the Armed Forces, the police as well as government agencies who had rendered their services to make Malaysia a peaceful and prosperous nation.

"Their contributions are huge and beyond the call of duty.

"May all public servants remain committed, dedicated and always focused on constantly improving the quality of services for the well-being of our people," said His Majesty.

At the same time, the King said the well-being of public servants – whether currently serving or retired, including Armed Forces veterans – must continue to be taken care of.

The Dewan Rakyat meeting will run for 16 days until March 24 while the Dewan Negara meeting, which was opened simultaneously, will last for nine days beginning March 21.

Watch the video
 TheStarTV.com



AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 6
RUANGAN : NATION

Rt value falling steadily

But it's too early to tell if Omicron has passed its peak, says Khairy

KUALA LUMPUR: The national Covid-19 infectivity rate (Rt) was 1.06 on Sunday, a 0.02 decrease from the 1.08 value reported on Saturday.

Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin tweeted that although the country's daily Rt had steadily dropped to 1.05, it is too early to say if Malaysia had passed the peak of the Omicron variant, even with 96% of active cases recovering at home and hospital capacity currently under control.

"If the trend continues, a full border opening and more relaxed local measures will follow," Bernama reported him as saying.

Meanwhile, in his social media updates, Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said Perak reported the highest Rt

value at 1.32, followed by Labuan at 1.27, Sarawak at 1.24 and Terengganu at 1.22.

A total of 103 cases, or 0.43% of the 24,466 new Covid-19 cases recorded on Sunday were in Categories Three, Four and Five, compared to the 129 cases recorded on Saturday.

Dr Noor Hisham said the remaining 24,361 cases (99.57%) on Sunday were in Categories One and Two, or mild and asymptomatic.

This brought the cumulative total in Malaysia to 3,419,636 cases, according to Bernama.

"Of the 103 cases, 25 were unvaccinated or partially vaccinated, 56 had received two doses of the vaccine but not the booster, and 24 had received the booster dose," he said in a statement Monday.

Dr Noor Hisham said that on Sunday there were 1,559 cases admitted, with 569 cases (36.5%) in Categories Three, Four and Five, and the remaining 990 cases (63.5%) in Categories One and Two.

He said 22,380 recoveries were reported on Sunday, bringing the cumulative total to 3,085,940 recovered cases.

On the rate for critical or intensive care unit (ICU) bed occupancy, Dr Noor Hisham said Kelantan was 94%, Johor was 69%, Putrajaya was 67%, Kuala Lumpur was 62%, and Perak and Melaka were 58% each.

On flood-related Covid-19 cases, he said that as at 3pm on Sunday, two cases had been identified among flood evacuees in Terengganu, bringing the number of cumulative cases to 25.

"All the reported cases have been identified and isolated from other flood victims at a special relief centre (PPS). No clusters among flood victims were reported at any of the PPS," he added.

Dr Noor Hisham said apart from that, two health facilities in Terengganu were affected by the floods (level one), namely the Wakaf Tapai Health Clinic in Marang and Kuala Nerus district health office.

However, both facilities were reported to be operating as usual.

"On Sunday, there were seven acute respiratory infection (ARI) and one skin disease case reported. No cases of conjunctivitis, typhoid, cholera, leptospirosis or dengue were reported among the flood victims," he added.

Covid-19 cancels races at Penang Turf Club

GEORGE TOWN: Horse racing at the Penang Turf Club has been cancelled due to the number of Covid-19 cases being reported there.

A club spokesman said yesterday that the decision was taken after Covid-19 cases were detected in various departments and the club was doing everything possible to control the spread.

"We have detected over 10 Covid-19 positive cases and close contacts. A Covid-19 case was detected at a stable last week, and another one this week at the same stable."

"Hence, we took the decision to stop all races and sanitise the areas. We have about 160 staffers who are now working on alternate days," said the spokesperson.

In the statement released by the club, it said races this coming Saturday and Sunday would be cancelled and immediate sanitisation would be carried out.

Penang trainer Cecil Robert said the move to shut down the race this weekend was a good thing as Omicron was still a threat to trainers, jockeys, punters and workers.

"All my workers at the stables, numbering more than 15, have received their booster shots. However, I continue to remind them to be vigilant."

"The Omicron variant is so contagious and spreads so fast," said the 66-year-old.

Prior to this, races at Batu Gantong were held every Saturday and Sunday, and limited to 500 fully vaccinated fans.

On Sunday, Malaysia recorded 24,466 new cases, while Penang logged 1,548 cases.

