

**CONGRATULATION
MESSAGE**



ABOUT MEMBERS

THE AFFECT OF COVID-19 TO PROFESSIONALS IN CONSTRUCTION BUILDING INDUSTRY CONTRACTS 26th March 2020

Many question arise by the construction industry as to the affect of MCO in relation to PAM 2006/ PWD 203A. As Professionals whom is the contract administrator / SO representative what can we anticipate?



AR RIDHA RAZAK
PAM COUNCIL MEMBER

CHAIRMAN
ARCASIA COMMITTEE ON YOUNG ARCHITECTS

The Affect of Covid-19 to Professionals in Construction Building Industry Contracts

Date: 26th March 2020 (Thursday)

Time : 3.00pm – 4.00pm

To register please click:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8620633362434632973>



ABOUT MEMBERS



Azari Mat Yasir sedang bersama Noor Fazlina Rosley dan 15 yang lain.

19 jam · 🌐

OK guys I need some serious input here. I'm currently assisting our frontliners in KKM through friends in M3 in designing a secure cubicle. This cubicle allows them to treat and take samples from COVID-19 patients without wearing full PPE gears.

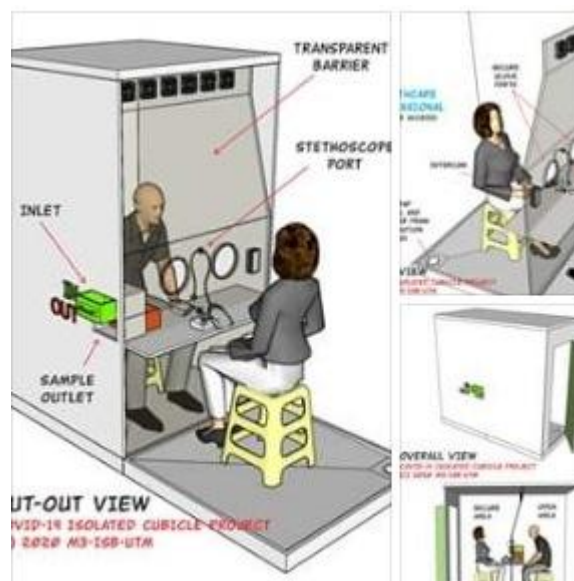
If you have skills in design, production, manufacturing or even as simple as throwing out ideas, we need your help now.

The objective is to create an isolated cubicle without having to wear protective gears. They can check temperature, check vitals and take samples directly.

Currently, 3 Healthcare professionals (HCPs) are needed to treat one patient, and all 3 need to consistently change gloves and what not. This cubicle reduces the manpower down to two, and only one of them need to wear PPE.

Based on feedback from the frontliners, this is what I've managed to come up with so far. I need help to push this further, and hopefully finalize something that's cheap and easy to mass produce to be installed all over the country.

[#azarimy Ini Sains Beb Medical Mythbusters Malaysia](#)



NEWS

ADHERE TO REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

NST, 8 January 2020

LETTERS: MUCH attention has been directed recently on the issue of the abolishment of the critical allowance, which has since been postponed by the government.

One observation that can be made is the unity of the doctors in fighting for their rights to obtain reasonable pay for their efforts.

Senior and junior doctors stood together which led to the government having to listen to this united front.

Is this the case for the other professions? Sadly, no. I'm referring to the engineering profession and the private sector.

As a registered engineer with the Board of Engineers Malaysia (BEM), I observe that there is an alarming situation in the industry — the weak enforcement of the Registration of Engineers Act 1967 (the latest amendment was in 2015).



It is mandatory for engineers to register with BEM to allow them to legally work as either a Graduate Engineer (GE), Professional Engineer (PE) or a Professional Engineer with Practising Certificate (PEPC). All of these categories of Registered Engineers are mentioned in the Act.

It is mandatory for engineers to register with BEM to allow them to legally work as either a Graduate Engineer (GE), Professional Engineer (PE) or a Professional Engineer with Practising Certificate (PEPC). All of these categories of Registered Engineers are mentioned in the Act.

For any engineer to register as a GE, he must have graduated with an engineering degree accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Council or from any of the Washington Accord country signatories.

Those with non-recognised engineering degrees will have problems for the purpose of this basic GE registration.

