

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
 MUKA SURAT : 8
 RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Kes kematian doktor pelatih

Agensi diminta beri kerjasama siasatan

Kuala Lumpur: Semua agensi di bawah Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) diarah memberi kerjasama penuh kepada Pasukan Petugas Khas Bagi Penambahbaikan Budaya Kerja Perkhidmatan Kesihatan (HWCITF), yang ditubuhkan bagi menyiasat kes kematian pegawai pelatih perubahan dan dakwaan budaya buli dalam perkhidmatan kesihatan.

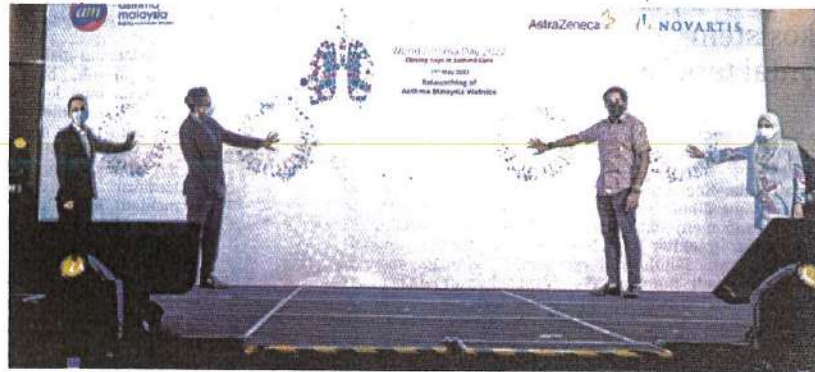
Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin, berkata beliau mengeluarkan arahan itu, yang memberi kebebasan kepada Pasukan Petugas Khas berkenaan untuk melakukan apa saja yang perlu dalam melaksanakan tugas mereka.

"Saya tidak ganggu kerana ini pasukan petugas bebas dan mereka berjanji untuk menghantar laporan kepada saya dalam masa dua bulan.

"Sekarang, kita beri peluang kepada pasukan ini untuk buat kerja. Pasukan ini boleh tanya apa saja soalan, kepada sesiapa saja dan tiada apa yang disembunyikan daripada pasukan ini.

"Pasukan ini boleh jumpa doktor pelatih dan mana-mana pegawai untuk mendapatkan maklumat," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian ke-



Khairy (dua dari kanan) melancarkan Persidangan Hari Asma Sedunia 2022 dan laman web Asthma Malaysia di Kuala Lumpur, semalam. (Foto BERNAMA)

pada pemberita selepas melancarkan Persidangan Hari Asma Sedunia 2022 dan laman web Asthma Malaysia di sini, semalam.

Jumaat lalu, Khairy mengumumkan lapan anggota HWCITF, yang dipengerusikan bekas Ketua Setiausaha Kementerian Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi (MOSTI), Prof Datuk Dr Siti Hamisah Tapsir. Pasukan Petugas Khas itu sudah pun mengadakan mesyua-

rat pertama, Isnin lalu.

Sementara itu, Khairy menyifatkan rakyat Malaysia kini mempunyai kesedaran yang tinggi dalam mencegah penularan COVID-19 dan mampu untuk menjayakan fasa peralihan ke endemik.

Khairy berkata, rakyat lebih peka dan tahu untuk hidup dengan pandemik itu, termasuk dalam melaksanakan kawalan sendiri

dan mematuhi prosedur operasi standard (SOP) yang ditetapkan.

"Kita lihat dari segi tingkah laku, rakyat Malaysia sangat baik dalam fasa peralihan ini. Di kawasan terbuka pun, mereka masih lagi pakai pelitup muka. Mereka tahu jika ada gejala, jangan keluar dan perlu asingkan diri.

"Ini satu perisai yang penting, selain vaksinasi kita yang tinggi," katanya.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 1

RUANGAN : LOKAL

JUMLAH KES MENINGKAT BERKALI GANDA

LETUSAN HFMD

Berkumpul ketika sambutan Aidilfitri, pembukaan semula sekolah dan tempat kerja sepenuhnya secara fizikal dikenal pasti sebagai penyumbang utama punca lonjakan kes jangkitan penyakit tangan, kaki dan mulut (HFMD) terutama dalam kalangan kanak-kanak bawah usia tujuh tahun.
lapor Amir Abd Hamid

- ▶ JANGKITAN DI SELANGOR MASIH TERKAWAL
- ▶ KES NAIK 10 KALI GANDA DI TERENGGANU
- ▶ 5 DAERAH DI SABAH REKOD PENULARAN TERTINGGI



MSB

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : LOKAL

7 kematian akibat Covid-19 kelmarin

Kuala Lumpur: Sebanyak 1,079,745 atau 30.4 peratus kanak-kanak berumur lima hingga 11 tahun di negara ini lengkap menerima vaksin di bawah Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan untuk Kanak-Kanak (PICKI-ds) setakat kelmarin.

Menurut laman web COVIDNOW, sebanyak 1,653,491 kanak-kanak atau 46.6 peratus daripada kumpulan itu menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos vaksin.

Bagi remaja berumur 12 hingga 17 tahun pula, 2,906,702 atau 93.4 peratus sudah lengkap menerima vaksinasi manakala 3,003,996 atau 96.5 peratus daripada kumpulan sama menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos vaksin.

Sejumlah 16,071,981 atau 68.3 peratus golongan dewasa menerima dos peng-

galak manakala 22,971,916 atau 97.6 peratus lengkap dua dos dan 23,247,755 atau 98.8 peratus menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos vaksin Covid-19.

Bagi pemberian dos harian pula, sebanyak 10,981 dos vaksin Covid-19 diberikan kelmarin melibatkan 3,254 dos pertama, 5,266 dos kedua dan 2,461 dos penggalak, menjadikan jumlah kumulatif pemberian vaksin menerusi Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan (Pick) sebanyak 70,722,028.

Menurut portal GitHub Kementerian Kesihatan, tujuh kes kematian akibat Covid-19 direkodkan kelmarin, masing-masing satu kes di Johor, Melaka, Negeri Sembilan dan Perak manakala tiga di Pulau Pinang. - Bernama

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 8

RUANGAN : LOKAL

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Kuala Lumpur

LETUSAN HFMD SATU MALAYSIA: PAKAR BERI PENDAPAT

Sebab penularan serius

Beraya adalah punca jangkitan penyakit tangan, kaki dan mulut (HFMD) melonjak ketika ini dalam kalangan kanak-kanak bawah usia tujuh tahun.

Pakar Kesihatan Pekerjaan dan Kesihatan Am, Dr Hanafiah Bashirun berkata, perkumpulan kanak-kanak pada musim perayaan Aidilfitri ini menjadikan lebih mudah berlaku penularan virus itu.

Katanya, cara jangkitan itu menular senang terjadi kerana berjangkit melalui titisan air liur dan titisan di udara.

