

HOME / MALAYSIA

# Creeping complacency could undo efforts to suppress Covid-19, medical experts warn

Thursday, 21 Oct 2021 04:55 AM MYT  
BY YISWAREE PALANSAMY



People spend time shopping with their families at the Genting Premium Outlet shopping mall in Genting Highlands on October 16, 2021. — Picture by Miera Zulyana

Follow us on [Instagram](#) and subscribe to our [Telegram](#) channel for the latest updates.

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 21 — Increasingly apparent complacency among Malaysians towards Covid-19 could expose the country to new waves of infections, doctors have warned despite the declining number of new cases reported daily.

The experts told *Malay Mail* the complacency was also creeping in before the country has seen the possible ramifications of reopening virtually all sectors of the economy.

Among others, they said Malaysians have become less and less concerned about bringing unvaccinated children and other vulnerable groups out unnecessarily, such as for window shopping at malls or to dine in at restaurants.

"Yes, we are seeing an increasing trend of complacency in Malaysians' Covid-19 response in not wearing masks in public places to not adhering to social distancing as well as bringing vulnerable children to shopping and crowded restaurants," said Malaysian Medical Association

IN MALAYSIA

JUST IN POPULAR

11 minutes ago  
**Sabah aims to win big as world's first green palm oil state**



16 minutes ago  
**Air Selangor: Water supply fully restored in Klang and Petaling**



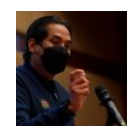
1 hour ago  
**Covid-19: Malaysia adds another 12 new deaths**



3 hours ago  
**Comedian Pian Cecupak dies at 52**



3 hours ago  
**Covid-19: Omicron wave has started in Malaysia, says Khairy**



3 hours ago  
**Minister: Agrofood sector suffered losses of over RM90m due to floods**



MOST READ

**EAT/DRINK** / 23 hours ago  
**Phase four takeaway: Head to Ara Damansara's Restoran...**



**MALAYSIA** / 21 hours ago  
**Mais loses final appeal to restore five kids' unilateral...**



**MALAYSIA** / 19 hours ago  
**Ex-1MDB CFO on believing Jho Low is Najib's rep: I didn't...**



"We have just opened our state borders and are relaxing the standard operating procedures (SOPs) in order to bring in recovery phases so that our economy can recover.

"More than 90 per cent of our adult population have been vaccinated. Adolescents are being vaccinated and booster shots are being rolled out. All these will help in our recovery, but we are not out of the woods yet."

Dr Koh reiterated the same mantra as fellow experts: Strictly observe the preventive SOPs and to avoid leisure activities for a "little while more", until it can be ascertained that Malaysia would not face with another Covid-19 wave.

Some countries have seen Covid-19 become resurgent as they rolled back restrictions.

"We cannot afford to have another wave hitting us," Dr Koh warned.

Epidemiologist Dr Nirmala Bhoo-Pathy echoed Dr Koh's concern about the creeping complacency among Malaysians.

The associate professor said it was still too soon to consider the pandemic fully over and to return to the behaviour from before its arrival in Malaysia.

Dr Nirmala explained that self-regulation was especially important in such a situation as it was not feasible to expect authorities to be omnipresent.

"People must know how to handle their freedom wisely, and manage their lives accordingly. Avoiding the 3C's should remain a priority," she said.

The "3C's" refer to crowded places, closed-off spaces, and close-contact settings that health authorities continue to warn against.

The Universiti Malaya (UM) associate professor with the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine pointed out that Malaysia still has a substantial proportion of the population that has yet to be fully vaccinated and who remained vulnerable.

Previously, Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin also expressed worry over the growing disregard for the preventive SOPs.

He previously used his Instagram account to urge Malaysians to keep up compliance, especially with regards to wearing face masks.

"The increasing number of photos on social media of people unmasking indoors is very troubling. I know you've not seen each other for some time and you want to take a picture.

