



MAJLIS PERBANDARAN AMPANG JAYA
BAHAGIAN PERHUBUNGAN AWAM DAN SEKRETARIAT
MENARA MPAJ, JALAN PANDAN UTAMA,
PANDAN INDAH, SELANGOR,
55100 KUALA LUMPUR

KERATAN AKHBAR
6 MEI 2020 (RABU)

AKHBAR

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The Star

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Malls in Selangor have opened shop

Tenants are however cautious and not going full speed

PETALING JAYA: Malls in Selangor have started full operations since Monday, but their tenants are still cautious despite the government relaxing conditions for some businesses.

The malls say they are abiding by the rules set by both federal and state governments, saying that the health of all and curbing the spread of Covid-19 is their main priority.

For example, while the Federal Government has allowed dine-ins in restaurants, the Selangor government has only allowed for takeaways, as was the practice during the movement control order (MCO).

Outlets such as gyms, cinemas, salons and karaokes are not allowed to open yet while fashion shops are restricted to 'shop and buy' with fitting rooms closed.

All the malls are also emphasising general cleanliness with frequent cleaning and the use of sanitisers.

Thermal scanning is also conducted at entrances for all visitors with social distancing markers visible all over these malls.

Samantha Lee, the General Manager of Operations, 1 Utama Shopping Centre said that they have developed QR scanning Health Checks via 1 Utama's Mobile app to



Retail revival: A woman leaving a mall after completing her shopping.

ease contact tracing.

She said that moving forward, more marketing campaigns will be organised to drive retail sales during and after the conditional MCO period.

Allison Chan, Assistant Manager of Advertising and Promotions for CITTA Mall said that malls should be allowed to open in stages, but even so, precautionary measures must continue to be exercised.

"But it can also be up to the discretion of the malls, and at present, we have taken precaution by reducing the number of operating hours," she said.

She added that shops allowed by

the Ministry of Trade and Industry (Mit) are currently open, although they noticed some tenants were still getting ready to operate their businesses by carrying out the necessary disinfection exercise.

H.C Chan, the CEO of Sunway Malls & Theme Park said they were working with their retailers to base their reopening on the state and federal guidelines, as well as sector specific guidelines.

Sunway operates seven malls around the country.

Chan said that Sunway Malls has offered the option for non-essential retailers to trade on flexi-hours post MCO too, so that they can manage wages and electricity costs better.

Chan said that in the short term, the sustainability of the retail sector depends on how the revival of economic activity and the safety of the communities was managed.

"Moving forward, the industry will need to alter the mall business model. What we will be seeing is the increasing prominence of co-sharing, be it profit, risk or resources between mall operators and retailers.

"The new maxim is one of shared prosperity and shared burden. Rental will largely be on percentage of sales," he said.



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'Govt should bear screening cost'

MEF: Employers can pay for other expenses such as disinfecting premises

By MARTIN CARVALHO,
HEMANANTHANI
SIVANANDAM, RAHIMY RAHIM
and FATIMAH ZAINAL
newsdesk@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: The government should bear the cost of screening and treating foreign workers for Covid-19, say employers.

Malaysian Employers Federation (MEF) executive director Datuk Shamsuddin Bardan, however, said the contradictory statements from the government only caused confusion to industry players and the public, leaving many businesses wondering if they were liable to bear the cost.

"However, as far as hospitalisation for Covid-19 is concerned, it is now a disease recognised by Socso. So what does it mean?"

"Do employers still pay? I don't think so because Socso takes over the cost."

"However, these are fundamental things that policymakers fail to take note of and realise," he said.

Shamsuddin said screening was under Socso's obligation for both local and foreign workers.

"But maybe the other cost, such as disinfecting the organisation's premises if there are cases, can be borne by employers," he said.

Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers (FMM) president Tan Sri Soh Thian Lai welcomed the government's decision to make it compulsory to test foreign workers.

"The testing of foreign workers is important given the recent spike in Covid-19 positive cases among foreign workers in Ampang, which could give rise to new Covid-19 virus clusters."

"As such, we are of the view that the screening cost should be borne by the government, especially for undocumented workers," he said.

On the responsibility of employers footing the bill for medical treatment of employees infected by Covid-19, he said he was made to understand that the cost of treatment would be borne by the government.



"This is because the cases have to be immediately sent to specific government hospitals which have been designated as Covid-19 centres and this would also cover foreign workers," he said.

He noted that it was mandatory for all foreign workers to be covered under the Foreign Worker Hospitalisation and Surgical Scheme (SKHPPA).

"In this regard, any fee or cost relating to treatment and hospitalisation could also be covered under

this insurance coverage which covers admission to any non-corporatised government hospitals," he said.

SME Association of Malaysia president Datuk Michael Kang believes there is some misunderstanding over the question of who is responsible for the cost of treating employees.

Kang said treatment for Covid-19 could only be done at government hospitals while the testing could be done at both private and public hospitals.

"If you are registered with Socso, then it will bear the cost of the testing."

"If they aren't covered under Socso, then the employers would need to check with their medical insurance to see if the testing is covered," he said when contacted.

