

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 13

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Penularan COVID-19

9 tak dapat naik pesawat

Hanya 66 rakyat Malaysia, pasangan lepasi saringan kesihatan di Wuhan

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Putrajaya: Sembilan rakyat negara ini yang dijadual pulang semalam dari Wuhan, China tidak dapat menaiki pesawat atas faktor kesihatan dan logistik.

Agensi Pengurusan Bencana Negara (NADMA) dalam satu kenyataan memaklumkan, hanya 66 rakyat Malaysia melepasi saringan kesihatan yang dibuat di Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa Tianhe, Wuhan.

"Enam orang yang hadir di lapangan terbang itu tidak dapat menaiki pesawat khas berkenaan disebabkan isu kesihatan.

"Seorang sudah menarik diri atas faktor kesihatan tanpa hadir ke lapangan terbang, seorang tidak dapat turut serta disebabkan komitmen kerja, manakala seorang lagi tidak dapat meninggalkan Wuhan atas masalah logistik, dengan mengalami kesukaran mendapatkan kenderaan untuk ke lapangan terbang," kata kenyataan itu, semalam.

Terdahulu, seramai 66 individu dari Wuhan selamat tiba di Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa Kuala Lumpur (KLIA), di sini, jam 6.50 pagi semalam.

Mereka tiba di KLIA dari Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa Tianhe, Wuhan dengan menaiki penerbangan AirAsia AK8265.

Sejurus tiba di KLIA, mereka perlu menjalani saringan kesihatan sebelum dibawa ke Akademi Kepimpinan Pendidikan



Rakyat Malaysia yang tiba dari Wuhan dibawa ke AKEPT untuk proses kuarantin selama 14 hari. (Foto BERNAMA)

Tinggi (AKEPT) di Nilai bagi proses kuarantin selama 14 hari.

Menurut NADMA, mereka yang dibawa pulang membabitkan 66 individu dengan 46 daripadanya warganegara, manakala 20 lagi bukan warganegara yang bermastautin di Wuhan dan kawasan sekitarnya.

"Di samping itu, pesawat juga membawa 12 kru penerbangan dan sembilan wakil agensi kerajaan dari Malaysia, di samping dua pegawai Kedutaan Besar Malaysia di Beijing.

"Semua 66 orang, 46 rakyat Malaysia dan 20 tanggungan (pasangan dan anak) bukan warganegara melepasi tapisan kesihatan yang dibuat kerajaan China sebelum dibenarkan menaiki pesawat," kata kenyataan itu.

Sebaik pesawat mendarat, semua mereka dibawa menaiki bas ke Unit Kecemasan Udara (ADU) untuk melalui tapisan kesihatan, sebelum dibawa menaiki bas ke pusat pemantauan di AKEPT.

"Mereka yang tidak melepasi saringan kesihatan akan dihantar terus ke hospital yang dite-

tapkan. Pusat Pemantauan di AKEPT diselia petugas Kementerian Kesihatan.

"Di sini, perhubungan adalah terhad kepada petugas kesihatan saja. Selain petugas kesihatan tidak ada perhubungan dengan pihak luar yang dibenarkan, termasuk ahli keluarga.

"Justeru, ahli keluarga atau rakan diminta memahami situasi ini dan hendaklah memberikan kerjasama sepenuhnya kepada pelaksanaan pemantauan ini. Untuk tujuan keselamatan, lokasi ini dikawal oleh polis," kata kenyataan itu lagi.

Sementara itu, seramai 1,548 individu sudah diambil sampel pengesanan jangkitan COVID-19, sehingga semalam.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata semua individu terbabit terdiri daripada pesakit bawah pemantauan (PUI), kontak rapat kepada pesakit COVID-19 serta individu yang tiba melalui Misi Bantuan kemanusiaan dari Wuhan, China.