"Faktor menjadikan senario punca jangkitan HFMD lebih melonjak ialah hari raya (Aidilfitri), pembukaan sekolah dan tempat kerja sepenuhnya secara fizikal.

"Ketika hari raya, ramai saudara-mara dan rakan taulan membawa anak beraya dan membiarkan mereka mereka bermain dengan rakan lain.

"Berkongsi mainan antara puncanya. Ini kerana tingkah laku kanak-kanak usia bawah tujuh tahun gemar memasukkan barang permainan di dalam mulut.

"Apabila kena air liur, kemudian diletakkan semula di lantai, budak lain pula ambil dan memasukkan dalam mulut lalu berlaku jangkitan jika virus HFMD itu ada," katanya.

Beliau berkata, biasanya ibu bapa meletakkan banyak mainan di satu tempat supaya menjadi lokasi anak berkumpul untuk bermain.

Katanya, jika tingkah laku memasukkan mainan dalam mulut tidak dilarang dan kumpulan kanak-kanak lain pula datang serta berbuat perkara sama, jangkitan HFMD berlaku teru-

tama sekiranya ada daripada kalangan kumpulan terbabit membawa virus.

"Penularan HFMD berlaku sangat cepat. Di sekolah jika kanak-kanak yang mempunyai jangkitan berpelukan dan bersentuhan, ia boleh menular.

"Selain itu, apabila ibu bapa bekerja biasanya mereka hantar anak ke taska atau pusat asuhan.

"Ada ibu bapa tiada rasa tanggungjawab sosial, sudah tahu anak demam, mempunyai ulser di mulut atau ada melepuh namun masih menghantar anak ke taska atau pusat asuhan," katanya.

Menurutnya, secara kebetulan penyebaran HFMD berlaku semasa musim perayaan dan rantaian itu dipercayai berterusan dari rumah ke rumah terbuka, pusat asuhan, taska dan sekolah.

Katanya, tindakan pencegahan perlu dibuat ialah sama seperti Covid-19 iaitu kena putus rantaian virus itu.

"Paling utama dinasihatkan kepada ibu bapa yang ada anak mempunyai simptom seperti demam, ruam di tapak tangan atau kaki dan kurang selera makan, minta tolong asingkan anak.

"Jangan bawa anak ke tempat yang ada kanak-kanak lain termasuk taska, sekolah, taman permainan mahu pun berhari raya.

"Cari alternatif untuk jaga anak di rumah. Biasanya HFMD pulih dalam lima hingga tujuh hari. Jadi ibu bapa yang bekerja kena bergilir-gilir ambil cuti untuk jaga anak," katanya.

Selain itu, Dr Hanafiah



PENYEBARAN HFMD berlaku semasa musim perayaan dan rantaian dipercayai berterusan dari rumah ke rumah terbuka, pusat asuhan, taska dan sekolah.

berkata, lakukan pensanitasi atau nyahkuman dengan sekerap boleh termasuk di barang permainan, sebarang permukaan berpotensi terkena sentuhan dan anak dijangkiti itu terutama penjagaan kebersihan tangan mereka.

Katanya, ini supaya anak atau kanak-kanak lain yang bermain berikutnya tidak dijangkiti virus pada permukaan berkenaan.

"Mereka nak main namun bukan mereka tahu ia ada virus. Jadi kita yang kena pastikan kebersihan persekitaran mereka.

"Punca HFMD adalah virus. Sekiranya jangkitan berlaku lebih sekali terhadap seorang kanak-kanak, ia berpunca daripada dua virus berlainan iaitu Coxsackie Virus A16 (CA16) dan Enterovirus 71 (EV 71) yang bertindak balas dengan imun kanak-kanak itu.

"Virus ini kerjanya melompat dari rantaian perumah ke perumah yang lain. Jadi apabila duduk rapat dan berkongsi barang yang sama, rantaian itu tidak putus. Sebab itu elakkan perkumpulan beramai-ramai waktu ini," katanya.

Menurutnya, jika ada juga kanak-kanak yang datang bermain beraya, pastikan buat pembersihan sanitasi atau nyahkuman dengan menggunakan langkah pencegahan seperti Covid-19 sebab virus akan mati dengan alkohol.

Katanya, disiplin tinggi menjaga kebersihan boleh memutuskan rantaian itu namun beliau meramalkan penularan HFMD hanya menurun sehingga habis musim perayaan.

"Mungkin kena tunggu hingga Syawal habis. Budaya kita memang suka beraya. Selagi tak berhenti be-

raya, selagi itu risiko jangkitan itu ada.

Mengenai rawatan, katanya, tiada ubat khusus untuk merawat HFMD namun masalahnya jika anak ada ulser dalam mulut selalunya tidak mahu makan dan minum seterusnya boleh menyebabkan dehidrasi.

Katanya, jika berlaku, selain guna gel untuk rawatan ulser itu, alternatif lain boleh gunakan picagari untuk masukkan air ke dalam badan anak.

"Jangan biar anak dehidrasi sehingga dirawat di wad. Biasanya budak atau bayi tidak mahu sedut atau minum air cara biasa sebab sakit ulser itu.

"Jadi alternatifnya masukkan air ke dalam mulut mereka menggunakan picagari.

"Untuk ruam ada ubat sapu dan biasa juga diberikan ubat demam," katanya sam-

bil menjelaskan HFMD tiada risiko kematian.

Namun, katanya, HFMD bahaya untuk golongan rentan termasuk pesakit kanser dan kanak-kanak yang mempunyai imun atau sistem pertahanan badan yang rendah kerana dibimbangi berlaku komplikasi.

Sementara itu, Pakar Perubatan Kesihatan Keluarga, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Prof Madya Dr Rosnah Sutan berkata, kajian mengenai persepsi diterbitkan baru-baru ini mendapati tahap pengetahuan ibu bapa mengenai HFMD masih rendah iaitu 34.4 peratus.

Beliau berkata, kepentingan promosi kesihatan bagi meningkatkan amalan pencegahan perebakan penyakit HFMD dalam kalangan kanak-kanak dan rakan mereka perkara utama perlu ditekankan.

"Teknik pencegahan penyakit HFMD mudah dengan mengamalkan amalan mencuci tangan secara tujuh langkah betul, memantau gejala dan mendapatkan pemeriksaan untuk pengesanan serta pengasingan dari orang lain jika didiagnosa sebagai HFMD," katanya.

Selasa lalu, Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, bagi tahun ini, sehingga hari terakhir Minggu Epidemiologi (ME) ME 19/2022 pada 14 Mei lalu, sejumlah 31,661 kes HFMD dilaporkan.

Katanya, ia peningkatan sebanyak 15 kali ganda berbanding 2021 pada ME yang sama di mana ketika itu hanya sejumlah 2,121 kes dilaporkan.

