

Hospital beds usage in Klang Valley exceeds 85%

KUALA LUMPUR: The current usage of patient beds, including repurpose beds in hospitals in the Klang Valley, has now exceeded 85%, said Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba.

He said by taking into account the need for extra beds, especially in the intensive care unit (ICU), the Health Ministry would implement several immediate measures to address the unexpected high referral rate to the ministry's hospitals in the Klang Valley.

Among steps that will be implemented immediately is to further expand the outsourcing of non-Covid-19 patients to private hospitals to enable the Kuala Lumpur Hospital (HKL) to treat more Covid-19 patients.

In addition, the capacity of ICU and non-ICU beds, including equipment and facilities such as ventilators in ministry hospitals and university teaching hospitals such as Universiti

Kebangsaan Malaysia, Children's Specialist Hospital, Universiti Putra Malaysia Hospital and Universiti Teknologi Mara Hospital, will be increased to treat more Covid-19 patients.

"Another step is to provide temporary reassignment (mobilisation) of healthcare personnel consisting of medical specialists and paramedics from other states to support services at ministry hospitals and teaching hospitals that need additional staff to treat Covid-19 patients," he said in a statement yesterday.

Adham added another measure was to optimise the contribution of volunteers and final year nursing students from the ministry's training institutes, who were undergoing practical training, to assist healthcare personnel such as at vaccination centres, while some experienced nurses at these centres and Covid-19 screening centres would be

reassigned to ministry hospitals.

Meanwhile, Adham said of the total Covid-19 cases handled by HKL, 71% were category three to five patients while the remainder were category one and two patients.

Based on the latest records, the HKL Emergency and Trauma Department receives between 60 to 70 Covid-19 patients daily, with an average of three category four and five patients who need respiratory assistance in addition to being treated in the ICU.

He explained the high number of admissions or referrals to the HKL emergency and trauma department as a Covid-19 hybrid status (receiving Covid-19 and non-Covid-19 patients) referral hospital were managed by providing extra beds, while stable Covid-19 patients would be transferred to the Cheras Rehabilitation Hospital and the nearby Respiratory Medicine Institute. - Bernama