

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : NATION/NEWS

220 ACTIVE CLUSTERS

1,925 NEW COVID-19 CASES, 2 DEATHS

Selangor registers highest number at 747, says Health director-general

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A TOTAL of 1,925 new Covid-19 infections and two new fatalities were recorded nationwide yesterday, with Selangor registering the highest number of new daily coronavirus cases.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said Malaysia now had 21,443 active Covid-19 cases out of the 108,615 cumulative cases.

Dr Noor Hisham said 1,123 patients recovered yesterday, bringing the tally to 86,715.

"Of the new daily cases, 10 were imported, while the remaining 1,915 are local transmissions.

"There are 117 Covid-19 cases being treated in intensive

care, with 55 requiring breathing assistance.

"I regret to inform you that two more Covid-19-related fatalities were reported today (yesterday), taking the tally of deaths in Malaysia to 457," he said.

Dr Noor Hisham said 747 cases were reported in Selangor, followed by Kuala Lumpur with 360 cases and Pahang with 288.

"Out of the total cases in Selangor, 625 were from clusters and close contact screenings, which are actively conducted on the field.

He also said nine new Covid-19 clusters were detected nationwide.

Dr Noor Hisham said the Tembok Mempaga prison cluster, which involved areas in Bentong, Pahang, contributed the highest number of Covid-19 cases yesterday with 282.

"The cluster, detected via the index case, or case 97,373, which tested positive on Dec 22 during a screening test for detainees.

"Until today (yesterday), 504 individuals were screened with 284 testing positive in the cluster," he said in a statement.

Dr Noor Hisham added that four other clusters were also detected in the peninsula, namely Jalan Chu, Tapak Bina Awan Puteh, Integra Ikon and Jalan Satang.

The Jalan Chu cluster involved a workplace in Lembah Pantai, Kuala Lumpur, where 44 tested positive on Dec 29 via targeted screening on 70 individuals.

"The Tapak Bina Awan Puteh cluster involved a construction site in Lembah Pantai with 29 positive cases detected on Dec 29 out of 87 individuals tested through targeted screening tests.

"A workplace in Titiwangsa is also under the Integra Ikon cluster as the index case (case 104,673) tested positive on Dec 27.

"The cluster recorded 11 new infections following screening tests done on 185 individuals."

The Jalan Satang cluster involved cases in Titiwangsa, Ke-

pong as well as Hulu Langat, Klang, Petaling and Gombak in Selangor and Bentong in Pahang.

Dr Noor Hisham said the index case, or case 92,888, was a Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) case and tested positive for Covid-19 on Dec 20.



Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah

"Up to today (yesterday), 104 individuals were screened with 30 testing positive in the cluster."

Dr Noor Hisham said the Seri Lanang cluster recorded the second highest number of cases at 168.

"The clusters also recorded 173 new infections since Dec 25 via a targeted screening test at a factory. A total of 1,020 individuals have been

screened."

Dr Noor Hisham also updated on the new Rambai cluster, involving areas in Central Melaka and Alor Gajah, Petaling in Selangor and Rembau in Negri Sembilan.

"The index case, also known as

case-104,441, tested positive on Dec 27 following a symptomatic screening test.

"Sixteen new infections were recorded after 102 individuals were screened (yesterday)."

In Sabah, Dr Noor Hisham said two new clusters were detected: Timbang Dayang and Teguli.

"The Timbang Dayang cluster was detected in Kota Belud, where the index case (case-100,487) tested positive on Dec 25.

"A total of 87 individuals were screened and 13 tested positive in the cluster.

"The Teguli cluster involved the Putatan area, where the index case (case-86,690) tested positive on Dec 16, while 12 new infections were detected."

Dr Noor Hisham said the number of active clusters in the country now stands at 220.

"From the active clusters, 50 recorded new infections with the highest recorded by the Tembok Mempaga cluster (282 cases), Seri Lanang cluster (168), and Tapak Bina Lebu cluster (125)."

Three clusters also ended yesterday — Bot Biru, Gedong and Jernih.

FROM TODAY UNTIL JAN 12

EMCO imposed on Kamunting Detention Centre

KUALA LUMPUR: The Kamunting Correctional Detention Centre (KEMTA) in Taiping will be placed under the Enhanced Movement Control Order (EMCO) from today.

Senior Minister (Security Cluster) Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said the decision was made following the emergence of 50 new Covid-19 infections in the area.

"The EMCO will be imposed from Dec 30 to Jan 12, involving KEMTA and its staff quarters.

"It is implemented to contain the existing cluster and to prevent the spread of Covid-19 to other prisoners, staff, family members as well as the community outside of KEMTA.

"Up to Dec 24, the Health Ministry had screened 1,490 detainees and detected 50 new cases," he said.

In October, the Perak Health Department declared Taiping a red zone after 77 Covid-19 infections were detected there.

The then Perak menteri besar

Datuk Seri Ahmad Faizal Azumu, however, said there was no need to place KEMTA under EMCO at that time.

Meanwhile, Ismail Sabri said 142 individuals were nabbed for flouting Covid-19 standard operating procedures (SOP) on Monday and were all slapped with compounds.

"Among the offences were failure to provide registration material for customers to enter the premises (78), not wearing a mask (53), failure to adhere to physical distancing practices (nine) and others (two)."

He also said the number of inspections conducted by the compliance task force totalled 40,152 yesterday.

"The inspections involved 3,401 supermarkets, 4,567 restaurants, 1,807 hawkers, 1,402 factories, 3,205 banks and 611 government offices.

"Also inspected were 901 land transport terminals, 232 water transport terminals and 83 air transport terminals."



The Kamunting Correctional Detention Centre in Taiping has been placed under Enhanced Movement Control Order following the emergence of 50 new Covid-19 infections in the area. FILE PIC

Op Benteng personnel also managed to detain 16 undocumented migrants on Monday, he said, adding that three vehicles were seized.

He said 110 roadblocks were mounted by the police, armed forces and the People's Volunteer Corps, which consisted of Op Penawar (39 roadblocks) followed by Op Benteng PDRM (62) and Op Benteng Aksem (nine).

On sanitation operations, he said the Housing and Local Gov-

ernment Ministry held 28 operations covering red zones (eight), orange zones (six), yellow zones (five) and green zones (four).

Ismail Sabri also updated on those placed under mandatory quarantine upon returning from abroad, which stood at 93,728 individuals between July 24 and Dec 28.

From the total, 7,518 are under mandatory quarantine while 540 have been admitted to the hos-

pital for treatment.

A total of 85,670 were allowed to go home.

Ismail Sabri said Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry officers conducted 535 inspections of 12 types of essential goods at retailers (376), wholesalers (135) and manufacturers (24).

"It was found that the supply of essential goods is sufficient and able to meet the needs of the country."