Selepas kena Covid-19, kini dijangkiti penyakit HFMD

Kuala Lumpur: "Kasihannya Aisar, selepas dijangkiti Covid-19 kini kena penyakit tangan, kaki dan mulut (HFMD) pula," kata Wardah Zakaria, 37, ibu Aisar Muhammad Rodi yang berusia 10 bulan.

Menurut Wardah, anak bongsu daripada enam beradik itu disahkan dijangkiti pada 16 Mac lalu, dua bulan selepas pulih daripada dijangkiti Covid-19.

Katanya, dia tidak me-

nyangka penyakit itu menjangkiti anaknya kerana sebelum ini dia hanya mendengar pengalaman daripada rakan yang melalui situasi sama.

Menurutnya, Aisar menunjukkan simptom HFMD selepas mengambalnya dari pusat asuhan kanak-kanak berdekatan kawasan perumahan di Alor Setar, Kedah.

"Sebaik tiba di rumah, saya mendapati badannya pa-

nas. Apabila saya tengok di langit mulutnya, kelihatan ruam berbintik kecil dan merah.

"Saya risau melihat keadaan anak dan terus menelefon pusat asuhan itu sebelum dimaklumkan terdapat seorang kanak-kanak mempunyai simptom sama.

"Esoknya, saya ke klinik kesihatan berdekatan rumah dan doktor mengesahkan anak saya menghidapi

penyakit HFMD apabila terdapat simptom penyakit itu di tapak tangan, mulut dan kaki," katanya.

Wardah berkata, dia terkejut dan dalam masa sama sedih melihat keadaan anaknya kesakitan terutama ketika menyusui dan merengek setiap masa kerana tidak selesa.

"Aisar tidak boleh ditinggalkan bersendirian, malah setiap malam saya dan suami berganti untuk men-

jaganya," katanya yang juga seorang guru.

Tambahnya, dia difahamkan penyakit itu mengambil masa lama untuk sembuh kerana walaupun ruam sudah kering, kulit akan mengelupas dan ia masih berpotensi dijangkiti.

"Saya sentiasa menyapu ubat krim (*calamine*) untuk meredakan kegatalan dan ruam. Sebagai ibu saya sangat sedih melihat Aisar yang menderita.

"Cukuplah saya melihat anak saya menderita dengan jangkitan Covid-19 kerana simptom virus itu hampir dua bulan dalam badan anak saya.

"Kini, saya lebih berhati-hati dengan penjagaan di sekeliling Aisar untuk memastikan dia sentiasa selamat dan dihindarkan penyakit," katanya Aisar belum menunjukkan tanda untuk pulih daripada penyakit HFMD.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 9

RUANGAN : LOKAL

Tiada keperluan tutup lagi

Kuala Terengganu: Tiada keperluan taska dan tadika di Terengganu ditutup walaupun berlaku peningkatan kes jangkitan penyakit tangan, kaki dan mulut (HFMD).

Pengarah Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Terengganu Datuk Dr Kasemani Embong berkata, wabak berkenaan masih terkawal walaupun ia menunjukkan peningkatan 10 kali ganda dalam tempoh 1 Januari hingga 17 Mei lalu.

Menurutnya, berkata, seta-

kat kelmarin sebanyak 1,182 kes dilaporkan berbanding hanya 103 kes dalam tempoh sama tahun lalu.

Katanya, arahan penutupan taska dan tadika akan dilakukan sekiranya berlaku penularan yang teruk.

"Mengenai penutupan, kita akan melihat situasi mengikut keadaan di satu-satu taska, kalau kata taska itu memang ada penularan yang teruk, kita akan buat arahan untuk menutup," katanya.

KES HFMD DI SELANGOR

Masih lagi terkawal

Bernama

Shah Alam

Kes jangkitan penyakit tangan, kaki dan mulut (HFMD) di Selangor masih dalam keadaan terkawal dan tiada keperluan untuk menutup taska, tadika dan pusat jagaan harian di negeri itu.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari berkata, sebarang kes penutupan premis itu atas nasihat Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Selangor terutamanya apabila melihat jumlah kes yang semakin tinggi dan perebakan yang semakin membimbangkan.

"Saya akan bemesyuarat dengan pihak kementerian (Kementerian Kesihatan) kerana ada benda yang saya nak tanya lebih lanjut mengenai HFMD. Memang kes semakin meningkat dan keadaan terkawal tapi belum sampai tahap penutupan

(taska, tadika dan pusat jagaan harian).

"Mungkin selepas (musim) Hari Raya Aidilfitri dan sebagainya kita akan tengok lagi kesannya," semalam.

Kelmarin, Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah memaklumkan Selangor menyumbang jumlah kes terbesar HFMD dengan 8,864 kes iaitu 28 peratus daripada keseluruhan, diikuti Kuala Lumpur dan Putrajaya - 4,421 kes (14 peratus), Sabah - 2,650 kes (8 peratus), Perak - 2,638 kes (8.0 peratus) dan Kelantan - 2,493 kes (7.9 peratus), sementara negeri-negeri lain melaporkan kurang daripada 1,500 kes.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, jumlah kes penyakit HFMD di negara ini meningkat pada kadar membimbangkan iaitu sebanyak 15 kali ganda berbanding tempoh sama tahun lepas dengan 31,661 kes dilaporkan.

Sabah mencatatkan peningkatan tinggi

Kota Kinabalu: Sabah mencatat peningkatan kes jangkitan penyakit tangan, kaki dan mulut (HFMD) yang sangat tinggi dengan 2,834 kes direkodkan dari Januari hingga 16 Mei lalu.

Pengarah Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Sabah (JKNS), Datuk Dr Rose Nani Mudin berkata, jumlah itu jauh berbeza berbanding 55 kes dilaporkan tempoh sama pada tahun lalu.

Katanya, lima daerah mencatat kes tertinggi iaitu Tawau (435 kes), Sandakan (387 kes), Lahad Datu (308 kes), Kota Belud (244 kes) dan Papar (229 kes).

Beliau bagaimanapun berkata, tiada kes kematian disebabkan HFMD dilaporkan di Sabah setakat ini.

"Sebanyak 93.1 peratus kes kanak-kanak berusia kurang daripada enam tahun. Transmisi jangkitan majoritinya berlaku di rumah persendirian atau pusat pendidikan awal," katanya.

Dr Rose Nani berkata, penyakit HFMD kebiasaannya menjangkiti kanak-kanak di bawah umur 10 tahun yang menyebabkan lepuhan berisi air muncul di tangan, kaki dan dalam mulut.

AKHBAR : KOSMO
 MUKA SURAT : 6
 RUANGAN : NEGARA

Johor kurang 18,000 jururawat, ramai hijrah ke Singapura

Oleh MOHAMAD FAIZAL HASHIM

JOHOR BAHRU - Johor berdepan masalah kekurangan antara 15,000 hingga 18,000 jururawat setelah ramai yang berhijrah dan bekerja dalam sektor perkhidmatan kesihatan di Singapura.

Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Kesihatan dan Perpaduan negeri, Ling Tian Soon berkata, kerajaan negeri akan mengadakan pertemuan dengan Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar bagi membincangkan isu itu.

Ujarnya, isu itu bukan hanya melibatkan jururawat, malah melibatkan golongan doktor di beberapa hospital negeri ini kerana menerima tawaran yang lebih baik di Singapura.

Ketika ini, katanya, nisbah seorang jururawat untuk 297 pesakit berbanding nisbah yang sepatutnya iaitu seorang jururawat untuk 200 pesakit.

"Kita tidak ada statistik khusus berapa ramai jururawat dan doktor kita yang bekerja di Singapura tetapi bilangannya semakin bertambah setiap tahun disebabkan menerima tawaran



TIAN SOON (tengah, depan) menyempurnakan Majlis Perasmian Sambutan Majlis Hari Jururawat Peringkat Negeri Johor di Johor Bahru semalam.

lebih baik.

"Kita juga menjangkakan lebih ramai akan bekerja di Singapura kerana nilai ringgit yang semakin susut ketika ini. Namun, saya percaya ramai jururawat yang masih mahu berkhidmat di negara ini.

"Difahamkan antara sebab

jururawat kita bekerja di Singapura kerana menerima gaji seperti gaji seorang doktor pakar di Malaysia apabila sudah ditukar mata wang," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian selepas menyempurnakan Majlis Perasmian Sambutan Hari Juru-

rawat Peringkat Negeri Johor di Pusat Konvensyen Persada Antarabangsa, di sini semalam.

Ujar beliau, setakat ini terdapat 12,533 jururawat di negeri ini melibatkan 8,777 jururawat yang berkhidmat di hospital kerajaan, 19 berstatus jururawat kontrak

dan 3,737 adalah jururawat di hospital swasta.

"Jumlah perjawatan bagi jururawat di negeri ini sudah 98 peratus diisi tetapi masih lagi tidak cukup memandangkan program kesihatan dan perkhidmatan semakin bertambah selain kewujudan hospital baharu," katanya.

Ujarnya, pertemuan dengan Khairy Jamaluddin nanti akan membincangkan kaedah serta tawaran terbaik bagi mengatasi masalah itu.

Jelasnya, ia termasuk memberi tawaran yang baik kepada jururawat dan doktor dalam masa sama menghalang mereka daripada berhijrah ke Singapura.

"Antara yang akan dicadangkan nanti adalah menawarkan lepasan universiti untuk mengambil kursus kejururawatan sebelum menyerap mereka dalam sektor perkhidmatan kesihatan di negeri ini.

"Tahap keperluan jururawat di negeri ini masih belum kritikal tetapi ketidakcukupan itu perlu diisi supaya perkhidmatan kesihatan tidak terjejas selain dapat memberikan perkhidmatan terbaik dan berkesan," katanya.

AKHBAR : KOSMO

MUKA SURAT : 7

RUANGAN : NEGARA



MURID di Tadika Comelku di Setapak, Kuala Lumpur memakai pelitup muka semasa melakukan aktiviti dalam kelas. - FARIZ RUSADIO

2,017 kes Covid-19 dilaporkan kelmarin

PUTRAJAYA - Jangkitan Covid-19 merekodkan 2,017 kes termasuk melibatkan empat kes import, menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan kes di Malaysia sebanyak 4,479,809.

Berdasarkan COVIDNOW, sebanyak 2,548 kes sembuh direkodkan dengan jumlah keseluruhan pesakit sembuh sebanyak 4,417,694.

"Kesemua kes harian tersebut dilaporkan di Selangor (850 kes), Kuala Lumpur (383 kes), Pulau Pinang (145 kes), Negeri Sembilan (129 kes), Perak (94 kes), Melaka

(91 kes), Johor (63 kes) dan Kedah (64 kes).

"Seterusnya, Sarawak (51 kes), Sabah (42 kes), Putrajaya (39 kes), Pahang (26 kes), Terengganu (19 kes), Kelantan (13 kes), Labuan (lima kes) dan Perlis (3 kes)," katanya semalam.

Dalam masa sama, tujuh kes kematian Covid-19 dilaporkan menjadikan jumlah kematian terkini sebanyak 35,630 kes serta tiga kes meninggal dunia di luar hospital atau *brought-in-dead* (BID) dengan jumlah kes BID 7,548 kes.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Khairy berkata demikian berikutan kes Covid-19 tidak naik mendadak selepas sambutan Aidilfitri

Oleh NURUL HUDA HUSAIN

KUALA LUMPUR

Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar mengucapkan tahniah kepada rakyat Malaysia kerana berjaya mematuhi prosedur operasi standard (SOP) untuk mengawal jangkitan Covid-19 pada musim perayaan ini.

Beliau berkata, ia dibuktikan apabila jangkaan ramai pihak bahawa jangkitan wabak itu akan naik mendadak selepas sambutan Aidilfitri tidak berlaku.

"Tahniah rakyat Malaysia. Kita melihat dari segi tingkah laku rakyat Malaysia sangat baik dalam fasa peralihan endemik. Di kawasan terbuka luar pun masih lagi pakai pelitup muka.

'Tahniah rakyat Malaysia kerana berjaya patuh SOP'



Khairy (kanan) menerima cenderamata daripada Pengasas Bersama Ashma Malaysia, Dr Helmy Haja Mydin pada Program Hari Asma Sedunia 2022 di Kuala Lumpur pada Khamis.

"Maknanya, rakyat Malaysia sudah tahu macam mana hendak hidup dengan Covid-19 dan mereka juga tahu sekiranya ada

gejala, jangan keluar, jangan campur dengan masyarakat untuk asingkan diri.

"Jadi nampak rakyat

Malaysia memang ada kemampuan untuk menjayakan fasa peralihan ke endemik ini," katanya pada sidang akhbar selepas merasmikan program Hari Asma Sedunia 2022 di sini pada Khamis.

Beliau berkata demikian ketika diminta mengulas mengenai jangkaan pihak tertentu bahawa kes Covid-19 akan naik mendadak selepas sambutan Aidilfitri tetapi apa yang berlaku ketika ini adalah sebaliknya.

Mengulas lanjut, Khairy berkata, selain mematuhi SOP yang baik dalam kalangan rakyat negara ini, faktor vaksinasi tinggi juga mendorong kejayaan Malaysia membendung jangkitan wabak yang boleh membawa

maut itu.

"Vaksinasi ini membantu mengurangkan kesan yang buruk (kepada pesakit Covid-19) dan kita tengok sekarang

ini hospital kita tidak lagi penuh dengan kes Covid-19.

