

WORK-FROM-HOME ORDER

# WFH EXPANDED TO SELECTED SECTORS

Initiative to include civil servants and ministry will announce those industries involved

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**T**HE work-from-home initiative has been expanded to include civil servants and selected industries due to the closure of childcare centres and schools following the re-implementation of the Conditional Movement Control Order in several states.

Senior Minister (Security Cluster) Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said a maximum of 30 per cent of civil servants, who would be decided by their respective heads of department, would be allowed to work from their offices.

"An announcement will be made by the International Trade and Industry Ministry on which industries are involved. For non-formal industries, such as restaurants and shopping malls, they will work as usual," he said yesterday during his daily press conference.

On the need to register via the MySejahtera mobile application when refuelling at petrol stations, Ismail Sabri clarified that those who were refuelling their vehicles, but did not enter the convenient stores, were not required to register. He also said customers who used their credit or debit cards at the fuel pumps need not scan the MySejahtera QR code.

However, individuals entering the premises to pay for petrol, buy items or withdraw money from au-



Visitors following standard operating procedures at the convenience store of a petrol station in Sungai Besi yesterday. PIC BY ASYRAF HAMZAH

tomated teller machines must register, either through the MySejahtera application or manually.

The same procedure applied when one visits the toilet or surau at the premises, because there are contacts between people in such situations.

There was confusion previously when a news report highlighted that police said customers who refuelled without entering the convenience store were also required to scan the MySejahtera QR code.

The situation is different if the visitors are coming in for a car wash or repair their vehicles at the workshop.

For the manual car wash, vis-

itors would have to register, but for the automatic car wash, there was no need to. For visitors going for repairs, they would have to register.

"You can refer to the detailed standard operating procedures on visits to petrol station at the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry website."

On the issue of "double quarantine" for overseas returnees going back to Sarawak, he said the state government would decide if there was a need for further quarantine. The problem arose when passengers complained they had to fork out thousands of ringgit to pay for the expenses during the quarantine period.

Ismail Sabri said there were different scenarios which might result in passengers needing to undergo additional quarantine when they arrived in Sarawak.

"Those who fly to Sarawak, but transit through the peninsula, will only be required to be quarantined once in Sarawak. However, those who arrive here but do not immediately fly to Sarawak need to undergo quarantine here. Then if they fly to Sarawak, they might have to be quarantined there also. It is up to the Sarawak government to decide if those arriving there need to undergo another quarantine."

The Enhanced Movement Con-

trol Order (EMCO) imposed in Taman Mawar in Sandakan, Sabah ended as scheduled yesterday. However, the EMCO in Taman Mesra, also in Sandakan, is extended for another 14 days until Nov 24.

In Putrajaya, the Health Ministry has to review the Phase Three of Covid-19 vaccine candidates' clinical trial data before giving the green-light to procure the vaccines.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said this in response to a question on the effectiveness of the vaccine produced by pharmaceutical giants, Pfizer and BioNTech. It was reported to be 90 per cent effective in preventing Covid-19 among participants.

"Currently, we have 11 vaccine candidates being tested in Phase Three of clinical trials, but we have not read the reports of those trials yet."

"Analysing the clinical trial data is vital to determining the efficacy of a vaccine."

"For example, although a vaccine for dengue is already marketable, we do not go ahead because there are issues regarding the safety of the Phase Three clinical trials."

Dr Noor Hisham also admitted that several logistic hurdles had to be addressed before the coun-

try could procure the vaccines. "We will need to prepare infrastructure for cold chain storage of -80 degrees Celsius for the vaccines."

"Logistics evaluation is ongoing, but the first step is to review Phase Three of the clinical trial data before we make a commitment," he said.

Up to noon yesterday, Malaysia recorded 869 new Covid-19 cases, bringing the tally of infections to 42,050, including 11,446 active cases. Of the new cases, only one was imported which involved a non-Malaysian from Nepal. The rest were local transmissions.

Dr Noor Hisham said Sabah recorded the highest case with 397 followed by Klang Valley with 258. He also said six new death cases were reported yesterday, raising the nationwide death toll to 300.

On recovery cases, he said 725 patients had recovered and were discharged from hospitals yesterday.

He also said four new clusters were detected yesterday, three originated from Sabah, namely the Liawan, Tatahan and GK Tawau clusters, while one was detected in the peninsula, which is the Kube cluster in Kelantan. **Additional reporting by Esther Landau and Dhesegaan Bala Krishnan**

|            | SUBUH<br>(am) | SYURUK<br>(am) | ZUHUR<br>(pm) | ASAR<br>(pm) | MAGHRIB<br>(pm) | ISTAK<br>(pm) |
|------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Melaka     | 5:44          | 6:55           | 12:58         | 4:19         | 6:57            | 8:09          |
| Penang     | 5:55          | 7:04           | 1:05          | 4:26         | 7:01            | 8:13          |
| K. Lumpur  | 5:48          | 6:57           | 1:00          | 4:21         | 6:58            | 8:10          |
| Johor Baru | 5:37          | 6:48           | 12:51         | 4:13         | 6:52            | 8:04          |
| Kuantan    | 5:41          | 6:53           | 12:54         | 4:16         | 6:53            | 8:05          |
| Ipoh       | 5:52          | 7:00           | 1:03          | 4:24         | 6:59            | 8:12          |