

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

Majoriti kematian COVID-19 luar hospital tidak tahu dijangkiti

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Serdang: Kira-kira 91 peratus kes kematian di luar hospital (BID) bagi pesakit COVID-19 adalah membabitkan mereka yang tidak mengetahui telah dijangki-

ti, kata Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin.

Beliau berkata, ia adalah hasil analisis yang dijalankan Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) membabitkan 113 kes BID dalam tempoh 5 hingga 21 Februari lalu.

Selain itu, beliau berkata, KKM juga mendapati lebih 50

peratus waris atau ahli keluarga kes BID beranggapan pesakit terbit hanya mengalami sakit ringan dan tidak merujuknya segera ke fasiliti kesihatan.

"Kita lihat ada peningkatan kes BID iaitu mereka yang meninggal sebelum mendapat rawatan di fasiliti kesihatan dan (ang-

ka) ini membimbangkan.

"Bagi kebanyakan kes, waris atau ahli keluarga hanya mengetahui pesakit dijangkiti COVID-19 selepas proses bedah siasat dijalankan ke atas mayat," katanya dalam sidang media mengenai perkembangan semasa pandemik COVID-19, di sini,

semalam.

Sehubungan itu, Khairy menasihatkan orang ramai terutama warga emas yang mempunyai gejala seperti demam dan batuk agar segera mendapatkan rawatan di fasiliti kesihatan.

Nasional 8

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 8

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Keberanian bersyarat bagi ubat keluaran Pfizer

Putrajaya: Mesyuarat Pihak Berkuasa Kawalan Dadah (PBKD) kali Ke-370 yang bersidang semalam bersetuju memberikan kelulusan pendaftaran bersyarat untuk penggunaan ketika bencana bagi rawatan COVID-19 untuk ubat jenama PAXLOVID keluaran Pfizer.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata keberanian itu bagi ubatan PAXLOVID (PF-07321332 150mg Film-Coated Tablets dan Ritonavir 100mg Film-Coated Tablets).

Katanya, pemegang pendaftaran bagi produk berkenaan adalah Pfizer (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd dan ia dikilangkan di Pfizer Manufacturing Deutschland GmbH, Jerman dan Pfizer Ireland Pharmaceuticals, Ireland.

Beliau berkata, ubat berkenaan akan digunakan untuk rawatan COVID-19 pada orang dewasa berusia 18 tahun dan ke atas, yang tidak memerlukan terapi oksigen dan berisiko tinggi untuk mendapat gejala COVID-19 yang teruk.

"Produk Paxlovid tidak bertujuan untuk digunakan sebagai pengganti bagi vaksinasi COVID-19 dan tindakan kesihatan awam terutama pematuan prosedur operasi standard (SOP).

"Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) ingin memaklumkan bahawa kelulusan pendaftaran bersyarat ini memerlukan maklumat kualiti, keselamatan dan keberkesanan produk antivirus di pantau serta dinilai secara berterusan oleh Bahagian Regulatori Farmasi Negara (NPRA), berdasarkan data terkini dari semasa ke semasa," katanya dalam kenyataan, semalam.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, penilaian berterusan itu bagi memastikan perbandingan manfaat-berisiko (*benefit over risk*) bagi produk itu kekal positif.

Beliau berkata, KKM akan terus komited untuk mempertingkatkan akses rakyat kepada ubat-ubatan bagi rawatan atau pencegahan penularan COVID-19 di Malaysia, dengan memastikan ia dinilai dengan sewajarnya berdasarkan aspek kualiti, keselamatan dan keberkesanan.

Sementara itu, kanak-kanak berusia lima hingga 11 tahun kini boleh disuntik dengan vaksin CoronaVac sebagai pelalian terhadap COVID-19.

Katanya, keputusan itu dibuat pada mesyuarat sama yang diberikan kelulusan bersyarat adalah bagi penggunaan vaksin CoronaVac Suspension for Injection COVID-19 Vaccine (Vero Cell, Inactivated keluaran Sinovac Life Sciences Co Ltd, China dan Pharmacia LifeScience Sdn Bhd, Malaysia kepada golongan yang berusia lima tahun hingga 11 tahun.

Penularan COVID-19

Sembilan negeri guna lebih 50 peratus katil ICU

Putrajaya, Perlis catat angka tertinggi pada kadar 67 peratus

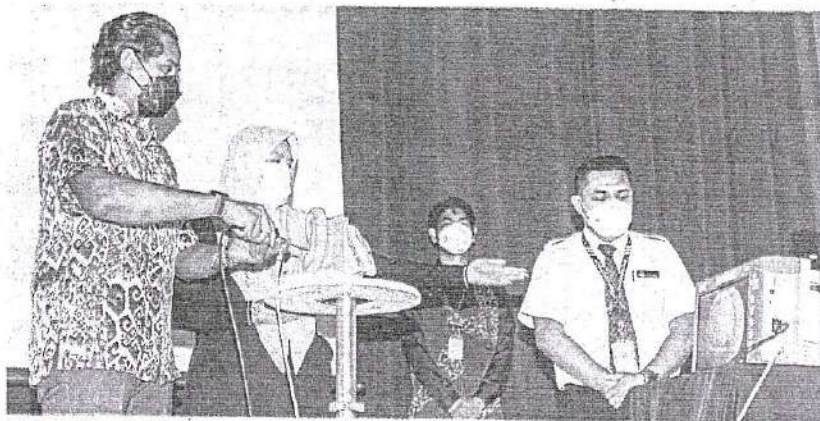
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Putrajaya: Sembilan negeri merekodkan penggunaan katil ICU melebihi 50 peratus, kelmarin bagi pesakit COVID-19 dengan angka tertinggi direkodkan di Putrajaya dan Perlis iaitu pada kadar 67 peratus.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, dalam satu kenyataan media berkata, ia diikuti Kelantan (60 peratus), Johor (59 peratus), Kuala Lumpur (58 peratus), Sabah (55 peratus), Melaka (53), Selangor (51 peratus) dan Pulau Pinang (50 peratus).

Katanya, bagi penggunaan katil bukan ICU, 11 negeri menunjukkan penggunaan melebihi 50 peratus iaitu Selangor dengan 113 peratus, Kuala Lumpur (106 peratus) dan Perak (102 peratus).

Selain itu, Kelantan (93 peratus), Perlis (91 peratus), Pahang (70 peratus), Putrajaya (67 peratus), Johor (66 peratus), Sarawak (64 peratus), Pulau Pinang (61 peratus) dan Sabah (53 peratus).



Khairy melancarkan Hari Pendengaran Sedunia Peringkat Kebangsaan 2022 di Hospital Serdang, semalam. (Foto BERNAMA)

Katanya, Melaka menunjukkan peratusan pengisian melebihi 50 peratus bagi Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan COVID-19 Berisiko Rendah (PKRC) iaitu 61 peratus daripada 1,049 katil.

"Seramai 194 pesakit COVID-19 memerlukan alat bantuan pernafasan (ventilator) dengan penggunaan ventilator sebanyak 40 peratus daripada keseluruhan ventilator untuk pesakit COVID-19 dan bukan COVID-19.

"Sebanyak 1,841 kes COVID-19 dimasukkan ke hospital semalam (kelmarin) iaitu 677 kes (36.8 peratus) adalah kategori 3, 4, 5 dan

1,164 kes (63.2 peratus) kategori 1 dan 2," katanya.

Mengulas perkara itu, Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin, berkata kebanyakan kes COVID-19 yang dimasukkan ke wad ICU dan katil digunakan sebagai katil ICU membabitkan pesakit berisiko tinggi, khususnya golongan komorbid atau pesakit lanjut usia.

Beliau berkata, setakat 28 Februari lalu, sebanyak 361 katil ICU untuk pesakit COVID-19 digunakan dan ia masih dalam kadar atau paras yang terkawal.

Mengulas arahan baharu kuarantin untuk kontak rapat tidak

bergejala, beliau berkata, memadai bagi golongan terbahagi membuat ujian sendiri pada hari pertama dan ketiga selepas kontak dengan kes indeks.

"Jika pada hari kelima didapati positif, asingkan diri kerana kita dapati tempoh pengeraman bagi varian Omicron adalah di antara tiga hingga lima hari.

"Ini adalah langkah Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) yang sudah kita bincang dengan cermat, bagi membolehkan kita membuat peralihan kepada fasa endemik," katanya pada sidang media di Hospital Serdang.

Segera dapatkan rawatan di fasiliti kesihatan

Dari Muka 1

"Daripada survei yang KKM buat, lebih 50 peratus waris anggap sakit yang dialami mereka adalah sakit ringan dan tidak merujuk ke fasiliti kesihatan dengan cepat dan apabila dikesan ia terlalu lambat.

"Keluarga atau komuniti juga diminta pantau keadaan kesihatan warga emas. Kalau demam atau batuk sikit pun, bawa jumpa doktor. Tolonglah," katanya.

Pada sidang media itu, Khairy turut menjelaskan persepsi orang ramai mengenai kes kematian akibat COVID-19 yang menunjukkan trend meningkat ketika ini.

Beliau berkata, kadar kematian yang meningkat itu bukan berlaku dalam tempoh sehari kerana ada antara kes memerlukan siasatan lanjut.

"Seperti saya terangkan sebe-

lum ini, satu pelaporan kematian adalah dalam jangka masa 72 jam dan bagi kes yang memerlukan siasatan lanjut di lapangan boleh mengambil masa antara empat hingga enam minggu untuk dilaporkan dan diumumkan.

"Ja termasuk kes yang membabitkan bedah siasat, ujian makmal dan sebagainya," katanya.

Kelmarin, negara mencatatkan angka kematian tertinggi sejak varian Omicron melanda iaitu 115 kes dengan Johor tertinggi iaitu 25 kes, diikuti Sabah dengan 24 kes, Selangor (18), masing-masing laporan kes di Kedah dan Negeri Sembilan dan Perak dengan tujuh kes.

Khairy berkata, daripada 115 kes kematian itu, 62 atau 54 peratus membabitkan laporan yang berlaku dalam masa 72 jam manakala selebihnya iaitu 53 kematian atau 46 peratus adalah melebihi 72 jam.

"Dalam gelombang Omicron ini,

pendekatan menyeluruh harus diambil terutama dalam melihat data kematian.

"Kematian tidak hanya merujuk kepada bilangan mutlak setiap hari, tetapi yang paling utama adalah melihat kepada Kadar Kematian Kes (CFR).

"Ini kerana apabila kita menuju ke arah endemik, CFR adalah indikator kematian yang tepat dalam memberi gambaran keadaan wabak semasa.

"Pada 2 Mac, Malaysia mencatatkan CFR sebanyak 0.2 peratus dan CFR sepanjang masa (kumulatif) pula adalah 0.9 peratus.

"Maksudnya ketika ini, CFR kita ketika gelombang Omicron adalah rendah berbanding dengan CFR kumulatif," katanya.

Kelmarin, 27,500 kes positif baharu COVID-19 direkodkan, menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan kes jangkitan wabak itu di negara ini mencecah 3,496,090.

Dalam perkembangan sama, Khairy berkata, status vaksinasi warga emas akan bertukar kepada tidak lengkap sekiranya tidak mengambil suntikan dos penggalak sebelum 1 April ini.

Pertukaran status itu akan berlaku ke atas semua penerima vaksin dalam kalangan warga emas tanpa mengambil kira jenis dos vaksin primer diterima mereka.

Selain itu, katanya, seramai 350,000 penerima dos premier vaksin CoronaVac keluaran Sinovac dalam kalangan warga emas dikenal pasti belum menerima suntikan dos penggalak.

"Mulai 1 April ini, bagi penerima dos premier Sinovac tidak kira usia dan bagi semua warga emas tidak kira jenis dos premier yang tidak mengambil dos penggalak, status siji vaksin kuning akan bertukar kepada siji putih dan ia adalah muktamad," katanya.

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 11
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Ambil dos penggalak percepat capai fasa endemik



Timbalan
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Keputusan Kementerian (KKM) tidak melanjutkan tempoh pemberian dos penggalak yang ditetapkan sehingga 31 Mac ini kepada penerima vaksin Sinovac adalah wajar dan tepat pada masanya.

