



'Buying too much will just lead to wastage'

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Kindergarten teacher, Rafidah Ismail, 38, was worried that certain food items would run out of stock.

"I don't think people need to panic yet. But I'm worried supermarkets will run out of food."

Checks at supermarkets here showed that staff were re-stocking instant noodles.

In **Kuantan**, checks at supermarkets, pharmacies and convenience stores revealed that the supply of face masks and hand sanitiser were running low.

Pahang Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry enforcement chief Ahmad Fitri Ali said there had been a sudden surge in demand for face masks and the ministry was doing all it

could to ensure that there was sufficient supply.

He said the surgical mask manufacturers were trying to meet demand, but they could not set an exact time frame on when they could deliver the items.

"The face masks and hand sanitisers are selling fast and pharmacies cannot cater to those who want to buy in bulk. Some pharmacies are only selling face masks in small quantities (one or two pieces) to ensure that everyone can purchase it," he said.

A pharmacist said most businesses had ordered new stocks of face masks, but the suppliers said they could only deliver by the middle of next month.

"At some pharmacies, customers are told to provide their contact details so that once the

items arrive, they will be among the first to purchase it," said the pharmacist.

Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry enforcement division director Datuk Iskandar Halim Sulaiman said there was no need for people to resort to panic buying as the current situation was under control.

"The government is doing its job. As long as there is no directive for a curfew, the country is at peace.

"You don't need to buy a more-than-usual amount of groceries.

"All food have expiration dates, so buying more than what is needed will cause the food to expire and that's wasteful.

"We don't want to create other problems in future," Iskandar told the NST.