Daripada jumlah itu, katanya,

sebanyak 22 kes disahkan positif COVID-19 iaitu 12 dari kalangan PUI, lapan daripada kontak langsung dengan kes disahkan positif wabak dan dua kes lagi adalah dalam kalangan Misi Bantuan Kemanusiaan.

"Kes COVID-19 terakhir yang dilaporkan di Malaysia adalah pada 15 Februari lalu.

Daripada 22 kes, 20 daripadanya sudah pulih sepenuhnya dan dibenarkan pulang.

"Dua kes lagi masih dirawat di wad dan dalam keadaan stabil. Pihak Kementerian sudah memperkuatkan survelan COVID-19 dalam kalangan pesakit dengan diagnosis jangkitan Sindrom Pernafasan Akut Teruk (SARS) dan penyakit seperti influenza (ILI).

"Ia bagi mengesan kes sporadik dan kes tempatan yang tiada kaitan dengan sejarah perjalanan ke China atau kontak dengan kes positif COVID-19," katanya dalam kenyataan, semalam.

Beliau berkata, sehingga kelmarin, sebanyak 122 sampel sudah diuji iaitu 77 dalam kalangan SARI dan 45 kes ILI.

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 13

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

IMR sedia bantu negara lain kesan COVID-19, virus baharu

Kuala Lumpur: Institut Penyelidikan Perubatan (IMR) bersedia membantu jika ada negara lain yang memerlukan bantuan makmal bagi pengesanan COVID-19 serta virus baharu lain.

Pengarahnya, Dr Tahir Aris, berkata institusi yang ditubuhkan sejak kira-kira 100 tahun lalu, menjadi makmal rujukan kebangsaan untuk penyakit disebabkan virus novel, virus berulang dan virus baharu muncul.

Katanya, pihaknya sentiasa bersedia berdepan dengan sebarang kemungkinan serangan virus di negara ini, selain COVID-19 serta virus baharu muncul.

"Misalnya, ketika ini kita menjalankan proses dan prosedur ujian pengesanan COVID-19 daripada sampel yang didapati positif dengan mengambil masa dalam tempoh lima hingga enam jam saja.

"Malah, makmal ini bersiaga dan mempunyai kapasiti makmal bagi penularan kebanyakan virus yang mempunyai kepentingan pengesanan awam seperti e-bola, marburg, lassa, novel coronavirus, yellow fever, virus west nile, virus rift valley, rabies dan lain-lain," katanya selepas taklimat kepada media mengenai proses dan prosedur ujian pengesanan makmal Covid-19 di sini, semalam.

Yang turut hadir, Ketua Pusat Penyelidikan Penyakit Berjangkit (IDRC) IMR, Dr Norazah Ahmad dan Ketua Unit Virologi IDRC IMR, Dr T Ravindran.

Dr Haris berkata, IMR memulakan persiapan awal Prosedur Operasi Standard (SOP) bermula 3 Januari sebagai persediaan mengesan novel coronavirus di mana ia menggunakan kaedah Conventional RT-PCR.

Katanya, kemudian ada saintis dari China berkongsi maklumat genetik coronavirus itu dengan mengklasifikasikan ia COVID-19 dalam pangkalan data guna sama seterusnya membolehkan pegawai virologi mereka cipta urutan reagen secara spesifik COVID-19.

"Apabila terdapat maklumat yang mengatakan kebarangkalian kemunculan virus baharu, Unit Virologi sudah bersedia untuk sebarang kemungkinan ia (virus) sampai ke Malaysia.

"Bagi memastikan IMR mematuhi standard Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO), perbandingan dilakukan antara ujian IMR dan Covid-19 WHO. IMR kini menggunakan ujian COVID-19 WHO sebagai ujian utama untuk mengesahkan jangkitan COVID-19 dan kaedah IMR sebagai sokongan," katanya.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 7

RUANGAN : LOKAL

lokal



Bernama

Sepang

Pesawat khas misi kedua membawa pulang rakyat Malaysia, pasangan dan anak mereka dari Wuhan, China, susulan wabak Covid-19 tiba di Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa Kuala Lumpur (KLIA) di sini, semalam.

