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INDONESIA'S PREPAREDNESS IN DEALING WITH THE POTENTIAL SPREAD OF CORONA VIRUS DISEASE

Nur Sholikah Putri Suni

Abstract

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) outbreak which happened in China has been a new pandemic because it has spread in 27 countries. The increase in Covid-19 cases is classified as rapid and significant cases. Since January 30th 2020 WHO has declared Covid-19 status as Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). WHO assessed that the risk of Covid-19 transmission at global level has been included in high category. Therefore, coordinated international response and anticipation efforts from all countries are needed. This article aims to review Indonesia's preparedness in dealing with the potential spread of Covid-19. The preparedness is not only about human resources but also about facilities and infrastructure. The preparedness is based on the principles of coping with the outbreak such as prevention, detection and response. Cross-sector cooperation is needed, between related ministries/institutions and local governments. The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia, particularly the Commission IX, has an important role in supervising the government preparedness in dealing with Covid-19 pursuant to Law No. 6 of 2018 on Health Quarantine and Law No. 4 of 1984 on Outbreaks of Infectious Diseases.

Introduction

By the end of 2019 the world was surprised by the presence of new emerging infectious disease in China caused by Coronavirus (Covid-19). Disease This is reminiscent of what happened 17 years ago, where Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak appeared for the first time in China. If seen from the Case Fatality Rate (CFR) caused by the virus, Covid-19 CFR is lower than SARS CFR, which is around 2% while SARS reached 10%. Though the CFR is lower but Covid-19 cases have risen rapidly and have spread in other 27 countries. Until February 11th 2020, there were 44,885 confirmed cases, with details of 44,409 cases in China and 496 cases in other 27 countries, such as Hong Kong (49), Singapore (47), Thailand (33), South Korea (28), Japan (26), Malaysia





(18), Taiwan (18), Australia (15), Germany (18), Vietnam (15), United States of America (13), France (11), Macau (10), United Arab Emirates (8), United Kingdom (8), Canada (7), Italy (3), Philippines (3), India (3), Russia (2), Spain (2), as well as Nepal, Cambodia, Belgium, Finland, Sweden and Sri Lanka (each with 1 case). Meanwhile, the number of patients who died caused by the virus infection reached 1,114 people, 2 of them in Philippines (1) and Hong Kong (1) (WHO.int, February 12th 2020; gisanddata.maps.arcgis. com, February 12th 2020).

Upon the occurrence, WHO as a World Health Organization assessed that the risk caused by the virus belongs to high category at global level and has declared the Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) status since January 30th 2020. WHO also issued temporary guidelines in accordance with the International Health Regulation 2005 (IHR 2005) instrument, such as guidelines surveillance and response, on laboratory diagnosis, infection prevention and control, clinical management, patients care for suspected Covid-19, with risk communications community and The guidelines empowerment. are expected to be adopted by countries in the word in the efforts of preventing and deterring the Covid-19 spread (WHO.int, February 4th 2020; Kemenkes 2020).

Indonesia has to be prepared for the potential spread of Covid-19. This is due to Indonesia's geographical position which is directly adjacent to some countries affected by the Covid-19 spread and globalization development as well as smooth inter-country Indonesia's traffic. efforts of protecting the Indonesia Citizens abroad, especially in Covid-19 endemic countries, are returning them from Wuhan to Indonesia and performing the quarantine in Natuna for 14 days of incubation. This is pursuant to Law Number 6 of 2018 concerning Health Quarantine and Law Number 4 of 1984 concerning Outbreaks of Infectious Diseases. Until now, the Citizens quarantined in Natuna have been declared uninfected with Covid-19.

Based on the descriptions above, this article is intended to review Indonesia's preparedness, starting from prevention phase, detection phase, to response phase in dealing with the potential spread of Covid-19.