Melihat kepada peningkatan kes jangkitan harian COVID-19 ketika ini, sudah tiba masa kerajaan perlu tegas dan mewajibkan pengambilan dos penggalak kepada semua individu dewasa di negara ini kerana ia membabitkan keselamatan nyawa individu lain.

Data terkini menunjukkan lapan negeri mencatat penggunaan katil di unit rawatan rapi (ICU) melebihi 50 peratus dengan paling tinggi di Putrajaya, iaitu mencecah

67 peratus, diikuti Kuala Lumpur (65 peratus). Negeri lain yang mencatat penggunaan melebihi 50 peratus ialah Kelantan, Johor, Melaka, Perlis, Selangor dan Sabah. Selain itu, pesakit memerlukan alat bantuan pernafasan dilaporkan terus meningkat.

Data ini sepatutnya menginsafkan dan menyedarkan semua pihak yang ancaman COVID-19 be-

lum berakhir.

Keengganan individu mengambil dos penggalak dibimbangi meningkatkan lagi jangkitan dan kematian sehingga boleh menjejaskan perancangan negara memasuki fasa endemik.

Keengganan penerima vaksin Sinovac mendapatkan dos penggalak amat mengejutkan dan sangat tidak wajar mereka bimbang dengan kesan pengambilan hanya berpandukan keraguan tidak munasabah.

Hakikatnya, majoriti rakyat semakin memahami keperluan untuk menerima COVID-19 adalah penyakit yang kini menjadi sebahagian daripada kehidupan manusia influenza H1N1 yang tercetus pada 2009 dan kemudian menjadi endemik.

Bagaimanapun keengganan sebahagian anggota masyarakat menerima dos penggalak mengecewakan kerana ia bakal mengganggu proses kehidupan dalam fasa endemik kelak.

Berdasarkan trend peningkatan kes, jika masih ramai tidak mengambil dos penggalak, keadaan pasca pandemik pasti tidak akan berubah, iaitu kadar jangkitan terus meningkat dan tidak mustahil semakin ramai terpaksa menjalani kuarantin akibat dijangkiti COVID-19.

Walaupun KKM melonggarkan prosedur operasi

standard (SOP) dengan penetapan individu 18 tahun ke atas yang menerima dos penggalak dan menjadi kontak rapat pesakit COVID-19 tidak perlu lagi menjalani Perintah Pemantauan dan Pemeliharaan (HISO) jika tak bergejala, namun apa jaminan mereka tidak akan menyebarkan virus berkenaan.

Kesedaran diri ini sangat penting demi keselamatan diri, keluarga dan anggota masyarakat yang lain di samping membuka laluan untuk kerajaan melonggarkan lagi SOP untuk rakyat kembali menjalani kehidupan seperti biasa.

Perluasan kadar vaksinasi boleh dicapai jika semua anggota masyarakat memberi kerjasama baik, termasuk peranan ibu bapa dalam menjayakan Program Imunisasi COVID-19 Kebangsaan Kanak-kanak (PICKids) yang sedang berlangsung.

Oleh itu, jika masih ramai enggan mendapatkan vaksin lengkap termasuk dos penggalak, pendekatan memujuk tidak boleh diteruskan lagi, sebaliknya kerajaan kini boleh memasuki fasa untuk 'memaksa' masyarakat mendapatkan dos penggalak dengan segera.

Sudah tiba masanya untuk KKM bertegas serta tidak bertolak ansur dengan sikap acuh tak acuh individu yang enggan mengambil dos penggalak.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : COVID-19

JOHOR CATAT JUMLAH KORBAN TERTINGGI

Kematian kembali meningkat

Bernama

Kuala Lumpur

Kadar kematian akibat Covid-19 kembali meningkat namun ia dilihat lebih rendah berbanding ketika negara berhadapan gelombang varian Delta, kata Menteri Kesihatan Khairy Jamaluddin.

Beliau menerusi ciapan di Twitter semalam berkata ini sekali gus membuktikan ba-

hawa, vaksin sangat berkesan melindungi diri daripada kesan buruk Covid-19 seperti kemasukan ke Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU) dan kematian.

"Mengapa CFR (kadar kematian kes) semakin turun? Sebab majoriti kes tidak serius. Walaupun jumlah kes naik mendadak, kes serius naik sedikit sahaja. Yang terkini, setiap 100,000 kes, 200 yang meninggal dunia," katanya.

Menurut portal GitHub Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM), 115 kes kematian akibat Covid-19 direkodkan kelmarin, dengan Johor merekodkan angka tertinggi iaitu 25 kes diikuti Sabah dengan 24 kes, Selangor (18), masing-masing lapan kes di Kedah dan Negeri Sembilan dan Perak dengan tujuh kes.

Selain itu, enam kes kematian direkodkan masing-masing di Pahang dan

Kuala Lumpur, Kelantan (empat), Pulau Pinang (tiga), masing-masing dua di Melaka dan Perlis serta satu kes direkodkan masing-masing, di Sarawak dan Terengganu.

Khairy yang berkongsi carta kematian per 100,000 populasi, mengikut status vaksinasi bagi tempoh 17 Februari hingga 2 Mac, yang menunjukkan kematian bagi individu berusia 80

tahun ke atas dan tidak menerima dos penggalak adalah lebih tinggi berkata, carta berkenaan jelas menunjukkan bahawa dos penggalak dapat melindungi warga emas daripada kematian akibat Covid-19.

"Sebab itu strategi kita sekarang mesti melindungi mereka yang paling berisiko tinggi seperti warga emas."

"Data kematian untuk tahun ini menunjukkan 91 peratus yang meninggal akibat

Covid-19, belum ambil dos penggalak atau booster," katanya.

Beliau berkata selain itu, jumlah kes kematian di luar hospital (BID) juga turut meningkat semula dan daripada 113 kes BID yang dianalisa bagi tempoh 5 hingga 21 Februari, hanya sembilan peratus mengetahui mereka sudah dijangkiti Covid-19 manakala baki 91 peratus disahkan positif selepas meninggal dunia.



SEORANG kanak-kanak menerima vaksin dos pertama di bawah Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan Kanak-Kanak (PICKKids) di PPV Axiata Arena, Bukit Jalil. - Gambar NSTP/AIZUDDIN SAAD

27,500 kes baharu kelmarin

Kuala Lumpur: Sebanyak 27,500 kes baharu Covid-19 direkodkan Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM), kelmarin.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, angka itu menjadikan 3,496,090 kes kumulatif direkodkan di Malaysia.

Menurutnya, sebanyak 27,311 kes membabitkan kategori satu dan dua manakala baki adalah kategori tiga hingga lima.

Katanya, sebanyak 360 kes memerlukan rawatan di Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU) manakala 194 kes memerlukan bantuan pernafasan.

"Semalam (kelmarin) se-

banyak 1,841 kes baharu Covid-19 dimasukkan ke hospital dengan 677 adalah kategori tiga hingga lima manakala baki adalah kategori satu dan dua.

"Terdapat juga kes Covid-19 berisiko tinggi dari kategori satu dan dua yang memerlukan kemasukan ke Pusat Kuarantin Dan Rawatan Covid-19 Berisiko Rendah (PKRC) dan hospital sebagai langkah berjaga-jaga," katanya dalam satu kenyataan media, semalam.

Menurutnya, terdapat perbezaan di antara data harian kemasukan kes Covid-19 ke hospital, berbanding kes Covid-19 kategori satu hingga lima yang ba-

hara didiagnosa pada setiap hari.

Katanya, ini kerana keadaan klinikal pesakit yang dinamik dan mungkin merosot atau bertambah baik sepanjang dijangkiti Covid-19.

"Secara keseluruhannya, setiap negeri bersiap sedia dengan pelan tindak balas cepat sekiranya berlaku peningkatan kes yang memerlukan kemasukan ke PKRC, hospital dan ICU," katanya.

Katanya, secara purata nilai kadar kebolehan jangkitan atau R-naught (Rt) di Malaysia adalah 1.0 dengan Sarawak merekodkan Rt tertinggi dengan 1.43.

62.9% dewasa terima dos penggalak

Kuala Lumpur: Seramai 14,810,832 individu dewasa atau 62.9 peratus daripada populasi kumpulan itu di negara ini sudah menerima dos penggalak Covid-19 setakat kelmarin.

Berdasarkan data di laman web CovidNow, sejumlah 22,951,398 atau 97.5 peratus daripada populasi sama telah melengkapkan vaksinasi mereka manakala 23,231,225 atau 98.7 peratus menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos vaksin.

Bagi populasi kanak-kanak berusia lima hingga 11 tahun, sebanyak 929,733 individu atau 26.2 peratus kumpulan itu telah menerima dos pertama vaksin

Covid-19 melalui Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan Kanak-Kanak (PICKKids).

Bagi remaja berusia 12 hingga 17 tahun, sebanyak 2,802,265 individu atau 90.1 peratus daripada populasi itu telah melengkapkan vaksinasi mereka manakala 2,898,437 atau 93.2 peratus menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos vaksin.

Vaksinasi harian kelmarin menyaksikan sebanyak 97,534 dos vaksin diberikan meliputi 26,923 dos pertama, 1,389 dos kedua dan 69,222 dos penggalak, menjadikan jumlah kumulatif dos vaksin yang diberikan di bawah Program Imunisasi

Covid-19 Kebangsaan (Pick) sebanyak 67,416,313.

Sementara itu, menurut portal GitHub Kementerian Kesihatan, 115 kes kematian akibat Covid-19 direkodkan kelmarin dengan Johor merekodkan angka tertinggi iaitu 25 kes.

Ia diikuti Sabah dengan 24 kes, Selangor (18), masing-masing lapan kes di Kedah dan Negeri Sembilan, Perak (tujuh), enam kes masing-masing di Pahang dan Kuala Lumpur, Kelantan (empat), Pulau Pinang (tiga), masing-masing dua di Melaka dan Perlis serta satu kes direkodkan masing-masing di Sarawak dan Terengganu.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : COVID-19

PROGRAM IMARAH MASJID DITERUSKAN SEPERTI BIASA

Tiada perubahan pada Ramadan

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Program pengimaran masjid pada bulan Ramadan diteruskan seperti biasa tanpa sebarang perubahan.

Bagaimanapun, ia masih bergantung kepada keadaan semasa dan juga saranan Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) terutama ketika jangkitan Covid-19 masih lagi tidak menentu di negara ini.

Menteri di Jabatan Perdana Menteri (Agama), Datuk Idris Ahmad berkata, setakat ini prosedur operasi standard (SOP) biasa akan digunakan dan mungkin akan ada kelonggaran mengikut kesesuaian.

"Setakat hari ini belum lagi kita putuskan. Tapi tidaklah kita kata nak tutup masjid. Masjid kita tak tutup."

"Mungkin kita laksanakan macam biasa, mungkin ada lagi SOP yang agak longgar



SETAKAT ini prosedur operasi standard (SOP) biasa akan digunakan dan mungkin akan ada kelonggaran mengikut kesesuaian.

sikit. Itu bergantung kepada keadaan," katanya selepas Majlis Pelancaran Sumbangan Tablet Kepada Pelajar dan Bantuan Wi-Fi, Majlis Agama Islam Wilayah Persekutuan (Maiwp), semalam.

Hadir sama, Pengerusi Maiwp, Tan Sri Mohd Daud Bakar.

Dalam perkembangan berkaitan, beliau turut menyeru masjid di negara ini memperbanyakkan program bersesuaian dengan fungsinya sebagai pusat perkembangan ekonomi dan sosial.

Katanya, masjid perlu dihidupkan seperti zaman Rasulullah SAW supaya ia menjadi bukan saja tempat untuk solat semata-mata.

"Seruan saya adalah supaya program diperbanyakkan. Kita hendak masjid hidup balik macam zaman Rasulullah SAW, bila dia sampai ke Madinah, dia bina masjid."

"Kita hendak masjid menjadi sebagai tempat pelajaran, sosial dan juga perkembangan ekonomi, jadi kita hendaklah aktif," katanya.