Pesawat AirAsia dalam Misi Bantuan Kemanusiaan dan Bencana (HADR) yang digerakkan kerajaan Malaysia itu tiba jam 6.50 pagi.

Seramai 66 individu dibawa pulang melalui penerbangan khas yang berlepas dari Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa Wuhan Tianhe jam 1.45 pagi.

Kelmarin, pesawat khas itu berlepas ke Wuhan di wilayah Hubei dari Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa Kuala Lumpur 2 (Klia2) jam 5.58 petang.

Penerbangan itu turut membawa 12 kru, sembilan wakil agensi kerajaan Malaysia dan dua pegawai dari Kedutaan Malaysia dari Beijing menjadikan jumlah ke-

Misi kedua selamat tiba

66 rakyat Malaysia jalani tapisan kesihatan sebelum dikeluarkan 14 hari



PESAWAT AirAsia yang membawa pulang 66 rakyat Malaysia, pasangan dan anak dari Wuhan, China tiba di tanah air.



BEBERAPA kanak-kanak dibawa untuk menjalani tapisan kesihatan di Adu, KLIA.



ANGGOTA Hazmat wanita memakai Peralatan Perlindungan Peribadi (PPE) di Adu, KLIA.

seluruhan yang menaiki pesawat itu 89 orang.

Mereka yang dibawa pulang itu melalui proses tapisan kesihatan sama seperti misi HADR pertama iaitu menjalani tapisan kesihatan di Unit Kecemasan Udara (Adu) di KLIA sebaik tiba di tanah air.

Mereka yang bergejala diantar ke Hospital Tuanku Ja'afar di Seremban manakala yang melepasi saringan terus ke Pusat Pemantauan di Akademi Kepimpinan Pendidikan Tinggi (AKEPT) di Nilai bagi menjalani kuarantin selama 14 hari.

Pada 4 Februari lalu, kerajaan Malaysia membawa pulang 107 rakyat yang terkandas di wilayah Hubei melalui misi pertama HADR.

Sementara itu, menurut kenyataan Kementerian Luar, bilangan awal penumpang yang dijangka kembali ke Malaysia adalah 75, tetapi sembilan daripada mereka tidak dapat menyertai penerbangan itu atas pelbagai faktor.

Enam penumpang yang hadir di lapangan terbang (di Wuhan) tidak dapat menaiki pesawat itu kerana isu kesihatan.

"Seorang penumpang menarik diri atas faktor kesihatan tanpa hadir ke lapangan terbang, seorang tidak dapat serta kerana komitmen kerja dan seorang lagi tidak dapat meninggalkan Wuhan atas masalah logistik," menurut kenyataan itu.

RINGKAS

Kompaun premis jual harga cekik darah

Petaling Jaya: Tindakan sebuah premis di Bandar Sunway di sini, menjual topeng muka pada harga cekik darah iaitu RM10 untuk satu paket mengundang padah apabila pemiliknya dikenakan kompaun.

Pengarah Kementerian Perdagangan Dalam dan Hal Ehwal Pengguna (KPDNHEP) Selangor, Muhammad Zikri Azan Abdullah berkata, pihaknya melakukan pemeriksaan di premis berkenaan jam 1.14 tengah hari pada 12 Februari lalu susulan aduan orang awam mengenai penjualan topeng muka melebihi harga kawalan ditetapkan.

"Hasil siasatan mendapati premis terbabit menjual barang harga terkawal itu pada harga RM10 satu paket yang mengandungi tiga keping sedangkan harga maksimum ditetapkan RM2.40 satu paket (tiga keping).

