

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

BH SABTU, 30 MEI 2020

5

Penularan COVID-19

Kluster pekerja pembersihan dikesan

24 warganegara Bangladesh dikenali pasti dijangkiti wabak

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Kuala Lumpur: Satu kluster COVID-19 baharu membabitkan pekerja pembersihan dikesan Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM).

Kluster itu dikesan mengikut seramai 24 warganegara Bangladesh dijangkiti wabak itu.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata kluster itu dikenali pasti sebuah klinik swasta yang bertanggungjawab mengadakan sari-

ngan terhadap pekerja syarikat berkenaan.

"Seramai 20 individu dikesan dijangkiti mengikut di sebuah asrama di Kuala Langat, Selangor; manakala empat lagi individu di sebuah pangsupuri di Nilai, Negeri Sembilan.

"Klinik berkenaan mengadakan saringan kesihatan itu berdasarkan inisiatif syarikat pembersihan berkenaan," katanya dalam sidang media harian COVID-19, semalam.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, selepas kluster itu dikenali pasti, KKM segera mengesan kontak rapat dan memeriksa sejumlah 428 individu.

Beliau berkata, penularan jangkitan berkenaan berpunca daripada kesesakan tempat tinggal dan tiada penjarakan sosial yang selamat.

Dalam perkembangan sama, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata pekerja kilang pemprosesan ayam di Pedas yang dikuarantin selama 14 hari sebelum ini, dikesan positif jangkitan COVID-19, sekali gus menyaksikan peningkatan kes baharu dalam kluster tersebut.

Beliau berkata, 53 daripada 54 kes positif yang dikesan membabitkan kluster Pedas adalah dalam kalangan bukan warganegara.

Katanya, hanya seorang daripada 54 kes positif membabitkan rakyat tempatan, iaitu pekerja kantin di kilang pemprosesan ayam berkenaan.

"Seperti dijelaskan sebelum ini, kita kuarantin individu didapati negatif jangkitan COVID-19 atau dikesan terdedah kepada kontak rapat.

Nasional

Selepas kluster itu dikenal pasti, KKM segera mengesan kontak rapat dan memeriksa sejumlah 428 individu.

Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan



"Oleh itu, peningkatan kes dalam kluster ini dikesan berlaku membabitkan individu dikuarantin, selepas saringan secara berkala dibuat KKM," katanya.

Mengenai kes sembah, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, seramai 66 individu dijangkiti COVID-19 sembah dan dibenarkan keluar dari hospital, semalam.

Katanya, ini menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes sudah pulih sepenuhnya dan keluar wad ialah sebanyak 6,235 kes atau 80.6 peratus.

Katanya, setakat jam 12 tengah hari semalam, sebanyak 103 kes baharu dilaporkan.

"Ini menjadikan jumlah kes positif COVID-19 adalah sebanyak

7,732, manakala kes aktif dengan kebolehan jangkitan ialah 1,382.

"Daripada 103 kes baharu dilaporkan, tujuh ialah kes import membabitkan jangkitan luar negara.

