

Old folks' home new focus of Covid-19 testing in Sabah

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KOTA KINABALU: A focus on testing residents at old folks' homes for Covid-19 has begun in Sabah, as the state sees the number of positive cases ebbing over the last few days.

Sabah Health director Datuk Dr Christina Rundi said Thursday (May 7) that they were carrying out specific tests for those senior citizens in such homes, as they were among the vulnerable groups.

She said the Papar health department had carried out tests on all 40 residents at the Holy Family Residence, and all of them were

found negative.

"We will be carrying out similar testing at all old folks homes in the state and also to ensure that they follow the standard operating procedures (SOP) to check the spread of the virus.

Dr Rundi said that as of Wednesday (May 6), Covid-19 cases in remained at 316, with 36 people still being treated at six hospitals.

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

The State Health Department is also focusing on carrying out nasal and throat swab tests for students at higher education institutes in Sabah as a prerequisite for their return to their hometowns.

She said that 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 been allowed to go home," Dr Rundi said.

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