

# Sabah may record up to 90,000 cases: UMS

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KOTA KINABALU: Sabah may record up to 90,000 Covid-19 cases and the epidemic will only end in early August if no control measures are taken to combat the spread.

This is the forecast of the UMS Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences using a specific model by the Preparing and Covid-19 Action Centre.

It said with new cases daily, the people can be exposed to long-term effects.

However, the deterioration won't occur if the people adhere to the steps outlined in the MCO.

Assoc Prof Dr Richard Avoi, an expert cum consultant Epidemiology and Biostatistics, said cases can be reduced to about 20,000 by implementing measures of behavioral change such as social distancing and regular personal hygiene.

However, if only using case isolation method, then it is difficult to reduce the number of cases. Instead it would just simply delay the period for the cases to reach its peak which is two weeks or June 10, 2020.

"Results of this prediction analysis also found that the most effective way to control the spread in Sabah is through a combination of early methods on isolation of infection cases (early diagnosis and isolation) as well as reducing behavioral risks.

Meanwhile a dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), Prof Dr Mohammad Saffree Jeffree, who is also the Chairman of the Preparatory and Covid-19 Action Centre, urged the community to work together to assist the government in complying with the MCO's guidelines by adopting preventive measures at all times to successfully control this Covid-19 outbreak.

"In this difficult time, every reaction and response of the people to the government directives issued during the MCO period is considered to be of great patriotic value," he said.