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Covid-19: State requests more vaccines



KOTA BHARU - The sharp rise in daily COVID-19 positive cases again in Kelantan, which on average involves community or sporadic infections, has placed the state in a difficult situation, said State Local Government, Housing and Health Committee chairman Dr Izani Yusoff.

Taking into account the current development, he said Member Besar Dunsuk Ahmad Yakob, who chaired the Kelantan State Security Sub-Committee (JSSK) meeting July 26, would make an official application to the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) for additional vaccine doses for the state.

"There is a sharp rise in COVID-19 cases in Kelantan, and there are also cases involving the Delta variant. In fact, there are sporadic cases in the community. While looking at the number of cases and the R-naught value (R), we are very concerned about the current situation."

"Kelantan has already received 30,000 vaccine doses this month as promised by MOSTI to curb the spread of the coronavirus and increase the vaccination rate. We request for additional vaccine doses up to one million doses beginning in August, so that we can administer 30,000 vaccine doses a day," he said.

He told reporters this after attending the Kelantan JSSK meeting here. Also present was State Health Director Daruk Dr Zaidi Hussin.

Dr Zaidi added that the need for additional vaccine doses was to expedite the vaccination programme following reports on the decline in the level of compliance by people in the state on COVID-19 prevention standard operating procedure (SOP).

Kelantan recorded 532 new positive cases on July 26 while 3,217 cases are receiving treatment.

Be more disciplined

The people in neighbouring Terengganu meanwhile have been urged to be more vigilant and adopt stricter standard operating procedures (SOP), following two positive cases of COVID-19 Delta variant (B.1.617.2) having been reported in the state so far.

Terengganu Health Department director, Daruk Dr Nor Azlani Yusoff, said that the two cases were reported in the Kuala Terengganu district, but she did not elaborate on the cause of the infections.

"Genome sequencing of other samples taken from other patients is being done in Kuala Lumpur, and we hope it is not the Delta (B.1.617.2) variant of COVID-19," she said when contacted.

Dr Nor Azlani also called on the public, including individuals who have received the COVID-19 vaccine, to be more disciplined and continue to adhere to SOP.

"The infectivity rate of this variant (Delta) is much in a short time and even much faster infection through the air compared with earlier variants."

"We need to adhere to the recommendations and health advice that is often emphasised, namely avoid the 3Cs (crowded place, confined space and close conversation), and observe the 5Ws (wash, wear and wear)," she said.

The Terengganu Health Department on July 26 reported a total of 500 new positive cases in Terengganu, with 2,300 cases being treated. To date, a total of 107 deaths have been recorded in Terengganu.

EMCO in 19 localities

A total of 19 localities in Sabah, Kelantan, Perak, Pahang, Terengganu and Kedah will be placed under the Enhanced Movement Control Order (EMCO) from this Saturday (31 Aug 13).

Senior Minister (Security Cluster) Daruk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussien said it includes eight localities in Sabah, Perak

(four), Pahang (three), Kelantan (two) and one each in Terengganu and Kedah.

"In Sabah, the localities are Kampong Lembang Permai and Kampong Pagi Gungup in Ranau; Kampong Bayangan and Kampong Pongah in Terengganu; Kampong Marican in Sg. Bering; Kampong Marican 2 and Kampong Tembong Biding in Telupid and Kampong Airport Lama in Tawau."

"In Kelantan, the localities are Kampong Labok I and Kampong Pandang in Pasir Mas and Kampong Bek Batu 27, Labok in Machang. In Terengganu, the EMCO will be ordered at Kampong Padang Kaba, Makin Labok in Kemaman while in Pahang the areas are Apartment Amdar Court and Grand Inn Densin construction site, Gerong Highlands in Bentong as well as Pinda Sengul Kemah, Makin Ulu Jelut in Lipis," he said in a statement regarding the EMCO and the National Recovery Plan (PPN) today.

The four affected localities in Perak are located in the Perak Tengah district, namely Kampong Suk Hill in Mukim Bendat, as well as Kampong Huk Darat, Kampong Huk Bero and a part of Kampong Petah Suk in Mukim Petah Suk.

Hishammuddin said in Kedah, the affected area is Taman Desa Bakara, Kuala Ketil in Baling.

He also said that 19 premises, including five factories, business premises (13) and construction sites (three) were ordered to close immediately yesterday for violating the standard operating procedure (SOP) set by the government to curb the spread of COVID-19.

"A total of 108 individuals were also detained yesterday for SOP violations, and out of that total, 296 people were issued with compound while 10 were remanded," he said.

"Meanwhile, under Op. Berhenti, six illegal immigrants were arrested and one land vehicle seized," he added. - BNM