"Keadaan ini membolehkan banyak kes lain dapat kita selesaikan sekarang bagi tumpuan asma dan penyakit serius yang lain," katanya.

Ujarnya, tahap pematuhan tinggi yang ditunjukkan oleh rakyat Malaysia ini juga secara tidak langsung turut membolehkan pihak berkuasa terutamanya Kementerian Kesihatan tidak perlu lagi menguatkuasakan undang-undang dengan memberikan kompaun seperti mana yang dilaksanakan sebelum ini.

MENDEPANI KRISIS COVID-19: APA TINDAKAN KITA?

Malaysia mungkin guna cannabidiol dalam rawatan perubatan

PUTRAJAYA - Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) tidak menolak akan menggunakan cannabidiol atau CBD dalam rawatan perubatan di negara ini.

Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali berkata, langkah itu boleh dilakukan sekiranya kajian yang dijalankan menunjukkan bukti klinikal (*evidence based*).

"Tidak mustahil kita juga akan menggunakannya untuk rawatan jika ia boleh memberi kebaikan," katanya pada sidang akhbar sempena sambutan Hari Kajian Klinik di sini pada Khamis.

Menurutnya, penggunaan CBD dalam rawatan menjadi bualan pelbagai pihak selepas terdapat beberapa negara menggunakannya untuk merawat pesakit kronik.

"Di Malaysia kita belum boleh bergerak seperti negara luar kerana ia masih di peringkat awal dan KKM terbuka dalam ujikaji klinikal," katanya.

Beliau berkata, prosedur untuk melakukan kajian terhadap CBD akan memakan masa yang panjang berikutan

terikat dengan undang-undang.

"Sekarang kanabis berada di bawah akta racun, jadi ada banyak yang perlu diselesaikan," katanya.

Noor Azmi berkata, langkah berhati-hati perlu dibuat bagi memastikan keselamatan terjamin.

"Tidak boleh lepas sewenang-wenangnya kerana kita bimbang sekiranya berlaku penyalahgunaan selain pemantauan kesan sampingan perlu dibuat," katanya.

Cannabidiol merupakan antara bahan aktif di dalam kanabis dan tidak menyebabkan ketagihan.

Kanabis atau nama saintifiknya cannabis, adalah tumbuhan daripada keluarga Cannabaceae.

Antara spesies pokok daripada genus cannabis ialah cannabis sativa, cannabis indica dan cannabis ruderalis.

Tumbuhan itu menghasilkan kompaun dipanggil cannabinoid dan difahamkan



DR NOOR AZMI

terdapat lebih 100 jenis cannabinoid di dalamnya, paling lazim ditemui adalah ialah CBD dan THC (Delta 9 tetrahydrocannabinol).

Bagaimanapun kadar kandungan CBD dan THC dalam setiap varieti tumbuhan itu adalah berbeza.

Marijuana misalnya, antara tumbuhan kanabis dengan kandungan THC yang sangat tinggi, berbeza dengan hemp yang langsung tidak mempunyai THC tetapi tinggi kandungan CBD.

Sebelum ini, Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar ketika sesi pengumuman Rang Undang-Undang Perbekalan 2022 peringkat dasar baru ini dilaporkan berkata, pihak berkenaan boleh mengemukakan permohonan penggunaan kanabis untuk perubatan kepada Pihak Berkuasa Kawalan Dadah (PBKD) bagi dinilai dan didaftarkan sekiranya ada bukti saintifik mencukupi.

Kes buli doktor: Khairy jamin tidak ganggu tugas pasukan petugas khas

KUALA LUMPUR - Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar memberi jaminan beliau tidak akan mengganggu atau mencampuri tugas yang akan dijalankan pasukan petugas khas bebas untuk menyiasat isu buli di semua hospital di bawah kementerianannya.

Beliau sebaliknya berkata, pasukan itu diberi kebebasan sepenuhnya untuk menjalankan apa sahaja siasatan yang dirasakan perlu bagi melengkapkan tugas mereka.

"Pasukan petugas ini sudah mengadakan mesyuarat yang pertama dan saya bagi kebebasan kepada mereka untuk buat apa sahaja.

"Saya tidak akan ganggu sebab ini merupakan pasukan petugas khas yang bebas dan mereka berjanji dalam tempoh dua bulan akan hantar laporan kepada saya.

"Jadi sekarang ini kita bagi peluang kepada pasukan petugas khas ini untuk buat kerja mereka," katanya di sini pada Khamis.

Tambahnya, dalam masa sama beliau juga telah mengarahkan semua agensi di bawah

Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) untuk memberikan kerjasama terbaik kepada pasukan petugas khas tersebut.

"Semua pihak perlu memberikan kerjasama kepada pasukan petugas khas ini dan mereka boleh berjumpa dengan sesiapa sahaja pegawai atau kakitangan semua agensi di bawah KKM.

"Mereka tidak perlu menyembunyikan apa-apa daripada pasukan petugas khas ini supaya semua maklumat diperolehi," katanya.

Pada 13 Mei lalu, Khairy mengumumkan penubuhan pasukan petugas khas bebas susulan insiden melibatkan kematian seorang pegawai perubatan siswazah (PPS) di Hospital Pulau Pinang (HPP) serta laporan dan aduan yang diterima berkaitan kejadian buli serta masalah tekanan mental yang dihadapi kakitangan kesihatan di bawah kementerianannya.

Pasukan petugas itu dianggotai kumpulan pakar dan dipengerusikan bekas Ketua Setiausaha Kementerian Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi (MOSTI) Datuk Dr Siti Hamisah Tapsir.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 8

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

HFMD: Tiga negeri catat peningkatan kes

KUALA LUMPUR - Kes penyakit tangan, kaki dan mulut (HFMD) di Sabah, Terengganu serta Perak terus menunjukkan peningkatan namun masih terkawal.

Di **SABAH**, Pengarah Kesihatan Negeri, Datuk Dr Rose Nani Mudin memaklumkan setakat 16 Mei lepas, Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Sabah melaporkan 2,654 kes penyakit HFMD, peningkatan yang tinggi berbanding 55 kes dalam tempoh sama tahun lepas.

“Sebanyak 93.1 peratus kes adalah kanak-kanak yang berumur kurang daripada enam tahun. Transmisi jangkitan majoritinya berlaku di rumah persendirian atau pusat pendidikan awal,” katanya dalam kenyataan.

Bagaimanapun, Dr Rose Nani berkata, tiada kematian disebabkan HFMD dilaporkan setakat ini dan meminta pengusaha pusat jagaan kanak-kanak atau tadika untuk melaksanakan tindakan bagi mengelakkan penularan wabak itu di premis masing-masing.

Di **TERENGGANU**, jumlah kes wabak itu dalam kalangan kanak-kanak terus mencatatkan peningkatan dengan 1,182 kes direkodkan dari awal tahun ini hingga Selasa lepas.

