

Health Ministry to jointly decide with other ministries on Covid-19 prevention SOP

By Mohamed Basyir - January 3, 2023

SEPANG: Ministries will make joint decisions on Covid-19 prevention standard operating procedures (SOP) for inbound travellers.

Health Minister Dr Zaliha Mustafa said joint decisions could only be made after taking into account feedback and views from other ministries.

She said the tourism sector, the economy and safety must be taken into consideration before any decision on the Covid-19 SOP.

"We have to get the right input from other ministers.

"As for the health aspect, the ministry is doing whatever we can within our capacity (to control the spread of Covid-19).

"Tomorrow, there will be a cabinet meeting. I have met Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim to discuss the matter.

"We will present the possible steps and we will implement the best measures that balance facts, data and the people's perception," she said at klia2 today.

Present were Deputy Health Minister Lukanisman Awang Sauni and the ministry's deputy director-general (public health), Datuk Dr Norhayati Rusli.

Earlier, she visited the Kuala Lumpur International Airport and klia2 to check Covid-19 prevention measures for arriving tourists.

She said she was satisfied with the measures, which included temperature checks for inbound travellers.

She said travellers who develop Covid-19 symptoms could seek treatment at health facilities at both airports.

Dr Zaliha declined to comment when asked to elaborate on the matters that were raised during her meeting with the prime minister.

Asked whether the ministry had set an infection threshold for the implementation of stricter Covid-10 SOP, she reiterated that the decisions would be made jointly with other ministries.

"Whether we will look at the R-naught or what not, the decisions will be made together.

"We are continuously monitoring the National Crisis Preparedness and Response Centre and will take action accordingly."

She reminded the people to adhere to the Health Ministry's Covid-19 SOP.

"Before we impose new restrictions on others, we ourselves have to be responsible.

"Those who have yet to get the booster shot, please do so.

"InsvaAllah, it will provide protection from the virus."