Sebanyak 412 PPV tambahan dibuka: KKM

Kuala Lumpur: Seramai 904,368 kanak-kanak berusia lima hingga 12 tahun sudah mendapatkan suntikan vaksin Covid-19 sehingga Selasa lalu.

Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan 1, Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali berkata, jumlah itu direkodkan Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) sejak Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan untuk Kanak-Kanak (PICKids) bermula 3 Februari lalu.

Menurutnya, KKM juga menambah Pusat Pemberian Vaksin (PPV) bagi PICKids sempena cuti sekolah bermula 26 Februari lalu.

"Sebanyak 412 PPV tambahan dibuka bagi membo-



DR Noor Azmi

lehkan PICKids secara walk-in di seluruh negara dijalankan.

"Sejak 1 Mac lalu, beberapa PPV di Lembah Klang sudah mula menerima kanak-kanak yang datang untuk menerima suntikan se-

cara walk-in," katanya dalam kenyataan, semalam.

Beliau berkata, bagi ibu bapa yang masih belum menerima janji temu suntikan untuk anak mereka boleh terus ke PPV secara walk-in.

Katanya, jika kuota vaksin pada hari berkenaan kehabisan, ibu bapa boleh datang semula keesokannya atau mendaftar untuk mendapatkan slot vaksinasi menerusi MySejahtera.

"Ibu bapa yang mendaftar anak mereka menerusi aplikasi itu akan diberikan pautan janji temu membolehkan mereka memilih tarikh dan lokasi mengikut kesesuaian," katanya.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO
MUKA SURAT : 13
RUANGAN : LOKAL

Kaji keperluan dos penggalak di masjid

Padang Terap: Kerajaan negeri akan mengkaji keperluan hanya membenarkan individu lengkap suntikan vaksin dos penggalak ke tempat awam termasuk masjid berikutan kes Covid-19 yang semakin meningkat di negeri ini.

Menteri Besar, Datuk Seri Muhammad Sanusi Md Nor berkata, perkara itu akan dibincangkan dalam Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Keselamatan Negeri dalam tempoh terdekat.

"Ada ramai orang tidak faham hal yang dibangkitkan mengenai prosedur operasi standard (SOP) di masjid. Sebenarnya ada keperluan yang kerajaan khususnya Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) dan Majlis Keselamatan Negara (MKN) berbuat demikian (dos penggalak).

"Saya akan panggil untuk Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Keselamatan Negeri bagi lihat semua kemungkinan itu sama ada perlu atau

tidak lengkap dos penggalak untuk ke masjid dan tempat awam, kita akan kaji dalam mesyuarat itu nanti," katanya.

Muhammad Sanusi berkata, setakat ini beliau belum pasti mengenai jumlah individu di Kedah yang sudah menerima suntikan dos penggalak namun jumlah kanak-kanak yang menerima vaksin sudah melebihi 51,000 orang menerusi Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan Kanak-kanak (PICKids).

Beliau sangat berharap orang ramai dapat mematuhi SOP walaupun individu yang dijangkiti varian Omicron tidak begitu serius.

"Saya sendiri turut ambil langkah kuarantin diri selama lima hari apabila isteri dan anak saya positif Covid-19 baru-baru ini, buat sementara waktu isteri dan anak saya duduk rumah lain dan saya rumah lain," katanya.

PENINGKATAN KEMATIAN KES BID

Pesakit tidak tahu dijangkiti koronavirus

Serdang: Kira-kira 91 peratus kes kematian di luar fasiliti kesihatan (BID) membabitkan individu yang tidak mengetahui mereka dijangkiti Covid-19, kata Menteri Kesihatan Khairy Jamaluddin.

Beliau berkata, ia merupakan analisa dijalankan Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) membabitkan 113 kes BID dalam tempoh 5 hingga 21 Februari lalu.

"Kita lihat peningkatan kes BID iaitu mereka yang meninggal sebelum mendapat rawatan di fasiliti kesihatan, dan ia membimbangkan."

"Kita sudah buat analisa dalam tempoh tersebut dan mendapati 91 peratus tidak mengetahui mereka dijangkiti Covid-19...apabila KKM uji dan didapati positif," katanya dalam sidang media perkembangan situasi Covid-19 di sini semalam.

Selubungan itu, Khairy menasihatkan orang ramai terutamanya warga emas



SEBANYAK 113 kes BID dicatatkan dalam tempoh 5 hingga 21 Februari lalu.

yang mempunyai gejala seperti demam dan batuk, untuk segera mendapatkan rawatan di fasiliti kesihatan.

"Berdasarkan survei yang KKM buat, lebih 50 peratus waris anggap sakit yang dialami mereka adalah sakit ringan dan tidak merujuk ke fasiliti kesihatan dengan cepat, dan apabila dikesan ia terlalu lambat," katanya.

Mengenai pelaporan kematian akibat Covid-19, Khairy berkata bermula 1 Mac lalu, proses pelaporan

kematian akibat Covid-19 diumumkan mengikut angka pelaporan yang diterima dari lapangan setiap hari.

"KKM menambahkan proses pelaporan kematian. Sebelum ini, laporan kematian yang diterima hanya diumumkan setelah proses pendaftaran kes di peringkat negeri selesai dan ia mengambil masa yang agak panjang sebelum ia diumumkan."

"Oleh itu, terdapat sebilangan kes yang tertunda

untuk diumumkan dan ini adalah satu daripada faktor yang menyumbang kepada tunggakan bagi pengumuman kes kematian Covid-19," katanya.

Beliau berkata bagi memastikan ketepatan masa atau *timeliness* pelaporan kematian Covid-19, kes kematian tidak lagi menunggu pendaftaran kes dan perlu dilaporkan dalam jangka masa 72 jam setelah kematian terjadi sebagaimana ditetapkan KKM.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 10

RUANGAN : PARLIMEN

Sepuluh dewasa di Malaysia alami masalah obesiti

KUALA LUMPUR - Masalah obesiti dan berat badan berlebihan di Malaysia kini berada pada tahap yang membimbangkan apabila separuh atau 50.1 peratus dewasa di negara ini berdepan dengan masalah berkenaan.

Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar berkata, ia berdasarkan laporan Tinjauan Kebangsaan Kesihatan dan Morbiditi 2019 (NHMS 2019) baru-baru ini.

Beliau berkata, prevalen obes menunjukkan kadar peningkatan yang agak tinggi saban tahun berbanding kajian sebelumnya iaitu NHMS 2006 (14.0 peratus) NHMS 2011 (15.1 peratus) dan NHMS 2015 (17.7 peratus).

Jelasnya, NHMS yang fokus pada pemakanan akan dijalankan pada 2024.

"Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) telah merangka strategi yang menyeluruh bagi menangani isu ini seperti digariskan dalam pelan tindakan jangka masa panjang di bawah Pelan Tindakan Pemakanan Kebangsaan Malaysia NPANM III (2016-2025), Pelan Strategik Kebangsaan untuk Penyakit Tidak Berjangkit (2016-2025) dan Polisi Menangani Obesiti di Malaysia (2016-2025).

"Selain itu, KKM juga menubuhkan



KHAIRY

Jawatankuasa Kerja Menangani Masalah Obesiti bagi mencadangkan tindakan yang drastik bersesuaian dengan situasi semasa dalam menangani masalah obesiti.

"Jawatankuasa ini telah membentuk dokumen Policy Option To Combat Obesity in Malaysia yang mengandungi 48 polisi menangani masalah obesiti di Malaysia untuk dilaksanakan dalam masa 10 tahun," katanya menjawab pertanyaan Datuk Dr Shahrudin Md Salleh (Pejuang-Sri Gading) dalam jawapan bertulis di Dewan Rakyat.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 16
RUANGAN : SUARA SINAR HARIAN

Pecutan terakhir penerima vaksin Sinovac



ANALISIS
MUKA 16

MUHAMMAD AMIRUL
AMIN ABDUL RAHIM

Program vaksinasi sudah tidak asing dengan rakyat Malaysia terutama dalam kalangan kanak-kanak berusia 0 hingga 5 tahun dan ini termasuk vaksin mencegah penyakit tiga serangkai (DPT), polio, measles, mumps, rubella dan HPV (human papilloma virus mencegah kanser serviks).

Terbaharu, berikutan pandemik Covid-19 yang melanda dunia, vaksin virus itu turut diperkenalkan bagi melindungi orang ramai daripada terkena jangkitan.

Jenis-jenis vaksin sedia ada diulaskan di Malaysia adalah vaksin mRNA, iaitu mengandungi genetik RNA virus (Pfizer BioNTech dan Moderna), *inactivated vaccine* atau salinan virus yang telah dibunuh (Sinopharm dan Sinovac) dan vektor vaksin tidak bereplikasi iaitu AstraZeneca dan Johnson & Johnson.

Oleh kerana terdapat beberapa jenis vaksin dan metode pembangunan vaksin berbeza-beza, maka kajian klinikal untuk melihat keberkesanan turut menghasilkan sedikit perbezaan.

Kajian awal mendapati, walaupun dengan dua inokulasi primer vaksin jenis Sinovac, keberkesanan mereka dalam menghasilkan *neutralising* antibodi adalah yang paling rendah melawan Covid-19, termasuk strain terkini Omicron.

Vaksin penggalak (*booster*) ada-

lah vaksin ketiga diberi kepada rakyat setelah didapati dua vaksin primer pertama menjadi kurang berkesan dalam jangka masa lama dan meningkatkan semula risiko jangkitan Covid.

Pakar Perubatan Kesihatan Masyarakat Fakulti Perubatan Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Profesor Dr Sharifa Ezat Wan Puteh berkata, *booster* jenis Pfizer (selepas 2 dos primer Sinovac), dikatakan berjaya menghasilkan tahap antibodi melawan Omicron yang baik, tetapi adalah 7.3 kali lebih rendah berbanding jika menentang strain varian asal Wuhan yang lama.

Jelasnya, kajian daripada syarikat pengeluar Sinovac Biotech sendiri menegaskan tiga dos Sinovac adalah 94 peratus memadai melawan varian Omicron.

Kajian juga menunjukkan peranan *booster* semakin diperlukan selepas terjadinya mutasi dan varian baharu Omicron ini.

Tambah beliau, sebelum kemunculan Omicron, kadar keberkesanan vaksin Sinovac dikatakan rendah berbanding vaksin lain, dengan anggaran hanya 51 peratus perlindungan terhadap infeksi ber-simptom, tetapi perlindungan meningkat terhadap jangkitan lebih parah.

Dalam erti kata lain, penerima vaksin Sinovac perlu mengambil suntikan *booster* bagi membantu tubuh badan melawan varian Covid-19 yang bermutasi.

Sebelum ini juga, Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) mengesahkan semua individu berusia 60 tahun ke atas atau penerima dos lengkap vaksin Sinovac berusia 18 tahun ke atas perlu mengambil suntikan dos penggalak bagi mengekalkan status

vaksinasi lengkap sehingga 31 Mac.

Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin berkata, jika gagal berbuat demikian, status mereka akan dianggap tidak lengkap vaksinasi dan maklumat itu akan tertera di dalam aplikasi MySejahtera.

"Sekiranya tidak, sijil digital itu akan bertukar warna kepada putih, maksudnya status vaksinasi penuh tidak lagi diberikan dan sekatan akan dibuat di pintu masuk tertentu," kata Khairy.

Perlu diingatkan, tempoh pemberian dos penggalak ini tidak akan dilanjutkan lagi dan orang ramai diminta segera berbuat demikian bagi melindungi diri daripada terkena kesan teruk daripada jangkitan Covid-19.

Dalam pada itu, Khairy berkata, walaupun kemasukan ke hospital ketika gelombang Omicron menunjukkan trend peningkatan namun kadar discaj dari hospital turut meningkat memandangkan kadar sembuh yang tinggi selain tempoh rawatan di hospital tidak berpanjangan.

Apa yang pasti tindakan kerajaan dalam mengesahkan rakyat terutamanya penerima vaksin Sinovac untuk mendapatkan dos penggalak adalah demi kebaikan mereka sendiri.

Tidak perlu menuding jari dan menuduh kerajaan mempunyai agenda tersembunyi kerana ia hanya demi untuk melindungi diri kita.

