

AKHBAR : THE STAR
 MUKA SURAT : 10
 RUANGAN : NATION

Covid-19: Current situation globally												
(As at 7pm Sept 8, 2020)												
Malaysia												
New cases												
Total cases												
Total deaths												
Total recovered												
Asean+	Philippines	Indonesia	China	Japan	Singapore	S. Korea	Thailand	Myanmar	Vietnam	Cambodia	Brunei	Laos
Confirmed cases	241,987	200,035	85,144	71,856	57,091	21,432	3,446	1,610	1,049	274	145	22
Deaths	3,916	8,230	4,634	1,363	27	341	58	8	35	0	3	0
Recovered	185,178	142,958	80,335	62,536	56,408	16,636	3,284	388	853	273	139	21
Global Top 10	US	India	Brazil	Russia	Peru	Colombia	South Africa	Mexico	Spain	Argentina		
Confirmed cases	6,485,708	4,284,103	4,147,794	1,035,789	691,575	671,848	639,362	637,509	525,549	488,007		
Deaths	193,536	72,843	127,001	17,993	29,976	21,615	15,004	67,781	29,516	10,129		
Recovered	3,758,629	3,324,060	3,355,564	850,049	522,251	529,279	566,555	446,715	N/A	357,388		

100 new cases recorded with bulk from Sabah cluster

By JOSEPH KAOS Jr
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PUTRAJAYA: Covid-19 cases continue to surge with 100 new infections recorded, making it by far the biggest single-day increase, since the recovery movement control order phase started on June 9.

The bulk of the cases came from the Benteng Lahad Datu (LD) cluster in Sabah which saw 62 new cases involving detainees.

Benteng LD is now the biggest active cluster in the country with 128 cases in the districts of Tawau and Lahad Datu.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said of the 62 cases, 37 were from the Lahad Datu police headquarters

lock-up while 25 were from Tawau prison.

He said 431 individuals at the Lahad Datu lock-up had been screened so far and 87 had tested positive.

"Another 132 have tested negative and there are still 212 people who have yet to get their results."

"In Tawau, we have screened 1,579 individuals and 41 have tested positive so far."

"Another 425 have tested negative while 1,113 are waiting for their results," he said.

He added that 65 individuals under the cluster were foreigners while the rest were Malaysians.

The total number of active cases in the country has now gone up to 295 cases.

Despite the sudden spike brought by the cluster, Dr Noor Hisham said the cases were "under control" as the transmissions were not spread among the community.

"As of now, the cases are found within the Lahad Datu police lock-up and Tawau prison."

"This is similar to when we had hundreds of cases at the Bukit Jalil Immigration detention depot where the cases were controlled and not in the community," he said.

The Benteng LD cluster emerged on Sept 1 after two illegal immigrants from the Philippines were caught in Ops Benteng - a joint operation by the police, armed forces and other agencies - to catch undocumented foreigners.

The two were detained at the

Lahad Datu police lock-up and later tested positive for the virus.

It then spread to Tawau prison, some 150km away, after some of the detainees who had a travel history to the lock-up had been infected.

Another cluster that saw a rise in cases was the Sungai cluster in Kedah with 23 new cases.

The cluster, which originated from a 39-year-old healthcare worker at a private medical centre, saw more colleagues and family members infected with the virus.

Dr Noor Hisham said seven of the index case's family members, including the woman's husband, two older sisters and four children, all tested positive for Covid-19.

"The remaining positive cases

are mainly her colleagues at the private medical centre, including one who is based in Kangar and classified as a case in the state," he said.

He added that there were 15 new import cases, comprising of arrivals from India (11 cases), Indonesia (two), Pakistan (one) and the Philippines (one).

Cumulatively, the country's total of cases since the outbreak began in January is 9,559.

There was no death while 12 patients were discharged yesterday.

Watch the video
thestartv.com



Health Ministry: No fist bump, please

KUALA LUMPUR: The public is advised not to fist bump, a popular gesture of greeting these days when meeting someone, so as to curb the spread of Covid-19.

The ministry would not encourage this form of physical contact between individuals, said Health Deputy Minister I Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali.

"No *salam* (hand shake) and other forms of body contact, but today I see the fist bump has become a trend. Some people even embrace each other."

"The ministry prefers placing the hand on one's chest and bowing the head slightly as a respectful gesture of greeting," he said during a question-and-answer session at the Dewan Negara sitting here yesterday.

Senator Lim Pay Hen had earlier asked about the government's plans in tackling the pandemic, including the appointment of medical officers, as scientists had predicted that it would go on for two more years.

"We will continue to monitor this pandemic as we don't fully know the disease yet; the weapons we have currently in fighting the disease are the face mask, hand sanitiser and physical distancing," said Dr Noor Azmi.

He noted that Malaysia, however, had proven to be among the countries able to manage and control this infectious disease well to the extent of gaining world recognition.

On the Covid-19 swab test, Dr Noor Azmi said that so far, it was only conducted on individuals with symptoms or were at high risk.

Currently, there were no plans to provide the service for free and periodically to school teachers, he added.

— Bernama

35 students and 10 teachers under home quarantine

By IMRAN HILMY
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GEORGE TOWN: A total of 35 students and 10 teachers who had been in close contact with an infected student at a secondary school here have been instructed by the state Health Department to undergo self-quarantine at home.

Honorary secretary to Heng Ee High School board of directors Datuk Goh Boon Poh said there was no instruction from the authorities to close the school.

"We are still open as usual, and parents and students should not panic as the Health Department is doing its best to contain the spread of Covid-19," he said yesterday.

Confirming that one student had been infected, Goh said the Health Department conducted a sanitisation exercise at the school on Monday.

"They came three times and conducted the operation into the night," he said.

He added that the school also carried out its own sanitisation in

the compound.

"Even some of our ex-students helped with the sanitisation exercise," he said.

Goh praised the Health Department for its quick response in containing the outbreak at the school.

It is learnt that the infected student is related to the 89-year-old patient who was diagnosed with severe acute respiratory infection at a private hospital in Penang on Saturday.

State health director Dr Asmayani Khalib urged the public to always

adhere to standard operating procedure.

"For positive contact tracing, the district health department will conduct a risk assessment and will issue the necessary advice to those affected," she said.

Meanwhile, Penang health committee chairman Dr Norlela Ariffin has been admitted to a private hospital after she was diagnosed with pneumonia.

Norlela, who is also the Penanti assemblywoman, tested negative for Covid-19.