

5,671 NEW COVID-19 CASES

VARIANTS FOUND IN 23 CASES

Cases identified through whole-genome sequencing conducted from June 3 to 8, says Health D-G

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THE Health Ministry has detected 23 new Covid-19 cases involving variants of concern (VOC) in Malaysia.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the cases were detected through whole-genome sequencing conducted between June 3 and 8.

"Twenty-three cases of new variants of the SARS-CoV-2 virus were reported during this period, of which all were VOCs," he shared on Facebook yesterday.

He said 19 cases involved the Beta variant (B.1.351), while the remaining four were of the Delta variant (B.1.617.2).

He said the Beta variant cases were reported in Selangor (eight cases), Putrajaya (three), Kuala Lumpur (two), Melaka (two), Kedah (two), Perak (one) and Perlis (one).

The Delta variant cases were identified in Putrajaya (two cases) and Kuala Lumpur (two), he said.

Up to June 9, Dr Noor Hisham said the cumulative cases infected with the SARS-CoV-2 virus cat-



The Seberang Prai Utara Health office mobile vaccination unit wheeling equipment to inoculate residents at an elderly care home in Mak Mandin, Butterworth, yesterday. PIC BY DANIAL SAAD

egorised as VOCs and variants of interest (VOI) stood at 161.

He said of the total detected, 145 cases were VOCs and 16 were VOIs.

"The VOCs involved 123 cases of the Beta variant (B.1.351) (all local transmissions), 13 Delta variant (B.1.617.2) (eight cases were imported infections and three local infections), and nine Alpha variants (B.1.1.7) (five imported infections and four local transmissions).

"The VOIs involved 12 cases of the Theta (P.3) variant (local transmissions), three cases of Eta variant (B.1.525) (imported infections), and one case of Kappa variant (B.1.617.1) (imported infection)."

Dr Noor Hisham said the Health Ministry would continue to strengthen infectious disease control activities, including con-

tinuing genomic surveillance for the SARS-CoV-2 virus, increase Covid-19 screenings, conduct more contact tracing and case isolation as well as other public health measures to curb the spread of these variants in the community.

"The people are advised to immediately register themselves and family members for the Covid-19 vaccine in an effort to help the country achieve herd immunity.

"This is also one of the measures to curb the adverse effects of variant transmission in the community," he added.

Malaysia recorded a slight drop in the number of daily Covid-19 cases with 5,671 yesterday.

This brought the cumulative cases in the country to 639,562, with 79,848 active cases.

Selangor continued to log the

highest number of new infections at 1,510 cases, followed by Kuala Lumpur (769) and Sarawak (631).

Other states with three-digit cases were Negri Sembilan (593), Johor (524), Kedah (309), Kelantan (262), Sabah (233), Melaka (184), Penang (166), Perak (143), Pahang (112), Terengganu (108), and Labuan (106).

Putrajaya recorded 18 new cases and Perlis registered three new cases.

Malaysia's total Covid-19 recoveries yesterday — 7,325 — overtook new infections, raising total recoveries nationwide to 556,030.

The country also recorded 73 fatalities, pushing the cumulative Covid-19 deaths to 3,684.

A total of 911 patients are being treated in the intensive care units, with 462 on ventilator support.