Johor moving towards endemic phase

JOHOR BARU: The Johor government is working on shifting into the endemic phase of Covid-19 by increasing its vaccination rate, including for children aged five to 12, says caretaker Menteri Besar Datuk Hasni Mohamad.

He said this was its main recommendation in ensuring that the vaccinated travel lane (VTL) programme could be enhanced and, subsequently, lead to the reopening of the Johor-Singapore border.

"I am confident that when the border reopens, it will contribute hugely to the state's economic revival."

"This decision involves two countries, but because it affects Johor, the state government is continuously planning for the border's reopening. It is the main recommendation of the government to move forward," he said. — Bernama

Penang Sinovac recipients prefer same brand booster

By LO TERN CHERN
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BUTTERWORTH: Most Sinovac vaccine recipients prefer to get the same brand for their booster shot, citing "less side effects".

Among them was mechanic Poh Poh Eng, 48, who opted for the same brand of vaccine for his booster dose and refused the mix-and-match option.

Last year he received two doses of the Sinovac vaccine.

"I came for my booster to avoid losing my 'fully vaccinated' status in MySejahtera."

"Despite being given a choice of Pfizer or AstraZeneca, I chose to continue with Sinovac as there were few side effects after taking two doses before."

"It is definitely an inconvenience to return again after three months for another Sinovac booster and to possibly pay for it," said Poh at the vaccination centre in Persatuan Ang Si Chong Soo recently.

Poh, who lives with four family members, said his daughter followed suit by taking Sinovac for all three doses as she had the same concerns.

Bank executive Rashidah Abu Hassan, 42, gave the same reasons for choosing Sinovac all the way.

"I just feel comfortable with Sinovac as there were no side effects from the two earlier doses."

"I don't often go out for social events, but for work it's almost daily."

"With two sons aged 11 and seven



Get set: Booster dose recipients waiting to be called by PPV volunteer, Mohamad Aizad Rosely, 23, at off-site vaccination centre Persatuan Ang Si Chong Soo in Butterworth. — ZHAFFARAN NASIB/The Star

months at home, it is better that I am fully vaccinated for their safety," she said.

Penang health committee chairman Dr Norliela Ariffin said till Feb 23, 81.7% of those in the state's senior citizen group received their booster shots, with 80.7% opting for Sinovac.

Meanwhile, factory odd job worker Chew Leong Hoe, 51, who had earlier received two Sinovac shots,

chose Pfizer for his booster after learning from medical officers at the vaccination centre that he might have to take a fourth shot and even pay for it three months down the road.

"I don't want to return again for another dose after three months, which I may have to bear the cost."

"But I want to remain 'fully vaccinated' in MySejahtera to be allowed to go to a dine-in place and factories

for work," he said.

Earlier it was reported that the booster deadline for adult Sinovac recipients has been extended to March 31.

Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin was quoted as saying that starting April 1, the vaccination status on the MySejahtera app will change to "incomplete" for those who have not received their booster dose.

Sabah maintaining downward case trend

By MUGUNTAN VANAR
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KOTA KINABALU: Sabah's Covid-19 infections showed a downward trend yesterday, falling to 2,174 cases compared to 2,874 cases on Sunday.

Sabah Covid-19 spokesman Datuk Seri Masidi Manjun said seven districts recorded three-digit cases, with Kota Kinabalu maintaining the highest number of cases at 555.

It was followed by neighbouring Penampang with 252 cases, Putatan (223), Papar (204), Tuaran (181), Keningau (105) and Kota Belud (101).

"A total of 17 more districts recorded double-digit cases, while two districts recorded single-digit cases followed by one district, Semporna, which did not record new cases yesterday," he said in a statement.

However, he said the rate of sporadic cases or symptomatic infections was still high at 62.74%, which could trigger new cases at any time.

He also noted that the drop in daily cases was also due to less backlog cases in Kota Kinabalu, Penampang and Putatan.

Sabah hit its highest figure of over 5,000 new cases at least three times last week.

A total of 2,150 or 98.9% of the 2,174 cases on Monday were in Categories One and Two, eight in

Category Three, 10 in Category Four and six in Category Five.

On the National Children's Covid-19 Immunisation Programme (PICKids), Masidi said that so far, Sabah has vaccinated 45,381 out of its 411,400 children aged five to 11.

He said a total of 246 new cases yesterday involved children aged below 11 who were not vaccinated, with 121 of them not yet eligible for the vaccine, namely those below five years old.

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 8
RUANGAN : NATION

Candidate slapped with RM1,000 fine over fist bump

KULAI: The campaign manager of the state Malaysian United Democratic Alliance (Muda) chief has cried foul over a RM1,000 compound issued to Azrol Rahani after he did a fist bump with a supporter on nomination day.

