

MINISTRY OF HEALTH MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

MANAGEMENT OF THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK

Main Points

What we examined?

- Based on Cambridge dictionary, Covid-19 means an infectious disease caused by a type of virus known as coronavirus that will cause fever, fatigue, cough and even breathing problems.
- The main step taken by the Government as the best control method to protect ourself from Covid-19 is through the vaccination program. This is in line with the Government's initiative to ensure entire population of the country receives the benefits of immunization to curb the spread of the Covid-19 virus and end the pandemic.
- The Audit covers two main areas: the performance and management of the Covid-19 outbreak activities for the period of 2020 until April 2022.
- The performance of the activities is evaluated based on the achievement of the output which is screening and treatment activities consisting the opening of the Covid-19 Assessment Center (CAC) and the Covid-19 Quarantine and Treatment Centre (PKRC), facility preparedness for care and treatment services as well as the achievement of Covid-19 vaccination.
- The management of the activities is evaluated against five items including financial performance, vaccine management, medical equipment and personal protective equipment (PPE) management, Ministry of Health (MOH) facility and human resource management.
- Ceiling allocation for the Covid-19 pandemic management program is RM11.601 billion which consists of RM10.691 billion and RM910 million respectively under the MOH and Ministry Of Science, Technology And Innovation (MOSTI).
- Government played its role through MOH on health matters, while non-health functions carried out by various Ministries/agencies such as MOSTI, National Security Council (NSC) and National

Disaster Management Agency (NADMA). In addition, cooperation and involvement from agencies/departments at the state level ensure the management of the Covid-19 outbreak runs smoothly and in an orderly manner.

Why it is important to audit?

- To assess whether the Covid-19 pandemic management achieved the objectives set in the Disaster Management Plan by MOH and the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme (PICK), which are:
 - a. Disaster Management Plan by MOH
 - Optimizing the health system to reduce morbidity and mortality rates; and
 - Minimizing the transmission of pathogens that cause pandemics.
 - b. National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme (PICK)
 - Reducing the transmission of the Covid-19 virus through vaccination.
- The allocation that have been spent totalled RM8.587 billion to curb the spread of the Covid-19 epidemic and provide vaccinations to as many Malaysians as possible.

What we found?

- Overall, it can be concluded that the Covid-19 management has achieved the objectives of the Disaster Management Plan and National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme. The implementation of Covid-19 management activities and actions taken by all parties involved have successfully brought the public health system from the pandemic phase to endemic transition phase. However, there are weaknesses in the management aspect of the programme that need attention as follows:
 - A total of RM145.37 million of the remaining National Trust Fund allocation has not yet been finalized until April 2022 by the states government.
 - A total of 1.10 million vaccine doses (Convedicia, Comirnaty and Astrazeneca) have expired between one to 212 days.
 - A total of 93 units ventilator supplied by company 260790-T to MOH facilities cannot be used which caused estimated loss of RM13.07 million.

- The usage ratio of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) only 2.2% and 3.1% with a balance of 3.08 million pairs and 0.84 million pieces respectively.
- The use of ventilators in South Ward Block, Kuala Lumpur Hospital (HKL) caused the oxygen gas supply exceeded the usage limit and has caused difficulties treatment in HKL wards.
- Actual number of nurse position compared to staffing requirement does not follow the recommended level of care ratio taking into account the scope of services provided at Emergency and Trauma Department.
- The number of current nurses placed in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) ward during the pandemic period is insufficient and creates difficulties especially when there are nurses on quarantine leave.

What do we recommend?

- To ensure that the weaknesses raised are not repeated in the future and that the management of the Covid-19 outbreak can be carried out efficiently and effectively, it is recommended that the MOH take the following actions:
 - MOH should consider on numbers of people who are expected to be vaccinated instead of the population method for future vaccine procurement. This is to avoid excess doses unutilised and expired.
 - MOH in collaboration with Public Services Department needs to consider additional staffing to overcome the shortage of health staff.
 - MOH needs to manage the medical equipment obtained in emergency procurement efficiently and prudently.