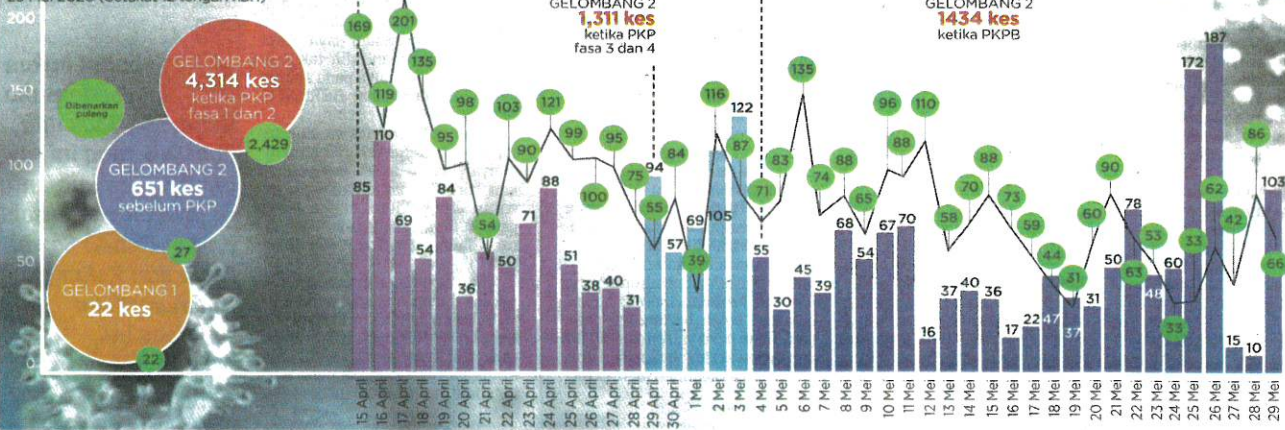
"Sebanyak 96 kes pula ialah penularan tempatan dengan 84 membabitkan bukan warganegara, termasuk 53 kes daripada Kluster Pedas dan 24 daripada Kluster Syarikat Pembersihan.

"Kes membabitkan warga Malaysia ialah 12 sahaja," katanya.

Beliau berkata, lapan kes positif COVID-19 sedang dirawat di unit rawatan rapi (ICU) dengan hanya dua memerlukan bantuan pernafasan.

TABURAN KES COVID-19

29 Mei 2020 (Setakat 12 tengah hari)



Grafik BH

Cadangan 'rehatkan' pekerja asing tidak praktikal

Putrajaya: Cadangan menghentikan khidmat pekerja asing untuk sementara waktu supaya mereka melakukan saringan COVID-19 disifatkan sebagai tidak praktikal.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata cadangan sedemikian sebenarnya bagus, namun ia tidak dapat dilaksanakan berikutan kemampuan makmal ujian saringan di negara ini, selain keberkatan khidmat pekerja asing untuk menjaga ekonomi domestik.

Sehubungan itu katanya, kae-

dah terbaik untuk menangani penularan dalam kalangan pekerja asing adalah dengan menumpukan proses saringan terhadap golongan sasaran.

"Kalau kita nak hentikan semua sektor (yang kini ditampung khidmat pekerja asing), katakan kalau lima juta (pekerja asing di negara ini), maka kita perlu tunggu berbulan-bulan untuk sektor kembali berfungsi. Kita kena padankan dengan kemampuan makmal untuk menjalankan saringan dan setakat ini, kemampuan kita adalah kira-kira 30,000 sampel un-

tuk sehari.

"Oleh itu, kalau kita nak saring semua pekerja asing dan minta mereka henti bekerja untuk sementara waktu, ia tidak praktikal," katanya.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, pendekatan semasa menangani penularan jangkitan dalam kalangan bukan warganegara, khususnya pekerja asing akan terus digunakan.

Katanya, ia merangkumi penge-
nasan kes secara aktif dan ber-
sasar, selain mengasingkan kon-
tak rapat serta individu didapati
negatif ujian saringan COVID-19.

Beliau berkata, penularan jang-
kitan dalam kalangan pekerja
asing berupaya ditangani sekira-
nya isu penempatan atau ked-
iaman mereka diselesaikan sece-
pat mungkin.

"Masalahnya mereka duduk da-
lam tempat sempit, justeru penu-
laran senang berlaku dan merebak
kepada rakan lain," katanya.

Dalam perkembangan sama, Dr
Noor Hisham menyifatkan lang-
kah Kementerian Sumber Manu-
sia meminda Akta Standard Mi-
nimum Perumahan dan Kemuda-
han Pekerja 1990 bagi menambah

baik penginapan warga asing se-
bagai tindakan tepat dalam me-
ngekang penularan COVID-19.

