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Contents

Pg.1- Letter from the Director

Pg.2 - Tibute to our Front liners

HOSPITAL UiTM Newsletter

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Letter from the Director

By Prof Sazzli Shahlan Kasim

Assalamualaikum wbt,

Friday 19th March, Paediatrics Department of Selayang Hospital was interrupted due to two positive COVID-19 cases involving a houseman and a medical officer. Sunday 22nd March afternoon, PPUM have decided to convert as COVID-19 only hospital. After those two events we are now in full service of lending a hand to off load non COVID-19 cases for Paediatrics Department of Selayang Hospital and PPUM.

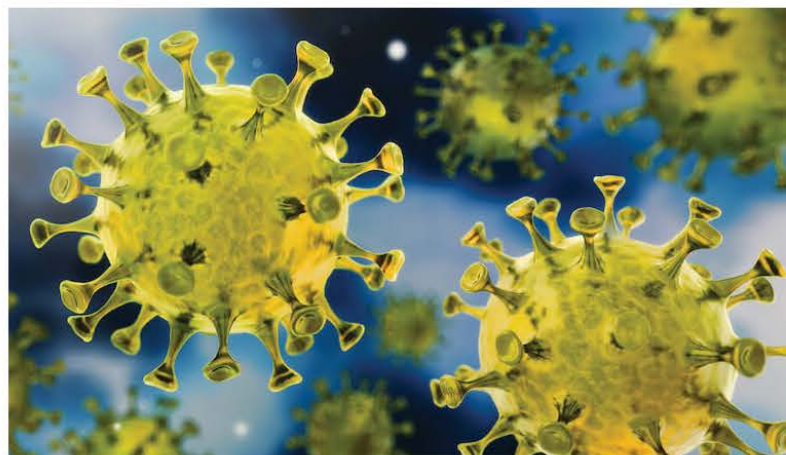
We have been preparing for this. Our total capacity now stands at 114 beds both public and private. Current issue include the availability of staff nurses as well as ensuring enough personal protective equipment (PPE) for everyone. We have created a screening point at the Polis Bantuan front post, a fever centre for those at risk of COVID-19 as well trying to run a reduced level for clinic services for all major specialties.

We converted our rudimentary emergency department to be Covid ready. This include the provision of a Covid tent suitable to intubate and ventilate should a covid patient arrives. The issue of non declaration of risk haunts many of our staff members. Fear is our greatest fear and educating regarding protective wear etc is done daily to all involved.

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SARI ward created on level 3 is being optimised

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The patients transferred in have to be screened for covid-19. As our lab will only be operational on the 30th of March, samples are currently sent out to Lablink. Sample handling is critical. Complete isolation in a biohazard box filled with ice and transported within 3 hours. Lablink runs specimens twice a day. That leaves us in the dark should a patient comes after hours. Hence all patients with SARI (severe acute respiratory illness) are now treated as suspected Covids until specimen negative and proven otherwise. This stretches the system as SARI patients are usually those with asthma, pneumonia and COPD.

The SARI ward created on Level 3 is being optimised. We are bringing in more equipments such as dedicated stethoscopes, BP cuffs and many more. One that arrived yesterday from the UK and hopefully delivered today is a full respirator suit. These are needed when we have to intubate our patients and costs around 7k. We are in close contact with hospital sg buloh. Their staff of 100 houseman have arrived and are being housed in our residential colleges.

Alhamdulillah, donations consisting of food supplies have been forthcoming. We coordinated and record every offerings and plan for a big thank you once this is over. For patients transferred over from KKM, we have waived their charges. We will keep referral letters, itemised charges and other datasets. We hope some mechanism for payment can be struck between ministries to allow us to pay our vendors for items used during this disaster period.

**PPE,
PPE,
PPE**