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NEW PROVISIONS

TRACKING DEVICES FROM MARCH 11 FOR VIRUS PATIENTS

Close contacts and patients being screened will also be compelled to wear them, says minister

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ELECTRONIC tracking devices will be fitted on Covid-19 patients, persons under investigation (PUI) and persons under surveillance (PUS) to monitor their movements.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Takiyuddin Hassan said this was part of new provisions provided for under the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Act 1988 (Act 342).

The devices, which have sim-

ilar mechanics to the ones given to parolees, would be fitted on those with Covid-19 infection or suspected of carrying the virus for a period of 10 days.

This was revealed in a joint statement issued by Takiyuddin and Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba on the five new amendments and provisions under Act 342.

The amendments under the act would be effective beginning March 11.

"This is a new provision under Section 15(a). An authorised officer can instruct someone who is infected or someone who they believe is infected. In other words, the tracking device will be provided to them.

"According to the ordinance, a penalty will be imposed if the person required to wear the device fails to do so," he said.

Dr Adham said Covid-19 patients who were being treated at low-risk quarantine centres and those at home would be required to wear the tracking de-



vice, which is state of the art.

PUI suspected to have contracted the virus would also be required to wear the device.

He said close contacts of Covid-19 patients and those who have travelled to red zones were classified as PUI.

People who have taken the RTK-Antigen test swab and waiting for the second reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction test were also PUI.

He said the third category, PUS, were those identified as close contacts, and people on whom a risk analysis would have been