Epidemiology and Growth of Covid-19 Cases

Covid-19 is a virus attacking respiratory system with symptoms of fever, cough, runny nose, sore throat, shortness of breath, fatigue, and lethargy. In severe cases it can cause pneumonia, acute respiratory syndrome, until death. According to virologists from China, Covid-19 is classified as a new kind of corona virus and different from the virus causing SARS. The incubation period is about 7-14 days. Covid-19 spreads through air and direct contact with sufferer (Kompas, January 23rd 2020).

Respiratory infection disease caused by Covid-19 appeared for the first time in Wuhan, China in early December, 2019. The first case is suspected of being linked with seafood and animal market in





Wuhan. This shows the existence of transmission from animal to human. Some information said that the virus is from snake or (Media Indonesia, January bat 28th 2020). However, there are no researches exactly confirming the origin of Covid-19. Therefore, analysis research genetic and epidemiological investigation are still conducted to find the origin of the virus.

Based on data from Johns Hopkins CSSE per February 12th 2020, the growth of death case number reaches 1,114 people, while the number of cured cases reaches 4,698 people (Gisanddataa. maos.arcgis.com, February 12th 2020). Some patients infected with Covid-19 can recover with quick and right handling. Meanwhile, most of the dead cases are due to comorbidities and complication. Covid-19 pain level is assessed high, while its severity is low. This depends on individual body immunity response. The number of the cases is estimated to continue to grow. However, scientists are still trying to identify the characteristics of the virus, so that its chain of spread can be broken.

So far, there has been no information regarding the entry of Covid-19 to Indonesia. Although there are 62 suspected patients, but after the testing to 59 specimens, they are declared negative and 3 specimens are still in process. Indonesian However, one of Citizens in Singapore is confirmed to be Covid-19 infected and become the 21st case in Singapore. The transmission happened due to direct contact with people infected with Covid-19 (Suara Pembaruan, Kompas. January 27th 2020;

com, February 4th 2020; Kompas, February 11th 2020).

Preparedness Measures

Until now, there has been no vaccine that can be used to prevent Covid-19 infection. Scientists continue to develop vaccine for the virus, even if the outbreak ends. Some countries such as America are trying to develop RNA and DNA based vaccine. France is trying to modify measles vaccine to be used for Covid-19 virus. Some developed vaccines need a long time to be ready for use because they have to pass a variety of clinical tests.

Consequently, а control effort that can be carried out in a short time is doing preparedness. measures Preparedness carried out cannot be separated from the principles of epidemic relief, such as prevention phase, detection phase and response phase. Firstly, prevention phase. This phase is carried out by making preparedness guidelines in reference to Law on Health Ouarantine and Law Outbreaks of Infectious on Diseases, so that this supports the implementation of the global outbreak handling governance; delivering a circular letter on Covid-19 prevention preparedness Provincial/Regency/City to Health Offices, Port Health Offices and all hospitals; providing 2,322 masks; providing 860 personal protective equipment; providing 21 transport capsules for evacuation; preparing health 49 offices; providing 100 referral hospitals to handle infection cases caused by Covid-19, accompanied by human resources support, and adequate facilities and infrastructure; as well as doing simulation in handling

the suspected Covid-19 patients, especially for referral hospitals, as it has been done at dr. Moewardi Hospital, Solo (news. okezone.com, January 31st 2020; Media Indonesia, February 2nd 2020). This phase has been done by the government.

In addition, to optimize the prevention phase, other efforts need to be done, such as: building Covid-19 prevention posts; improving the IEC (Information, Education and Communications) on the virus, so as not to cause panic in the community due to exposure to incorrect information; building positive paradigm among stakeholders; and being public pro-active building in participate awareness to in efforts to anticipate the spread of Covid-19. Meanwhile, the Working Meeting of Commission IX and the Ministry of Health held in February 3rd 2020 said that cooperation and coordination with related ministries/institutions and local governments need to be intensified in terms of prevention and health protection efforts.