"Justeru, kami mengenakan kompaun kerana pemilik premis melakukan kesalahan mengikut Seksyen 11 Akta Kawalan Harga dan Anti Pencatutan 2011," katanya ketika dihubungi di sini, hari ini.

Misi HADR kali ini lebih teratur

Sepang: Pengalaman mengendalikan misi pertama membawa pulang rakyat Malaysia dari Wuhan, China susulan wabak Covid-19 pada 4 Februari lalu ternyata membantu melancarkan operasi sama semalam.

Ketua Pengarah Agensi Pengurusan Bencana Negara (Nadma), Datuk Mohd Mohd Abd Rahman berkata, Misi Bantuan Kemanusiaan dan Bencana (HADR) kali ini lebih teratur kerana semua pihak terbabit mengetahui tanggungjawab dan peranan masing-masing.

Bellau berkata, perjalanan operasi semalam juga didokumentasi supaya prosedur operasi standard (SOP) yang diguna boleh menjadi panduan untuk misi sama pada masa akan datang.

Tiada jangkitan baharu Covid-19

Putrajaya: Kes Covid-19 terakhir yang dilaporkan berlaku di Malaysia adalah pada 15 Februari lalu (12 hari lalu). Daripada 22 kes Covid-19 ini, 20 kes pulih sepenuhnya dan dibenarkan keluar dari wad.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, 1,548 individu diambil sampel pengesanan jangkitan Covid-19 hingga kelmarin.

Menurutnya, semua individu itu membabitkan pesakit di bawah pemantauan (PUT), kontak rapat kepada

pesakit Covid-19 serta individu yang tiba dari Misi Bantuan Kemanusiaan dari Wuhan, China.

Katanya, daripada jumlah berkenaan, 22 kes disahkan positif Covid-19 iaitu 12 dari kalangan PUT, 10 dari kalangan kontak langsung dengan kes disahkan positif wabak dan dua kes lagi adalah dalam kalangan Misi Bantuan Kemanusiaan.

"Dua kes lagi masih dirawat di wad dan dalam keadaan stabil. KKM memperkukuhkan survelan Covid-19 dalam kalangan pesakit de-

ngan diagnosa *severe acute respiratory infection* (SARI) dan *influenza-like-illness* (ILI).

"Ia bagi mengesan kes sporadik dan kes tempatan yang tiada kaitan dengan sejarah perjalanan ke Negara China atau kontak dengan kes positif Covid-19," katanya semalam.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, sehingga 25 Februari lalu, 122 sampel diuji iaitu 77 dalam kalangan SARI dan 45 kes ILI.

"Hingga kini tiada kes SARI atau ILI dikesan positif jangkitan Covid-19," katanya.

Sementara itu, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, Malaysia pertama kali mengadakan mesyuarat bersama Singapura.

"Mesyuarat ini diadakan untuk pelaksanaan aktiviti pencegahan dan kawalan Covid-19.

"Antara perkara dipersetujui adalah perkongsian maklumat mengenai pengurusan klinikal pesakit membabitkan pakar perubatan dari kedua-dua negara bagi memastikan hasil perawatan yang optimum diberikan kepada pesakit Covid-19," katanya.

IMR sedia berdepan serangan virus

Kuala Lumpur: Institut Penyelidikan dan Perubatan (IMR) bersedia berdepan dengan sebarang kemungkinan serangan virus di negara ini selain Covid-19.

Pengarah IMR, Dr Tahir Aris berkata, melalui proses dan prosedur ujian pengesanan Covid-19, pihaknya mengesan virus terbabit dalam tempoh lima hingga enam jam.

Katanya, Unit Virologi,

Pusat Penyelidikan Penyakit Berjangkit (IDRC) IMR adalah makmal rujukan untuk penyakit disebabkan virus terutama yang baharu dikesan ataupun (virus) muncul semula.

