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Market workers spraying disinfectant at a market in the southeastern city of Daegu in South Korea yesterday. AFP PIC

CASE 13 OUT OF 22

ANOTHER COVID-19 PATIENT DISCHARGED

Total number of patients free of Covid-19 now 18, says Health D-G

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ANOTHER Covid-19 patient has fully recovered, bringing the total number of patients free from the virus and discharged to 18.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the 40-year-old patient was admitted on Feb 5 and received treatment at Sultanah Bahiyah Hospital in Alor Star.

"One more patient has fully recovered and has been discharged

well on Feb 22.

"She is Case 13, a 40-year-old female, Malaysian.

"In total, 18 confirmed Covid-19 cases have fully recovered and discharged well, with four cases still receiving treatment in hospitals and are in stable conditions," he said yesterday.

Dr Noor Hisham said there was a total of 22 confirmed Covid-19 cases in Malaysia and the majority of the cases were found to have a travel history to China.

He said the ministry had been strengthening the Covid-19 surveillance system to detect local cases with emphasis on detecting cases that involved severe acute respiratory system.



Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah

"Out of 22 cases, 20 were imported, for example, cases with histories of travel or living overseas, particularly from China.

"The remaining two cases were among family members of one of the confirmed imported Covid-19 case, who is a Malaysian.

"This surveillance system uses the same principles as the Influenza Surveillance System, such as through the detection of severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) and influenza-like illness (ILI) cases that meet the set criteria at the level of selected hospitals and health clinics respectively.

"The strengthening of detection amongst SARI cases was ini-

tiated on Feb 12.

"Since then, no samples have been found to be positive for Covid-19 out of those obtained and tested through the surveillance system," he said, adding that the move to strengthen the detection among ILI cases was initiated on Feb 22.

The death toll from the outbreak in Hubei province stood at 2,346, while the number of cases stood at 64,084.

South Korea saw a spike in its Covid-19 cases, surging past 430 after more than 220 new infections were reported in 24 hours. More than half the total cases were associated with a branch of a religious group in the south of the country.

The total confirmed cases in Italy has risen to 62, a spike that was attributed to a rise in infections in the country's north.

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'I was really worried about my family'

KUALA LUMPUR: Despite spending two weeks in isolation after being infected by Covid-19, a 40-year-old woman was more worried for her family than for herself.

The woman, who was tagged as Case 13, tested positive with the coronavirus on Feb 4, and was admitted and treated at the isolation ward at Sultanah Bahiyah Hospital in Alor Star.

The patient is the younger sister to Case 9, a 41-year-old man, who was the first Malaysian tested positive for Covid-19. He was also cleared of the infection on Feb 17.

In an excerpt of an interview with the Health Ministry, which was made available on the ministry's MyHealth portal, Case 13 said she was relieved after being discharged on Feb 22, but throughout her isolation period her mind was only on her family.

"When I received the news, I could not accept it. I was truly worried about my family, especially my children.

"Luckily, everyone is in good health. I was relieved when the doctors told me I had recovered.

"Finally, I get to see my family and be outdoors after being isolated for two weeks," she said.

Case 13 said she was discovered through the contact tracing method by the ministry and was isolated from her family members and friends at an early stage.

"I would like to thank the government for ensuring the well-being of Malaysians during this crisis.

"Before the incident, I had never been admitted to a public hospital ward and even had that slight misconception over the level of government hospital's services.

"The experience I went through proved that the government hospital is able to provide a high quality service. Malaysians should be proud.

"I thank all the hospital staff for their services throughout my time here," she said.

Case 13 advised Malaysians to avoid crowded places and to help each other during a time of need.

"Do not hesitate to ask for help or any kind of medical assistance if you are showing symptoms.

"Always wash your hands and avoid crowded places."