Malaysia Retail Chain Association (MRCA) president Datuk Seri Garry Chua said there was some ambiguity over who was responsible for the cost of medical treatment for foreign workers infected by the virus.

"I sought clarification from a senior officer over this as private hospitals will not treat those infected with Covid-19 as they can only get treatment at a government-designated hospital."

"I was told that the workers must be treated at government hospitals at a nominal cost," he said when contacted.

"In such a case, employers will be willing to foot the bill if it is at a nominal cost."

Malaysian Indian Restaurant Owners Association president T. Muthusamy noted that employers contributed to the Foreign Worker Hospitalisation and Surgical Scheme and suggested that this could be used for treating foreign workers.

It was reported that all foreign workers must go through Covid-19 tests, with the employers bearing the cost.

The announcement by the government came amid concerns that the number of Covid-19 cases, particularly among foreign workers, is on the rise.



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Swab tests for foreign workers to start in KL, Selangor

THE STAR 6/5/2020

By MAZWIN NIK ANIS
 and RASHVINJEET S.BEDI
 newsdesk@thestar.com.my

Watch the video
thestartv.com



PUTRAJAYA: The compulsory swab test for foreign workers will start with those employed in the construction sector in Kuala Lumpur and Selangor in a bid to prevent new clusters from emerging among them, says Senior Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob.

The Social Security Organisation (Socso) will bear the cost for Covid-19 screening for foreign workers who contribute to the organisation.

"About 60% of foreigners who are employed here contribute to Socso," he said in response to employers' complaints of having to bear high costs for the test.

"We are doing this because we are looking after the interests of all Malaysians.

"We need to make sure foreign workers are tested so that there will be no spike in cases," he said in his daily briefing yesterday.

Ismail Sabri said the government issued this latest directive following concerns that a new cluster had emerged among foreign workers, referring to the 27 new Covid-19 positive cases that were detected at a construction site in Jalan Ampang.

The government on Monday announced that foreign workers in all economic sectors, including those working in shops, restaurants, factories and construction sites, are to be tested, with the employers bearing the cost.

Premises with positive cases will be sealed off immediately.

According to the Health Ministry, as of April 30, a total of 21,271 non-citizens had been screened for Covid-19 with 811 testing positive.

Ismail Sabri explained that it was important to conduct swab tests among foreign workers.

He cited Singapore as an example where the number of positive cases spiked due to new clusters among foreign workers.

On views by the Malaysian Employers Federation that the ruling would burden employers, Ismail Sabri said it was better to have their foreign workers tested so that those who were sick could be isolated and given treatment.

"If there is a case, premises will be shut. You cannot operate. If we identify those who are positive and we isolate them early, those who are healthy can continue to work and your business can continue to operate.

"I believe this is better than companies having to stop operations because there is a Covid-19 positive case on their premises," he said.



Association wants govt to share half the cost of testing for foreign worker:
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Timely boost

National Heart Institute Manager of Procurement and Materials Management Yang Cik Mohd Ali with 4,000 pieces of adult and children's surgical masks donated under the Star Frontliners Initiative. The initiative was launched by Star Foundation and Star Media Group with the aim of raising funds to buy essential medical equipment and supplies for hospitals and medical staff involved in the Covid-19 battle.

Screening for seniors under welfare care

PUTRAJAYA: A total of 2,500 senior citizens and 958 staff at 17 institutions under the Social Welfare Department (JKM) will undergo Covid-19 screening.

Women, Family and Community Development Minister Datuk Seri Rina Mohd Harun said the screening conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Health started yes-

terday with 200 residents and staff of Rumah Seri Kenangan Kemumin in Kelantan and Rumah Ehsan Dungun in Terengganu.

"The programme will be carried out in phases at other welfare institutions as scheduled," she said in a statement.

The screening is being implemented on the recommendation of

the Health Ministry to protect vulnerable groups such as the elderly who are at highest risk of dying if infected with Covid-19, due to their age and other chronic underlying conditions.

"The ministry is very concerned and views seriously the health of senior citizens who are in welfare homes," Rina said. — Bernama



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Pub bukan restoran, tidak dibenarkan beroperasi semasa PKPB

SH 6/4/2020

KUALA LUMPUR - Pub adalah antara sektor ekonomi yang belum dibenarkan beroperasi dalam fasa Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Bersyarat (PKPB) bermula kelmarin.

Menteri Wilayah Persekutuan, Tan Sri Annuar Musa berkata, beliau mendapat maklumat terdapat pub telah memulakan operasi kelmarin.

“Kita perlu buat penjelasan yang pub bukan restoran. Kalau restoran (beroperasi) bersama pub, ia juga tidak dianggap sebagai restoran.

“Kita telah buat satu keputusan bahawa pub yang menjual minuman keras dalam kategori perniagaan yang belum boleh dibenarkan beroperasi,” katanya dalam kenyataan secara langsung di Facebook Live Kementerian Wilayah Persekutuan semalam.

Annuar berkata, perniagaan pub dikategorikan sama seperti pusat karaoke dan pusat hiburan yang masih tidak boleh dibuka.



ANNUAR