

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : NATION

The Star m/s 5 Nasion 27/5 (2025) (Selasa)

Virologist: Stay vigilant during the school break

By IMRAN HILMY
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GEORGE TOWN: Malaysians have been urged to remain vigilant of Covid-19, especially during the coming school holidays.

Virologist Dr Kumitaa Theva Das said usually, cases would hike when there are large gatherings, as the phenomenon increases the chances of the spread of the virus.

"For example, the spike in Thailand was attributed to the Songkran Festival in April.

"But since this JN.1 variant has been circulating for a while, we are not going to see 20,000 cases a day despite the school holidays," she said.

Dr Kumitaa, who is with Universiti Sains Malaysia, said the country's healthcare providers were also not expected to be overwhelmed.

Experts surmise that JN.1, a descendant of the Omicron lineage, emerged two years ago in several countries, including Malaysia.

She said the current spike in neighbouring countries, like Singapore, was due to the LF.7 and NB.1.8 variants, which are



Mask up: Doctors are advising vigilance, urging mask wear and hand sanitising. — LIM BENG TATT/The Star

offshoots of JN.1. She said LF.7 was actually detected in Malaysia middle of last year.

"This means that many people may have been infected with it in the past and have immunity against it," she said.

She added that the public should always practice caution at all times and wear masks if necessary.

"If you have young children or elderly in your family, wearing a mask will help keep you safe, especially for the high-risk

groups," Dr Kumitaa said.

Penang Hospital's infectious disease unit head Datuk Dr Chow Ting Soo said it was important for people not to drop their guard.

"We should always practice good cough etiquette and avoid public spaces when down with respiratory illnesses," she said.

Dr Chow said wearing masks and avoiding crowded areas were a must if one is immunocompromised or elderly.

She also urged people to adopt

proper hygiene practices and get their annual vaccinations.

"Now, we have the Covid-19 vaccine available at government health clinics. The elderly and those with comorbidities can get their appointments via the MySejahtera app," she said.

State health director Datuk Dr Fazilah Shaik Allaudin said that, according to the latest announcement from the Health Ministry on May 16, all states in Malaysia reported Covid-19 cases that fell below the warning threshold for the period spanning Epidemiological Week (EW) 16 to EW19/2025, which includes Penang.

She said the ministry would continue to monitor the Covid-19 situation and will implement suitable preventative measures based on the current risk assessment.

In Kedah, health committee chairman Mansor Zakaria said the situation was also under control. "Cases recorded are not serious, and there is no indication that there will be an increase," he said.

Schools around the country will take a one-week break from May 29 to June 9.

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MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : NATION

The Star m/s S Nation
27/5/2025 (Selasa)



Free Tdap vaccination offer to pregnant women at 28-32 weeks

PUTRAJAYA: The Tdap vaccine (for tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis) is being offered free of charge to pregnant women between 28 and 32 weeks of gestation from yesterday, says Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad (*pic*).

The Health Minister said the Tdap vaccination is being offered at all Health Ministry primary health facilities that provide maternal health services nationwide.

"This vaccine is aimed at providing early protection to newborns, who are susceptible to complications from pertussis (whooping cough) before completing the vaccination schedule.

"International studies have also shown that this vaccine is safe and effective, without increasing any risks to the mother or baby," he said at the national-level Immunisation Day celebration held here yesterday, Bernama reported.

He said that although the ministry does not make it compulsory for pregnant women to take the Tdap vaccine, they are, however, strongly encouraged to do so.

He said that in addition to the vaccine for pregnant women, which is an initiative under its lifelong immunisation strategy, the ministry has also launched the influenza immunisation programme for senior citizens on Feb 18 by targeting those aged 60 and above with at least one listed chronic illness.

Dzulkefly said that as of Wednesday, a total of 97,355 senior citizens have received the influenza vaccine at the ministry's facilities.

He also said the national immunisation policy is regularly reviewed based on scientific evidence and international guidelines and, as such, emphasised that all vaccines used in Malaysia have undergone rigorous efficacy and safety assessments by the National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency (NPRA) and are continuously monitored by the ministry.

"There is a growing concern regarding the false dissemination of fake news and information, and this undermines public confidence.

"I understand that some parents are still unsure.

"I urge everyone to always refer to official sources because the decision we take today will affect the health of future generations," he said.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NATION

NST m/s 6 Nation 27/5/2025 (Selasa)

TETANUS, DIPHTHERIA VACCINES INCLUDED

Health Ministry rolls out free whooping cough jabs for expectant mothers

PUTRAJAYA: The Health Ministry is offering free tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (whooping cough) vaccines — commonly known as Tdap — to pregnant women.

