

Covid-19 is Real!

NORASHIKIN MOHD MOKHTAR

Akademi Pengajian Bahasa, UiTM Kampus Seremban

What is it? Where does it come from? And how? But yes, Covid-19 is real! It happened, and I have experienced the fear of losing a loved one myself. It was the second wave of Covid-19 when my father and mother-in-law were hospitalised for Covid-19. I cannot tell what or how I feel. The feeling is unexplainable. It was a rush of fear that haunted us; 'the family members'. Have you ever waited for a call from the hospital? Yes, it is like a husband waiting for the news from the wife from the delivery room. But this time it is a bit different. First, we would never have thought that a person who rarely goes out would be infected with the virus, and the first symptom was a high fever that lasted for a few weeks. Ayah was a healthy person and rarely sick. Even when he is down with a fever or flu, he would not take medication and refused to go to the clinic. We were so worried that we just had to call a chartered ambulance nearby as he had no strength left to move. A few hours later, we received a call from my husband who had accompanied him in the ambulance. The news was shocking to all of us at home when he mentioned that his father had tested positive Covid-19 for RTK and had to take a PCR test. Can you imagine how we felt? What did we think? So, at home we started asking each other questions. Where has he been before? When was the last time he went out, and all sorts of questions were asked until we were at a loss.



The clock was ticking, and we were in a state of adrenaline rush, like waiting for a race to begin. Suddenly, we received another call that night, and unfortunately, the result came back positive. My husband and sister-in-law went to the hospital, drove home with heavy faces and looked so sad and tired. I cannot remember what time we went to bed that day because we have so much in our minds. After all, we must plan. There were 13 adults in the house, including pregnant moms and 12 kids, so we were worried and did not know what to do. Since it was already midnight, we decided to call Pusat Kesihatan Daerah (PKD) the next morning to get an update on the case and everyone started to self-quarantine. While everyone had already returned to their homes, we decided to take the covid-19 test to ensure we were free from this monster. The results of the test were negative for all of us, but not for Mak. So, the next day, she was rushed to Sg Buloh Hospital.



Not knowing what to do about the PKD, we decided to quarantine ourselves at home for ten days. While Ayah was monitored in the hospital, we got another worrying situation when the oxygen level had dropped, and Ayah was taken to the ICU. The nurse there kept us updated on Ayah's condition every day. We found her to be very helpful and kind, as she seemed to understand how family members feel when they have a loved one fighting for his/her life. The most unforgettable situation was the day the doctor himself called us, the family members, to decide whether to intubate or remove the tube as the chances were fifty-fifty. What did you expect to happen? Of course, we decided to have him treated and just pray for a miracle that he would survive and get better.

During this time, either the doctor or Along called every day to update us on Ayah's condition. We also had video calls with Ayah even when he was unconscious, as the nurse wanted the family members to at least see or support him as there could be no other time. At this point, anything could happen.-

Yes, we know there are many survivors of Covid19 but if you were in this situation, how would you feel? Everyone has their own story. What happened to Ayah, all the things we faced and feared made us a better person. We also promised and planned to change to be more sensitive in family matters. How is Ayah doing? Survived after being treated in ICU for 28 days, discharged and returned home. Mak was also discharged after 10 days in hospital. Our daily routine has completely changed. We get paranoid about cleanliness and safety. We have purchased medical devices needed to monitor our health at home such as oximeters and nano sanitizer machines. Many thanks to Shopee and E-Hailing which are very helpful in making sure we get the things we need without having to go out.

From what happened to the in-laws, I observe that their health is not as good as it used to be. They are physically ill. Can you imagine lying on your bed for 28 days, what would that be like?. They are not able to walk independently and are experiencing severe back pain. Not only that, the medications you take will affect you. Mak, for instance, suffers from insomnia. For Ayah, he is truly a fighter. He has already completed his post-hospital treatment and recovered well for a 75-year-old man. Thank you, Allah, for another chance for us to care and dedicate ourselves to them again. Where did the virus come from? We take it as a test from Allah to show us His love. New norm has begun. We are now living with the virus; so please take good care of yourself and stay safe.