"Selain Covid-19, kesiapsiagaan kami termasuk mempunyai ka-

pasiti makmal untuk mengesan penularan kebanyakan virus yang mempunyai kepentingan kesihatan awam seperti Ebola, Marburg, Lassa, Covid-19, Yellow Fever, West Nile Virus, Rift Valley Virus, Rabies dan lain-lain lagi.

"Apabila terdapat berita mengatakan

kebarangkalian kemunculan virus baharu, Unit Virologi bersedia untuk sebarang kemungkinan ia (virus) sampai ke Malaysia," katanya pada taklimat media mengenai proses dan prosedur ujian pengesanan makmal Covid-19 di sini, semalam.

Hadir sama, Ketua IDRC IMR, Dr Norazah Ahmad dan Ketua Unit Virologi IDRC IMR, Dr Ravindran Thayan.

IMR kesan virus dalam tempoh lima hingga enam jam

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 18

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

18

NASIONAL

KHAMIS 27 FEBRUARI 2020 • SINAR HARIAN

66 rakyat Malaysia dikuarantin

Misi kedua bawa pulang rakyat Malaysia dari Wuhan, China

Oleh AZIE YAHAYA

PUTRAJAYA

Seramai 66 rakyat Malaysia dari Wuhan, China selamat tiba di Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa Kuala Lumpur (KLIA) pada jam 6.50 pagi semalam.

Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) menerusi hantaran di Facebook semalam berkata, mereka tiba di KLIA dari Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa Tianhe, Wuhan dengan menaiki penerbangan AirAsia AK 8265.

"Hanya 66 orang yang dibawa pulang dari Wuhan, manakala enam orang yang hadir di lapangan terbang tidak dapat

menaiki pesawat berkenaan disebabkan isu kesihatan.

"Seorang tarik diri dengan tidak hadirkan diri ke lapangan terbang, seorang tidak dapat turut serta disebabkan komitmen kerja dan seorang lagi tidak dapat meninggalkan Wuhan kerana masalah logistik," menurut KKM.

KKM berkata, setibanya di KLIA, mereka perlu menjalani saringan kesihatan sebelum dibawa ke Akademi Kepimpinan Pendidikan Tinggi (Akept) di Nilai, Negeri Sembilan untuk proses kuarantin selama 14 hari.

"Pasukan Unit Bahan Berbahaya (Hazmat) dan KKM telah bersedia sedia untuk melakukan saringan kesihatan kepada seramai 66 rakyat Malaysia dan ahli keluarga mereka," katanya.

Kejayaan misi kedua untuk membawa pulang rakyat Malaysia dari Wuhan itu adalah hasil kerjasama pelbagai agensi kerajaan termasuk Kement-



Beberapa orang kanak-kanak bersama ibu mereka yang telah selesai menjalani proses menukar pakaian menuju ke tempat saringan selepas tiba di Alir Disaster Unit (ADU) KLIA, Sepang semalam.

ANCAMAN COVID-19

rian Luar, Agensi Pengurusan Bencana (Nadma) dan KKM.

Misi pertama yang digerakkan kerajaan Malaysia pada 4 Februari lalu berjaya membawa pulang seramai 107 rakyat Malaysia yang terkandas di wilayah

Hubei yang terdiri daripada seramai 88 rakyat Malaysia dan 19 orang lagi adalah pasangan serta anak mereka yang bukan warganegara.

Sementara itu, Ketua Pelanggaran Nadma, Datuk Mohtar

Mohd Abd Rahman berkata, pengalaman mengendalikan misi pertama membawa pulang rakyat Malaysia dari Wuhan susulan wabak Covid-19 membantu melancarkan operasi yang sama semalam.

"Misi Bantuan Kemanusiaan dan Bencana (HADR) kali ini lebih teratur kerana semua pihak yang terlibat sudah mengetahui tanggungjawab serta peranan masing-masing.

"Perjalanan operasi hari ini (semalam) juga akan didokumentasi agar prosedur operasi standard (SOP) yang diguna boleh menjadi panduan untuk misi yang sama pada masa akan datang," katanya kepada pemberita di KLIA, Sepang.