Kita tidak tahu sampai bila virus Covid-19 ini akan berada di muka bumi. Siapa lagi yang boleh membantu menghentikan virus ini jika kita tidak mengambil inisiatif seperti suntikan vaksin bagi melindungi diri sendiri.

* Muhammad Amirul Amin Abdul Rahim ialah pencipta kandungan sosial media Sinar Harian



Nota Di Sebalik Tabir

Bersama MERAK JALANAN

Ujian swab jangan sampai jadi beban kewangan kepada rakyat marhaen

KIRI positif, kanan positif, depan positif dan belakang pun ada kes positif.

Demikianlah hendak menggambarkan makin kerap dan banyak kes positif Covid-19 hari ini.

Seperti kata gurauan yang Merak Jalan baca di media sosial baru-baru ini, jika anda tidak ada ahli keluarga atau kawan yang positif maksudnya anda mungkin hidup bersorangan.

Merak Jalan pun dah makin bimbang hampir setiap hari ada sahaja ke-dengaran kes positif.

Rakan sepejabat, rakan sepermainan badminton, sanak saudara di kampung, pendek kata ada sahaja kes saban hari.

Bagaimanapun, mengikut naratif pihak kerajaan, dalam menuju fasa endemik, kes Covid-19 yang tinggi ini akan jadi sesuatu yang normal dan biasa.

Macam mana kita lihat kes selesema itu biasa, begitulah kes positif ini.

Pun begitu, jangan dilupa dengan kita hidup semakin normal hari ini dan peningkatan kes Covid-19, sudah tentunya kita akan lebih kerap menjalani ujian swab.

Merak Jalan sendiri sudah terpaksa membelanjakan sebanyak hampir RM200 dalam dua minggu ini untuk dua ujian RTK di klinik (RM60 caj setiap ujian) dan enam kit ujian sendiri.

Kit ujian sendiri pula terpaksa dibeli di klinik dan kedai serbaneka pada harga RM5 hingga RM15 setiap satu memandangkan ada premis yang menetapkan had unit pembelian.

Khabarnya banyak premis yang sudah kekurangan bekalan kit ujian sendiri gara-gara permintaan tinggi.

Apa yang Merak Jalan harapkan, kerajaan mungkin perlu melihat isu akses kepada ujian swab ini secara lebih mendalam memandangkan kes yang tinggi turut meningkatkan permintaan terhadap ujian swab.

Kerajaan perlu melihat dari segi bekalan ujian kit sendiri dan sudah tentunya harga ujian di pusat perubatan yang bagi rakyat marhaen, ujian sehingga dua atau tiga kali sebulan di klinik pasti memberi beban kewangan kepada mereka.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 23
RUANGAN : VAKSIN UNTUK RAKYAT

Kadar kematian Covid-19 meningkat

Namun masih rendah berbanding gelombang varian Delta

KUALA LUMPUR

Kadar kematian Covid-19 kembali meningkat, namun ia dilihat lebih rendah berbanding ketika negara berhadapan gelombang varian Delta, kata Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin.

Beliau menerusi ciapan di Twitter pada Khamis berkata, ini sekali gus membuktikan bahawa vaksin sangat berkesan melindungi diri daripada kesan buruk Covid-19.

"Mengapa CFR (kadar kematian kes) semakin turun?"



Info kematian akibat Covid-19 setakat 2 Mac.

Sebab majoriti kes tidak serius. Walaupun jumlah kes naik mendadak, kes serius naik sedikit sahaja. Yang terkini, setiap 100,000 kes, 200 yang meninggal dunia," katanya.

Menurut portal GitHub Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM), 115 kes kematian akibat Covid-19 direkodkan pada Rabu, dengan Johor merekodkan angka tertinggi

iaitu 25 kes, diikuti Sabah dengan 24 kes, Selangor (18), masing-masing lapan kes di Kedah dan Negeri Sembilan dan Perak dengan tujuh kes.

Selain itu, enam kes kematian direkodkan masing-masing di Pahang dan Kuala Lumpur, Kelantan (empat), Pulau Pinang (tiga), masing-masing dua di Melaka dan Perlis serta satu kes direkodkan masing-masing, di

Sarawak dan Terengganu.

Beliau berkata selain itu, jumlah kes kematian di luar hospital (BID) juga meningkat semula dan daripada 113 kes BID yang dialih bagi tempoh 5 hingga 21 Februari, hanya sembilan peratus mengetahui mereka telah dijangkiti Covid-19 manakala baki 91 peratus disahkan positif selepas meninggal dunia. - Bernama

Malaysia lulus penggunaan pil Paxlovid

SHAH ALAM - Malaysia meluluskan penggunaan pil untuk rawatan Covid-19 keluaran Pfizer, Paxlovid secara pendaftaran bersyarat untuk kegunaan semasa bencana.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, perkara itu diputuskan dalam mesyuarat Pihak Berkuasa Kawalan Dadah (PBKD) kali ke-370 yang bersidang pada Khamis.

Katanya, pil berkenaan membabitkan gabungan molekul baharu, PF-07321332 dan ritonavir antiviral HIV yang perlu diambil sebagai tablet berasingan.

"Indikasinya adalah digunakan untuk rawatan Covid-19 kepada orang dewasa berumur 18 tahun dan ke atas yang tidak memerlukan terapi oksigen serta berisiko tinggi untuk mendapat gejala Covid-19 yang teruk (severe)."

"Produk Paxlovid tidak bertujuan digunakan sebagai pengganti bagi vaksinasi Covid-19 dan tindakan kesihatan awam terutamanya mematuhi prosedur operasi standard (SOP)," katanya dalam kenyataan pada Khamis.

Pada Disember lalu, media melaporkan pengawal selia ubat-ubatan bawah Kesatuan Eropah (EU) membenarkan negara anggota untuk menggunakan pil baharu Covid-19 keluaran Pfizer, walaupun ubat tersebut



DR NOOR HISHAM

belum diberikan kelulusan rasmi.

Ia sebagai langkah kecemasan untuk mengekang gelombang penularan pantas virus terbahit yang dipicu varian Omicron.

Mengulas lanjut, Dr Noor Hisham menegaskan bahawa kelulusan pendaftaran bersyarat

tersebut memerlukan maklumat kualiti, keselamatan dan keberkesanan produk antivirus dipantau serta dinilai secara berterusan oleh Bahagian Regulatori Farmasi Negara (NPRA), berdasarkan data-data terkini dari masa ke masa.

Kata Dr Noor Hisham, ia bagi memastikan perbandingan manfaat-risko (benefit over risk) bagi produk tersebut kekal positif.

"KKM akan terus komited mempertingkatkan akses rakyat kepada ubat-ubatan bagi tujuan rawatan atau pencegahan penularan Covid-19 di Malaysia, dengan memastikan ia dinilai dengan sewajarnya berdasarkan aspek kualiti, keselamatan dan keberkesanan," kata beliau.

Pemegang pendaftaran produk pil itu adalah Pfizer (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd manakala pengilang, Pfizer Manufacturing Deutschland GmbH, Jerman dan Pfizer Ireland Pharmaceuticals, Ireland.

SOP tarawih belum diputuskan - Idris

KUALA LUMPUR - Kerajaan belum memutuskan ketetapan prosedur operasi standard (SOP) solat tarawih dan imarah masjid sepanjang bulan Ramadan.

Menteri di Jabatan Perdana Menteri (Hal Ehwal Agama), Datuk Idris Ahmad berkata, sebarang perubahan SOP adalah bergantung kepada situasi semasa dan saranan oleh Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM).

"Setakat hari ini kita belum memutuskan SOP Ramadan tetapi tidak bermakna masjid ditutup. Garis panduan mungkin menggunakan SOP sedia ada atau dilonggarkan."

"Ia bergantung kepada keadaan dan nasihat KKM kemudian kita akan berbincang dengan pihak berkuasa agama negeri," katanya mengulas SOP imarah masjid dan surau sepanjang Ramadan.

Beliau ditemui pada majlis pelancaran sumbangan tablet kepada pelajar dan bantuan WiFi Majlis Agama Islam Wilayah

Persekutuan di Surau Jumaat At-Taqwa Projek Perumahan Rakyat (PPR) Kampung Baru Air Panas, di sini pada Khamis.

Hadir sama, Pengerusi MAIWP, Tan Sri Mohd Daud Bakar dan Pengerusi Pertubuhan Dana Kita, Mohd Fadli Mohamed Salleh.

Mengenai program itu, Idris berkata, MAIWP memperuntukkan sebanyak RM9.3 juta bagi bantuan tablet kepada 5,000 pelajar asnaf dan RM600,000 untuk pemasangan WiFi di dewan atau surau melibatkan 10 PPR terpilih di Wilayah Persekutuan.

Selain itu katanya, MAIWP turut menyalurkan RM614,000 kepada Pertubuhan Dana Kita bagi melaksanakan makmal internet bergerak menggunakan sebuah bas dilengkapi kemudahan komputer yang akan ke kawasan kediaman penduduk sekitar Kuala Lumpur secara berkala.



Idris (tiga dari kiri) menyempurnakan simbolik penyerahan cek bantuan tablet kepada pelajar asnaf di PPR Kampung Baru Air Panas pada Khamis.

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA

MUKA SURAT : 2

RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI

8,145 ubat beracun

Dari muka 1

"Sebagai contoh, penggunaan ubat kuat atau perangsang seks yang dicampur racun berjadual seperti *sildenafil* dalam jumlah yang tinggi dan tanpa pemantauan doktor boleh memberi kesan negatif seperti merasa mual, muntah-muntah, muka kemerahan-merahan dan pening.

"Selain itu, bahan-bahan ini meningkatkan tekanan darah dan denyutan jantung dan seterusnya meningkatkan risiko serangan jantung dan strok terutamanya bagi mereka yang mempunyai penyakit darah tinggi, kencing manis serta masalah buah pinggang," katanya.

Menurut Norhaliza, sepanjang tahun lalu, pihaknya telah melakukan serbuan ke atas 1,202 premis menjual produk tidak berdaftar dengan nilai rampasan sebanyak RM22,275,319.

Bagi tahun ini, pula katanya, sehingga Januari lalu, sebanyak 130 premis diseluruh negara telah diserbu dengan nilai rampasan ubat tidak berdaftar bernilai RM1,681,532.

"Serbuan terbabit hasil 1,107 aduan yang diterima bagi tempoh tahun lalu hingga Januari lalu. Tindakan penguatkuasaan itu juga membuktikan KKM mengambil serius mengenai penjualan ubat tidak berdaftar.

"Selain daripada tindakan penguatkuasaan yang berterusan, KKM juga sentiasa menasihati orang ramai agar berhati-hati semasa membeli sebarang produk kesihatan dan pastikan ia mendapat kelulusan.

"Orang ramai boleh menyemak kesahihan nombor pendaftaran produk atau notifikasi kos-



BANYAK produk kesihatan dan ubatan-ubatan yang dijual dalam platform e-dagang tidak berdaftar dengan PBKD.

metik dengan melayari <https://www.npra.gov.my> atau dengan menghubungi Bahagian Regulatori Farmasi Negara di talian 03-7883 5400.

"Selain itu, orang ramai boleh memuat turun aplikasi NPRA Product Status daripada Google Play Store, App Store atau Huawei AppGallery bagi tujuan semakan tersebut," katanya ketika dihubungi semalam.

Sementara itu katanya, Kementerian berkenaan tidak memberikan sebarang cop kepada ubat-ubatan atau produk, sebaliknya, ubat atau produk ini perlu berdaftar dengan PBKD sebelum ia boleh dipasarkan.

"Bahagian Regulatori Farmasi Negara (NPRA) akan menilai data kualiti, keselamatan dan keberkesanan ubat-ubatan atau

produk tersebut dan kelulusan akan dikeluarkan oleh PBKD jika penilaian tersebut didapati memuaskan.

"Produk yang telah diluluskan akan diberikan lapan nombor pendaftaran dan dihadapannya (No. MAL) diikuti huruf A (ubat terkawal), X (am atau over-the-counter), T (ubat kesihatan) dan N (suplemen kesihatan) serta mempunyai pelekat keselamatan Hologram," katanya.

