

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 8

RUANGAN : NEWS/NATION

6 DEATHS REPORTED

Dip in new Covid-19 cases after spike on Sunday

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MALAYSIA recorded 2,192 new Covid-19 infections as of noon yesterday, a slight dip after logging a spike on Sunday.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said this raised the cumulative number of infections to 285,761, with 32,076 (11.23 per cent) active cases.

Perak, which saw a sharp increase in Covid-19 cases on Sunday, logged 148 new infections.

Over 40 per cent (910 cases) of the new infections were registered in Selangor. From this total, 742 cases were detected from clusters and close contact screenings.

Kuala Lumpur, meanwhile, logged 303 cases, followed by Sarawak (221 cases) and Johor (211 cases).

"Five per cent of the cases reported were linked to clusters in prisons and immigration detention depots," Dr Noor Hisham said in a statement yesterday.

He said among the clusters involved were the Tembok Tapah, Tembok Bendera, Jalan Harapan Prison, Tembok Pengkalan Chepa, Tembok Bukit Besi, Tembok Taiping, Sungai Udang and Sepang Immigration Detention Centre clusters.

The number of recoveries continue to outnumber daily new infections, he added, with 3,414 patients discharged in the past 24 hours.

This raised the total number of recoveries from Covid-19 to 252,623 (88.40 per cent).

He said another six people had died from the virus, bringing the national death toll to 1,062 or 0.37 per cent.

"Two deaths were reported in Selangor, and one each in Pahang, Johor, Sabah and Sarawak.

"Five of the deaths involved Malaysians and one was a for-

eigner."

Currently, 199 patients were being treated at Intensive Care Units, with 91 requiring respiratory aid.

Dr Noor Hisham said the Health Ministry also detected eight new clusters, seven of which were workplace-related and that one cluster was spread within a community.

Three of the clusters — Jalan Kota Construction Site, Lombong Timah Construction Site and Jalan Putra Market — were registered in Selangor.

Sarawak recorded two clusters, namely the Sungai Bakong and Emperoh Jambu clusters.

Kuala Lumpur, Negri Sembilan and Penang reported one cluster each.

Meanwhile, the Enhanced Movement Control Order (EMCO) will be enforced at Kampung Emperoh Jambu in Padawan, a sub-district in Kuching, Sarawak following a spike in Covid-19 cases in the area.

Senior Minister (Security Clus-

ter) Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said the EMCO would start today and end on March 8.

"To date, 60 positive cases have been reported in this locality.

"The health ministry has confirmed that there was a sharp increase in cases in this locality, with a high-infectivity rate in the community," he said in a statement yesterday.

He added the EMCO was to enable the health ministry to conduct targeted screening of 1,215 residents in the locality. This, he added, was to prevent further infection in the community.

Also placed under EMCO starting today until March 8, is Kampung Tanah Merah in Kota Marudu, Sabah. A similarly sharp increase in cases was also reported in the locality.

"To date, 57 people tested positive from 226 screening tests conducted. With EMCO the health ministry can do targeted screening on the 545 residents."

On non-compliance of standard operating procedures (SOP),



Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah

Ismail Sabri said 509 offenders were arrested on Sunday. Of the number, 120 had attempted to travel inter-district or interstate without permission from the authorities.

Other offences were failure by businesses to record patrons' details upon entry (111), not observing physical distancing (95), gambling activities (54), failure to wear face masks (49), activities at entertainment centres (37), leaving the house without a valid reason (11), businesses operating without permission or exceeding permitted hours (eight) and others (24).

On the mandatory screening of foreign workers, Ismail Sabri said from the 10,288 foreign workers tested on Sunday, nine were found to be positive.