NEWS

Not only that, even Engineering Technologists are not legally qualified to register as a GE (they need a top-up course to allow them to do so).

From the early stage of becoming a GE, there should already have been some sort of strict quality control in place.

From then on, for a GE to become a PE, an engineer must have obtained a minimum of three years' experience as a GE. He must then pass the Professional Assessment Examination or the Professional Interview to demonstrate his engineering competency.

Next, to become a PEPC, an engineer must have attained his PE status, and then must pass the Professional Competency Examination, to demonstrate his competency and capacity to become Submitting Persons to Local Authorities for Certificate of Completion and Compliance, and to legally set up Engineering Consultancy Practices.

As you can see, there are certain minimum requirements that must be fulfilled to become registered engineers. The value of becoming registered engineers is not currently being appreciated in the industry.

The question is, how good is the enforcement of this basic legal requirement to register as registered engineers in actual practice?

Sadly, this legal requirement is not considered to be a critical factor (or even worse, may not even be of any consideration at all) by various companies in selecting potential talent in the market to fill up the vacancies for the roles of engineers within the said companies.

Even worse, you may find that certain companies even hire non-engineering graduates to fill up the positions as engineers.

When this happens, there are just simply many graduates (registered engineers and unregistered/unrecognised engineers) in the market.

This will pull down the level of salary that fresh graduate engineers can demand, simply because there are just too many applicants — engineers or non-registered engineers, or non-engineering graduates — for the available engineering jobs.

NEWS

I urge BEM as the regulatory body for engineers to fully enforce this mandatory provision in the REA, and make sure that the engineering fraternity adheres to the registration requirements of the REA.

Collaborations with other relevant organisations such as the Construction Industry Development Board, Association of Consulting Engineers Malaysia and the Institution of Engineers, Malaysia, together with the government may be required for this purpose.

By fully enforcing this, it will ensure that only recognised and registered engineering graduates are legally able to work as engineers in the country.

**MOHD KAMAL HAZIQ
KAMARUZAMAN
Kuala Lumpur**

NEWS

GIVE SOCIAL WORKERS RECOGNITION OR LOSE THEM

The Star, 19 February 2020

GEORGE TOWN: Malaysia has lost many local talents as not many social work positions can be found in the country, said Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) Dean of School of Social Sciences Prof Dr Azlinda Azman.

Social workers in Malaysia need recognition and more job opportunities here, she added.

Many social work graduates in Malaysia were being employed overseas as other countries offer more positions with better salaries, she said.

“Most of my coursemates who graduated in the field are employed in Singapore and they are well paid and taken good care of,” she told reporters here yesterday.

Prof Azlinda said to retain social workers in Malaysia, the government should expedite the approval of the Social Workers Profession Act, which would see social workers being categorised as professionals.

She said the Act would not only streamline the definition of social workers from volunteerism but also enhance the quality of their work to minimise harm to their clients.

“We have been pushing this Act since 2010, when the Cabinet paper was in,” said Prof Azlinda.

“We hope that it would get approved soon.”

Earlier, Prof Azlinda was one of the panellists in a forum on social work involving non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

She said the NGO representatives at the session gave positive feedback where supporting social workers in Malaysia was concerned. — Bernama

NEWS

TIME TO RECOGNISE PROFESSION OF SOCIAL WORKERS

The Star, 21 February 2020

YES, it is time for the government to recognise the social work profession, “[Give social workers recognition or lose them](#)” (The Star, Feb 19). A classmate of mine completed his undergraduate studies in social work at Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) about 40 years ago. He went on to pursue postgraduate studies in Hong Kong and returned to work – not in Malaysia but in Singapore.

As a member of the Malaysian Association of Social Workers, I am interested not only in the practice of social work competencies and skills but also in the professional development of social workers. Our country needs more social workers now, and efforts should be made to train and keep them!

Besides USM, there are now other universities offering degrees in social work. Incidentally, it is heartening to read that there is now a shorter Diploma in Social Work programme being offered at Methodist College KL. This is noteworthy for social work development in Malaysia as this is the first to be offered by a private college.

Social work studies will equip students with the essential body of knowledge, philosophy and skills needed for this profession.

The government has recognised many other professionals such as doctors, lawyers and even counsellors, so why not social workers?