Dalam pada itu katanya, Bahagian Penguatkuasaan Farmasi akan terus telah meningkatkan pemantauan dan tindakan penguatkuasaan melibatkan pengiklanan dan penjualan ubat tidak berdaftar secara dalam talian pada masa akan datang bagi melindungi pengguna.

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI

350,000 warga emas belum ambil vaksin penggalak Covid-19

Berisiko maut jika dijangkiti

Oleh OMAR ZIN

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PETALING JAYA: Kira-kira 350,000 warga emas yang sudah lengkap menerima vaksin Sinovac tetapi belum mengambil vaksin penggalak dinasihat segera berbuat demikian memandangkan mereka termasuk dalam kumpulan berisiko maut sekiranya dijangkiti Covid-19.

Bercakap kepada *Utusan Malaysia*, pakar kesihatan komuniti Fakulti Perubatan Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Prof. Dr. Sharifa Ezat Wan Puteh berkata, kajian mendapati kumpulan berkenaan berisiko tinggi untuk dijangkiti Covid-19, malah dua dos vaksin yang diterima tidak cukup untuk menghalang jangkitan varian Omicron.

"Warga emas yang ada masalah kesihatan atau komorbid seperti darah tinggi, kencing manis dan strok sememangnya berisiko tinggi untuk dijangkiti Omicron.

"Bukan Sinovac tidak berkesan langsung, tetapi, kurang keberkesanannya terhadap jangkitan Omicron. Kalau tidak segera ambil dos penggalak, jika dijangkiti, besar kemungkinan akan berada dalam kategori 3, 4 atau 5," katanya ketika dihubungi semalam.

Pada masa sama, katanya, warga emas yang tidak mengam-



SEORANG remaja mendaftar untuk mengambil vaksin penggalak Covid-19 secara walk-in di sebuah pasar raya di Kuantan, Pahang, semalam. - UTUSAN/SHAIKH AHMAD RAZIF

bil dos penggalak juga berpotensi menjadi penyebar wabak.

"Mereka boleh jadi pembawa, boleh tersebar di rumah, menjangkiti suami, isteri dan anak-anak, ini yang membimbangkan," katanya.

Beliau mengulas kenyataan Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin yang merayu kepada 350,000 penerima dos primer Sinovac berusia 60 tahun ke atas supaya mendapatkan dos

penggalak dengan segera.

"Sinovac mempunyai keberkesanan sederhana berbanding Pfizer dan masih ada 350,000 warga emas yang sudah ambil dos primer Sinovac belum menerima dos penggalak.

"Omicron tidak seteruk Delta tetapi bagi warga emas dengan komorbiditi, ia bukan penyakit yang ringan. Ia masih penyakit yang boleh mengancam nyawa," katanya.

Sehubungan itu, beliau menasihatkan anak-anak yang ada ibu bapa atau saudara mara dalam kelompok berkenaan tampil membawa individu tersebut ke Pusat Pemberian Vaksin (PPV).

"Sekarang pun, kementerian sudah membenarkan mereka yang belum ambil dos penggalak untuk dapat datang secara terus ke mana-mana lokasi PPV berhampiran," katanya.

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA
MUKA SURAT : 9
RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI

KKM jangan angkuh isu dos penggalak

KUALA LUMPUR: Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) jangan angkuh memaksa rakyat mengambil dos penggalak dengan membuatkan status vaksinasi mereka bertukar kepada 'Tidak Lengkap'.

Tiong King Sing (Bintulu-GPS) berkata, rakyat makin hilang keyakinan kepada dos penggalak selepas semakin ramai mengesahkan mereka mengalami komplikasi namun tidak dipandang serius oleh pihak KKM.

"Kenapa kita tidak boleh berdiri dengan rakyat dalam hal ini. Menteri-menteri KKM jangan degil tapi fikirkan untuk rakyat. Ada juga kawan-kawan saya selepas ambil dos penggalak, tangan mereka menjadi lemah dan bila pergi periksa, hanya diberitahu bahawa itu komplikasi tapi tiada apa yang dilakukan oleh KKM."

"Jika pengarah kesihatan kita bukan pakar untuk kesihatan awam maka kita perlu

carilah pakar.

"Jangan hanya fikir satu orang sahaja yang boleh memberikan cadangan yang terbaik. Kalau betul terbaik, tidak berlakulah kes yang turun naik seperti saham. Mengapa kita buat tidak tahu pula?"

"KKM perlu kaji mengapa ramai tidak mahu ambil dos penggalak daripada membuat ugutan kepada rakyat. Perkara ini perlu teliti semula. KKM sepatutnya mampu untuk menyakinkan rakyat untuk mengambil vaksin," katanya di Dewan Rakyat.

King Sing turut menyebut mengenai pampasan komplikasi vaksin Covid-19 yang berlaku pada ramai individu.

"Rakyat tanya pada saya, kerajaan lain bagi rakyat tuntutan wang pampasan sehingga setengah juta tapi kalau dalam Malaysia dan berlaku komplikasi, kemungkinan, hanya dua orang yang boleh tuntutan pampasan itu," katanya.

Sembuh atasi positif

Oleh PETAH WAZZAN ISKANDAR
 utusannews@mediamulla.com.my

PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia kembali mencatat peningkatan kes positif Covid-19 semalam apabila merekodkan 27,500 kes positif berbanding kelmarin, 25,854 kes tetapi diatasi 27,557 kes sembuh.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr. Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, pesakit Covid-19 yang memerlukan rawatan di unit rawatan rapi (ICU) semalam, merekodkan penurunan, 360 kes berbanding kelmarin, 374 kes.

Katanya, jumlah pesakit Covid-19 yang memerlukan alat bantuan pernafasan turut merekodkan penurunan kepada 194 kes berbanding kelmarin, 213 kes.

"Bagi kluster Covid-19 baharu pula merekodkan peningkatan sembilan kluster berbanding kelmarin, tujuh kluster sekali gus menjadikan jumlah kluster terkumpul sejak pandemik melanda negara iaitu 6,798 kluster."

"Kluster aktif dengan jumlah



KES sembuh akibat Covid-19 mengatasi kes positif baharu semalam yang antara lainnya disebabkan pengambilan dos penggalak.

terkini kekal 475 kluster seperti jumlah kelmarin, 475 kluster manakala jumlah kluster yang telah tamat sebanyak 6,323 kluster berbanding kelmarin, 6,314 kluster," katanya dalam satu kenyataan semalam.

Dr. Noor Hisham berkata, sebanyak 189 kes bersamaan 0.69 peratus daripada 27,500 kes positif Covid-19 hari ini, adalah kategori tiga, empat dan lima.

Katanya, baki kes harian, 27,311 kes bersamaan 99.31 peratus adalah terdiri daripada kategori satu dan dua.

"Bagi 152 kes kategori tiga, empat dan lima, 25 kes atau 13.23 peratus tidak divaksinasi atau belum lengkap divaksinasi dan 89 kes atau 47.09 peratus telah menerima dua dos vaksin Covid-19 tetapi belum menerima dos penggalak."

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA

MUKA SURAT : 18

RUANGAN : FORUM



PESAKIT kanak-kanak dilaporkan mula memenuhi wad unit rawatan rapi (ICU) dewasa di hospital susulan peningkatan kemasukan kes Covid-19. - GAMBAR HIASAN/FAISOL MUSTAFA

Arahan mansuh kuarantin dianggap tergesa-gesa?

SAUDARA PENGARANG,

MENTERI Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin mengatakan tidak lagi perlu kuarantin bagi kontak rapat kepada pesakit Covid-19 seperti sebelum ini. Ia dilihat bertentangan dengan perkembangan varian Omicron yang mudah merebak serta dijangkiti.

Beberapa pengguna media sosial berkongsi pengalaman mereka dijangkiti virus berkenaan selepas lima hari atau tamat tempoh kuarantin (*post Covid-19*). Jadi, masih perlukah kerajaan tarik balik arahan kuarantin?

Malah kerajaan perlu faham, masih ramai lagi rakyat tidak bertanggungjawab yang bebas berada di luar mahupun ke pejabat walaupun merupakan kontak rapat. Malah ada juga yang bergejala tetapi masih degil ke tempat awam dan bekerja di pejabat. Lebih parah, kontak rapat boleh pula bercuti menaiki penerbangan sehingga menyebabkan jangkitan kepada pihak lain.

Ramai yang tidak mengemas kini status sebagai kontak rapat di aplikasi MySejahtera sekali gus menyebabkan mereka bebas bergerak tanpa sekatan.

Malah Kementerian Kesihatan juga mengeluarkan kenyataan yang katil di wad unit rawatan rapi (ICU) dewasa di hospital kini menempatkan kanak-kanak yang memerlukan bantuan oksigen. Jadi, mengapa perlu tergesa-gesa keluar arahan baharu?

Sekarang pun sudah ramai mengabaikan prosedur operasi standard (SOP) di tempat awam menyebabkan jangkitan Covid-19

“

Malah kerajaan perlu faham, masih ramai lagi rakyat tidak bertanggungjawab yang bebas berada di luar mahupun ke pejabat walaupun merupakan kontak rapat.”

semakin meningkat. Melihat kepada hujah-hujah ini, masih lagikah perlu tarik semula arahan kuarantin bagi kontak rapat?

Walaupun kerajaan memikirkan tentang ekonomi, Pilihan Raya Negeri (PRN) Johor dan politik yang mahu orang ramai keluar mengundi nanti, namun jangan sampai membahayakan kesihatan orang awam.

Ya, mungkin ini salah satu cara untuk negara capai status endemik tetapi lihatlah juga gaya hidup masyarakat yang degil untuk terus mengamalkan SOP ditetapkan.

Segala peraturan atau arahan itu perlu dibuat selari dengan keperluan dan tahap kesihatan serta kebolehsanggupan terhadap rakyat. Tidak perlu tergesa-gesa mengeluarkan arahan baharu. Kekalkan arahan sedia ada untuk keselamatan rakyat.

FITRI AHMAD
Kuala Lumpur

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 2

RUANGAN : NEWS / STORY OF THE DAY

RISING DEATHS

'91PC OF B.I.D. CASES UNAWARE OF INFECTION'

113 fatalities
between Feb 5
and 21 analysed,
says Khairy

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BROUGHT-IN-DEAD (BID) cases are rising and 91 per cent of the victims were not aware that they had been infected with Covid-19.

Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin yesterday said of the 113 BID cases analysed between Feb 5 and 21, only nine per cent knew their infection status.

"We are seeing many undetected BID cases, with 91 per cent testing positive in the post-mortem. That's when they were found to have died due to Covid-19.

"Based on our surveys, more than 50 per cent of relatives said they believed that their family members who died were only mildly ill and, as such, they were not referred to a medical facility promptly.

"And when the virus was detected, it was too late and their loved ones died at home or outside medical facilities," Khairy said at the opening of World Hearing Day at Serdang Hospital.

Khairy advised those with elderly parents who displayed symptoms, such as high fever or persistent cough, to seek medical assistance immediately.

He said in terms of morbidity and mortality, high-risk patients involved the elderly and those at risk, especially those who were vaccinated with Sinovac and have yet to receive a booster dose.

A total of 350,000 senior citizens have yet to receive their booster shot, he added.

"While the Omicron wave is not as ferocious as Delta, for the elderly, especially those with comorbidities, it is not just a mild infection and it can be deadly.

"If they live with us and they show any symptom, do not wait and refer them to health facilities immediately."

Khairy said based on data from the Health Ministry, those aged 70 and above who have received a



Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin speaking at the opening of World Hearing Day at Serdang Hospital yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

booster shot had a significantly lower mortality rate.

He said boosters were important to prevent deaths and severe illness due to Covid-19, especially among those aged 70 years and above, as well as those with underlying diseases, such as diabetes and hypertension.

Khairy also confirmed that Malaysia's daily Covid-19 deaths had reached three digits on Wednesday, at 115.

The figure was also the highest since Oct 7, when 132 fatalities were reported.

He said the last time Malaysia recorded a three-digit daily death count was on Oct 12, at 103.