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dzulkefly Ahmad said the rollout began yesterday.

"There have been no cases this year. However, last year, we recorded two cases of pertussis — one child survived, the other did

not. Just imagine losing a child at such a tender age, and they had not been immunised," he said at a press conference.

The Tdap vaccine, which provides protection for both mother and baby, is available at all Health Ministry facilities offering maternal and child health services. This marks an upgrade from the ministry's previous vaccination programme for expectant mothers, which only covered tetanus.

The Tdap vaccine is strongly recommended for pregnant women between the 28th and 32nd week of pregnancy.

Dzulkefly also warned that vaccine refusal could result in the resurgence of diseases that were now rarely seen.

"The ministry has received reports of diphtheria, polio and measles. If we can secure the support and cooperation of parents, we can sustain herd immunity."

Despite rising misinformation and disinformation online regarding vaccines, 95 per cent of children have received full immunisation in accordance with the National Immunisation Programme guidelines issued by the ministry.

"It's not just about preventing disease, it's about preventing death."

Up to Sunday, 97,355 senior citizens with chronic conditions

have benefited from the ministry's free influenza vaccination programme, which began on Feb 18.

Meanwhile, Dzulkefly said the ministry was prepared to respond to a recent rise in Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease and Covid-19 cases, in light of similar surges in neighbouring countries.

"Our Crisis Preparedness and Response Centre is monitoring the situation around the clock."

AKHBAR : THE SUN
MUKA SURAT : 4
RUANGAN : NATIONAL



AKHBAR : THE SUN

MUKA SURAT : 16

RUANGAN : VIEWS

the sun m/s. National - 27/5/2025 (Selasa)

Ministry offers free Tdap jabs for expectant mothers

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early protection to newborns, who are susceptible to complications from pertussis (whooping cough), before completing the vaccination schedule.

"International studies have also shown that this vaccine is safe and effective, without increasing any risks to the mother or baby," he said at the National-Level Immunisation Day celebration held here yesterday.

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not make it compulsory for pregnant women to take the Tdap vaccine, they are, however, strongly encouraged to do so.

He said in addition to the vaccine for pregnant women, which is an initiative under its lifelong immunisation strategy, the ministry had also launched the Influenza Immunisation Programme for Senior Citizens on Feb 18, targeting those

aged 60 and above with at least one listed chronic illness.

As of yesterday, a total of 97,355 senior citizens had received the influenza vaccine at the ministry's facilities, he added.

Dzulkefly said the national immunisation policy is regularly reviewed based on scientific evidence and international guidelines.
- Bernama

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 14

RUANGAN : NATIONAL

Berita Harian m/s 14 Nasional 27/5/2025 (Selasa)

Suntikan vaksin Tdap percuma kepada ibu hamil

Putrajaya: Semua ibu hamil warga Malaysia akan diberi kombinasi vaksin tetanus-difteria-pertussis (Tdap) yang disediakan secara percuma Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) mulai semalam.

Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad, berkata vaksin itu boleh didapati di semua fasiliti kesihatan primer KKM yang menyediakan perkhidmatan kesihatan ibu di seluruh negara.

Beliau berkata, pemberian vaksin itu bertujuan memberi perlindungan awal kepada bayi baru lahir yang terdedah kepada komplikasi pertussis atau batuk kokol sebelum melengkapkan ja-

dual vaksinasi.

"Inisiatif baharu Imunisasi Tdap untuk Ibu mengandung (usia kehamilan antara 28-32 minggu) ini memberi perlindungan daripada tiga penyakit iaitu tetanus, difteria dan batuk kokol.

"Kajian antarabangsa menunjukkan vaksin ini selamat dan berkesan tanpa meningkatkan risiko kepada ibu atau bayi," katanya berucap pada Majlis Sambutan Hari Imunisasi peringkat kebangsaan di sini, semalam.

Turut hadir, Ketua Setiausaha KKM, Datuk Seri Suriani Ahmad dan Timbalan Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan (Kesihatan Awam), Dr

Ismuni Bohari.

Dzulkefly menyifatkan tema 'Imunisasi untuk semua, ayuh kita jayakan' selari dengan komitmen KKM memastikan setiap lapisan masyarakat mendapat perlindungan melalui imunisasi.

Selain pelaburan jangka panjang dalam kesihatan awam, katanya, imunisasi juga mencerminkan prinsip keadilan sosial, dan kekal sebagai antara intervensi kesihatan yang paling berkesan.

