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BREAKING THE CHAIN OF COVID-19 INFECTION IN THE COMMUNITY RESIDING IN CENTRAL REGION OF MALAYSIA: THE ROLE OF ENHANCED MOVEMENT CONTROL ORDER (EMCO)

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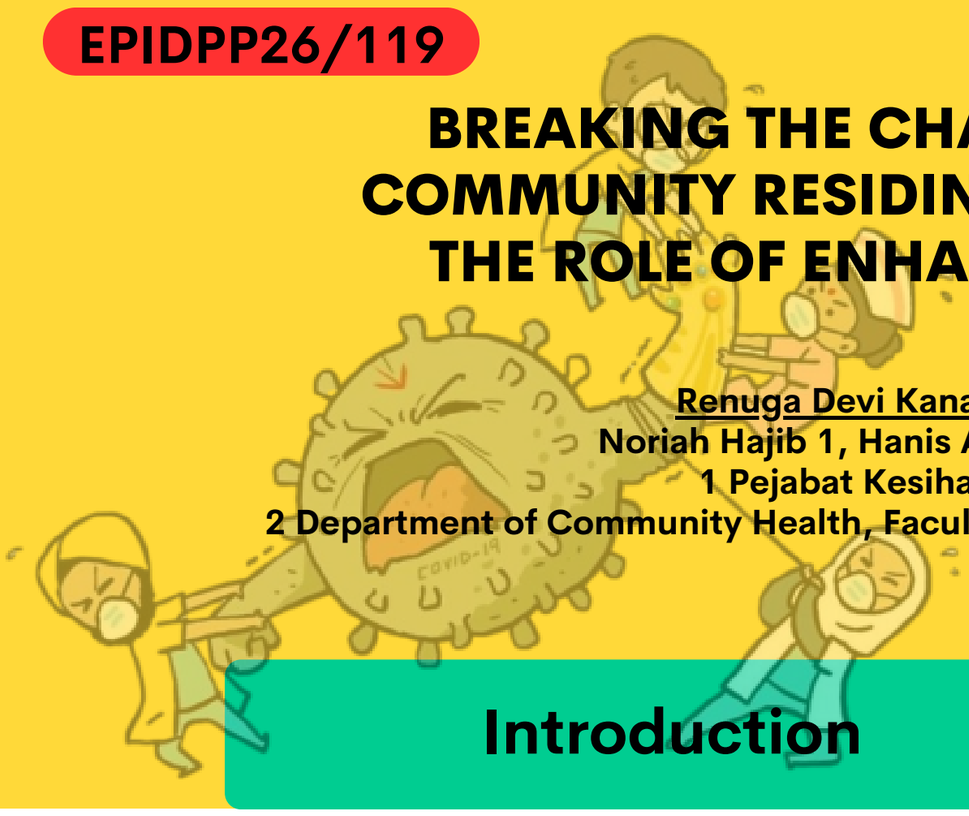
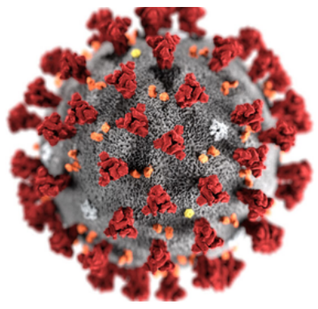
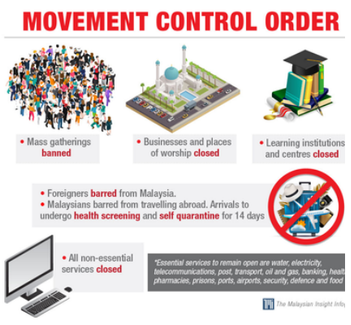
KEMENTERIAN KESIHATAN MALAYSIA
JABATAN KESIHATAN WP KUALA LUMPUR DAN PUTRAJAYA



Introduction



SARS-CoV-2 virus



Measure : EMCO

Reduce the number of positive cases and break the chain of infection.

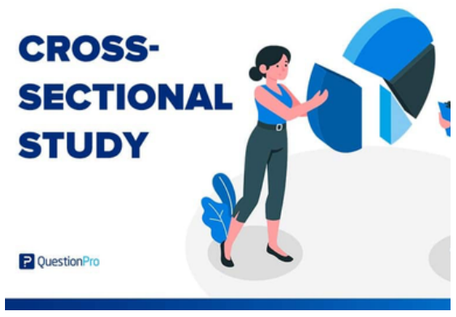
Objectives

Assess the effectiveness of EMCO in breaking the chain of COVID-19 in Cheras, Kuala Lumpur, by comparing the positivity rate in high-risk localities before and after its implementation

To demonstrate whether EMCO effectively contributes to controlling the pandemic and reducing infections in the identified areas.

Method

Type of Study



Data Source

- Secondary data via Communicable Disease Information System (CDIS)
- From April to September 2021

Sampling Technique and Selection

- Universal sampling technique
- Five high-risk localities in Cheras which reported >10% increment in positive COVID-19 cases and close contacts
- Exclusion : Reinfected cases and incomplete data

Measurement

- Positivity rate was measured at two time points before and after the implementations of EMCO
- Determined based on the percentage of people who have tested positive by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test out of the number of people who have been tested for nasal swab.

Result and Discussion

Localities	Positivity Rate		Remarks
	Before EMCO	After EMCO	
Pangsapuri Sri Penara	40.8 %	5.95 %	Declined local infection
Pangsapuri Permai	44.8 %	2.67 %	Declined local infection
Taman Ikan Emas	35.6 %	5.47 %	Declined local infection
Flat Sri Sabah 3A	17.9 %	5.35 %	Declined local infection
Apartment Sri Rakyat	15.7 %	18.9 %	Increased local infection

Roles of EMCO

- EMCO allows healthcare authorities to efficiently conduct contact tracing, investigate potential clusters, and optimise the allocation of healthcare resources for effective screening and treatment purpose
- As the nature of infection spread in a community is like a chain which comprised several interconnections links between the pathogens and hosts or reservoirs, any infection control and contact tracing activities which aim to break this chain and stop the pathogen from spreading can be carried out easily during EMCOs.

Conclusion

The implementation of Enhanced Movement Control Orders (EMCO) represents a viable strategy to decrease the number of positive cases in identified high-risk infection localities, effectively containing the spread of infections within the community. The pivotal factor for the success of EMCO lies in fostering robust interagency collaboration, thereby establishing a pathway for proficient management of future pandemics.

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