"Seperti dimaklumkan keme-
nterian sebelum ini, kebanyakan
kluster membabitkan bukan war-
ganegara berpunca penginapan
sesak dan ruang sempit, akibat
tiada amalan penjarakan sosial.

"Ia sesuai untuk penularan pel-
bagai penyakit berjangkit, terma-
suk COVID-19. Situasi ini perlu di-
tangani segera bagi memastikan
tiada penularan pekerja tidak
konduktif dan sukar mematuhi a-
man penjarakan sosial," katanya.

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 14

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

3.9 juta rakyat berusia 18 tahun ke atas hidap diabetes

Putrajaya: Seorang daripada lima individu dewasa atau kira-kira 3.9 juta orang berusia 18 tahun ke atas di Malaysia menghidap diabetes, menurut dapatan Tinjauan Kebangsaan Kesihatan dan Morbiditi (NHMS) 2019.

Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba, berkata prevalen diabetes di negara ini didapati meningkat kepada 18.3 peratus berbanding 13.4 peratus pada 2015.

"Peningkatan penyakit diabetes di Malaysia adalah salah satu

dapatan NHMS 2019 yang merisaukan. Sejumlah 49 peratus daripada penghidap diabetes di Malaysia, tidak pernah diperiksa atau didiagnosis menghidap penyakit ini," katanya ketika membentangkan dapatan NHMS 2019 di Kementerian Kesihatan, di sini, semalam.

Menurut dapatan tinjauan itu lagi, tiga negeri merekodkan penyakit diabetes tertinggi, iaitu Negeri Sembilan, Perlis dan Pahang.

Dr Adham berkata, berdasarkan NHMS 2019, seorang dari-



Dr Adham Baba

pada empat individu dewasa berusia 16 tahun ke atas di negara ini didapati tidak aktif secara fizikal, manakala kira-kira 50 peratus penduduk dewasa mengalami berat badan berlebihan.

Selain itu, beliau berkata, 95 peratus orang dewasa di Malaysia tidak mengambil sayur-sayuran dan buah-buahan mencukupi.

Katanya, dapatan NHMS 2019 juga mendapati setengah juta rakyat dewasa di Malaysia mengalami kemurungan dengan prevalen tertinggi di Putrajaya,

Negeri Sembilan dan Perlis.

Selain itu, beliau berkata, kira-kira 424,000 kanak-kanak didapati mengalami masalah mental dengan faktor utamanya ialah masalah berinteraksi dengan rakan sebaya, tingkah laku, emosi dan hiperaktif.

"Kita mahukan Malaysia yang sihat," katanya sambil menasihati rakyat Malaysia supaya bertanggungjawab dan mengambil berat terhadap kesihatan masing-masing serta mengamalkan gaya hidup sihat. BERNAMA

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 8

RUANGAN : NEWS/ STORY OF THE DAY

NewStraitsTimes • SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2020

8 | NEWS / Story of the day

Health D-G: Wear face masks when near people

PUTRAJAYA: Malaysians have been urged to exercise discretion when it comes to wearing face masks. This is especially so when they are at public places or have Covid-19-like symptoms.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said that while the purpose of wearing a face mask was to break the chain of Covid-19 infection, this also depended on the situation and location.

"For example, if you are jogging in a public park and there is no one near you, you can remove your face mask.

"You should maintain a safe distance of between 2m and 3m if there are others around.

"When you are driving and

there is no one else in the car, there is no need to wear a face mask.

"We need to wear it when we are in close range with people. But if we can maintain a safe distance (from one another), we don't need to wear it.

"There are many types of masks. For example, we can suffocate if we wear N95 face masks for three to four hours," he said.

This is in reference to two schoolchildren in China who reportedly died after running while wearing face masks during Physical Education classes.

Dr Noor Hisham has never been seen wearing a face mask while giving the daily media briefing.



Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah (right) addressing the media at a press conference in Putrajaya yesterday. With him is his deputy, Datuk Dr Rohaizat Yon. BERNAMA PIC

CONTACT TRACING UNDERWAY

NEW COVID-19 CLUSTER DETECTED

24 Bangladeshi cleaners tested positive for virus now being treated at 2 hospitals

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A NEW Covid-19 cluster involving cleaners has been detected, said Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

He said the cluster involved 24 Bangladeshi workers of a cleaning company who tested positive for the virus. Of the figure, 20 are being treated at Sungai Buloh Hospital in Selangor, while the rest at Tuanku Ja'afar Hospital in Seremban.

"The cases were detected by a private clinic that carried out the screening for the company.

"Some 150 foreign workers were screened and tested, of which 126 tested negative," he told a press conference here yesterday.

"We are doing contact tracing among the workers.

"We are investigating the cause of infection. Like any other cluster, we will enhance action to curb the spread of Covid-19.

"The employer should be commended for taking the initiative

to have his workers screened for Covid-19 so that we can detect the new cluster," he said.

Dr Noor Hisham said it was imperative for employers (and the public) to be responsible and conduct screening among their subordinates.

"We advise employers to consider having their employees screened for Covid-19. This is a lesson learnt and we need to address this. It is not about the sector, but rather their accommodation — they live in confined and crowded places, and as such, social distancing cannot be observed," he said.

Dr Noor Hisham said foreign workers needed to be educated on the standard operating procedures (SOP) under the Conditional Movement Order (CMCO) following a surge in Covid-19 cases among them.

He said of the 103 new positive cases recorded yesterday, only 12 were Malaysians.

"If all Malaysians comply with the SOP for the next couple of weeks, perhaps there won't be an exponential surge (of Covid-19 cases) after Hari Raya.

"Malaysians in general adhere to the SOP and social distancing measures aimed at breaking the chain of Covid-19 infections. But do foreign workers practise social distancing? We need to educate them on the SOP — as well as social distancing, hand-washing, wearing face masks and avoiding confined and crowded spaces.

"It is not a matter of sectors (involved) but rather, the issue of

accommodation where the workers are not able to observe social distancing. All the clusters involved have a common conclusion — confined accommodation — this is an issue that we have to solve together," he said.

He said it was impractical to have some six to seven million foreign workers to stop working temporarily until they were screened for Covid-19.

"Our laboratory capacity is around 30,000 (daily). If we stop all sectors, we may need to wait for months before the (industry) sectors can resume their operations. So, we allow some of the sectors to reopen, with screenings conducted from time to time.

"And also, if we are being screened today, we could still be exposed to the virus (present) in the community tomorrow.

"So, we are taking the targeted approach — acute case detection and trace the patients' close contacts. Those who tested negative will be quarantined, and the positive cases will be sent to hospital for treatment."

He said it was too early to decide whether to lift the CMCO, which is scheduled to end on June 9.

With the 103 new cases recorded, the total tally of infections stands at 7,732 cases. Seven of the new cases were imported, in which the patients contracted the virus while abroad, while the rest were local transmissions.

Dr Noor Hisham said 66 patients made a full recovery and were discharged yesterday.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : NATION

THE STAR, SATURDAY 30 MAY 2020

Nation 5

Covid-19: Current situation globally

(As of 7pm May 29, 2020)

Covid-19: Current situation globally							New cases	Total cases	Total deaths	Total recovered		
(As of 7pm May 29, 2020)							Malaysia	103	7,732	115	6,235	
Asean+	China	Singapore	Indonesia	Japan	Philippines	S. Korea	Thailand	Vietnam	Myanmar	Brunei	Cambodia	Laos
Confirmed cases	82,995	33,860	25,216	16,683	15,588	11,402	3,076	327	206	141	124	19
Deaths	4,634	23	1,520	867	921	269	57	0	6	2	0	0
Recovered	78,291	18,294	6,492	14,147	3,598	10,363	2,945	278	126	138	122	16
Global Top 10	US	Brazil	Russia	Spain	UK	Italy	France	Germany	India	Turkey		
Confirmed cases	1,768,608	438,812	387,623	284,986	269,127	231,732	186,238	182,452	167,442	160,979		
Deaths	103,344	26,764	4,374	27,119	37,837	33,142	28,662	8,570	4,797	4,461		
Recovered	498,762	193,181	159,257	196,958	N/A	150,604	67,191	164,100	71,385	124,369		

