

KPDNHEP: Don't panic, 18m RTK available

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by NUR HANANI AZMAN / pic by BERNAMA



THERE is no need for the public to panic buy or over-buy Covid-19 antigen rapid test kits (RTK).

The Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry (KPDNHEP) said there are about 18 million kits available in the market, based on enforcement and monitoring statistics.

According to KPDNHEP, a total of 8,084 retail premises were given permission to sell RTK recognised by the Medical Device Authority.

"Eight establishment manufacturers got conditional permission to produce RTK in Malaysia and a total of 4.306 million units as of February 2022.

"Meanwhile, the country has imported a total of 2.34 million units of RTK from seven countries. The total presence of additional RTK in the market up to the end of February was 6.647 million units.

"Based on statistics, there were only three complaints regarding the lack of RTK supply, from January 1 to February 21, 2022," it said in a statement today.

KPDNHEP took note that the increase in Covid-19 cases reported in the mainstream media recently contributed to the increasing demand for RTK in the market.

The government has gazetted the RTK as a controlled item effective Dec 1, 2021 to ensure sufficient supply in the market.

In addition, the Ministry also monitors the availability of the RTK supply, especially at the level of importers, manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers to ensure they are always easily accessible to consumers.

"The price range of RTK in the market is between RM4.90 and RM19.90 at this moment while 80% of RTK is sold below RM10 per unit.

"KPDNHEP advises traders to continue to comply with legal provisions relating to the sale of this RTK to avoid firm action taken by the Ministry.

"Subject to action under Section 22, Control of Supply Act 1961 and the Price Control and Anti-Profitteering Act, individuals can be fined up to RM1 million or imprisonment not exceeding two years or both; and the company can be fined up to RM2 million," it added.

Consumers can submit a complaint related to RTK with complete details through the following channels: WhatsApp 019-2794317; [e-**aduan.kpdnhep.gov.my**](mailto:e-aduan.kpdnhep.gov.my); Call Centre 1-800-886-800; email to [e-**aduan@kpdnhep.gov.my**](mailto:e-aduan@kpdnhep.gov.my) or Ez ADU KPDNHEP apps.