

Sabah begins testing residents at old folks homes

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KOTA KINABALU: Health officials in Sabah have begun testing residents in old folks homes. There have been no new cases of Covid-19 in the state for the last few days.

Specific tests were carried out on those considered vulnerable, said Sabah Health Department director Datuk Dr Christina Rundi.

The Papar district health department carried out tests on all 40 residents at the Holy Family Residence and all of them were found negative, she added.

As of Wednesday, the number of positive Covid-19 cases remained at 316 with 36 people still being treated at six hospitals, said Dr Rundi.

A total of 1,212 samples were tested and only six repeat samples were found positive for Covid-19, with no new cases recorded for the fourth day.

The state health department will also carry out nasal and throat swab tests for students in higher education institutions in Sabah as a prerequisite for their return to their hometowns.

Dr Rundi said they were coordinating with the universities, including Universiti Malaysia Sabah, to carry out the Covid-19 tests before allowing the students to return home.

“As of now, 98% of the students in Sandakan and 54% in Kota Kinabalu have completed their tests and have been allowed to return home,” said Dr Rundi.

Sabah has also restarted the polio immunisation programme for children below 13 years old that was stalled after the movement control order (MCO) came into effect on March 18.

The campaign involves giving two doses of polio oral vaccine (bOPV) and two doses of vaccine monovalen oral Polio (mOPV).

So far, 355,003 (101.8%) children below the age of five have received the first bOPV vaccine and 281,128 (79.2%) have been given the second vaccine.

“We have covered 79.83% of children below 13,” said Dr Rundi, adding that the programme would continue from June this year to ensure that at least 95% are immunised.

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