Conservative approach taken

New hydroxychloroquine treatments suspended, says WHO

By CLARISSA CHUNG
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PETALING JAYA: It is only the new enrollment of patients for hydroxychloroquine treatment under the Covid-19 global trial that has been temporarily suspended, says the World Health Organisation (WHO) representative to Malaysia.

Dr Jacqueline Lo Ying-Ru, Head of Mission and WHO representative to Malaysia, Brunei and Singapore, clarified that patients who had previously enrolled under the trial would finish their hydroxychloroquine treatment.

"Taking a conservative approach, WHO has temporarily suspended the enrollment of patients in the hydroxychloroquine arm of the Solidarity Trial. The other arms of the trial are continuing as normal."

"Those patients previously enrolled under hydroxychloro-

quine treatment should continue to receive hydroxychloroquine until they finish their course of treatment," she said in a statement to The Star.

This change, she said, had been made in light of recent publications on the safety and efficacy of hydroxychloroquine as a treatment for patients with Covid-19.

Medical journal *The Lancet* had earlier reported that patients receiving hydroxychloroquine had increased death rates.

Following the publication of the report, the WHO said it would be temporarily halting clinical trials that used hydroxychloroquine to treat Covid-19 patients in its Solidarity Trial.

"A final decision on what will be done next is expected by mid-June," said Dr Lo.

Asked about concerns over the continued use of hydroxychloro-



quine for previously enrolled patients, Dr Lo said their safety were being closely monitored under the trials.

"During clinical trials, the safety and effectiveness of the drugs being tested are constantly monitored. It is not unusual for changes to be made as trials go on and more data come in."

"Clinical trials have stringent

safety monitoring and oversight, and procedures in advance that dictate reporting and management of adverse events."

"For now, Malaysia will still use the drug within the Solidarity Trial but with caution and patient monitoring. Any patient showing side effects will be taken off the drug," she said.

The drug, she added, continued to be accepted as generally safe for use in patients with autoimmune diseases or malaria.

Nearly 3,500 patients from 17 countries have been enrolled in the Solidarity Trial, which was launched by WHO.

The trial would compare the safety and efficacy of four treatment protocols using different combinations of the drugs Remdesivir, Lopinavir/Ritonavir, Interferon beta, Chloroquine and Hydroxychloroquine.

New cluster causes triple digit jump in virus cases

PUTRAJAYA: The number of new Covid-19 cases has leapt to triple digits once again following the discovery of a new cluster traced to a cleaning services company.

There were 103 new cases yesterday, a sudden jump after the country saw a total of 25 cases recorded on Wednesday and Thursday.

On Tuesday, there were 187 cases with about 90% of them involving foreigners at the Bukit Jalil immigration detention centre.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said yesterday that 53 of the new cases were discovered from the Pedas cluster, which is linked to factory workers in Negri Sembilan.

"They were all close contacts of the positive cases that have been detected previously," he said, adding that they tested positive while under quarantine.

On the cleaning services cluster, Dr Noor Hisham said 24 infections were detected. All were Bangladesh nationals.

"The cases were discovered after a private clinic conducted screening on the workers of the cleaning services company," he said.

Of the 24 cases, 20 of them live in a hostel in Kuala Langat, Selangor while the others stayed in an apartment in Nilai, Negri Sembilan.

The ministry, he said, identified 428 close contacts of the cases in the cleaning services cluster and that these people would be screened.