Pengarah Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri, Datuk Dr Kasemani



Embong berkata, jumlah itu menunjukkan peningkatan 10 kali ganda berbanding tempoh sama tahun lepas iaitu 103 kes namun penularan HFMD masih terkawal kerana tidak melibatkan jangkitan serius.

Di **PERAK**, Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Kesihatan, Sains, Alam Sekitar dan Teknologi Hijau negeri, Mohd Akmal Kamarudin berkata, kerajaan negeri akan menutup premis

berkaitan jagaan kanak-kanak apabila mendapat nasihat atau arahan Kementerian Kesihatan jika kes jangkitan di negeri itu terus meningkat.

“Kalau kes meningkat sampai ke tahap yang teruk, pihak Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Perak akan menutup tadika, taska dan pusat asuhan,” katanya.

Sebanyak 2,638 kes HFMD direkodkan di negeri itu setakat Selasa lepas. - *Bernama*

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 1

RUANGAN :-



AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 2

RUANGAN : NEWS/STORY OF THE DAY

ENDEMIC PHASE

KHAIRY THANKS EVERYONE FOR FOLLOWING S.O.P

Good behaviour shows Malaysians know how to live with the virus

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HEALTH Minister Khairy Jamaluddin has thanked Malaysians for adhering to Covid-19 standard operating procedures (SOP) during the transition to the endemic phase, especially during the Hari Raya Aidilfitri festivities.

He said this was evident in the controlled Covid-19 numbers and admissions, showing Malaysians already knew how to live with Covid-19.

"Malaysians showed good behaviour to make the transition phase a success. When they are in open areas or outside, they are still wearing face masks. This shows that Malaysians know how to live with Covid-19," he said at the launch of the national-level World Asthma Day 2022.

Khairy also said Malaysians had become accustomed to living with Covid-19 and congratulated them for their resilience.

"They also know what to do, isolating themselves when they develop Covid-19 symptoms. We no longer need to remind or impose hefty fines or compounds because they are familiar with it," he said, adding that Malaysians showed a high level of compliance in helping to curb Covid-19 transmissions compared with many other countries.

He attributed the success to the efforts of all Malaysians.

Earlier in his keynote speech, Khairy said chronic respiratory diseases, including asthma, were the second highest cause of death in Health Ministry hospitals.

He said asthma-related deaths still happened although the vast majority of them could have been prevented if patients had been diagnosed and began treatment early.

"For the past two years, we have been busy with the pandemic. Now as we transition to the endemic phase, it's time that we went back to optimising the healthcare system."

"The Health Facts 2021 re-



Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin speaking at the World Asthma Day 2022 Conference in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. PIC BY FARIZ ISWADI/ISMAIL

leased last year by the ministry showed that asthma-related deaths are the second highest in government hospitals. This can be avoided through bridging the gaps in asthma care," he said.

Khairy said almost half of patients with asthma were unable to manage the disease.

"A local study showed that more than 50 per cent of patients with asthma can either partly control or have no control over the disease.

"These facts highlight the burden of asthma on the patient. But as with all non-communicable diseases (NCDs), the burden does not fall solely on the patient.

"It also has a ripple effect on their families and carers, as well as on economic productivity and quality of life," he said earlier in his keynote address at the World Asthma Day 2022 Conference and the launch of Asthma Malaysia.

He said the challenges faced in asthma were a microcosm of the ones that the healthcare system faced as a whole.

"Asthma is a common non-communicable disease that affects approximately two million Malaysians. This is likely to be an underestimate, as it is often under-diagnosed and under-treated, especially in more deprived segments of society."

Khairy said individuals with asthma and their families needed continuous education to understand more about their condition, the treatment, triggers and how to manage symptoms at home.

"It is also important to raise community awareness to reduce the myths and stigma associated with asthma in some settings."

Asthma is included in the World Health Organisation's Global Action Plan for the Pre-

vention and Control of NCDs, and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

This year's theme for World Asthma Day 2022 is "Closing Gaps in Asthma Care — goes beyond diagnosis and treatment".

The government, he said, had worked towards improving health gains for the people, balancing the need for an affordable healthcare system against the provision of a universal and comprehensive healthcare service.

"The ministry is currently working on a white paper to review the healthcare system to make it robust, holistic and future-proof, where all the aspects within the system will be carefully reviewed for improvement, if needed."

The proposals, he said, would address both short-term challenges and longstanding issues such as funding and allocation, growth that addresses ESG (environmental, social, and governance) concerns, human capital development, the digitalisation of healthcare services and sustainable financing.

"This White Paper will be tabled in Parliament by November this year. It will be all-inclusive, and cover some of the challenges raised in today's sessions on the gaps in asthma care as well," he added.

Khairy also congratulated Asthma Malaysia for its efforts in bringing together experts and healthcare professionals from both the public and private sectors, industry players and community partners here in a whole-of-society approach.

Page 1 pic: People taking a picture in front of the Sultan Abdul Samad building in Kuala Lumpur during Hari Raya Aidilfitri on May 2.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : NATION/NEWS



A boy receiving a dose of the Covid-19 vaccine at the Seberang Jaya Expo Site Vaccination Centre in Seberang Jaya, Penang, on Tuesday. PIC BY DANIAL SAAD

DAILY UPDATE

MALAYSIA SEES 2,017 NEW COVID-19 CASES

2,548 patients recovered and 7 people died of the virus on Wednesday

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MALAYSIA logged another 2,017 Covid-19 infections on Wednesday.

This brought the cumulative count of cases to 4,483,295, with 29,971 active cases.

A total of 28,679 patients, or

95.7 per cent of the active Covid-19 cases, were undergoing home quarantine, and 19 people were being treated at low-risk Covid-19 quarantine and treatment centres.

A total of 1,235 patients were hospitalised, with 18 receiving treatment in intensive care units, and 20 others requiring breathing assistance.

A total of 2,548 patients recovered on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Covid-19 had claimed the lives of seven people on Wednesday, including three brought-in-dead cases.

Three deaths were recorded in Penang, and one each recorded in Johor, Melaka, Negri Sembilan and Perlis.

The death toll stood at 35,630 since the pandemic began two years ago.

On the Health Ministry's CovidNow portal, it was reported that 1,653,491 children aged 5 to 11, or 46.6 per cent, have received at least one dose of the Covid-19 vaccine, and 1,079,745 children in the age group, or 30.4 per cent, had completed their vaccination.

Meanwhile, 70,722,028 vaccine doses had been administered and 26,958,363 people had completed their vaccination under the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme.

In addition, 16,071,981 booster doses had been administered to adults.

HFMD SCARE

No shutdown of childcare centres in Kedah, says state exco man

PENDANG: No childcare premises in Kedah have been ordered to close over an outbreak of hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD).

However, all operators had been ordered to be on alert to ensure the safety of children in their care.

State Health and Local Government Committee chairman Datuk Dr Mohd Hayati Othman said the state Health Department was focused on raising awareness among parents of the outbreak.