As a social work practitioner for the past two decades, I am looking forward to the passing of the Social Workers Profession Bill. With this law in place, I am sure that social workers will be more focused and better trained and equipped for this profession.

Currently, any person can claim to be a “social worker” if he or she is working in an orphanage, old folks home, rehabilitation centre or in other community projects.

But it has been pointed out that many who are already involved in social work will find it impractical and even impossible to take time off to be professionally trained in this field.

Perhaps the Women, Family and Community Development Ministry can consider offering short part-time courses for those who are already involved in the various types of social work.

NEWS

Without a doubt, the official upgrading of the status of a social worker will also ensure that only those who are qualified and professionally trained will be recognised.

I have been volunteering my services at children's homes for nearly two decades. I used to provide counselling services at drug rehabilitation centres and the prisons, too. I also had the privilege to work closely with the Social Welfare Department when I was appointed to a Child Protection Team under the Child Act 2001. I handled various social problems such as domestic violence, child abuse and runaway teens. I also had to work closely with the police.

Obviously, there needs be professionalism, hence I hope that Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, who is also Women, Family and Community Development Minister, will expedite the tabling and passing of the Bill in Parliament.

We certainly need to train more professional social workers. In October last year, our DPM acknowledged that shortage of social workers is one of the factors contributing to the inefficient management of efforts to address social problems in the country.

Roping in the relevant NGOs is only one way to address the shortage of social workers to help in dealing with social problems. The ministry should take proactive steps (for example, through road shows) to encourage and challenge more students to take up social work studies and then recognise their efforts after the four-year programme.

As for me, I think I am still looking good for another three decades of social work even though I am already in my 60s. Our Prime Minister seems to have set the new retirement age for me and, I presume, for many others too.

Finally, I would like to encourage other retirees such as teachers to use their knowledge and experience to help the government deal with the many social problems in our midst now.

PETER SOO
Social Worker
Kluang

NEWS

CORONAVIRUS: MALAYSIAN PHARMACISTS AND SUPPLIERS STRUGGLE TO MEET DEMAND FOR MASKS

NST, 21 February 2020



KUALA LUMPUR (THE STAR/ASIA NEWS NETWORK) - Pharmacists in Malaysia claimed that they were not able to stock up on face masks over the past two weeks despite assurances from the government that there would be adequate supply for local needs.

Suppliers said most suppliers in Malaysia import face masks from China and they could not get supplies now due to a shortage in China itself.

U Pharm community pharmacy operations manager Lai Yet Kuan said that while bigger pharmacy chains get very limited supply, she has not been able to get them from suppliers over the past two weeks.

Customers seeking face masks had to be turned away daily, she added.

"Suppliers also cannot get them from our local manufacturers," she told The Star.

On Feb 7, Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Saifuddin Nasution Ismail said he had asked local manufacturers to increase face mask production by another 400,000 pieces daily to ensure sufficient supply in the wake of coronavirus outbreak.

Face masks are controlled items in Malaysia and the price has been set at RM0.80 (S\$0.27) per unit for the three-ply masks and RM6 per unit for the N95, he said.

Six days later, Datuk Seri Saifuddin gave similar assurances but pharmacies said they have not been able to get stock.

NEWS

"Nothing in the market," said Ms Lai.

She said that since the outbreak, her pharmacy in Kuala Lumpur sold an average of 100 boxes of 50 pieces of masks each daily, double the usual demand. More are sold if customers buy them for friends overseas.

She said parents have complained to her that their children have to wear masks in daycare centres and kindergartens or they will be turned away.

Malaysian Pharmaceutical Society president Amrahi Buang said supply in community pharmacies, especially in Sabah, Sarawak and sub-rural and rural areas had dried up due to panic buying.

Also, local manufacturers preferred exporting them overseas to China, Hong Kong and Singapore, as they fetch better prices, he added.

"The government should ask local manufacturers to stockpile masks for local needs if the disease gets worse," he said.

Suppliers said most suppliers in Malaysia import face masks from China and they could not get supplies now due to a shortage in China itself.

Safetyware Sdn Bhd managing director Wong Kee Wei said they could not get supplies from all four local face mask manufacturers.

"One said if we order them now, they can supply only in August," he said, adding that local manufacturers also faced challenges getting raw materials from China.