Dr Noor Hisham said the recent clusters all saw cramped living conditions for foreign workers.

"We have seen that from May 4 until now, almost 78% of our positive Covid-19 cases involved foreign workers."

"We find that due to living in confined spaces, foreign workers could not practise social distancing."

"If one person is positive, the whole household can be infected."

"This is a lesson learnt for us, and this is why we need to address this issue of cramped living conditions as soon as possible."

"We are not looking into a sector anymore, but at workers' accommodations," he said.

Employers, he said, were advised to screen their foreign workers.

Of the 103 new cases, seven are imported while the rest are local transmissions.

Dr Noor Hisham said only 12 of the local cases involved Malaysians.

Yesterday was also the seventh consecutive day in which no death was recorded.

He also said that 66 more patients were discharged, making it a total of 6,235 recoveries (or 80.6%).

The country's total infections so far is 7,732.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 12

RUANGAN : NATION

Lack of nutrition the culprit

Survey shows 3.9 million Malaysians suffer from diabetes

By CLARISSA CHUNG
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PUTRAJAYA: Some of the major health problems faced by Malaysians are to do with nutrition, as a Health Ministry survey shows that the country is battling both diabetes in adults and stunting among children. The newly launched National Health and Morbidity Survey (NHMS) 2019 showed that nearly one in five Malaysian adults, or 18.3%, had diabetes.

The survey found that an estimated 3.9 million Malaysians aged 18 and above were suffering from diabetes, said Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba.

This is a spike from the 13.4% diabetes prevalence rate in 2015.

On the NHMS 2015, the prevalence of diabetes in the country was reported as 17.5%, before the measurement of the disease was changed in line with World Health Organisation standards.)



Worrying trend: Dr Adham Baba and Health DG Datuk Dr Nor Hisham Abdullah (right) launching the NHMS 2019 book at Putrajaya.

Nearly half (49%) of those with diabetes were never officially diagnosed or checked for the disease.

When launching the NHMS 2019, the minister said non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes

and their risk factors were on the rise.

"It was also found that more than 50% of adults in Malaysia were overweight or obese, and 95% of adults in Malaysia were not consuming the

adequate intake of vegetables and fruits," he said yesterday.

The highest prevalence rates of diabetes were found in Negri Sembilan (33.2%), Perlis (32.6%) and Pahang (25.7%).

About 25% of Malaysian adults were physically inactive, though the proportion of physically inactive Malaysians had dropped from 33% in 2015.

On other hand, Dr Adham said that stunting among children under the age of five had increased to 21.8% in 2019, from 17.7% in 2015.

Citing malnutrition as a cause for the problem, he added that stunting among children was an area of concern for the ministry.

The NHMS is conducted in cycles of four years, where the topic of the first year focuses on non-communicable diseases and demand of healthcare.

The survey has more than 32,000 respondents from all states across Malaysia.

Malaysians have poor health coverage

PUTRAJAYA: Almost half of the Malaysian population rely solely on healthcare coverage provided by the government, a survey by the Health Ministry shows.

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba said 46% of Malaysian adults do not have any form of supplementary financial coverage for their healthcare needs and rely on existing tax-funded healthcare coverage.

About 71% of the poorest 20% in the country, he added, do not have additional healthcare coverage besides what is already provided by the government.

"The majority of Malaysians (81%) used their income to pay for health services while about 36% used their savings, and about 11% of Malaysians had to borrow from family and friends," he said when launching the National Health and Morbidity Survey (NHMS) 2019 at the ministry headquarters here yesterday.

The survey also found that only 22% of Malaysians were covered by personal health insurance.

Among the reasons for not having personal health insurance are not being able to afford it (43%) and deeming it as unnecessary (36%).

Dr Adham added that there was a higher percentage of Malaysians who utilised in-patient government healthcare services (76%) compared to private facilities (24%).