Mohtar berkata, setakat ini tiada rancangan untuk mengadakan misi ketiga bagi membawa pulang rakyat Malaysia dari China, namun pihaknya akan melihat kepada situasi terkini.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 11

RUANGAN : NATION/NEWS

Nation / NEWS

11

FOCUS ON DOMESTIC TRAVEL

STIMULUS PLAN TO BE
REVEALED TODAYInterim PM has met
top officials in
Finance MinistrySARAH RAHIM
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MALAYSIA will proceed with its economic stimulus package as planned to address concerns over the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak.

Interim Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad is scheduled to announce the economic stimulus package at 4pm today.

Yesterday, Dr Mahathir posted a tweet on his account @chedetofficial at 12.37pm, saying he had just finished meeting the Finance Ministry's top officials to discuss the stimulus package.

"This initiative is expected to be announced soon," he added.

It was reported that Malaysia was not the only Asean country planning a stimulus package as Thailand's Finance Ministry

would also be proposing a similar package to the cabinet next month.

Malaysia's stimulus package, focusing on tourism, consumption and investment, is aimed at stimulating domestic travel, which has been affected by the Covid-19 outbreak.

Former finance minister Lim Guan said on Monday that the ministry had finalised the stimulus package on Sunday for Dr Mahathir's approval.

With the recent political situation, businesses were reportedly concerned if the stimulus pack-



Air passengers passing through a thermal sensor at Langkawi International Airport recently. If no measures are taken, the coronavirus outbreak will perpetuate the country's economic slowdown. FILE PIC

age had hit a dead end.

Bank Islam chief economist Dr Mohd Afzanizam Abdul Rashid said the package must be introduced due to heightened economic uncertainties, which had caused businesses and consumers to spend less.

This, he warned, would have an impact on the aggregate demand

which, if left unattended, would perpetuate the economic slowdown.

Since Covid-19 was detected in the country last month, the Bursa Malaysia key index — FBM KLCI — had seen a decline of 57 points to 1,531.20. Sectors such as manufacturing, tourism, and logistics were expected to incur losses.

9 out of 75 miss second flight home from Wuhan

KUALA LUMPUR: Nine out of 75 people scheduled to be flown home from Wuhan, China, yesterday could not make it due to various reasons, including health, work and logistical issues.

In the second mission to bring back those stranded in Wuhan following the Covid-19 outbreak, only 66 of them, comprising 46 Malaysian citizens and 20 of their non-citizen family members, were on AirAsia Flight AK8265 from Wuhan's Tianhe International Airport, which took off at 1.45am and arrived at Kuala Lumpur International Airport at 6.45am.

The National Disaster Management Agency (Nadma) said six of the nine could not board the aircraft due to health issues after being screened at the airport.

"The remaining three involved one person who did not turn up at the airport due to health, another could not make it because of work commitments and the other one had difficulty finding transport to the airport," it said.

After the health screening at the Air Disaster Unit (ADU), everyone in flight AK8265 was required to undergo a decontamination process and change into hospital attire.

They were then transported to the Higher Education Leadership Academy in Nilai, where they would be monitored.

It is learnt all 66 had passed the health screening at ADU.

"The clothes they wore from Wuhan would be cleaned in ac-



A woman and children evacuated from Wuhan, China, entering the quarantine centre at Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Sepang yesterday. (Inset) A bus arriving to pick up evacuees after AirAsia Flight AK8265 arrived from Wuhan. AGENCY PIX

cordance with proper procedures. Those who fail the health screening will be sent to designated hospitals immediately," said Nadma in a statement.

"At the monitoring centre, supervised by health workers from the Health Ministry, they (those on board flight AK8265) will have no contact with those outside, including their families.

"For security reason, police will be guarding the centre.

