

# Malaysia to shut all malls during total lockdown

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KUALA LUMPUR (CNA) – The Malaysian government said yesterday that all malls will have to be shut, while 17 essential service sectors will be allowed to operate during the impending two-week “total lockdown”.

These sectors include healthcare, telecommunications and media, food and beverage, utilities as well as banking.

The government will also allow companies under 12 manufacturing sectors to continue operating, such as food and drink manufacturing, medical devices, textiles for producing personal protection equipment as well as oil and gas. They will need to operate at 60-per-cent capacity.

In a press conference, Senior Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob said: “We hope the manufacturing sector will follow the government’s orders, because we have given the condition that only 60-per-cent could work.”

“But I’ve read social media posts and found employers who forced their employees to exceed the 60 per cent capacity,” he added.



*File photo shows shoppers entering Pavilion KL in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia*

Ismail Sabri said that employees could report such breaches to the human resource ministry and the police.

Shopping malls will need to close, except supermarkets and premises dealing in food and beverage and basic necessities, the minister added.

A statement by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry also said, “The manufacturing and manufacturing related services sectors that are allowed to operate is to ensure minimal disruption to the supply chain of critical parts, components and finished products.

"This is essential to support the continued operations of critical infrastructures and frontliners such as security, healthcare systems, information and communications and as well as ensure adequate supply of basic necessities for the Rakyat (people)."

Yesterday's announcement came after the Prime Minister's Office announced on Friday that Malaysia would be undergoing a "total lockdown" from June 1-14.

Malaysia's COVID-19 numbers have continued to surge, with a record 9,020 new cases and 98 deaths on Saturday.

Yesterday, there were 6,999 new cases. There are now more than 560,000 cases nationwide.

Putrajaya has assured people that there would be sufficient food stocks to last throughout Phase 1 of the total lockdown.

However, there have been reports of lines of people flocking to buy necessities and goods in anticipation of tomorrow.

Earlier yesterday, Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation Khairy Jamaluddin said in a press conference that more vaccination centres will be opened in the coming month to speed up the vaccination process.

The first among these will be five mega vaccination centres around the Klang Valley. "Three will be in Selangor and two will be set up in Kuala Lumpur," he said, adding that the set up would begin on June 7.

Khairy, who is also the coordinating minister for the COVID-19 Immunisation Taskforce said 1,000 private general practitioner (GP) clinics will be joining the National COVID-19 Immunisation Programme by June 30.

He added that 500 of these clinics will begin administering vaccines starting June 15.

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