Asked about supplies from other countries, Mr Wong said China supplied two-thirds of global demand and this poses a challenge to fill.

Another medical supplies importer who declined to be named said he contacted three local manufacturers but was told that they supply face masks to the government and existing clients but not to others.

NEWS

Meanwhile, a 3M Malaysia spokesman said global demand for respirators or face masks now exceeds supply and the company was ramping up production at its manufacturing facilities in the United States, Asia and Europe.

"In Malaysia, China and around the world, 3M is working with customers, distributors, government and medical officers to help get supplies where they are most needed," she said.

Mr Amrahi advised Malaysians against panic buying and said that they do not need to wear face masks unless necessary.

"The limited stock should be kept for healthcare workers who attend to patients and vulnerable groups... If we don't go into crowded areas, we don't need it."

He said Malaysia's situation is not the same as that in China, Hong Kong and Singapore.

"Although Malaysians travelled during recent holidays and Chinese New Year, like those in China, we were not exposed to the virus then," he said, adding that risk of local transmission is much lower.

NEWS

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT WINS DESIGN CONTEST

The Star, 28 February 2020

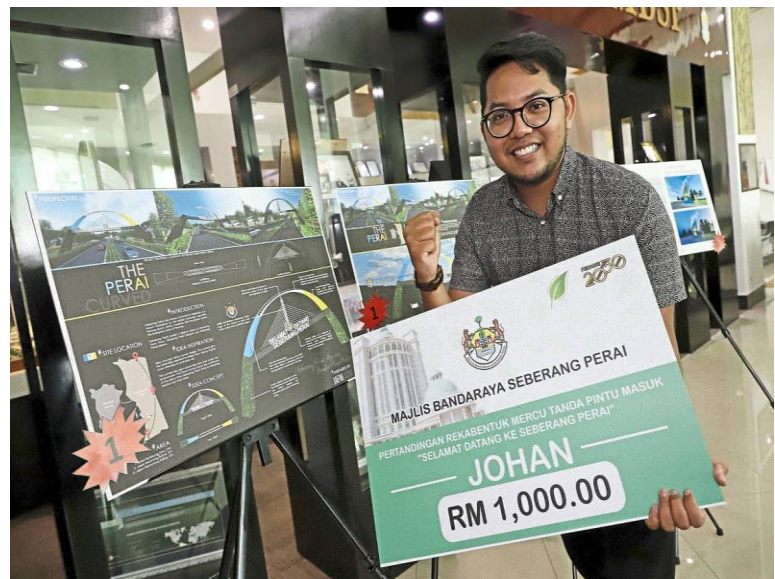
A LANDSCAPE architect was bursting with pride when he was announced the winner of the inaugural Seberang Prai City Council Landmark Archway Design Competition.

Using Sketch Up and Adobe Photoshop design software, Muhammad Jafni Muhammad Azmi, 28, took only a week to complete his masterpiece design called 'The Perai Curved'.

"I am proud that I can contribute something toward my homestate," he said at the prizegiving ceremony at Menara Bandaraya in Bandar Perda, Bukit Mertajam, Penang.

Muhammad Jafni, a UiTM graduate, said his design was inspired by Penang Bridge. He also took the colours of the Penang flag as the main hues for his artwork.

"The archway, when completed, will include a solar panel system to generate power for the council emblem and creative lettering in LED lighting.



Muhammad Jafni showing his winning archway design

"The archway is also energy efficient and can reduce our carbon footprint.

"Best of all, it uses zero electricity and the system will be practically maintenance-free," he said.

For his effort, Muhammad Jafni won RM1,000 and a trophy presented by council mayor Datuk Rozali Mohamud at a simple ceremony after a full council meeting.

Rozali said the competition held from Dec 4 till 31 last year attracted 10 entries.

NEWS

“This competition was in conjunction with the elevation of Seberang Prai to city status last year.

“It was also held to tap new ideas from the residents themselves,” he said.

Second prize went to Mohd Hanif Zulkifli, 33, for his design ‘Pangku Rimbun’ while third prize was won by Ahmad Zaini Zainul Abidin, 56, for his design ‘Mercu Dedaun Sungai’.

The winning entries will be submitted to the technical consultants of the council.

The designs will be erected at three main entrances in Seberang Prai.