"Kini kita mengorak langkah ke arah pendekatan imunisasi sepanjang hayat, meliputi perlindungan sejak dalam kandungan

hingga ke usia emas.

"Setiap fasa kehidupan membawa risiko kesihatan berbeza dan imunisasi menyeluruh membolehkan kita menangani beban penyakit secara berkesan," katanya.

Katanya, negara melaksanakan Program Imunisasi Kebangsaan (NIP) sejak 1950 dan kini lebih 95 peratus kanak-kanak menerima imunisasi lengkap menerusi program berkenaan.

"Ini pencapaian yang diiktiraf oleh Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO) sebagai memenuhi piawaian liputan global.

"Antara vaksin utama termasuk untuk mencegah penyakit se-

perti tuberkulosis, Hepatitis B, polio, campak dan Rubela.

"Kita juga memperluas vaksinasi kepada remaja perempuan (HPV), serta di kawasan tertentu seperti Sarawak yang menerima Vaksin Japanese Encephalitis (JE).

"Sebagai kesinambungan kepada peluasan vaksin Pneumokokal yang telah diumumkan, kita terus melindungi kanak-kanak menerusi pemberian vaksin ini sejak 2020 dalam jadual imunisasi NIP.

"Ia membantu mengurangkan beban penyakit radang paru-paru yang boleh dicegah melalui vaksin," katanya.

AKHBAR : KOSMO
MUKA SURAT : 8
RUANGAN : NEGARA

Kosmo Mls 8 Negara 27/5/2025 (Selasa)

Waspada peningkatan kes Covid-19, HFMD

PUTRAJAYA – Pusat Kesiapsiagaan dan Tindak Cepat Krisis (CPRC), Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) kini memantau hampir sepanjang masa susulan peningkatan kes penyakit HFMD (penyakit tangan, kaki dan mulut) dan Covid-19 di beberapa lokasi ketika ini.

Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr. Dzulkipli Ahmad berkata, beberapa prosedur sedia ada telah dilaksanakan dan KKM sentiasa berada dalam keadaan siap siaga dan waspada.

Beliau berkata, fenomena kes berjangkit seperti HFMD dan Covid-19 adalah kompleks dan disebabkan oleh pelbagai faktor (multifaktorial).

"Walaupun Covid-19 kini dianggap endemik seperti penyakit berjangkit lain, namun ia tetap

boleh mengalami gelombang wabak secara berkala terutama pada musim perayaan.

"Maka, penting untuk kita tidak leka, tidak terlalu selesa, dan sentiasa mengekalkan pertimbangan yang wajar," katanya ketika ditemui selepas menyempurnakan sambutan Hari Imunisasi Peringkat Kebangsaan di sini semalam.

Katanya, pihak KKM amat menekankan bahawa program imunisasi penting dan jika ia diabaikan, maka penyakit berjangkit tertentu boleh muncul kembali.

Dr. Dzulkipli berkata, penyakit-penyakit berjangkit yang terkandung dalam Program Imunisasi Kebangsaan (NIP) adalah seperti Polio, Campak dan Difteria.



ORANG ramai dinasihatkan sentiasa berwaspada dengan penularan secara berkala penyakit Covid-19 dan HFMD.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 13

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Sinar Harian m/s 13 Nasional 27/5/2025 (Selasa)

Digigit kucing liar, remaja 13 tahun dijangkiti rabies

KUCHING - Sarawak mencatatkan kes jangkitan rabies yang pertama dalam kalangan manusia bagi tahun 2025 melibatkan gigitan kucing liar pada bulan ini, kata Menteri Pemodenan Pertanian dan Pembangunan Wilayah Sarawak, Datuk Seri Dr Stephen Rundi Utom.

Beliau berkata, kes berkenaan melibatkan remaja berusia 13 tahun di Kampung Segedup, dekat sini, yang menunjukkan gejala seperti demam, hilang selera makan, muntah, halusinasi, meracau, sukar berjalan dan sukar minum air pada 21 Mei lalu.

"Mangsa kini sedang menerima rawatan di Hospital Umum Sarawak dan Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Sarawak (JKNS) mengesahkan kanak-kanak itu mempunyai simptom rabies antaranya demam, hilang selera makan, halusinasi dan takut untuk minum air.

"Kebiasaannya apabila sudah sampai ke tahap ini, memang susah untuk pulih... kita telah mengambil langkah berjaga-jaga dengan menangkap anjing liar di sekitar kawasan kejadian dan kucing liar itu telah pun disahkan mati," katanya dalam sidang akhbar mengenai Persidangan Rabies di Borneo 2025, di Bangunan Dewan Undangan Negeri pada Isnin.