"Health screening will be done twice a day to be absolutely sure

that they are healthy and can be discharged after the monitoring period.

"Nadma is contacting families to inform them of their arrival and the monitoring processes that must be done."

In the first humanitarian aid mission carried out by the Malaysian government on Feb 4, 107 citizens stranded in Hubei province were flown home.

They comprised 88 Malaysians and 19 non-citizens, who comprised spouses and children.



AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 8

RUANGAN : NATION

Second batch back home

No plans for a third operation to bring remaining Malaysians back

SEPANG: All the 66 individuals who arrived from Wuhan are being housed at the monitoring centre at the Higher Education Leadership Academy in Nilai for the 14-day quarantine period.

The individuals, comprising 46 Malaysian citizens and 20 of their non-citizen family members, are among Malaysians stranded in Wuhan, Hubei province, following the outbreak of Covid-19 in December last year.

They were brought home on a special flight which arrived at KL International Airport (KLIA) at 6.45am yesterday.

The aircraft also carried 12 crew members, nine Malaysian government representatives and two officers from the Malaysian Embassy in Beijing, making it 89 people on board.

These 23 people have also been placed under the 14-day quarantine period at the centre.

The Foreign Ministry, in a statement, said 75 passengers were originally listed to be on the flight home, but nine of them could not make it due to various factors.

"Six who were already at the airport could not board due to health reasons."

One passenger withdrew, also for health reasons, without being at the airport, another could not make the trip because of commitments while one other could not leave Wuhan for logistical issues," the statement said.



Being cautious: A health worker looking on as passengers from Wuhan arrive at Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Sepang. — AP

This is the second Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief mission carried out by the government to bring Malaysian citizens back from Wuhan after the first mission on Feb 4 where 107 were flown home.

At the academy, located about 24km from KLIA, the first two buses arrived at 9.50am while the other two arrived at 10.30am accompanied by police escort.

The passengers, all wearing face masks, were seen heading to a

building located at the back of the centre and upon arrival, were ushered to their respective accommodation.

Throughout the 14-day quarantine period, their contact is limited to health personnel.

National Disaster Management Agency director-general Datuk Mohtar Mohd Abd Rahman said the second mission was more organised as everyone involved was aware of their responsibilities and roles.



"In the first mission, we were a bit worried about some of the possibilities that could occur because it was the first experience for all the agencies involved."

"This operation management has been well implemented because all our plans are based on our experience gained in the last mission," he said at KLIA.

Mohtar said the operation would also be documented so that standard operating procedures (SOPs) could be used as a guide for similar missions in future.

He also said that so far there was no plan for a third mission to bring Malaysians back from Wuhan.

"We will view the current situation and if there is a need, we will think about it," he said.

To date, the cumulative number of Covid-19 positive cases in Malaysia has remained at 22 and 20 of them have fully recovered. — Bernama

Watch the video
[thestartv.com](https://www.thestartv.com)



AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 8

RUANGAN : NATION

Covid-19 tests and delivery of results in just six hours, says doctor

By SIRA HABIBU
sira@thestar.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR: The Institute for Medical Research (IMR) can deliver Covid-19 test results within six hours after receiving samples, says its Infectious Disease Research Centre's Virology Unit chief Dr Ravindran Thayan.

He said it was vital to quickly test and deliver the results, enabling

health authorities to immediately carry out contact tracing if the samples tested positive.

"We have also trained staff members at 12 designated hospitals and five public health laboratories nationwide to carry out the test.

"Samples that tested positive at the designated hospitals and laboratories must also be delivered to IMR for further confirmation.

"The designated hospitals and

labs must also send us five random samples that were tested negative within the week. This is done to double-check the results," he said after briefing newsmen at IMR facilities yesterday.

Dr Ravindran said they used the World Health Organisation (WHO) Covid-19 reagents to carry out the test at a cost of RM100 per sample.