"The department is focusing on educating the public about the disease, isolating or keeping infected individuals in quarantine, and, most importantly, raising awareness among parents about the outbreak through all forms of media.

"We also want nursery and kindergarten operators to be on alert to the presence of any symptoms in children under their care.

"If the children present any symptoms, such as rashes on the feet, mouth, and hands, make sure they are quarantined at home," he said when met during the Pendang Parliament and Tokai state constituencies Hari Raya Open House here yesterday.

He said although the number of serious infections in the state was relatively low, it was a major cause for concern as it involved children's health and safety.

He added that another worrying factor was that the HFMD virus could easily be transmitted among children at nurseries, playgrounds and kindergartens.

"There are 102 reported cases of HFMD, with Kuala Muda, Kota

Setar and Padang Terap being the three most-affected districts with 29, 22 and 17 cases, respectively.

"Reports that the number of infections had increased by 15-fold elsewhere in the country are not applicable to Kedah as we have only seen a 46 per cent increase in cases compared with the same period in 2019.

"That being said, it is concerning as this disease can occur anytime and anywhere because it spreads through various types of viruses. If one of them spreads, then it is easy for it to become an outbreak.

"We need to be careful and always take precautions, maintain physical distancing and good hygiene as we did during the Covid-19 pandemic as that is the best way to prevent the spread of this disease," he added.

He said there was no vaccine for the disease since it was spread by many different viruses. Infected patients, he said, would be treated based on the symptoms.

He also reminded the authorities to take action over the recent surge of dengue cases in Taman Malinja, Kubang Pasu.

"The source of the outbreak in Taman Malinja in Jitra is a nearby abandoned piece of land, which was used by residents to farm chickens, birds and all sorts of livestock.

"This led to pools of stagnant water in the area, giving rise to Aedes mosquitoes breeding in large numbers and, subsequently, a dengue outbreak."



Datuk Dr Mohd Hayati Othman

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : NATION

Nurses being lured away

M'sians getting better offers from abroad, says Johor exco man

By MOHD FARHAAN SHAH
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JOHOR BARU: Malaysian nurses are being pinched as better offers come from abroad, resulting in an inadequate number of nurses at both public and private hospitals in Johor.

State health and unity committee chairman Ling Tian Soon said that currently, there are 12,533 nurses in Johor, of which 8,777 are in the public hospitals.

"I have carried out visits to both public and private hospitals in Johor, with all of them voicing their concerns over the lack of available nurses. This issue is not only affecting Johor but is also happening in other states. However, due to our close proximity to Singapore, we found that many local nurses have quit their jobs here after receiving offers to work there.

"A friend of mine, who is a nurse, currently works in the island republic where her income is equivalent to a specialist doctor in Malaysia due to the currency exchange rate," he said when met after officiating the state-level International Nurses Day celebrations at Persada Con-



In demand: The government should look at giving good deals to nurses to ensure that local talents would continue working here instead of migrating overseas. — AZHAR MAHFUF/The Star

vention Centre here yesterday.

He added that with the weakening ringgit value, there is a possibility that such trends would continue, with Malaysian nurses working

abroad to find better pay.

"Not only are the nurses pinched, but we also see our local doctors attracted to migrate abroad after receiving good offers," he said.

Ling also said that despite the migration of medical staff overseas, the need for nurses in the state is still not at a critical stage.

The inadequacy, however, needs to be filled so that healthcare services in Johor are not affected.

He added that the ratio currently stands at one nurse to 297 patients, compared to the supposed ratio of one nurse to 200 patients.

"So far, the number of posts for nurses in the state has been 98% filled but this is still not enough as health programmes and services are increasing, apart from new hospitals that need nurses," he said.

Ling added that he would bring up the matter with Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin soon as Johor needs between 15,000 and 18,000 nurses.

He said the government should look at giving good deals to nurses and doctors to ensure that local talents would continue working here instead of migrating overseas.

Ling said in his meeting with Khairy, he would propose that university graduates take nursing courses before they are absorbed into the health services sector in the state.

Union: Offer contract nurses permanent posting

By RAGANANTHINI VETHASALAM
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PETALING JAYA: While the issue of permanent posting for contract medical officers had dominated headlines recently, not much has been said about contract nurses.

Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin recently acknowledged that Malaysia is facing a shortage of nurses.

Malayan Nurses Union president Nor Hayati Abdul Rashid said that offering contract nurses permanent posting would address this.

She noted the shortage is not unique to Malaysia and is a global problem.

"During Covid-19 we had nurses who were brought in under contract," she said.

She added that fresh graduates are usually offered one to two years' contract while there are also nurses who joined the Health Ministry on contract from private practice to serve during the pandemic.

"We really hope that we can settle this problem with contract nurses so that they can get the same benefits.

"If we can resolve this problem not only for the doctors but nurses as well, it will be good. There are a lot of people who will retire. All this vacuum must be filled up," she added.

Nor Hayati said it usually takes one nurse to care for a patient at the Intensive Care Unit.

"Can you imagine if you have 20 to 25 beds?" she said.

As for normal wards, she said one nurse could care for four to six patients depending on the cases.

"The supply must equal (demand). There must be proper planning," she said.

Unlike doctors, nurses usually work in shifts, she said.

She said furthering studies can also be challenging due to the limited staffing.

Khairy said during the International Nurses' Day celebration recently that the shortage of nurses would be addressed so that the best health services could be provided to the people.

"I will do my best to help nurses, just as what has been done for contract doctors," he said.

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 6
RUANGAN : NATION

50-fold increase in Sabah HFMD infections

By DURIE RAINER FONG
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KOTA KINABALU: Sabah has recorded a total of 2,834 cases of hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD) so far this year.

State health director Datuk Dr Rose Nani Mudin said the data, recorded until May 16, showed a more than 50-fold increase when compared to the 55 cases detected in the same period last year.

Rose said the east coast Tawau district recorded the highest cases with 435, followed by Sandakan (387), Lahad Datu (308), Kota Belud

(244) and Papar (229).

"There have been no deaths caused by HFMD so far," she said in a statement.

"A total of 93.1% of the cases involved children aged below six. A majority of the infections occurred at private homes or at early education centres."

Rose added that HFMD is common among children aged below 10, with those infected showing symptoms that include blister-like lesions containing fluid appearing on the hand, foot and inside the mouth.

Rose said HFMD is transmitted

from one individual to another through direct contact including mucus, saliva, faecal matter and bodily secretions from those who have been infected.

"Children under the age of five are the most vulnerable to contracting the disease."

"HFMD normally occurs in a cluster of children who are grouped together in one place," she said.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah previously said that HFMD cases in Malaysia had gone up 15 times this year compared to the same period in 2021.

Noor Hisham said Malaysia recorded 31,661 HFMD cases as at May 14 during Epidemiology Week 19.