The locations are Bumbung Lima in north Seberang Prai, Permatang Keling in south Seberang Prai and the Machang Bubok-Kulim border in central Seberang Prai.

NEWS

LOCAL ARCHITECTS ASKED TO HELP CONVERT GAZETTED BUILDINGS INTO COVID-19 QUARANTINE STATIONS

NST, 26 March 2020

KUALA LUMPUR, March 26 — Architects around the country have been asked to step up as volunteers to help in the inspection of 409 buildings and sites gazetted by the government to be converted into temporary Covid-19 quarantine stations or even field hospitals, the Malaysian Institute of Architects (PAM) said.

In a letter to PAM members dated yesterday, PAM president Lillian Tay urged the institute's architect members "to volunteer to assist our government in the present Covid-19 public health crisis".



Government health workers attend to members of the public at the Kuala Lumpur Health Clinic March 24, 2020.

PAM referred to the Health Minister's March 21 gazette of a list of 409 sites throughout the country as use for Covid-19 quarantine stations.

"The facilities gazetted include public universities, community colleges, technical institutes, former National Service camps, training centres, polytechnics, and hotels owned by federal ministries, departments, agencies and statutory bodies. At least one quarantine station has been identified in all states and federal territories.

"PAM is offering to assist the Ministry of Health by seeking volunteers from our PAM Architect members to help inspect and assess these identified sites and premises for conversion to become temporary Covid-19 Quarantine Centres or Field Hospitals," Tay wrote in the letter that was posted on PAM's Facebook page.

NEWS

PAM also urged architects who were the principal submitting person (PSP) of these 409 gazetted facilities to urgently identify themselves to PAM as the PSP of the building, if they are willing to help in this emergency effort to inspect, assess and possibly work with government health and building authorities to “propose modifications for rapid conversion of these buildings to function as temporary Covid-19 quarantine centres”.

A PSP, among other things, typically submits building plans to the local authority for approval.

“PAM also seeks the assistance of PSPs to provide records of approved building plans to assist the effort. If you are unable to come forth by 27 March 2020, another volunteer Architect, probably one who lives in the vicinity of the building, shall be assigned to do the assessment for your building,” PAM said.

To volunteer for this initiative to help the Malaysian government combat the Covid-19 outbreak, architects will have to fill up a form to be submitted to the PAM secretariat before noon on March 27 (tomorrow).

In the form attached to the Facebook post, those who are PSPs can tick to indicate if they are willing to provide copies of approved building plans to assist PAM volunteers to inspect and assess the buildings, and if they are willing to volunteer to help the relevant health and building authorities to inspect, assess the buildings for suitability for conversion to a temporary Covid-19 quarantine station, or if they are willing to volunteer to help these authorities to carry out the actual conversion.

Similarly, architects who are not PSPs can tick to indicate their readiness to help inspect and assess the buildings for suitability of conversion, or they can also volunteer to help in the actual conversion of buildings into Covid-19 quarantine stations on top of carrying out inspection and assessment work.

In the same form, volunteer architects are required to state the name of the building and its number in the government gazetted list of 409 facilities, and are also required to state the estimated year of completion for the gazetted buildings.

Malaysians, including companies, have stepped forward to help the government fight Covid-19, including by making face shields using DIY, laser cut and 3D printing methods for medical personnel, and by offering free hotel rooms and rent-free accommodation to Covid-19 medical frontliners.

NEWS



PAM Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia

last Wednesday



THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT YOUR INTEREST AND THE DECLARATION FORM HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO 5:00PM ON 27 MARCH 2020 (FRIDAY)

Dear PAM Members,
CALL FOR VOLUNTEER ARCHITECTS TO ASSIST TO INSPECT AND ASSESS GAZETTED SITES TO BE CONVERTED TO COVID-19 QUARANTINE STATIONS... See more



PAM PERTUBUHAN AKITEK MALAYSIA
MALAYSIAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

PERTUBUHAN AKITEK MALAYSIA
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Tel: +603-22022000 Fax: +603-22022000
E-mail: info@pam.org.my Website: www.pam.org.my

PAMMIS/02/20-104

25 March 2020

Dear PAM Members,

CALL FOR VOLUNTEER ARCHITECTS TO ASSIST TO INSPECT AND ASSESS GAZETTED SITES TO BE CONVERTED TO COVID-19 QUARANTINE STATIONS

Today PAM calls upon our Architect members to volunteer to assist our government in the present COVID-19 public health crisis.