Khairy said the format of reporting daily deaths was enhanced on Tuesday and the figure needed to be reported within 72 hours, and the registration of cases was no longer needed before the numbers were logged.

"As such, the count will be announced based on the number of deaths received daily from on-the-ground reports. Previously, they were announced only after the registration of cases were completed.

"This was among the factors that caused a backlog in the reporting of cases. Although there is still a slight backlog in the registration of cases, to ensure timeliness of reporting the deaths, waiting for registration is no longer needed and the deaths have to be reported within 72 hours as decided by the ministry.

"I hope with this, we will get more timely data on the number of deaths," he said, adding that the median turnaround time for reporting deaths was three days until March 2.

He, however, confirmed that the deaths reported were not a single-day count.

The reports, he said, were done

within 72 hours and cases that needed further investigations could take between four and six weeks to be reported.

Khairy said of the 115 deaths reported, 62, or 54 per cent, had been logged following the three-day timeline.

He said the switch was made so that the ministry could get a better picture of the real-time Covid-19 situation on the ground.

Khairy said there should be a holistic approach to viewing the number of deaths.

"Deaths do not just refer to the daily death count. What is most important is the case fatality rate, where we take the number of deaths over cases to gauge the severity of the wave.

"The ministry is trying to understand what is taking place and how severe Omicron is. That's why this indicator is important. If we just take the number of deaths, it does not represent what is happening."

He said this would also give a better picture of the current state of the outbreak in preparation for the country's transition to the endemic phase.

Khairy said on Tuesday, the case fatality ratio was 0.2 per cent, while the overall ratio throughout the pandemic has been 0.9 per cent, which meant that the latest ratio was lower than the cumulative ratio.

"This means the severity of the disease now is lower than during the Delta wave last year."

He said besides representing the severity of the illness in real-time, the case fatality ratio was also used to look at the prognosis of the illness and gauge the impact of new treatments.

Page 1 pic: People wearing face masks arriving at the Masjid Jamek LRT station last month.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : NATION / NEWS

UPWARD TREND

COVID-19 DEATHS RISE TO 115

Number of daily cases increased to 27,500

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COVERID-19 deaths shot up from 78 to 115 within 24 hours on Wednesday. This is the highest number since Oct 7, 2021, when 132 fatalities were reported. The number of deaths has been on an upward trend since Feb 6.

Cases also rose for the second consecutive day, from 25,854 on Monday to 27,500 on Wednesday. On Sunday, 23,100 new infections were reported.

Of the deaths, 36 have been classified as brought in dead.

The death toll is now 32,942.

Johor recorded the most deaths at 25. This was followed by Sabah (24), Selangor (18), Kedah (eight), Negri Sembilan (eight), Perak (seven), Kuala Lumpur (six), Pahang (six), Kelantan (four), Penang (three), Melaka (two), Perlis (two), Sarawak (one) and Terengganu (one).

No deaths were reported in Putrajaya and Labuan.

Up to Wednesday, there were 293,479 active cases, with 8,182 people hospitalised.

Of this, 360 were in intensive care units (ICUs), 194 of whom required breathing aid. The ventilator-use rate nationwide stood at 40 per cent.

A total of nine states recorded ICU occupancy rates of above 50 per cent.

Putrajaya had the highest occupancy rate at 67 per cent. It is followed by Perlis (64 per cent), Kelantan (60 per cent), Johor (59 per cent), Kuala Lumpur (58 per cent) Sabah (55 per cent), Melaka (53 per cent) and Selangor (51 per cent).

For non-ICU beds, 11 states recorded occupancy rates of more than 50 per cent.

Selangor had an occupancy rate of 113 per cent, and Kuala Lumpur and Perak had rates of 105 and 102 per cent, respectively.

Only Melaka had a non-ICU bed-use rate of below 50 per cent.

The state, however, recorded the highest bed-use rate at low-risk quarantine and treatment centres at 61 per cent.

The ministry also reported 27,557 recoveries.

A total of 189 cases, or 0.69 per cent, up to Wednesday were in

categories 3 to 5, and the rest were in categories 1 and 2.

Of the 189 severe-to-critical Covid-19 cases, 25 (or 13.23 per cent) involved those who were unvaccinated or partially vaccinated, and 89 (or 47 per cent) were fully vaccinated but yet to receive a booster shot.

A total of 38 cases (or 20.11 per cent) had received their booster dose, 108 (or 57.14 per cent) involved those aged 60 and above, and 48 cases (25.4 per cent) had comorbidities.

Nine new clusters were recorded up to Wednesday, bringing the number of active clusters to 475.

ANIMATED TWINS

'Upin & Ipin' become PICKids ambassadors

KUALA LUMPUR: Popular animated twins *Upin & Ipin* have always played their part in promoting public health campaigns, especially in fighting Covid-19.

Animation studio Les' Copaque Production announced yesterday that the twins had been made the official ambassadors for the Covid-19 National Immunisation Programme for Children (PICKids) by Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin.

The announcement, made on the *Upin & Ipin* Instagram account, showed Les' Copaque's latest short film featuring the twins alongside an animated version of Khairy at a vaccination centre in their village of Kampung Durian Runtuh.

In the video, Upin and Ipin are seen arriving at the centre, accompanied by their grandmother

Uda and their elder sister Ros.

A doctor administers the Covid-19 vaccine to Upin, followed by Ipin, and both brothers remark that the jabs were not painful.

Upin and Ipin then face the camera and encourage children to get vaccinated under PICKids.

"Let's all get the PICKids vaccination today!" they say.

Khairy, as an animated character, joins them on camera and says: "Congratulations! Protect yourself, protect your children, protect everybody!"

Khairy and the twins are then joined by their classmates, Devi, Mei Mei, Jagjit and Fizi.

As the credits roll, Upin and Ipin sign off with their catchphrase: "Betul, betul, betul!"



A girl watching a boy receive a dose of the Covid-19 vaccine at the Axiata Arena vaccination centre in Bukit Jalil yesterday. PIC BY HAZREEN MOHAMAD

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

412 walk-in vaccination centres for kids added

KUALA LUMPUR: A total of 412 walk-in vaccination centres have been added to the Covid-19 National Immunisation Programme for Children (PICKids) for those aged 5 to 11.

Deputy Health Minister Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali announced this as a move to tap into the month-long school holidays that began on Feb 26 and end on March 20.

He said this was to supplement the walk-in vaccination centres that began operating in the Klang Valley on Tuesday, including the World Trade Centre Kuala Lumpur, Axiata, IDCC and Soka Gakkai vaccination centres.

"If the quota for daily vaccinations runs out, parents can choose to return to the centre the next day."

"They can also book vaccination slots for their children via MySejahtera," he said yesterday.

Parents who registered their children on MySejahtera would receive links of available slots.

A total 904,368 children, or 25.5 per cent of the 3.6 million children aged 5 to 11, have received at least one dose of the Covid-19 vaccine up to Tuesday.

The PICKids programme began on Feb 3.



An animated version of Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin is seen with Upin and Ipin in a video encouraging children to get vaccinated.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 13

RUANGAN : LETTERS

DETERMINING ENDEMICITY

SPECIFY PARAMETERS FOR ENDEMIC STAGE

PROponents of endemicity need to specify quantitatively the parameters that constitute endemicity so that it is very clear to all what it means.

The first parameter is quite easy to specify: the capacity of the public healthcare system based on bed utilisation rate in intensive care unit (ICU) wards.

This is necessary because endemicity must be associated with infections that will not paralyse the healthcare system.

Hence, a warning system should be developed to let all especially frontliners know whether at any point in time the healthcare system can cope with the number of daily infections.

For instance, the use of colour coding where green denotes bed utilisation rate in ICUs of below 50 per cent, orange denotes a utilisation rate of 50 to 80 per cent and yellow is a rate of between 80 and 100 per cent, and finally red, above 100 per cent.

As long as this rate is in green or orange, the situation is endemic

because the hospital can cope with rising infections.

The first sign of danger is yellow when the rate is 80 to 100 per cent, which means private hospitals need to be roped in to increase the capacity of the healthcare system before it gets overwhelmed.

Once the bed utilisation rate is 100 per cent, then the army would have to be roped in to set up more field hospitals. With the capacity of the healthcare system being taken care of, endemicity is sustainable.

Next is the death numbers. Proponents say, we can really move very fast towards endemicity in as short a time as possible by removing all restrictions, and opening all borders.

But they do admit this will lead to a surge of infections so high that the healthcare system cannot cope, and people will die for lack of oxygen supplementation because there is no room for them at hospitals.

It is, thus, the human cost because all lives matter, preventing the proponents of endemicity from implementing this superfast approach.

But what does all lives matter means when we know that Covid-19 will cause some deaths?

What are the death numbers that we can live with during endemicity? One way to arrive at a proxy number is to compare it with other endemic viruses like the common cold.

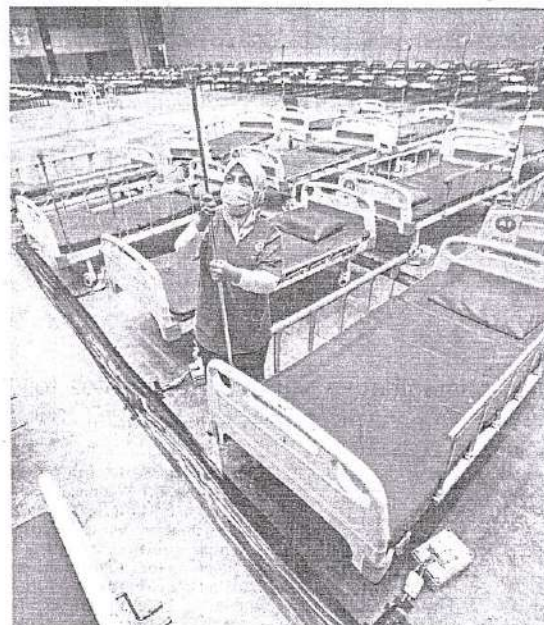
From the average figures of deaths a day/week/month/year caused by the common cold in the past 10 years, we can then use this average proxy figure to denote the number of deaths that's consistent with endemicity.

Finally, specifying quantitatively the parameter on daily cases "when the virus is circulating among us without being the threat like now". This is very difficult to determine.

In the past, when the daily infection figures were consistently in the three digits, this was considered as threatening enough to merit a Movement Control Order.

The last time we had a three-digit daily infection was in September 2020 after the Sabah state election.

So, what this means is the



Bed utilisation rate is among the factors that can determine the nation's transition to endemicity. PIC BY MOHD FADLI HAMZAH

daily infection number consistent with endemicity is a moving number like a moving average, depending on the surge of each wave.

For now that number could be below 5,000 cases a day because before we experienced the current 5-digit surge, the daily infection

numbers were hovering below that for quite a long time, accompanied by the feeling that things were quite normal as if we were already in an endemic phase.

JAMARI MOHTAR
Editor of Let's Talk!
Kuala Lumpur

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 4
RUANGAN : NATION

New travel rules welcomed

Dropping six-day Covid-19 test will boost tourism, say operators

By JUNAID IBRAHIM
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PETALING JAYA: The move to drop the Covid-19 tests over six days for travellers arriving in Malaysia from abroad has been lauded by the local tourism players.

Local travel operators said the move could help boost tourism and encourage more people to visit the country via the air and land Vaccinated Travel Lane (VTL) programme between Malaysia and Singapore, Langkawi International Tourism Bubble (LITB) and One Stop Centre (OSC) for short-term business visitors.

Travellers need only to be tested two days before arrival and upon arrival. They no longer need to self-test on the 2nd, 4th and 6th days and be tested by doctors on the 3rd, 5th and 7th days.

Malacca Tourism Association president Madeline Kuah said they welcomed the move.

"Most airlines require travellers to get tested using the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test before boarding their flights. Once the test result is negative, it should be fine because the risk of infection is much lower," she said.

Kuah said travellers should feel confident about the new guidelines as long as they follow the SOP, such as wearing face masks, using sanitiser and maintaining physical distancing.

Travel agency Go Titi co-founder Datuk Indera Nares Mohan said the move would allow inter-



national tourists to explore beyond Langkawi to other parts of the country.

