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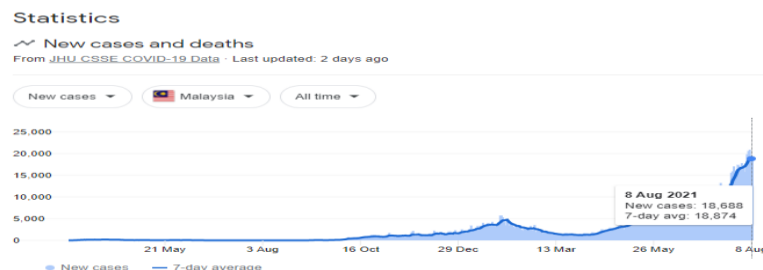
Ruj. Kami : APM100/8/9/(2)
Tarikh : 11hb Ogos 2021

Medical and Health Cluster
Academy of Professors Malaysia

Query to the authorities: Why is the COVID-19 situation not improving?

On 8th August 2021, the New Straits Times reported an announcement by Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin that local tourism within states or federal territories, non-contact outdoor sports and exercise, as well as dining at eateries will be allowed from Tuesday in places that have progressed to at least phase two of the National Recovery Plan. Greater leeway for travel, dining out and engagement in outdoor sports would be allowed for those who have completed COVID-19 vaccination in places that have moved out of the most serious phase of a nationwide lockdown. Fully vaccinated Malaysian residents returning to the country will also be allowed to undergo quarantine at home.

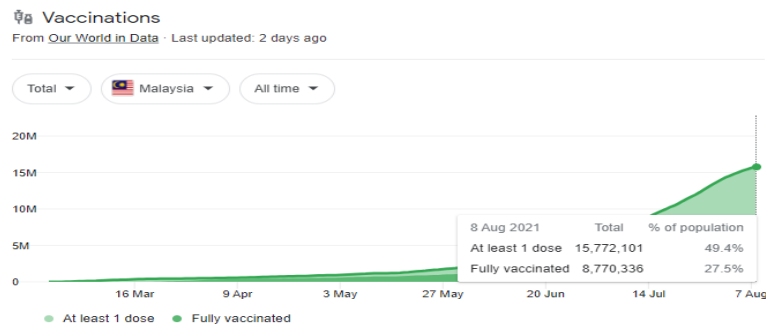
This announcement came despite the fact that on that day, there were a record 360 deaths and 18,688 new cases. This despite the fact that 27.5% of people have received their second dose of vaccine and 49.4% their first dose (Please refer to the graphs shown below).



Source: <https://github.com/CSSEGISandData/COVID-19>



Source: <https://github.com/CSSEGISandData/COVID-19>



Source: <https://ourworldindata.org/covid-vaccinations?country=MYS>

On 11th July 2021, the Health Ministry (MOH) expected the country's daily Covid-19 cases to stabilise and show a decline in the next one to two weeks' time, according to Health Director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah. This was when the number of cases were 9,105 and number of death 94. That two weeks have passed without the numbers receding and today the same optimistic announcement was made.

We therefore have a few questions to ask the Prime Minister's task force, the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Defence.

Questions on deaths and medical management:

Why are deaths increasing? Is it possible that the wrong combination of drugs are being used or are the combination of drugs not effective for our population?

Why don't we engage more on our GPs to be the medical support for the COVID-19 home management in the community? Why don't we assign these GPs to be clinical COVID-19 management hubs in each community?

Why don't you look to alternatives as possible cures, explore the possibility that herbs and natural foods can assist in strengthening the immune system and fighting the infection?

Why don't you treat Category 1,2 and 3 preventing them from going to Category 4 and 5 even though 70% of people in this stage recover, because there will be that 30% who don't?

Why don't you do something to stop Brought in Dead, many of whom are foreigners?

Have we consulted the hospitals and clinics in every state regarding their actual burden in managing COVID-19, their preparedness in terms of beds, spaces, logistics and resources in facing potential surge in number of cases since SOPs are being relaxed?

What are the statistics of number of death among young adults, pregnant mothers and vulnerable groups, what is the percentage of death of vaccinated people (one dose, two doses)?

Why aren't we trying protocols that other clinicians have used even if they have not had time to sit down, write and publish their findings?

Why can't the physicians go on zoom call in a clinical pathology professional conference to discuss these protocols, instead of a research based meeting where the public health researchers are not practicing physicians?

Questions on vaccination and screening:

What do you advice people after vaccination, should they be careful until they seroconvert between two to four weeks?

Should vaccinated persons go around thinking they are protected? Shouldn't they be educated on the importance of maintaining the SOPs?

How sure are we that we are doing the right thing by asking the public to do the home self-test assessment? How do we know they will report the result to MySejahtera?

Questions on prevention strategies and wellness

Why are we not engaging community leaders in curbing COVID-19 at community level?

Why don't you advice on boosting immune systems, eating foods with antioxidants, high in vitamins C and getting enough sunlight exposure to produce vitamin D? Why don't you open up parks and outdoor recreation since exercise makes you healthy too?

Why are we brushing off potential roles of prebiotics and probiotics in fortifying immunity in order to fight COVID-19?

Why can't factories be allowed to give out immune enhancing kits to their workers and why not immunize them quickly?

What are the indicators being used to ease MCOs, how sure are you that there will be no movements between places that are phase 1 and phase 2?

Why are you allowing employers to force employees to return to work in the office?

Why do you allow foreign workers to congregate or queue up without observing SOPs at vaccination centers?

How sure are we that the public will adhere to home quarantine, since they are not given any identification tag?

And last but not least:

What is the big picture, concrete action plan to control this pandemic? Shouldn't it be divided into short term (stop deaths, stop infections), mid-term (vaccination) and long term (“pelan pemulihan”)?

We feel the “rakyat” should be given the explanations to the above questions quickly, honestly and full of transparency. Promises of the numbers “going down” is no longer relevant. Are we still in control of this disease? Or are we losing the battle? The medical ethics of “*filalítheia* and *eilikríneia*”; truthfulness and honesty should prevail above all else.

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