In exercise of the powers conferred by the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Act 1988 [Act 342, Section 2], the Minister of Health Malaysia has gazetted on 21 March 2020, a list of 409 sites (mainly institutional buildings) specified in the Schedule (attached) to become COVID-19 quarantine stations.

The facilities gazetted include public universities, community colleges, technical institutes, former National Service camps, training centres, polytechnics, and hotels owned by federal ministries, departments, agencies and statutory bodies. At least one quarantine station has been identified in all states and federal territories.

PAM is offering to assist the Ministry of Health by seeking volunteers from our PAM Architect members to help inspect and assess these identified sites and premises for conversion to become temporary COVID-19 Quarantine Centres or Field Hospitals.

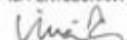
PAM also asks for Members who were the Principal Submitting Person (PSP) of these 409 gazetted facilities to urgently identify yourselves to PAM as the PSP of the building if you are willing to assist in this emergency effort to inspect, assess and may possibly help to work with government health and building authorities to propose modifications for rapid conversion of these buildings to function as temporary COVID-19 quarantine centres. PAM also seeks the assistance of PSPs to provide records of approved building plans to assist the effort. If you are unable to come forth by 27 March 2020, another volunteer Architect, probably one who lives in the vicinity of the building, shall be assigned to do the assessment for your building.

Please fill up the attached form and revert to PAM Secretariat at zarnad@pam.org.my before 12.00 pm, 27 March 2020 (Friday) if you wish to volunteer in this PAM initiative to assist our Government to counter the COVID-19 pandemic.

I call upon our PAM Architects to come forth to put our professional skills to assist our government and fellow citizens to address the COVID-19 pandemic as best as you can.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely
for PERTUBUHAN AKITEK MALAYSIA



CALL FOR VOLUNTEER ARCHITECTS TO ASSIST TO INSPECT & ASSESS GAZETTED SITES TO BE CONVERTED TO COVID-19 QUARANTINE STATIONS

DECLARATION FORM
(Principal Submitting Person)

- I am the Principal Submitting Person (PSP) for the gazetted building listed below.
- I am willing to provide copies of approved building plans to assist the government in the conversion of the building.
 - I am willing to identify myself as the PSP for the gazetted building and assist in providing copies of approved building plans to assist the government in the conversion of the building.
 - I am willing to provide to the relevant health authorities details of the gazetted building to assist in the conversion of the building.
- I am not the PSP for the gazetted building listed below but I am willing to assist the government in the conversion of the building.
- I am not the PSP for the gazetted building listed below but I am willing to assist the government in the conversion of the building.

Name: _____

Matriculation No: _____

State of Origin: _____

Year of Building: _____

Year of Conversion: _____

Year of Completion: _____

Other: _____

I hereby declare that the information provided herein is accurate, correct and true.

WALAYSIA
Warta Kerajaan
1881 PADUKA BAHINDA
BERSEKUTUAN BERKUALITI
BERKEADILAN BERKEMAJUAN
BERSUKSES BERKEMAMPUAN

PERALIHAN KE PERUMPAHAN
No. 10
2708 MAR 2020

409-001/20
Menteri Kesihatan, Suruhanjaya Perkhidmatan Awam (MAMPU) dan Kementerian Kesihatan akan memohon bantuan dan kerjasama ahli-ahlinya untuk melaksanakan projek ini.

Perumahan (Senarai Bilangan 1) - 409
Perumahan (Senarai Bilangan 2) - 409

Persekitaran bandar yang dibina dan dibina 1000 orang atau lebih (Perumahan) dan Perumahan (Senarai Bilangan 1) dan (2) (Senarai Bilangan) yang telah dibina atau akan dibina.

Sehubungan dengan perkara tersebut, MAMPU dan Kementerian Kesihatan akan memohon bantuan dan kerjasama ahli-ahlinya untuk melaksanakan projek ini.

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FEATURE

BETTER TO STAY HOME THAN RELY ON HOME-MADE MASK

The Star, 27 March 2020

THE current shortage of surgical masks to use as protection against Covid-19 has prompted some people to sew their own using different types of cloth.