However, he said it is too early to gauge how the move would impact the industry as the borders are still closed to most travellers.

Singapore-based Malaysian engineer Leong Chew Ping, who plans to return to Malaysia via the VTL, said he would still practise the daily tests to ensure his safety and those around him.

The 26-year-old, who is attending his university graduation ceremony in Sabah, said dropping

the requirement would also undoubtedly help the older travellers who are not familiar with using the self-test kits.

"I think the move will encourage more people to travel to Malaysia, especially when they need not have to do daily self-tests and visit clinics for a supervised RTK-test on days three and seven," said Leong.

Another traveller who wanted to be known as Sonia said that as a responsible traveller, she would adhere to the guidelines when visiting her family in Kuala Lumpur.

However, Langkawi Escape Holidays managing director Mohd Fadhilah Mohd Rodzi said the move would impact tourist guides and rental car service providers as their services would be less needed now.

"When LITB was first introduced, it helped the car rental providers and tourists guides to get some income by assisting the visitors in getting their Covid-19 tests.

"However, their services will no longer be needed now, and thus would lose a source of income," he said.

On Monday, Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin said they dropped the requirement for travellers under the three programmes to undergo the Covid-19 RTK-Ag tests.

The existing SOP and protocols are still in effect for travellers who do not enter the country through the three programmes.

Obesity has reached 'alarming level', warns MOH

KUALA LUMPUR: Half of the Malaysian adult population is either overweight or obese, with the Health Ministry warning that the matter was reaching an alarming level.

Out of 50.1% of Malaysian adults, 30.4% were overweight and 19.7% obese, according to the National Health and Morbidity Survey (NHMS) 2019.

Obesity rates are also rising each year, from 14% in 2006 to 15.1% (2011) and 17.7% (2015) according to the NHMS studies conducted then. The next study will be conducted in 2024.

"The problem of obesity and being overweight in Malaysia is now at an alarming level.

"The definition of being overweight is having a Body Mass Index (BMI) of between 25.0 and 29.9 kg/m², while for obesity, the BMI is from 30.0 kg/m² and above," the ministry said in a written parliamentary reply at the Dewan Rakyat here yesterday.

Datuk Dr Shahrudin Md Salleh (Pejuang-Sri Gading) questioned the Health Minister about the obesity rate in the country and what the ministry was doing about it.

To address the issue, the ministry said a working committee it formed produced a document outlining 48 policies to tackle obesity in the country.

"Until 2022, a total of 10 policies have been implemented, including mandating a weight management programme at selected ministries or departments, imposing an excise tax on sweet sugary drinks and premixed beverages, as well as enforcing a ban on advertising to children's food and beverages with high contents of fats, salt and sugar," said the ministry.

It has also formulated the National Plan of Action for Nutrition of Malaysia (2016-2025), National Strategic Plan for Non-Communicable Disease (2016-2025) and a Policy to Combat Obesity (2016-2025) as the framework for action to address food and nutrition challenges in the country.

Today is World Obesity Day.

RM4.7bil. spent on buying Covid-19 vaccines

KUALA LUMPUR: An estimated RM4.72bil has been spent on purchasing 88.1 million doses of Covid-19 vaccine for the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme, says the Health Ministry.

This includes 20.4 million doses of Sinovac and 44.8 million doses of Corinaty for adults and adolescents as well as another 6.6 million doses for children.

The government also acquired 6.4 million doses of AstraZeneca from the World Health Organisation-backed Covid-19 Vaccines Global Access (Covax) Facility, 6.4 million doses of AstraZeneca from Oxford University, and 3.5 million doses of CanSino.

This brought the number of vaccine doses purchased to a total of 88.1 million doses, covering 143.13% of the population, or 46.03 million adults, adolescents and children.

"Until Feb 18, 2022, the Health Ministry has ordered 88.1 million

"The ministry also received LDV syringe and needle contributions of 2.7 million units worth RM891,000."

Health Ministry

doses of the Covid-19 vaccine with an estimated cost of RM4.72bil for immunisation of the adult population, adolescents and children.

"Given that the government is bound by a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) with vaccine manufacturers, the details of each agreement cannot be disclosed including the price of the vaccine.

"However, the procurement cost for each type of vaccine has been explained in the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) proceedings in Parliament held on Aug 2, 2021,"

said the ministry in a written reply in the Dewan Rakyat here yesterday.

This was in response to a question by Lim Lip Eng (PH-Kepong) who asked the Health Minister to state the number of vaccines, needles and syringes as well as related supplies purchased by the government since 2020, and the cost.

Lim also asked about the total dose of vaccines disposed and the reasons for their disposal.

The ministry said a total of 89,089,900 units of Low Dead

Volume (LDV) syringes and needles were procured for the administration of the vaccine at a cost of RM36.83mil.

"At the same time, the ministry also received LDV syringe and needle contributions of 2.7 million units worth RM891,000," it said.

On the number of vaccines disposed, the ministry said it was still compiling data and conducting verification on this and could only inform the public once the process is completed.

Among the causes of Covid-19 wastage and disposal were issues with temperature deviations that compromise the quality, safety and effectiveness of the Covid-19 vaccine, it added.



For more stories:
See page 6

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NATION

Most BID cases had no inkling

Kin of those brought in dead in the dark about infection until post-mortem

By WANI MUTHIAH
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KLANG: The majority of those brought in dead (BID) to hospitals were unaware they had Covid-19, says Khairy Jamaluddin.

In disclosing the worrying trend, the Health Minister said the families of these BID cases had also been in the dark until post-mortems were done.

"We analysed data from Feb 5 to Feb 21 and found that 91% of the 113 BID cases had not known they had contracted Covid-19," he told reporters after launching the national level World Hearing Day 2022 at Serdang Hospital.

Due to this, Khairy urged those suffering, especially the elderly, to be immediately taken to hospital if they displayed any Covid-19 symptoms such as fever, flu or cough.

Sabah recorded the highest number with 35 BID cases – all of which had gone undetected for Covid-19 prior to death.

This was closely followed by

Selangor with 25 BID cases, of which 19 had gone undiagnosed.

"Based on our survey, more than 50% of those who died were not referred to health facilities quickly as they were unaware of the infection," said Khairy.

He added it was already too late when they finally realised it was Covid-19.

He also urged the 350,000 elderly SinoVac recipients who have not received their booster shots yet to do it as soon as possible.

He reminded them that Covid-19 can kill elderly people with comorbidities.

On another matter, Khairy said he would be meeting the parents of 13-year-old Revnesh Kumar in his office today.

The teen reportedly died last month, almost three weeks after being vaccinated.

Khairy added the post-mortem report has already been released and he would be sharing the findings with the deceased's parents.

"I will be meeting the parents in

my office tomorrow morning and I feel it is best I meet with them first before anything is publicly announced," he added.

The Health Ministry also announced a change in how the daily Covid-19 death toll is reported.

It said fatalities will be announced according to the figures received from the field on a daily basis.

"This is because previously, death reports received were only announced after case registration at the state level was completed.

"This sometimes took a while, causing a 'backlog' of Covid-19 death cases.

"To ensure the timeliness of deaths being reported, cases now must be reported within 72 hours of death as stipulated by the Health Ministry," it said in a statement.

A total of 115 Covid-19 deaths were reported on March 2, out of which 62 occurred within the last three days.

The ministry said the remaining 53 cases occurred prior to the 72-hour mark.

"This figure is the highest reported during the Omicron wave and the highest since Oct 7, 2021, when there were 132 deaths.

"The last time a three-digit death toll was reported was on Oct 12 last year with 103 Covid-19 fatalities," the ministry said in a statement yesterday.

It reiterated that the number of deaths announced for March 2 is not the number of deaths that occur in one day.

"As mentioned, a death report is made within 72 hours and for cases that require further investigation, such as post-mortem studies or laboratory tests, it can take up to four to six weeks to be reported," the ministry added.

The Health Ministry also said that moving forward, a holistic approach must be taken, especially in looking at mortality data.

"Mortality does not only refer to the daily death rate, but more importantly to the Case Fatality Rate (CFR).

"This is because when we head

towards an endemic point of view, the CFR is an accurate indicator of mortality when providing a clearer picture of the current epidemic situation.

"Death rates are typically used as a measure of disease severity and are often used for prognosis (predicting disease course or outcome), whereas low CFR rates indicate low disease severity.

"It can be used to assess the effects of new treatments and the severity of the disease decreases as treatment improves.

"The CFR is calculated by dividing the number of deaths from a particular disease in a given period of time by the number of individuals diagnosed with that disease during that same period of time.

"The resulting ratio is then multiplied by 100 to produce a percentage," it added.



Watch the video
TheStarTV.com

'Detect hearing loss early to avoid adverse effects'

KLANG: The government wants to go the extra mile to identify the hearing impaired by detecting the disability as early as possible.

Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin said one of the measures taken was identifying hearing impairment among newborns.

"In line with the Disabled People's Act, the Health Ministry has taken steps to identify hearing problems from an early age through the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening (UNHS).

"Through this screening programme, it was found that permanent hearing disability was four cases for every 1,000 babies screened," said Khairy in his speech

at the launch of the national level of the World Hearing Day 2022 at Serdang Hospital.

There were currently 44 public hospitals nationwide that carried out the UNHS programme.

According to Khairy, only 62% of newborn babies have undergone screening for hearing problems under this programme to date.

He said the numbers must improve to meet the 95% and above target set by the International Joint Committee on Infant Hearing.

It was crucial to detect hearing loss among babies and children as it is a hidden disability, and he said failure to detect it early would adversely impact their future.

"Because of this, I hope we can expand this programme, and I want the UNHS for babies born in Malaysia to be made a national health agenda, in line with the practice in developed nations."

He said the main challenges faced in carrying out the screening were acquiring more up-to-date equipment, having sufficient experts such as audiologists and support groups, and coordination and collaboration among the ministry, state, and hospitals.

Given the government's target and challenges to increase screening among newborns, Khairy said a special committee must oversee the current National Ear and

Hearing Care (NEHC) programme under the medical development unit to oversee the strategic planning and coordination of the UNHS.

This was to ensure that early intervention could be carried out to deal with newborns with hearing problems.

Khairy also said there were 40,743 registered hearing-impaired adults and children in Malaysia as of Dec 31, 2021.

However, he added that the numbers were lower than in previous surveys.

Given this, he urged hearing-impaired to register and receive the available aid.

CoronaVac approved for younger children

KUALA LUMPUR: The CoronaVac Suspension for Injection Covid-19 Vaccine (Vero Cell) Inactivated has been approved for children aged five to 11, says Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

He announced conditional registration approval was agreed to by the Drug Control Authority (DCA) at its meeting yesterday.

The vaccine is produced by Sino-vac Life Sciences Co Ltd China and Pharmantaga Lifescience Sdn Bhd.

Dr Noor Hisham said this was the second Covid-19 vaccine approved for children aged five to 11 as the Comirnaty vaccine was approved for the group on Jan 6.

"CoronaVac was earlier approved for conditional use for individuals aged 12 and above," he said in a statement yesterday.

Dr Noor Hisham said the meeting also agreed on conditional approval for Paxlovid and Ritonavir for use in Covid-19 treatment among adults aged 18 and above, who do not need oxygen therapy and were in high-risk of severe symptoms.

However, he said Paxlovid was not aimed at being used as a substitute for Covid-19 vaccination.

"The Health Ministry wishes to announce the conditional approval still requires quality, safety and efficacy information of the vaccine and the antiviral will be continuously monitored by the National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency (NPRA) based on the latest data.

"This is to ensure the comparison of benefit over risk for the vaccine to remain positive," he said. – Bernama

Hundreds more PPV for PICKids

KUALA LUMPUR: In conjunction with the school holidays, an additional 412 vaccination centres (PPV) have been provided for walk-ins under the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme for Children (PICKids), says the Health Ministry.

Deputy Health Minister Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali said the exercise began on Feb 26.

"During the school holidays, parents who have yet to get a vaccination appointment for their children aged five to 12 are encouraged to bring them to a nearby PPV on a walk-in basis.