Rundi berkata, pihak berkuasa tempatan juga sedang meningkatkan usaha untuk mengawal kucing dan anjing liar di kawasan berkenaan sekitar secepat mungkin.

Beliau turut menasihati orang ramai untuk sentiasa peka mengenai ancaman jangkitan rabies dan segera mendapatkan rawatan hospital, sekiranya diserang haiwan seperti anjing dan kucing sebelum virus itu menyerang otak serta saraf.

"Tahun ini kita ada ambil 21 sampel kucing, dengan dua daripadanya disahkan positif rabies... Kebanyakan kes jangkitan yang digigit haiwan rabies dan mereka pergi segera ke hospital untuk rawatan dan suntikan. Kalau cepat dapat rawatan, mereka boleh pulih.

"Namun, kalau mangsa lambat ke hospital dan virus sudah sampai otak itu memang tidak dapat dipulihkan dan ia amat menyakitkan... itu yang kita nak elakkan," katanya.

Rundi berkata sebanyak 63,301 kes gigitan anjing, 57,210 kes gigitan atau cakaran kucing dan 1,832 kes gigitan haiwan lain, telah dilaporkan sejak 2017 sehingga minggu epidemiologi ke-20 tahun 2025 (11 hingga 17 Mei 2025).

Dalam pada itu, menteri berkenaan berkata Persidangan Rabies di Borneo 2025 yang memasuki edisi keempat tahun ini, diharapkan dapat mencari penyelesaian untuk memastikan negara-negara di Kepulauan Borneo bebas daripada jangkitan rabies.

"Kita mahu lebih banyak pihak terlibat untuk memahami bahaya haiwan seperti anjing yang membawa virus rabies. Jadi bagi persidangan kali ini kita menjemput Sabah, Kalimantan, Indonesia dan Brunei untuk berkongsi cara untuk menangani isu ini," ujarnya.

- Bernama



STEPHEN

RALAT

MERUJUK kepada artikel bertajuk Hidupkan Tradisi Dialog Islam-China yang disiarkan dalam *Sinar Harian* pada 26 Mei 2025, terdapat kesilapan di mana Profesor Emeritus Datuk Dr Osman Bakar diletakkan sebagai penulis. Penulis sebenar artikel tersebut ialah Dr Alexander Wain iaitu Editor Akademik (Islam) di School of Divinity, Universiti St Andrews, United Kingdom. Sebarang kesilapan amat dikesali.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 24

RUANGAN : NEGERI

EMACU PERUBAHAN

Sinar Harian M/s 24 Negeri 27/5/2025 (Selasa)

12 mahasiswa di Johor dijangkiti HIV tahun lalu

ISKANDAR PUTERI
- Seramai 12 mahasiswa di negeri ini disahkan menghidap HIV setakat tahun 2024, meningkat berbanding 10 kes pada tahun sebelumnya.

Exco Kesihatan dan Alam Sekitar negeri, Ling Tian Soon berkata, kesemua jangkitan dikenal pasti berpunca daripada hubungan seksual tidak selamat.

Jelas beliau, situasi mencetuskan kebimbangan terhadap peningkatan kes dalam kalangan golongan muda, khususnya mahasiswa.

"Kerajaan Johor melalui Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri (JKNJ) telah memperkukuh pelaksanaan Program PROSTAR 2.0 sejak 2023 dengan kerjasama institusi pengajian tinggi bagi meningkatkan kesedaran dan pencegahan HIV dalam kalangan remaja dan belia," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian ketika menjawab soalan **Selamat Takim (BN-Sungai Balang)** dalam Sidang Dewan Undangan Negeri (DUN) Johor di Bangunan Sultan Ismail pada Isnin.

Tian Soon berkata, seramai 1,673 mahasiswa dan pelajar sekolah menengah telah menyertai pelbagai aktiviti di bawah program berkenaan setakat ini.

Menurutnya, inisiatif lain termasuk ceramah kesihatan, forum komuniti dan kempen kesedaran awam turut dijalankan secara berkala, selain pendekatan melalui media sosial untuk menyampaikan maklumat kesihatan secara lebih dekat.

"Kerajaan turut menyediakan perkhidmatan kaunseling dan ujian saringan HIV percuma dan rahsia di semua klinik kesihatan di negeri ini bagi menggalakkan pengesanan awal serta intervensi tingkah laku," katanya.



TIAN SOON