

**COVID-19
CASES**

TOTAL (UP TO JULY 28)
1,061,476

NEW
17,405

RECOVERED
877,812

DEATHS
8,551

**VACCINE DOSES 1 & 2
ADMINISTERED**

(JULY 27, 2021)
18,393,347

NEW STRAITS TIMES

ESTABLISHED 1845

PP413/09/2012 (030687) | JULY 29, 2021 | THURSDAY | RM2.00

ON THE RISE

COVID-19 cases are expected to rise further with increased testing but the number of vaccine shots administered is also growing in tandem, with more than 550,000 doses given on Tuesday to Malaysians and foreigners.

» REPORTS ON PAGES 2 & 3

PIC BY AIZUDDIN SAAD

NEWS / *Story of the day*

(29 July 2021) New Straits Times, p. 2

COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION

'CASES EXPECTED TO RISE IN NEXT FEW DAYS'

Deputy Health D-G says public urged to use self-test kits to identify as many cases as possible

NOR AIN MOHAMED RADHI
KUALA LUMPUR
news@nst.com.my

THE number of daily Covid-19 cases is expected to increase over the next few days with increased testing and the use of the RTK-Antigen self-test kits that allow users to conduct Covid-19 self-testing at home, said Deputy Health director-general Datuk Dr Chong Chee Kheong.

He, however, said the public should not be alarmed by the situation.

He said the Health Ministry was encouraging the use of the self-kits as it wanted to identify as many cases as possible to reduce transmission in the community.

"As more of these positive cases and their contacts are isolated and quarantined, cases will start to gradually come down in the weeks to come.

"Once that happens, the testing will be re-strategised to ensure effective detection of cases for isolation and monitoring," he said yesterday.

Dr Chong, who is also the Greater Klang Valley Special Task Force (GKV STF) head, said the reason why cases were still rising in the Greater Klang Valley despite vaccination ramp-ups was the size of the Covid-19 outbreak was far larger than the numbers detected daily.

He said many asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic individuals were unaware they had been infected and were spreading the

virus.

"An important contribution is also the Delta variant that has a high infectivity rate. The rising numbers of infections and deaths indicate the dire situation, one that is very evident to the public.

"Covid-19 infections are very widespread in the community and our hospital capacity in the Greater Klang Valley, including intensive care unit (ICU), is stretched to the maximum.

"Remember, vaccine effectiveness is best two weeks after the second dose, so this takes time."

He added that the GKV STF had put in place strategic measures to optimise care services, reduce virus transmission and support the community and healthcare staff.

"Given the current situation, outbreak management interventions have shifted from containment to mitigation efforts to prevent death and minimise the spread of the disease."

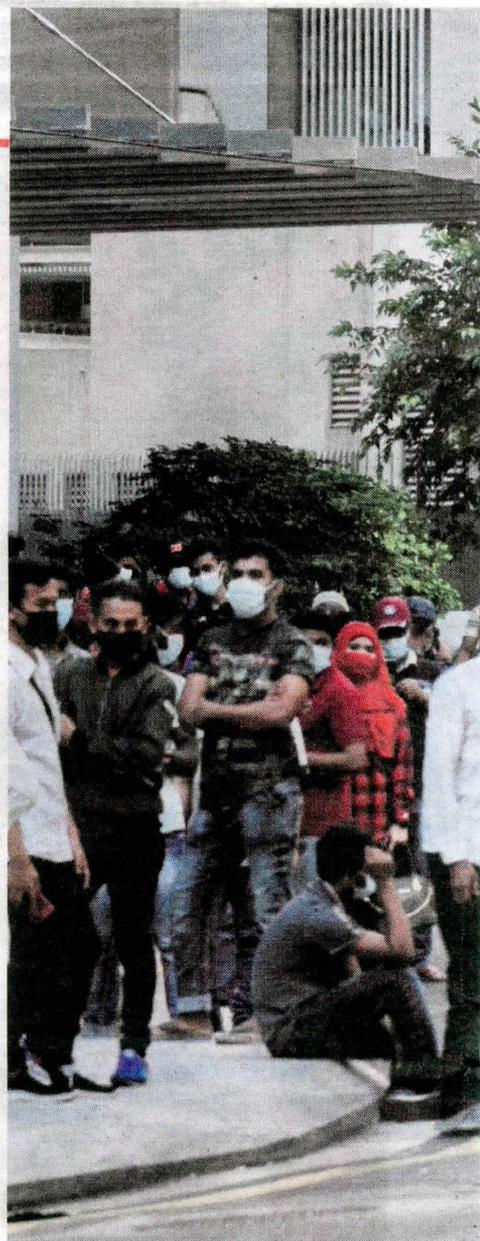
He said among the initiatives included increasing the capacity of beds, ICU care, oxygen supply, manpower deployment and the use of volunteers.