Housewife Nora Ali, 60, whose favourite hobby is quilting, said she used scrap cotton cloth to make the masks for her and her husband.

She designed her own three-ply cloth mask that included a layer of interfacing fabric, usually used as interconstruction material that lies between different layers of fabrics to strengthen it.

“We cannot find (commercial) surgical masks anywhere now and pharmacies claim they are all out of stock.

“I feel my DIY mask is better than nothing when I need to go out to buy essential groceries during the movement control order.

“It is still some form of protection against people who cough or sneeze.

“The ones I made are washable and the interfacing fabric layer inside is waterproof, ” said Nora, who lives in Kuala Lumpur.



Many people have resorted to making their own face masks due to the acute shortage of surgical masks in shops.

Desperate times call for desperate measures as some have also resorted to fashioning airline sleep masks into face masks.

Retiree Angie Teng said she managed to dig up fabric sleep masks given out by airlines she had kept from all her travels.

“That added layer between the outside air and my mouth and nose gives me a little assurance, although I know it is not much, ” she said.

FEATURE

However, Malaysian Pharmaceutical Society president Amrahi Buang has debunked the efficacy of home-made face masks, saying that it might do more harm than good because of the lack of anti-bacterial filters in cloth masks.

The former chief pharmacist of Universiti Malaya Medical Centre concurred with the advice from Health Ministry that there was no need to wear a face mask outdoors if a person was healthy.

“Anyone we meet outside in this current scenario is considered a risk, which is why the social distancing is very important (standing at least one metre apart from another person).

“If there is no important reason to leave your home, just stay put.

“More importantly, commercial three-ply surgical masks are designed and structured to fit our face and serve as a barrier from droplets in the air, but these still do not protect us from viruses, ” he said.

He conceded that the public must wear commercial surgical masks if there was a real need.

Amrahi advised people to adhere to strict hygiene standards upon returning home after being in a public place such as supermarkets.

“When you reach home, wipe down your shopping bags and surfaces you touched with water and soap or spray with sanitiser before you enter the house.

“Face masks should be disposed of in a small plastic bag and then thrown into a closed wastebasket.

“It is best to take a shower or thoroughly wash your hands (for 20 seconds) before you touch or interact with people at home, ” he highlighted.

He said a bigger danger was people who were sneezing or coughing and going outside wearing home-made face masks.

FEATURE

“They will endanger themselves and people around them because of the droplets they expel into the air,” he explained.

On the different type of masks in the market, such as the ones that come with ear loops and the other with strings that are tied behind the head, Amrahi said they had similar functions.

It was concluded in a research paper titled “Testing the Efficacy of Homemade Masks: Would They Protect Against an Influenza Pandemic” by public health and science experts from University of Cambridge, that home-made masks should only be used as a last resort to prevent droplet transmission from infected individuals, but would still be better than no protection.

The research paper highlighted that a surgical mask was three times more effective in blocking transmission than home-made masks.

The three-ply disposable surgical mask comprised a non-woven polypropylene (PP) as the first layer that is anti-bacterial and isolates particles, followed by a high-filtering performance paper in the second layer and the third layer made of breathable non-woven PP.

FEATURE



Malaysian Pharmaceutical Society

3 hrs · 🌐



As the COVID-19 outbreak continues to plague the world, there's always a possibility that patients, who unknowingly carried the virus, attend to a pharmacy seeking symptomatic relief from fever and other related signs and symptoms.

Having said that, how community pharmacies should respond upon a suspected COVID-19 presentation? What are the crucial steps to keep the pharmacy premise free from COVID-19 virus?

Head over to our infographic posters, as we depict the procedures on managing suspected cases, as well as infection control & prevention in community pharmacies.

These posters are adapted from the COVID-19 Pandemic Guidance Document for Malaysian Pharmacists (March 2020 Edition). MPS is keen to ensure that all pharmacists, while steadfast in serving the rakyat during this pandemic season, are well-taken care of. For more details, feel free to download our guidance document at bit.ly/COVID19MPSguide today!

Sincerely,

Amrahi Buang,

President,

Malaysian Pharmaceutical Society.