"If the vaccination quota for children at the PPV has been exhausted for the day, parents can choose to come back the next day or register the child to get a slot in the MySejahtera app," Bernama quoted him

"Bring them to a nearby PPV on a walk-in basis."

Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali

as saying yesterday.

Dr Noor Azmi said parents or guardians who register their children through MySejahtera will be given a link where they can choose the date and location for the vaccination.

Walk-ins under PICKids has been implemented at several PPV in the Klang Valley, namely the Kuala Lumpur World Trade Centre (WTKCI), Axiata PPV, IDCC PPV and Soka Gakkai PPV.

As of yesterday, a total of 929,733 children or 26.2% of the child population aged between five and 11 have received their first dose of the vaccine through PICKids.

Slight dip in ICU bed occupancy nationwide

PETALING JAYA: The occupancy rate at intensive care units (ICUs) in seven states, including Putrajaya and Kuala Lumpur, were over 50% as at Wednesday, down from eight states the day before.

Putrajaya was highest at 67%, followed by Perlis (64%), Kelantan (60%), Johor (59%), Kuala Lumpur (58%), Sabah (55%), Melaka (53%), Selangor (51%), and Penang (50%).

As for Covid-19 Integrated Quarantine and Treatment Centres (PKRC), only Melaka has an occupancy rate of above 50%, at 61%, said Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

He added that bed usage at non-ICU wards were above 50% in Selangor (113%), Kuala Lumpur (106%), Perak (102%), Kelantan (93%), Perlis (91%), Pahang (70%), Putrajaya (67%), Johor (66%), Sarawak (64%), Penang (61%), and

Sabah (53%).

"As at March 2, the number of Covid-19 hospitalised cases was 1,841. From this, 677 cases were in Categories 3, 4 and 5 while 1,164 cases were in Categories 1 and 2," he said in a statement yesterday.

Dr Noor Hisham also said there were 27,500 new cases, which brings the total cumulative cases to 3,496,090, along with 27,557 recoveries.

Of the new cases reported, 189 (0.69%) were in Categories 3, 4, and 5; while the remaining 27,311 (99.31%) were in Categories 1 and 2.

There were 428 imported cases involving 389 Malaysians and 39 non-Malaysians, he said.

Of the new cases, 360 required treatment at an ICU; 139 confirmed cases and 221 suspected cases.

AKHBAR : THE SUN ON FRIDAY

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS

March 31 deadline for booster dose is final, says Khairy

SERDANG: The March 31 deadline for Sinovac primary vaccine recipients to get booster shots to retain their fully vaccinated status is final, said Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin, adding that after the date, their vaccination status will change to "incomplete", if they have not received the third dose.

"Starting April 1, for Sinovac primary vaccine recipients aged 18 and above and senior citizens who have not taken a booster dose, their

vaccination status will change from yellow to white. It is final."

Previously, the Health Ministry had said that vaccine recipients aged 60 and above and Sinovac recipients aged 18 and above must receive their booster shots before Feb 28 to retain their fully vaccinated status.

However, Khairy said in a press conference on Feb 24 that the period to obtain a booster dose for the groups would be extended until March 31.

Khairy also said that to date, a total of 35,000 senior citizens who are Sinovac primary vaccine recipients have yet to receive the booster dose.

"For the elderly, a booster dose has been shown to prevent the adverse effects of Covid-19. Therefore, it is important to get it."

"The Omicron wave is not seen to be as aggressive as Delta. But for the elderly, especially those with comorbidities, it will not be a mild disease as this can lead to death."

Khairy said Sinovac primary vaccine recipients could now get booster shots at vaccination centres, without the need for an appointment.

On another matter, Khairy said he would meet the parents of 13-year-old Ramesh Kumar, who allegedly died after receiving the Covid-19 vaccine on Dec 30, adding that a meeting with the parents would be held at his office.

"It is better to meet the parents of the boy first before anything is

announced, because the details of health and death are confidential."

On Feb 26, a portal reported that the parents of the boy, who died a few weeks after being vaccinated, called on the relevant parties to explain the cause of death of their only child.

The boy is said to have collapsed inside a lift of his housing block on Jan 16 while on his way to a karate class before being rushed to the Kajang Hospital, where he was pronounced dead. - Bernama

No privacy issues with MySJ Trace feature

➔ Data only accessible by authorised staff and used exclusively for contact tracing

BY EMILY JESSINTA
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PETALING JAYA: The public need not be concerned about privacy issues when using MySJ Trace on the MySejahtera app.

The MySJ team at the Health Ministry will not have access to MySJ Trace information without approval from Covid positive patients, said University Malaya Medical Centre head of Public Health Department Dr Victor Hoe.

Individuals concerned need to agree to participate and upload the MySJ Trace information to be accessed by the MySJ team.

He said the MySJ Trace feature serves many purposes, such as tracking the

movement of others in the vicinity of the user and identifying Covid-positive individuals and close contacts using an algorithm to provide the duration and distance of contact.

"Having this information would make it easy for the Health Ministry to track and trace all close contacts. This will enable those who are in close contact to be quarantined and take necessary action to prevent further transmission."

"The information in MySJ Trace is only accessible by the MySJ team at the ministry and authorised staff at the district health office. They will only use the information to do contact tracing."

"It is important that everyone activates the MySJ Trace feature, as this would allow tracking and tracing of all close contacts."

MySJ Trace works through Bluetooth technology. The system is able to capture the interaction time and the distance of the people in the interaction. The MySJ team would be able to use the information to determine whether the individuals concerned are close contacts.

Hoe said apart from using MySJ Trace, all Covid-positive individuals who update the

MySejahtera app would be prompted to manually provide a list of close contacts.

The two methods, manual update and update through MySJ Trace, will provide a more complete picture of the close contacts. This will also reduce the amount of work for the healthcare worker at the district level when doing contact tracing.

Universiti Malaya professor of Epidemiology and Public Health at the Faculty of Medicine, Dr Sanjay Rampal, said the scanning of location via QR codes was a short-term solution.

"MySJ Trace is a good initiative to digitalise contact tracing. However, to increase its uptake, the public may require greater assurance on the transparency on data use and ownership and that the data will only be used for contact tracing purposes."

"One good incentive is to allow those using MySJ Trace to forego the scanning of QR codes, thus increasing the buy-in of such an initiative."

"With decreased risk of severe disease in the Omicron wave, it may be a good time to reassess whether contact tracing is still a priority for the pandemic management."

Most deceased were unaware of infection

SERDANG: About 91% of brought-in-dead (BID) related to Covid-19 involved individuals who were unaware they had contracted the virus, said Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin.

He said this was based on an analysis done by the Health Ministry on 113 BID cases between Feb 5 and 21.

"We saw an increase in BID cases, those who died before they could get treatment at health facilities, and this is worrying."

"We have done an analysis for this period and found that 91% did not realise they contracted Covid-19. They were found positive when the ministry did tests."

Khairy advised the public, especially senior citizens with symptoms like fever and cough, to immediately seek treatment at health facilities.

"Based on a survey by the ministry, more than 50% of the next-of-kin considered their sickness mild and did not quickly refer them to health facilities, and it was too late by the time it was detected."

On reporting of Covid-related deaths, Khairy said beginning March 1, the announcement of such fatalities would be based on figures received from the field every day.

"The ministry has improved the reporting process for deaths. Previously, deaths reported would only be announced after the process of registering the cases was completed at the state level. Therefore, there was a delay in the announcement, and this was a contributing factor to the backlog on announcement of deaths."

He added that to ensure prompt reporting of Covid deaths, fatal case figures would no longer need to first go through the registration process, and would be reported within 72 hours of death.

Khairy also said occupancy at the intensive care units (ICU) for Covid patients were still manageable, adding that the ministry has 2,210 ICU beds that can be deployed nationwide.

"Most of the ICU cases are those with high risks. So far, there are 361 Covid-19 patients in ICU." - Bernama

Less than 0.1% of cases in categories 3 to 5

KUALA LUMPUR: A total of 189 (0.69%) of the 27,500 new Covid-19 cases recorded nationwide on Wednesday were in categories Three, Four, and Five.

Health Director-General Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah added that 27,311 cases were in categories One and Two.

"Of the 189 cases in categories Three to Five, 25 involved unvaccinated individuals or those who have yet to complete their vaccination while 89 cases were fully vaccinated."

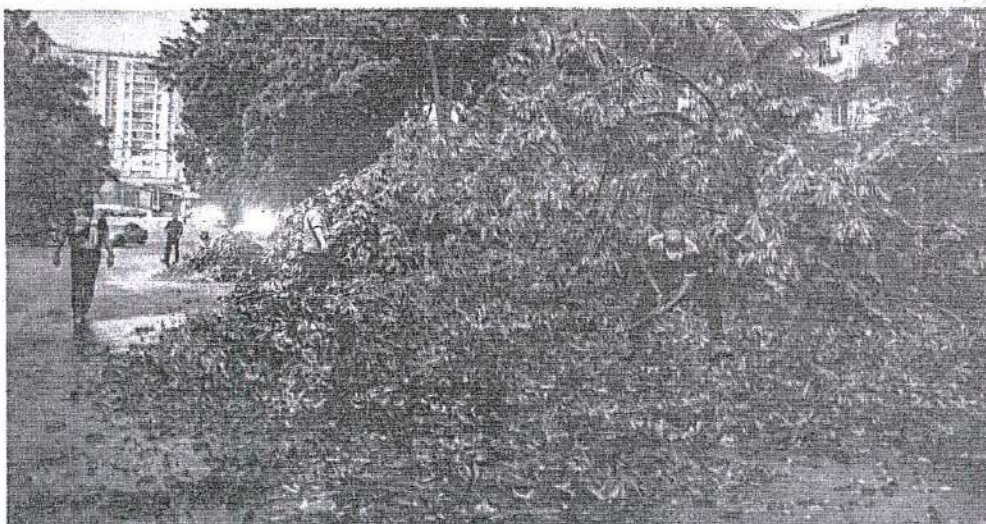
Among them, 38 cases had received booster shots, 108 involved individuals aged 60 and above and 48 of those afflicted have comorbidities.

He said a total of 1,841 cases were admitted to hospitals on Wednesday, comprising 677 cases in categories Three to Five, and 1,164 cases in categories One and Two.

Noor Hisham also said 27,557 recovered cases were reported on Wednesday, bringing the cumulative number of recoveries in the country to 3,169,669.

He added that a total of 360 cases required treatment in intensive care units (ICU), with 194 cases requiring respiratory support.

On ICU occupancy, he said nine states recorded bed utilisation of more than 50%, namely in Putrajaya (67%), Perlis (64%), Kelantan (60%), Johor (59%), Kuala Lumpur (58%), Sabah (55%), Malacca (53%), Selangor (51%) and Penang (50%). - Bernama



TEMPEST DEBRIS ... Residents of Taman Wawasan in Puchong working with police to clear a tree that fell across a road during a storm that hit parts of Selangor yesterday. - ADIBRAWI YAHYA/THESUN

62.9% of adults given booster shots

KUALA LUMPUR: A total of 14,810,832 individuals (62.9% of the adult population) have received booster shots as of Wednesday.

The CovidNOW website showed 22,951,398 (97.5%) of adults have completed their vaccination, while 23,231,225 (98.7%) have received at least one dose.

For children aged between five and 11, a total of 929,733 (26.2% of the group) have received their first dose under the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme for

Children (PICKiDs) as of Wednesday.

For adolescents aged between 12 and 17, a total of 2,802,265 (90.1%) have completed their vaccination, while 2,898,437 (93.2%) have received at least one dose.

On Wednesday, 97,534 doses were administered, with 26,923 as first doses, 1,389 as second shots and 69,222 as boosters, with the total number of doses given under the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme (PICK) currently at 67,416,313.

According to the Health Ministry GiliHub portal, 115 deaths due to Covid-19 were recorded on Wednesday, with Johor recording the highest number at 25, followed by 24 in Sabah, 18 in Selangor, eight each in Kedah and Negri Sembilan, seven in Perak, six each in Pahang and Kuala Lumpur, four in Kelantan, three in Penang, two each in Malacca and Perlis, while Sarawak and Terengganu each recorded one death. - Bernama