Azrol, however, apologised for the trouble caused and promised to settle the compound.

The candidate for Bukit Permai in the March 12 Johor polls said he

received the compound from the Kulai district health office at about 6.30pm last Saturday.

"According to the Health Department, I failed to maintain physical distance (hand touching), which is an offence under the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Act 1988."

"The hand touch referred to was a fist bump that I gave a supporter outside of the nomination centre,"

he said at a press conference here yesterday.

Azrol said the authorities had received a complaint from the public following a social media post of the gesture.

"I have given my fullest cooperation to the authorities."

"I would also like to apologise to the Health Department for the trouble I have caused," he said, adding that Muda would pay the

fine as soon as possible.

However, his campaign manager Amos Thien said it was unfair for Azrol to receive the compound for just a "normal" fist bump with a supporter.

He claimed that the offence was not listed in the standard operating procedure.

"The authorities need to be clear about the SOP. There is no mention of a fist bump being an offence

under the SOP that we received."

"There have been leaders from other parties seen being surrounded by a large group, which is an obvious offence, but they did not receive any compound."

"This is unfair to us as we have been following the SOP very closely since day one," he said.

Thien urged the authorities to be fair to all parties and be transparent when giving out compounds.

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

Caution on use of paracetamol

► Risky to exceed dosage or consume fake version of drug to counter aches from vaccination and booster shots, say experts

KUALA LUMPUR: A shortage of paracetamol tablets in the market has raised concerns that the public may be resorting to self-medication to alleviate the side effects of vaccinations and booster doses as well as symptoms of Covid infections. Experts view the hike in over-the-counter purchases of paracetamol as a worrying trend, as overdosing on the drug can expose users to poisoning.

Doctors and pharmacists interviewed by Bernama said the trend appeared to be getting 'out of hand', possibly due to a spike in new Covid-19 cases, the bulk of which comprises mild infections that cause symptoms such as fever and body ache, which can be relieved by taking paracetamol.

Several pharmacists also said many were stocking up on paracetamol in preparation for their

booster shots, which may cause side effects such as fever, headache and joint pain.

Paracetamol is commonly used to relieve aches and pain and reduce fever. Panadol, which contains paracetamol, is among the most popular painkiller medication brands available in Malaysia.

Malaysian Pharmacists Society president Amrhi Buang said patients should have some knowledge of any medication, even if it was just paracetamol that they are taking.

Amrhi also expressed concern over consumers turning to online vendors to purchase their preferred brand of paracetamol, when the usual stores and pharmacies they buy

it from run out of stock.

"We are concerned that some irresponsible people may take advantage of the situation and sell fake paracetamol tablets to consumers online, which can endanger their health," he said.

On why paracetamol stocks are hard to come by currently, Amrhi said it stemmed from the attitude of consumers who seem to prefer to take a certain brand of paracetamol medication.

Universiti Malaya public health expert and epidemiologist Prof Dr Noran Naqiah Haini said there are alternative medications, other than paracetamol, to treat symptoms such as fever and body ache.

"Individuals receiving their

vaccine or booster shots can seek the advice of the health staff on duty at the vaccination centre on the appropriate medicines to take apart from paracetamol," she said.

Pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) Malaysia, which manufactures Panadol, said in a statement to Bernama that there has been an increase in the demand for Panadol since the implementation of the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme on Feb 24 last year.

Meanwhile, Pharmaniaga Bhd managing director Datuk Zulkarnain Md Eusope said his company's paracetamol product, Actimol, is not experiencing any shortage in the market.

Only 0.43% cases in higher categories

KUALA LUMPUR: A total of 105 cases (0.43%) of the 24,466 new Covid-19 cases recorded on Sunday are in categories Three, Four and Five, compared to 129 such cases recorded on Saturday.

Health Director-General Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the remaining 24,361 cases (99.57%) on Sunday were in categories One and Two, which are mild and asymptomatic infections.

The figures bring the cumulative total of cases in Malaysia to 3,419,636.

"Of the 105 cases under categories Three, Four and Five, 25 involved unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated individuals, 56 had received two doses but not the booster jab, and 24 had received the booster shot," he said.

Noor Hisham added that on Sunday, 1,559 cases were admitted to hospitals, with 569 (36.5%) in categories Three, Four and Five and the remaining 990 (63.5%) in categories One and Two.

He said 22,300 recoveries were reported on Sunday, bringing the cumulative figure for recovered cases to 3,085,940.

On intensive care unit cases, Noor Hisham said six states recorded bed utilisation of at least 50%, namely Kelantan (94%), Johor (69%), Putrajaya (67%), Kuala Lumpur (62%), Perak and Malacca (both at 58%).