[#MPS](#)

[#COVID19](#)

FEATURE

**MANAGING SUSPECTED PATIENTS
PRESENTED TO PHARMACY
DURING THE PANDEMIC SEASON OF COVID-19**

1



Immediately provide surgical mask

- For the patient and accompanying person
- Ensure it is fitted correctly

2



Ensure all staffs dealing with patient(s) wear protective gears

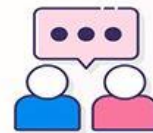
- Including surgical masks, gloves and eye gear

3



Avoid direct physical contact and exposure to secretions

4



Escort the patient into a room and discuss their condition

5



Assist to contact designated testing centre in your area

- Help to arrange your patient(s) for assessments & tests

6



In serious conditions, arrange for transport to designated hospital

7



If patient(s) is able, ask them to return home & self-isolate until they are tested

8



After consultation, remove protective gears separately, and perform hand hygiene each time

Reference : COVID-19 Pandemic Guidance Document for Malaysian Pharmacists by MPS

Clip Art Vectors : freepik.com



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FEATURE

MANAGEMENT PROTOCOL AFTER SUSPECTED PRESENTATION DURING THE PANDEMIC SEASON OF COVID-19



Keep the door shut

- Shut down pharmacy operations if needed
- Prevent unnecessary personnel from entering



Do not use the area

- Do not utilise the area until disinfected
- Air the room by opening windows (if possible)



Disinfect the area

- Use registered disinfectants (listed beside)
- Discard any waste from contaminated area as clinical waste
- Disinfect any other communal areas involved as well (e.g. toilets, waiting area)

List of Disinfectants for COVID-19

Sodium Hypochlorite (0.1 – 0.5%)
70% Ethyl Alcohol
Povidone-Iodine (1% Iodine)
Chloroxylenol (0.24%)
50% Isopropanol
0.05% Benzalkonium Chloride
50 ppm Iodine in Iodophor
0.23% Sodium Chlorite
1% Cresol Soap
Hydrogen Peroxide (0.5 – 7.0%)

Reference : COVID-19 Pandemic Guidance Document for Malaysian Pharmacists by MPS

Clip Art Vectors : freepik.com



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FEATURE

INFECTION CONTROL AND PREVENTION AT COMMUNITY PHARMACY DURING THE PANDEMIC SEASON OF COVID-19

1



Adjust your operating hours

- Based on staff availability
- For minimal service to the community

2



Limit access of public

- Institute one-way system
- Place a cordon / barrier
- Product selection to be helped by pharmacy personnels
- Set up a pass over table to restrict access
- Dispense medicine via small windows / facade

3



Social distancing

- Maintain distance of at least 1 meter between each other
- Mark the distance on the floor
- Demarcate the area to stand off
- Minimise interaction

4



Counter management

- Allocate 1 employee per station (avoid swapping or interactions)
- Clear the counter from unnecessary objects (avoid contamination)

5



Sanitize and disinfect

- The counter and your hands after handling each patient

Reference : COVID-19 Pandemic Guidance Document for Malaysian Pharmacists by MPS

Clip Art Vectors : freepik.com



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FEATURE

INFECTION CONTROL AND PREVENTION AT COMMUNITY PHARMACY DURING THE PANDEMIC SEASON OF COVID-19

6



Make available hand sanitizers at strategic points in your pharmacy

7



Gear up yourselves

- Wear protective gears when performing any service involving direct contact with patients

8



Encourage the use of cashless and contactless payment

9



Encourage sick employees to stay home

- Daily checks on their body temperature
- Those who have respiratory symptoms should not report to work

Reference : COVID-19 Pandemic Guidance Document for Malaysian Pharmacists by MPS

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- Royal Institution of Surveyors Malaysia (RISM)
- The Institution of Engineers Malaysia (IEM)
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- Malaysian Dental Association (MDA)
- Malaysian Institute of Planners (MIP)
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- Malaysian Association of Social Workers (MASW)
- The Plastics & Rubber Institute of Malaysia (PRIM)
- Agricultural Institute of Malaysia (AIM)
- The Chartered Institute of Building Malaysia (CIOBM)
- Institute of Landscape Architects Malaysia (ILAM)

- Institute of Internal Auditors Malaysia (IIAM)
- Institut Bahan Malaysia (ICMM)
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