In addition to being carried out by the government, the preparedness at prevention phase can also be carried out by each individual. The efforts that can be done are such as: using mask if having symptoms of cough and runny nose; immediately visiting health care facilities if having complaints; applying further clean and healthy life behaviour; cooking meat and egg until they are well-done; being careful when in contact with animals, especially wild animals; and avoiding contact with person showing symptoms of respiratory disease (Kemenkes, 2020).

Secondly, detection phase can be done with routine and periodical epidemiological surveillance system. The results of epidemiological investigations can give input to the policy makers in epidemic relief. Preparedness that has been done by Indonesia at detection phase includes installing thermo scanners in 135 country entrances and exits, such as ports, airports, and border crossing checkpoints; observation doing Indonesian to Citizens who have returned from China by applying quarantine for 14 days of incubation; providing health alert card; and conducting laboratory tests to the suspects. This is pursuant to the mandate of the Law on Health Quarantine, where every person coming from endemic countries needs to be screened. In relation to the foregoing, early detection and diagnosis accuracy need to be observed to avoid the increasingly rapid spread of the disease.

In the preparedness measures, prevention and at detection phases of the Covid-19 virus spread, the government has issued six anticipatory policies, among others: the Indonesian Citizens returning from China have to undergo observation for 14 days in Natuna; the Minister of Health will temporarily have an office in Natuna; flights to and from China are closed starting from Wednesday, February 4th 2020; migrants from China are not allowed to enter and transit in Indonesia: revocation of visafree and visa on arrival for Chinese citizens; and the government



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appeals for Indonesian citizens to not travel to China for the time being (Media Indonesia, February 3rd 2020).

Thirdly, response phase. This phase is conducted if a country has been affected by the outbreak. Therefore, until now Indonesia's preparedness has still been at prevention and detection phases January 29th 2020). (Tirto.id, However, if the outbreak happens, a response phase that can be conducted is the case management. At the response phase, when a case occurs, the confirmed person will be isolated to the referral hospital equipped with adequate human resources, facilities, and infrastructure; tracing case contacts quickly and precisely; as well as providing treatment according to the protocol recommended by WHO. Patients who have been discharged from health care facilities must be periodically checked in order to avoid infecting others.

Closing

The occurrence of Covid-19 outbreak in China which then becomes pandemic gives lessons on the alertness of various countries. Indonesia has Law on Health Ouarantine and Law on Outbreaks of Infectious Diseases in relation to readiness system in dealing with the outbreaks, both endemic and pandemic. However, it is also necessary to revise the Law on Outbreaks of Infectious Diseases because it is no longer relevant to current conditions. The Law on Outbreaks of Infectious Diseases also needs to regulate the handling which has not been regulated so far in a Law, such as preparedness

before an outbreak, during an outbreak, and after an outbreak covering rehabilitation, so that it is hoped that Indonesia will be better equipped to face the outbreak.

In addition, it is necessary to increase preparedness if similar arise in Indonesia. The cases preparedness so far has not been optimal. To be more optimal, it is necessary to increase IEC and cross-sector cooperation. The House of Representatives needs to oversee preparedness measures in dealing with the Covid-19 outbreak based on the 2005 IHR instrument, Law on Health Quarantine, and Law on Outbreaks of Infectious Diseases. In addition, the House of Representatives needs to encourage the government to accelerate the revision of the Law on Outbreaks of Infectious Diseases, which has been included in the 2020-2024 National Legislation Program.

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Nur Sholikah Putri Suni nur.suni@dpr.go.id

Nur Sholikah Putri Suni, S.Gz., M.Epid, completed her Bachelor of Health Nutrition Education at the University of Gadjah Mada in 2013 and obtained a Master degree in Epidemiology at the University of Indonesia in 2016. She currently serves as a Prospective Researcher at the Research Centre for Expertise Agency of the House of Representative of the Republic of Indonesia.

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