

# 6,000 UMS students undergo screening

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A UMS student undergoing screening.

**KOTA KINABALU:** Almost 6,000 Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) students underwent Covid-19 screening before they were allowed to return home.

This was following a recent announcement by the Government to allow university students to return home from April 27.

"The UMS Covid-19 Crisis Preparedness and Action Team comprising medical experts and health professionals from UMS Hospital (HUMS) and the Medicine and Health Sciences Faculty (FMHS) has been responsible for organising a screening process involving nearly 6,000 students starting last week," said the university said in a statement.

The team was led by FMHS Dean Prof. Dr Mohammad Saffree Jeffree and more than 100 doctors, nurses and medical laboratory technologists were deployed to conduct the health screening at three UMS campuses, namely UMS Kota Kinabalu campus, UMS Labuan International Campus and UMS Sandakan Campus.

According to Saffree, there are more than 20 examination areas available at all university residential colleges and student residences for this purpose.

"The health screening is in line with the

instructions set by the State Health Department and the Kota Kinabalu Health Office to ensure the smooth release of students from university campuses.

"Approval from UMS is granted based on four main components of screening, including symptom assessment, temperature assessment, clinical examination and Covid-19," Saffree said.

He added that a web application jointly developed by FMHS's lecturer, Dr Fatimah Ahmady, in collaboration with the Data and Information Management Centre, was used to facilitate health screening based on the Exit Screening Tool module embedded in the application.

"The smooth interplay between the teams is strongly emphasised so that the physical and clinical assessments made can be translated into the UMS-Shields system thoroughly before the confirmation of health screening is obtained.

"After assessing the symptoms of the stu-

dents, the temperature checks are conducted efficiently through the co-operation of the nurses from both HUMS and FPSK.

"Over 20 medical laboratory technologists have also assisted in accelerating the swab sampling process and work hand-in-hand with the Kota Kinabalu Public Health Laboratory for retrieval of the sample results," he said.

He added that clinical examinations are focused on students who are likely to have symptoms before getting confirmation.

The close collaboration between the UMS Student Affairs and Alumni Department and the medical team has also ensured the smooth return of UMS students while reassuring parents on the safety.

The destinations were not confined to Sabah, Sarawak, Peninsular Malaysia or Labuan but also included international destinations such as Indonesia that are coordinated through close cooperation with the consulate.