KUALA LUMPUR: The Health Ministry has launched a new Covid-19 website that provides more detailed information aimed at increasing transparency in data sharing.

The website, which is known as CovidNow, will be the ministry’s new portal to provide key data in a manner that is more easily understood by the public, says its minister Khairy Jamaluddin.

Describing the website as a way to “lift the veil of secrecy in statistics”, Khairy said the new portal – https://covidnow.moh.gov.my – will provide key data in a way that can be easily understood by the general public.

“The website will be updated at 11.30pm daily, and will, among others, provide granular data on active cases and where they are located (such as at) home, PKRCs (low-risk quarantine and treatment centres) and hospitals. The ministry will continue to analyse the data and it also welcomes opinion and analyses from relevant experts,” he said at a press conference here yesterday.

He added that the move was also inline with the aspiration of the ministry to ensure that data and information regarding Covid-19 will be accessible to all.

“I hope that with all the data and information shared at GitHub and now on CovidNow, the public will have a better understanding of the Covid-19 situation in the country,” he said, adding that it will be part of the ministry’s efforts to shape behavioural change.

Meanwhile, the Health Minister said that Malaysia did not surrender in its fight against Covid-19 when it declared that it will slowly transition to the endemic stage.

Khairy said that many countries and health experts have agreed that it will be hard to achieved herd immunity due to the detection of new Covid-19 variants, especially the highly contagious Delta variant.

“It is not that we have surrendered, but it is to adapt to the reality on the ground,” he added.

Malaysia is expected to move from the Covid-19 pandemic into an endemic phase by the end of October.

He added that countries like Singapore, Australia and New Zealand, that had initially imposed containment and lockdown as a way to control the Covid-19, had also accepted that they have to live with the virus.

“This is just the way the virus has evolved, and this is just the way the virus has behaved,” added Khairy.

He also noted that the transition will depend on what takes place over the next two months.

“My prediction is that once the vaccination rate is high at the end of October, we can start the transition towards the endemic stage,” said Khairy.

He also reminded the public to continue observing all the public health measures such as wearing face masks and observing proper distancing, despite the country’s high vaccination rate.

“It will take some time to raise awareness and educate the public.”