

Noor Hisham: Utama cluster now in sixth generation, but mall Covid-19 clear

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COVID-19 | Health director-general Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah shared today that the Utama cluster, the largest active cluster in Selangor, has spread to six generations.

However, he assured that the shopping mall where the cluster began was now clear of the virus.

The 1 Utama shopping mall in Petaling Jaya has since reopened for business.

Asked why the mall could resume operations after six days when public places like the Petaling Jaya Old Town market had to be closed for longer after positive cases were detected, Noor Hisham explained that new cases in the Utama cluster were being detected among close contacts and not mall visitors.

“When you get an infection in a mall, you will return to your home. Then you will start to infect your friend, your family et cetera.

“So now the infection has actually involved six generations, that means it is not just the first generation (of cases from the mall). But those (who) came back home and then infected others. It has already led to six generations of cases,” he said.

“Sanitisation and disinfection have all been done. So that is assured. The mall has already been cleared (of the virus),” he added.

The Utama cluster recorded nine new cases as of 12 noon today, bringing the cumulative number of cases to 194. Of the 194, 176 are active cases undergoing treatment while 18 have recovered. No deaths have been recorded in the cluster.

This is a marked decrease in new cases since five days ago when it registered a surge of 105 cases over 24 hours.

The index case was identified as a 28-year-old foreign security guard who reported symptoms on Sept 22 but was only diagnosed on Oct 8.

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