Rose said the Sabah health department has launched several measures to bring down the infections in the state.

She said the department has also carried out health drives and thorough checks on high-risk premises such as childcare centres (taska) and kindergartens.

"This is to assess the level of hygiene and practice of disinfecting equipment used by children so they are free from HFMD," she said.

She said the department had also, among others, ordered for the temporary shutdown of certain premises to enable disinfection work that will subsequently cut off the infection risks.

Rose urged taska and kindergarten operators to give their fullest cooperation to prevent the spread of HFMD at the respective premises.

This includes carrying out compulsory screenings for symptoms at the entrances to their premises, washing hands with soap and clean water after handling children, as well as training children to wash their hands properly.

Concern over sudden spike in cases

Parents urge action as HFMD, dengue cases rise

By RAHIMY RAHIM
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PETALING JAYA: Parents are worried over the sudden spike in the hand, foot, and mouth disease (HFMD) among schoolchildren, coupled with the increase in dengue cases.

Mohd Tarmizi Hussain, 33, an engineer, said his four-year-old daughter was infected with HFMD after she came home from the nursery.

"Initially she had a fever and then started to develop red spots like chicken pox rashes all over her body. I was really worried when there were rashes in her mouth too. We immediately sought medical help," he said yesterday.

He added that it took about a week for his daughter to recover but believed that more can be done by authorities to curb the spread at kindergartens and nurseries.

"I hope the relevant authorities can come up with a proper plan now that the number of cases is starting to spike," he said.

He is among scores of parents whose children have been infected with HFMD recently.

Cases of Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease (HFMD) this year have increased 15-fold compared to last year.

On Wednesday, Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said a total of 31,661

"I hope the relevant authorities can come up with a proper plan now that the number of cases is starting to spike."

Mohd Tarmizi Hussain

HFMD cases were recorded in Malaysia up to the 19th Epidemiology Week (EW19) compared to 2,121 cases recorded in 2021 over the same period of time.

As at May 14 this year, Selangor had contributed to the highest number of cases at 8,864, which is 28% of the total number of cases, followed by Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya, both reporting 4,421 cases (14%).

Dengue cases also saw an increase by 51.5% in EW19 where by 1,074 cases were reported compared to 709 cases registered in EW18.

Retiree Salihah Ibrahim, 79, said she had dengue right after the Hari

Raya Aidilfitri celebration.

Initially, she thought that she had been infected with Covid-19 but it turned out to be dengue.

Malaysian Medical Association president Dr Koh Kar Chai said dengue is endemic and needs to be managed regularly by ensuring the environment is free of the aedes mosquito which can carry the dengue virus.

"Prevention against dengue is a collective effort. Keep the environment clean and ensure there is no stagnant water collecting in containers as they can easily turn into breeding grounds for mosquitoes."

"Areas seeing a rise in cases may need the authorities to carry out fogging," he said.

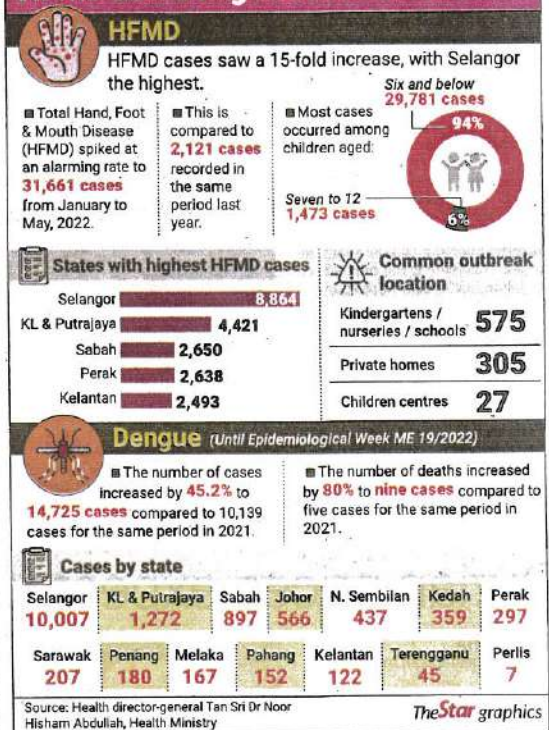
On HFMD, he pointed out that it is a seasonal disease which spreads through close contact with an infected person.

"After long periods of lockdown during the pandemic, we can of course expect cases of HFMD to be much higher than the last two years now that schools have reopened," he said.

Public health expert Datuk Dr Zainal Ariffin Omar also agreed that dengue has been in the country for quite some time.

"We must also find ways of doing environmental intervention to control the spread of dengue more aggressively. The community and local authorities should play a bigger and more active role," he added.

HFMD and Dengue cases on the rise



KJ: We're looking into tobacco product display ban

By JOSEPH KAOS Jr
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KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia is studying the viability of imposing a tobacco product display ban as part of the country's "generational endgame" strategy to end the smoking habit.

If implemented, shopkeepers might not be able to display tobacco products in their premises – a move that has been implemented in many countries such as Australia, Singapore and Britain.

Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin, however, said that such a move would require thorough studies and engagement sessions

with stakeholders first.

"Among the suggestions is that tobacco products for sale cannot be displayed. There are also proposals for plain packaging on tobacco products, similar to what other countries are doing."

"These proposals are being studied by the Health Ministry," Khairy told reporters after launching a World Asthma Day event here.

Malaysia's "generational endgame" move is a plan to ban the sale of cigarettes and tobacco products, including vapes, to people born after Jan 1, 2005.

The Tobacco and Smoking Control Bill is currently being finalised and it could be tabled in the Dewan

Rakyat this July.

Khairy, however, said the provisions for the tobacco product display plan, if approved, would not be inserted in the Bill.

"The provisions will be part of the rules and regulations (of the smoking ban) that will only be drawn up after the Bill is tabled," he said.

Engagement sessions will need to be organised with health groups as well as business owners, said Khairy.

"If we are to impose a product display ban, premises owners might need to make modifications to their shops."

"This is why we need to have more engagement sessions on this,

as the matter involves many stakeholders."

"We will also look at how effective the display ban is in other countries. Once we have completed our study on this, we will make a decision."

"If we agree to implement the product display ban, we can start transitioning towards the move," said Khairy.

On another matter, Khairy said the compliance level of the Malaysian public towards Covid-19 preventive measures will help the country successfully transition to endemicity.

"We can see how well the Malaysian public have behaved during

the transition to the endemic phase. Even though it is not compulsory anymore, people still put on masks outdoors."

"Malaysians have the capability to make this transition to endemicity a success without the need to enforce laws or issue compounds," said Khairy.

Covid-19 infections saw a slight increase in the past week, but it has improved in the last two days, with the national infectivity rate currently down to an RT level of 0.91.

Watch the video
TheStarTV.com