

Health DG: Don't let our efforts to battle Covid-19 go to waste

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COVID-19 | Health Ministry director-general Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah today urged the public to abide by the standard operating procedures against Covid-19, including the restrictions on interstate travel.

“Even though cases are on a downtrend in recent weeks, the Health Ministry reminds everyone to abide by the outlined SOPs to ensure our efforts do not go to waste.

“This includes abiding by the interstate travel restrictions except for critical matters that will require police permission,” he said in a statement.

Between Jan 1 and March 31, Noor Hisham said there were 3,170 Covid-19 cases related to interstate travel with Kedah (714) topping the chart followed by Perak (582) and Negeri Sembilan (370).

He said previously, interstate travel was responsible for spreading Covid-19 to

green zones that were initially free of the virus.

Noor Hisham added that Covid-19 clusters linked to interstate travel had been on the rise since Sept 20 last year during the start of the third wave of the pandemic.

These cases involve people getting infected with Covid-19 in another state and then bringing the virus home, leading to a new local cluster.

However, Noor Hisham said the last such cluster was on Jan 30, after the government imposed an interstate travel ban on Jan 13 under the second movement control order (MCO).

He said people who returned to their home town were putting the elderly and children at risk.

Noor Hisham added that while interstate tourism is allowed through registered tour agencies in recovery MCO states, they are subjected to strict SOPs.

“The people must take precaution in the new norm such as social distancing, maintaining hygiene and wearing a face mask in public,” he said.

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