

## Panic buying in some supermarkets

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Unusually big crowds and long queues were seen in supermarkets here and two other cities following sharp increases in the number of Covid-19 cases in the country.

At two supermarkets here, shoppers were snapping up pasta, canned food and toilet paper.

In another city, surveys by the *New Straits Times* at supermarkets revealed that rice, cooking oil and instant noodles were flying off the shelves.

There were also problems in obtaining face masks and hand sanitisers in another city.

Deela Shaari, 34, who was doing her grocery shopping at Teng Mini Market Centre (TMC) in Bangsar here, said she was shocked to see panic buying.

"I did not expect people to be this panicked. They were clearing out some shelves. I've never seen anything like this.

"Though I am aware of the increase in Covid-19 cases, I can only prepare in whatever way I can.

"We should update ourselves with information and not trust rumours," said the 34-year-old manager in the corporate sector.

Nurse Safura Iffah, 24, who shopped at Village Grocer, Bangsar Village, said she could

not help but to panic when seeing others emptying the shelves.

"It is up to people on what they are doing. If they feel anxious and want to stock up on their groceries, we can't do anything," she said, while hoping the panic would subside soon.

At a supermarket in Cheras, a shopper said shelves with fresh produce, such as onions and vegetables, were cleared by 4pm on Sunday.

"Some shelves are bare. It's not a full-blown panic buying yet, but it is getting there," said a shopper.

In **Ipoh**, food items such as canned food, rice, cooking oil and instant noodles had begun flying off the shelves in supermarkets in Klebang and Meru.

A housewife said she needed to prepare for the worst-case scenario.

"I need to be prepared. We never know what will happen. A sharp increase of positive cases could happen just like in Spain or Italy.

"I have read how fast the virus spreads and I believe we must be ready for the worse.

"I have started stocking up on essentials since last week," she said.

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