"But we are not out of the woods by even a mile. In fact, we are still neck-deep in this pandemic. Keep your mask on. Please," he wrote.

Selangor, Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya joined Melaka in moving from Phase Three to Four of the National Recovery Plan (NRP) on October 18.

In making the announcement last week, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said Kelantan, Perak, Penang, Sabah and Kedah will move from Phase Two to Three on the same day as well.

Ismail announced several easing of restrictions: allowing highway rest stops to operate 24 hours a day, while e-hailing vehicles can resume carrying passengers without restrictions beginning October 16.

MOST READ

EAT/DRINK / 23 hours ago

Phase four takeaway: Head to Ara Damansara's Restoran...



MALAYSIA / 21 hours ago

Mais loses final appeal to restore five kids' unilateral...



MALAYSIA / 19 hours ago

Ex-1MDB CFO on believing Jho Low is Najib's rep: I didn't...





As for those with close contact, fully vaccinated individuals are to be quarantined for seven days and 10 days for non-vaccinated or partially vaccinated individuals.

Previously the mandatory quarantine period was 14 days with a second test to be done on the 10th day of quarantine.

Apart from that, cyber cafes in states under Phase Three can operate at 80 per cent capacity while those under Phase Four at 100 per cent.

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE



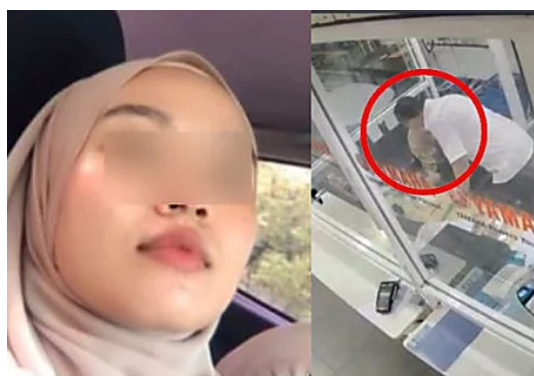
How To Differentiate A Datuk From A Dato'? We Explain All The Titles



Report: Woman sued for defamation by MACC chief formally replies in...



Subang Jaya council tells 17 businesses in Seri Kembangan to...



Rakan Sekerja Cium Kepala, Hulur Wang Tunai RM50 Sebab Rasa 'Bersalah'

Related Articles

- [Omicron risk remains very high, says WHO](#)
- [South Korea's daily new Covid count exceeds 13,000 for first time](#)
- [US considers allowing diplomats to leave China over strict Covid rules](#)

News

- [MALAYSIA](#)
- [SINGAPORE](#)
- [WORLD](#)
- [MONEY](#)
- [LIFE](#)
- [EAT/DRINK](#)

MOST READ

- [OPINION](#)
- [WHAT YOU THINK](#)
- [SPORTS](#)
- [TECH/GADGETS](#)
- [DRIVE](#)
- [VIDEOS](#)

About

- [ARCHIVES](#)
- [ABOUT US](#)
- [PRIVACY POLICY](#)
- [TERMS OF USE](#)
- [ADVERTISE WITH US](#)

Download

Subscribe to Newsletter

Name

Email

SUBSCRIBE

**EAT/DRINK** / 23 hours ago  
Phase four takeaway: Head to Ara Damansara's Restoran...



**MALAYSIA** / 21 hours ago  
Mais loses final appeal to restore five kids' unilateral...



**MALAYSIA** / 19 hours ago  
Ex-1MDB CFO on believing Jho Low is Najib's rep: I didn't...



MOST READ

**EAT/DRINK** / 23 hours ago  
Phase four takeaway: Head to Ara Damansara's Restoran...



**MALAYSIA** / 21 hours ago  
Mais loses final appeal to restore five kids' unilateral...



**MALAYSIA** / 19 hours ago  
Ex-1MDB CFO on believing Jho Low is Najib's rep: I didn't...

