

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : STORY OF THE DAY



FOR THOSE WHO TEST NEGATIVE

14-day quarantine rule lifted for travellers from Sabah to the peninsula

KUALA LUMPUR: Starting today, travellers from Sabah to the peninsula will need to undergo the Covid-19 swab test only three days before their departure date.

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba said those found negative for Covid-19 would not be required to be placed under quarantine for 14 days after arriving from Sabah.

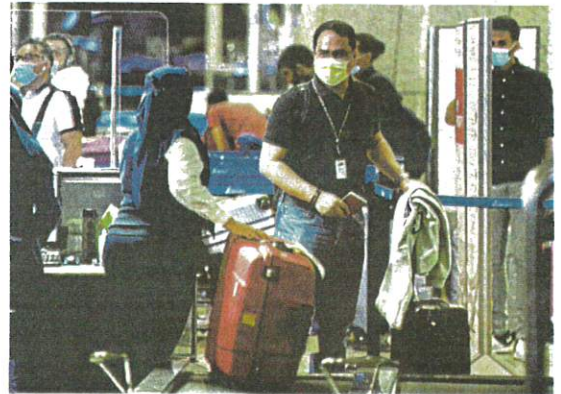
"Those found negative will go through fever and symptom screening, undergo Covid-19 swab test report checks and register using MySejahtera upon arrival at the domestic arrival points in Peninsular Malaysia, Sarawak and Labuan.

"If they do not display any symptoms and the Covid-19 laboratory test report is confirmed negative, these travellers will not have to undergo mandatory quarantine for 14 days," he said in a statement.

Dr Adham Baba said the matter was discussed during the special National Security Council meeting on Monday.

"If they test positive or if they have symptoms, they are not allowed to continue their journey out of Sabah.

"For those who test positive, they will be referred to the hospital for isolation, treatment and monitoring while for symptomatic individuals, they will be required to undergo an examination," he said.



Travellers from Sabah who test negative for Covid-19 will go through fever and symptom screening, undergo Covid-19 swab test report checks and register using MySejahtera upon arrival in the peninsula, Sarawak and Labuan. FILE PIC

Dr Adham noted the Sabah Covid-19 cases were on the decline compared with the Klang Valley area.

"Based on the number of positive cases in week 43, the latest cases recorded in Sabah were 4,548 compared with the weekly cases in Klang Valley at 821.

"The latest cases in Sabah were 3,073 in week 47, which showed a downward trend of 32.4 per cent compared with the Klang Valley at 3,041 cases, an increase of 270 per cent," he said.

Since Oct 11, all travellers with a

travel history to Sabah were required to follow existing procedures such as screening test, registering using the MySejahtera application and undergo swab tests twice, including the latest directive of being under a 14-day mandatory quarantine upon arrival.

The guideline was implemented following a high number of positive Covid-19 cases involving those who had returned from visiting Sabah, especially after the state election which was held in September.

and Damanlela construction site cluster with 1,539 cases involving Selangor and Kuala Lumpur.

He said 83 clusters were still active while 36 clusters had ended.

The Cergas cluster recorded 1,337 cases which involved Selangor, Negri Sembilan and Kelantan, while the Hentian cluster involving Selangor, Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya and Negri Sembilan recorded 1,101 cases.

The Kaya cluster, which was detected in October, has so far recorded 900 cases, involving Melaka, Negri Sembilan, Putrajaya, Kuala Lumpur, Selangor, Johor, Kelantan and Perak.

Following the rise in cases involving workplaces, he said, industries that employed a high number of foreign workers were reminded that they were responsible for providing conducive housing for employees.

"They are also responsible for ensuring that their employees always adopt measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19 at their homes and workplaces."

Earlier at the Dewan Rakyat, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Takiyuddin Hassan said the government was considering to propose a declaration of emergency for the Gerik parliamentary and Bugaya state constituencies that are facing by-elections following the death of their elected representatives.

He said the decision would however depend on the risk assessment by the Health Ministry and the National Security Council.

On Nov 18, Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah declared a state of emergency for Batu Sapi, cancelling the by-election slated for Dec 5 for the parliamentary seat.

He said this was made following the cabinet's decision to ask Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin to advise Al-Sultan Abdullah on the matter in accordance with Article 150 of the Federal Constitution after taking into consideration the Covid-19 situation in Sabah.

Takiyuddin said there was a high possibility of non-compliance of the standard operating procedures in Batu Sapi, with only 143 out of the 834 election workers up to the task up to Nov 6.

"The Health Ministry has also stated its difficulty in providing healthcare workers and medical officers to handle some 32,000 voters in Batu Sapi.

"The government is of the opinion that the declaration of emergency is very accurate and the move taken by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong was in accordance with the Federal Constitution. It is not an act that contradicts the practice of democracy," he said.

131 CAUGHT

Flouting face mask rule tops offence list

KUALA LUMPUR: Failing to wear face masks tops the list of offences under the Conditional Movement Control Order (CMCO), said Senior Minister (Security Cluster) Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob.

The compliance operation task force led by police yesterday arrested 329 individuals for flouting the CMCO's standard operating procedures (SOP).

A total of 131 individuals were nabbed for not wearing face masks, failing to practise physical distancing (59), failing to provide visitors' registration logs (50), travelling between states and districts, travelling without permission and others (51).

Ismail Sabri said 311 people were issued compounds, five

were remanded and 13 released on bail.

He added that 2,945 compliance teams conducted 57,256 inspections nationwide yesterday.

Among those checked were 3,751 supermarkets, 5,066 restaurants, 1,667 stalls, 1,391 factories, 3,526 banks and 598 government offices.

The senior defence minister said 88 illegal immigrants and five skippers were arrested under Op Benteng. Also seized were 13 land vehicles.

He added that 261 roadblocks were set up by the armed forces, police, Border Security Agency and People's Volunteer Corps nationwide to prevent illegal immigrants from entering the country.

As for sanitisation operations, he said 50 exercises were held at 13 red zones, six orange zones, seven yellow zones and 10 green zones in nine states up to Monday.

Since March 30, he said, 11,822 sanitisation operations were carried out in 137 zones.

On quarantine measures, Ismail Sabri said 73,713 Malaysians returned from abroad between July 24 and Monday.

"Of the total, 10,152 are undergoing mandatory quarantine, while 405 were sent to hospitals for treatment.

"A total of 63,156 individuals were discharged and allowed to return home."

The returnees arrived from 36 countries.