He said on Jan 11, Chinese scientists had shared information on the

genetic makeup of the new virus in the common database, enabling IMR officers to develop primers and probes sequences that are specific for Covid-19.

"IMR officers succeeded in optimising the real-time RT-PCR Covid-19 test on Jan 22, and we supplied the reagent to the Sungai Buloh National Public Health Laboratory on Jan 24 to test the first three positive cases detected in Malaysia,

where the patients had come into contact with positive patients warded in Singapore.

"The test developed by IMR was used to positively identify four Covid-19 cases prior to the arrival of the WHO Covid-19 reagents on Jan 26.

"The samples taken earlier yielded the same result when we tested again with WHO Covid-19 reagents," he said.

AKHBAR : THE SUN

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RUANGAN : NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS

Second batch of M'sians back from Wuhan

SEPANG: The flight ferrying Malaysian nationals from Wuhan, China, arrived safely at Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) at 6.50am yesterday.

There were 66 individuals including children, as well as 12 aircraft crew members, nine Malaysian government representatives and two officers from the Malaysian embassy in Beijing, making it 89 people in total on board.

In a statement, the Foreign Affairs Ministry said 75 passengers were originally listed to be on the flight home, but nine could not make it.

"Six who were already at the (Wuhan) airport could not board due to health reasons."

"One passenger withdrew, also for health reasons and without being present at the airport, another could not make the trip due to work while one more could not leave Wuhan due to logistical issues."

The AirAsia flight, chartered specifically for the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief mission, was initiated by the Malaysian government.

All on board underwent health screening at the Air Disaster Unit at KLIA.

Throughout the 14-day quarantine period, contact will be limited to health personnel and no contact with outsiders, including family members, will be allowed.

Health screenings will be carried out twice daily until completion of the quarantine period.

The centre is strictly controlled by security personnel.

The media are only allowed 450m from the facility's main entrance.

This is the second humanitarian mission carried out by the government to bring Malaysian citizens back from Wuhan.

The first mission on Feb 4 brought back 88 Malaysians and 19 non-citizens, who are their spouses and children. - Bernama



Returnees waiting for board buses to be taken to a monitoring centre at the Higher Education Leadership Academy in Nisai. **BERNAMAPIX**

Covid-19 stays active for up to 96 hours: Virologist

BY **RAJVINDER SINGH**
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KUALA LUMPUR: The Covid-19 virus is said to be most likely transmitted via close contact and can stay active for up to 96 hours in cool areas, said Institute of Medical Research (IMR) virology unit head Dr T. Ravindran.

He said the virus can travel about a metre when an infected person sneezes or coughs.

On if it is airborne, the doctor said more research is needed.

With the spread of Covid-19, people have been advised to take precautions especially where hygiene is concerned.

Wash hands and properly dispose of used tissues after sneezing or coughing into it,

Ravindran said, especially since there is no cure for Covid-19.

A lot is still unknown about the virus.

"At present government hospitals in Malaysia are using HIV drugs to treat those infected while Singapore has informed the IMR that they are using malaria drugs to treat Covid-19 patients," Ravindran said.

"Even when a patient has recovered, he or she is not immediately discharged."

"Two tests are done in a 24-hour period to confirm the patient is free from the infection," he said during a media briefing.

The IMR has trained public health laboratory personnel on how to conduct initial tests.

Ravindran said if a person is confirmed

positive, a sample is sent to IMR to verify the results.

It takes about six hours for IMR to confirm if a person has the Covid-19 virus.

Since the virus outbreak, IMR has been running on double shifts conducting tests.

"The cost of each test (for Covid-19) is about RM100. IMR has, so far, conducted about 1,900 tests," Ravindran said.

Its personnel, including those attached with 12 different hospitals and five public health laboratories, have been working round the clock conducting research to determine how the virus survives and how it spreads.

To date, Malaysia has 22 confirmed Covid-19 cases, among whom 20 have fully recovered.