On flood-related Covid cases, he said as of 3pm on Sunday, two cases had been identified among flood evacuees in Terengganu, bringing the cumulative number

of such cases to 25.

"All reported cases have been identified and isolated from other flood victims at a special relief centre. No clusters among flood victims were reported at any relief centre."

Noor Hisham also said two health facilities in Terengganu were affected by floods (level one), namely the Wakaf Tapai health clinic in Marang and Kuala Nerus district health office. However, both facilities were reported to be operating as usual.

On Feb 27, there were seven acute respiratory infection cases and one skin disease case reported. No cases of conjunctivitis, typhoid, cholera, leptospirosis or dengue were reported among flood victims," he added. - Bernama

'Decision on prayers based on Ruler's consent'

SHAH ALAM: The Selangor government has said that the decision to allow only individuals who have received a booster shot to perform Friday prayers at mosques was based on consent from the Sultan of Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah.

State Islamic Religious Affairs, Consumer Affairs and Halal Industry Committee chairman Mohd Zawawi Ahmad Mughni said in a statement yesterday the consent was announced through a Selangor Islamic Religious Department directive dated Feb 21.

The directive was aimed to boost enforcement of standard operating procedures at state mosques, surau and musolla (prayer rooms) to control the Covid-19 pandemic.

"The consent is (based on) the concern of His Highness to avoid Covid-19 infections, on the advice of the Selangor Health Department, following the latest developments of the (pandemic)."

He said the approach to encourage people in the state to take the booster shot was in line with one of the principles of Maqasid Syariah, namely the preservation of life, adding that the state government was very concerned over the health and well-being of the people and constantly makes efforts to adopt the best approaches.

"The government is also confident that the consent of the Sultan to make the taking of the booster dose mandatory to perform Friday prayers at mosques is based on the Fiqhyyah concept, namely *sadd al-dzara'*, which means to prevent something that can bring damage and danger," he said. - Bernama

14.5 MILLION ADULTS GIVEN BOOSTER SHOTS

KUALA LUMPUR: A total of 846,486 children (23.8%) aged between five and 11 in Malaysia have received their first dose of vaccine under the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme for Children (PICKids) as of Sunday. According to the CovidNOW website, 14,578,408 (62%) of the country's adult population have received their booster shots, while 22,948,424 (97.5%) have been fully vaccinated. 23,228,204 (98.7%) have received at least one dose. For adolescents aged 12 to 17, a total of 2,800,661 (90%) in this age group have completed their vaccination while 2,894,898 (93%) have received at least one dose. - Bernama

INFECTIVITY RATE DROPPING STEADILY

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's Covid-19 infectivity rate (RI) was at 1.06 on Sunday, a 0.02 decrease from the 1.08 Rt reported the day before. Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin said on Twitter although the country's daily Rt had steadily dropped to 1.05, it was too early to say that Malaysia has gone past the Omicron variant peak, although 96% of active cases are recovering at home and hospital capacity is currently manageable. "If the trend continues, full border reopening and more relaxed domestic measures will follow," he said. - Bernama



A mascot greeting a child at a PICKids vaccination centre yesterday in Parit Perak. - BERNAMAPIX

More children being infected in Labuan

LABUAN: Children below the age of 12 are starting to form a large proportion of Covid-19 cases in Labuan, said its health department director Dr Ismuni Bohari.

He said as of Sunday, a total of 54 children below the age of 12 were infected while another 219 cases involved those above the age of 13, who have not yet fully recovered.

"Currently, we have 10 children aged 12 and below, with five each at hospitals and quarantine and treatment centres."

"The remaining 44 are undergoing home quarantine, and these children are classified under Category Two."

He said his team views the number of infections involving children seriously, as the number of such cases has risen steadily over the past week.

"There were 82 new cases involving children aged 12 and below reported on Feb 23, before declining to 65 cases on Feb 26, and 54 as of Sunday. But we cannot predict (the figures) for the next few days."

He said the number of children aged five to 11 being vaccinated under the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme for Children (PICKids) has yet to meet its target since the initiative was launched on Feb 7.

"We expect to run PICKids for a month, but the number of children who have received their first dose has yet to exceed 50% of the total target of 11,700."

He said only 23.94%, or 2,801 children, have received the shots at four vaccination centres, namely at Labuan Hospital, Kompleks Darul Kifayah hall, Sekolah Kebangsaan (SK) Pekan 2 and SK Sungai Lada.

Labuan recorded triple-digit new daily cases over the past week, with 311 cases on Sunday and two cases requiring intensive care. - Bernama