

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES
MUKA SURAT : 2-3
RUANGAN : NEWS/STORY OF THE DAY

Kes import

Imported cases



A chart of the breakdown of new Covid-19 cases that was shown at a press conference in Putrajaya yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

while Kelantan, Labuan, Kuala Lumpur, Terengganu, Putrajaya, Perak, Negri Sembilan and Johor remain as green zones.

Dr Noor Hisham also touched on the Sungai cluster in Kedah and Perlis, where the 23 remaining cases were recorded.

He said 16 were healthcare personnel and seven others were family members of the staff.

He said the latest development meant that Malaysia's Covid-19 infectivity rate, or R-naught (R0), which is currently at 1.72, had exceeded the critical mark of 1.6

He said this was a massive change from two weeks ago, when the R0 was at 0.72.

He said the significant R0 increase was reflective of the increase in local transmissions compared with two weeks ago.

He said based on the ministry's assessment, there was an increase in community movement in Malaysia, but the jump in cases was likely due to non-compliance with standard operating procedure (SOP) to curb the virus.

He said the non-compliance involved not just the public, but also frontliners, including healthcare workers.

"Frontliners have a higher risk of being infected with Covid-19 or other infectious diseases while

they are at health facilities, be it at government or private ones.

"Therefore, 100 per cent adherence with the SOP and management guidelines is of vital importance. Failure to do so will result in the further spread of Covid-19."

He cited the Sungai cluster as an example, where a medical staff had infected seven family members.

He urged frontliners and the public to take the rise in cases as a lesson on the importance of taking precautions to protect themselves and their families at all times.

Dr Noor Hisham also addressed the issue of tighter border control measures adopted by the government on the entry of visitors from high-risk countries from Monday.

"The Immigration Department has strengthened entry restrictions for visitors from 23 countries, which include long-term pass holders from countries that have recorded cumulative Covid-19 cases of more than 150,000."

He said the move aimed to enhance border control and the ministry would continue to assess the risks based on the situation of Covid-19 worldwide.

He said new countries added to the list with entry restrictions would be announced by the government from time to time.

Penang wedding guests urged to get screened

GEORGE TOWN: Guests who attended an *akad nikah* (wedding solemnisation) ceremony in Bukit Indera Muda on Aug 29 have been urged to get themselves screened after one guest tested positive for Covid-19.

Those who attended the ceremony are required to contact the Seberang Prai Tengah district health office at 04-539 7884.

A notice on the issue made its rounds on social media yesterday.

Penang Health Department director Dr Asmayani Khalib confirmed that a notice on the issue had been issued by the Seberang Prai Tengah district office.

"My officers are conducting the line listing. They are doing their very best."

She said this was the only information she had for now.

It is not immediately known how many people had attended the ceremony or how many had undergone screenings.

A comment on a post on the matter on social media said the guest confirmed to have Covid-19 caught it from Kedah's Sungai cluster and had been admitted to the Alor Star Hospital.

Dr Asmayani said although the host had prepared a QR code for guests to register themselves dur-

ing the event, some people might not have checked in.

After more than three months of being a green zone, Penang recorded its first Covid-19 case on Aug 7. Since then, nine more cases have been reported, all linked to Kedah's Sivagangga and Tawar clusters and Perak's Kurau cluster.

On Sept 2, Penang became a green zone again after no new cases were reported. This changed again after a new case was confirmed on Sunday.

On Monday, Penang recorded another case, bringing the tally to 138 cases, with two deaths.