"Moving non-Covid-19 patients to the private sector is also helping to free up beds.

"We have also strengthened Covid-19 Assessment Centres (CAC) by offering virtual CAC for the asymptomatic and mildly symptomatic patients, and enhanced home monitoring management."

Dr Chong said improvement in terms of support for frontliners had also been put in place, along with strengthening the social and emotional support systems for the public.

"We are acquiring and allocating funding to procure additional medical equipment and medication, and also attempting to improve our communication with



the public on critical issues and keep them updated."

He called on those living in the Greater Klang Valley to get tested should they display Covid-19 symptoms.

"Once you are confirmed positive, please do home isolation, and do self-monitoring frequently through the MySejahtera application.

"Home isolation is for asymptomatic and mildly symptomatic patients who do not need hospitalisation and will recover.

"We do not want to congest hospitals with mild cases so that treatment for severe patients can be prioritised.

"Our staff will contact those who are 'red flagged' as high risk and request them to go to the nearest CAC or hospital."

He said those who thought they had been exposed but were not identified as close contacts were encouraged to test at private health facilities or do a saliva-based self-test.

"We hope to offer more RTK-Antigen tests to health clinics and general practitioners via sales of the Medical Devices Authority-approved test kits to allow for wider testing," he said, adding that the test kits were available in pharmacies for the public to buy and test themselves.

Page 1 pic: Foreign workers waiting to receive the Covid-19 vaccine at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre yesterday. PIC BY AIZUDDIN SAAD



Datuk Dr Chong Chee Kheong.



Foreign workers waiting to receive their Covid-19 jabs at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre yesterday. PIC BY AIZUDDIN SAAD

553,871 shots given on Tuesday

KUALA LUMPUR: The number of vaccine doses administered under the Covid-19 National Immunisation Programme has seen a steady rise, with 553,871 jabs given on Tuesday.

This brings the cumulative vaccine doses to 18,393,347 up to Tuesday.

In an infographic shared by the Special Committee on Covid-19 Vaccine Supply Access Guarantee (JKJAV) on Twitter, the Covid-19 Task Force (CITF) said that 356,112 first doses and 197,759 second doses were given.

This is an increase compared

with Sunday, where 521,923 doses were administered, with 333,621 people receiving the first dose and 188,302 the second dose.

On July 25, 399,135 doses were given, where 281,481 people had their first dose and 117,654 the second dose.

On Tuesday, Selangor recorded the highest number of vaccinations with 84,409 given the first dose and 56,773 the second dose.

In Kuala Lumpur, 57,525 first doses and 35,592 second doses were administered, while Johor saw 40,791 first and 5,405 second doses given.

In Sabah, 29,560 first doses and 2,250 second doses were given followed by Penang with 23,042 first doses and 7,669 second doses.

In Pahang, 21,735 first doses and 5,335 second doses were given, while in Kelantan, 17,279 first doses and 7,393 second doses were administered.

The CITF said under Op Surge Capacity, 82.9 per cent (144,285) of the adult population in the Klang Valley had received their first dose, and 29.7 per cent (94,233) the second dose, bringing the total number of shots to 238,518.