

## Post-Aidilfitri Covid-19 spike expected, says Health DG

By Mohamed Basyir - May 16, 2022 @ 12:10pm



Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said there has been an increase of 38 per cent in the 19th epidemiology week (May 8 to May 14) compared to the week before. - BERNAMA Pic (for illustration purposes only)

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Health Ministry anticipated Covid-19 cases to spike after the Hari Raya Aidilfitri period with admissions to healthcare centres increasing the past week.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said there has been an increase of 38 per cent in the 19th epidemiology week (May 8 to May 14) compared to the week before.

Data shows that admissions for Covid-19 cases at hospitals and Low Risk Covid-19 Quarantine and Treatment Centres (PKRC) increased from eight patients for every 100,000 people in the 18th epidemiology week to 11 patients for every 100,000 in the 19th epidemiology week.

Covid-19 admissions to public hospitals increased by 100 per cent for Categories 1 and 2 and Categories 3 to 5 between the two epidemiology weeks, he said.

"Non critical bed utilisation increased by 18 per cent and bed usage at PKRCs also increased by 100 per cent.

"Intensive Care Unit (ICU) bed utilisation dropped by 10 per cent and ventilated cases also dropped by 10 per cent between the two epidemiology weeks," he said in a statement today.

Covid-19 cases referred to Covid-19 Assessment Centres (CAC) also increased by 87.4 per cent with patients observing home quarantine increasing sharply to 153.4 per cent in the 19th epidemiology week.

Covid-19 cases referred from CACs to hospitals and PKRCs also increased by 28.2 per cent, he said.

He said that active cases monitored virtually by CACs spiked significantly by 162.4 per cent from 13,400 cases in the 18th epidemiology week to 35,167 cases in the 19th epidemiology week.

Recoveries from Covid-19 cases dropped in comparison between the 18th epidemiology week to the 19th epidemiology week, he said.

"Recovery rates dropped by 59.2 per cent from 30,930 cases to 12,618 cases.

"New cases increased by 119.2 per cent from 8,732 cases to 19,137 cases. Death rates also increased by 3.1 per cent.

"Active cases dropped by 17 per cent from 214,405 cases to 177,973 cases," he added.

In line with the spike in Covid-19 after the festive period, infectivity rates also increased significantly.

He said that the R-naught value for the 18th epidemiology week dropped to the lowest this year at 0.57 however it rebounded to 0.97 in the 19th epidemiology week.

He said the Health Ministry also continued to carry out surveillance on Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) and Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) where its positive samples for Covid-19 increased from 6.3 per cent in the 18th epidemiology week to 7.5 per cent in the 19th epidemiology week.

"Looking at the sharp increase in almost all Covid-19 related indicators, the ministry would like to continue to remind and advise all Malaysians to always follow the advice given by the government in controlling and preventing the spread of Covid-19 infections in the Transition to Endemic Phase.

"This increase is expected to increase further, especially if the community continues to ignore current SOPs and regulations," he added.