

【刘哲伟专栏】疫情再度来袭，预防措施早做好



刘哲伟

最后更新1年前 · 刊登于21 Dec 2023 3:01PM · 0条评论



作者建议执行一切可能的政策，即使这带来不便，但是底线是不改变实体或在线办公的生产率，以及最重要是不会对经济造成大影响。（档案照：透视大马）

首先，祖基菲里出任卫生部长是非常正确的，相对而言，他比前任卫生部长更受公众信任。其次，预防胜于治疗，现在最佳的方法是预防，以避免情况恶化。当然，要遏制新冠肺炎疫情最简单直接的办法就是落实行动限制令，禁止外国人入境等等，但这些都需付出沉重的代价。所以，我的建议是，政府应该考虑有效的预防措施，既不会对我国经济造成太大影响的政策。当然，实施 TRIIS（测试、报告、隔离、通知、查找）是其中一种方法。我个人的建议如下：

首先，重新落实强制性戴口罩

强制戴口罩有两个主要考虑因素，首先是方便，接着是节省开销。

确实有很多人不愿意再戴口罩。实事求是地说，没有付出就没有收获。我们很难期望一切都能如自己所愿，且期待一切可以迎刃而解。如果政府坚持重新落实戴口罩，我认为问题不大。当然，在某些情况下也可以有例外，比如由于健康或者运动等等。简单地说，就是先强制戴口罩，必要时根据具体情况适时豁免。

其次，一如既往，只要涉及成本开销，政府就必须介入。政府可以步其后尘，设定上限价格。其实，以目前的情况来看，即使没有最高限价，口罩的价格也不宜过高。这种情况与多年前的情况不同，前者极度缺乏库存，而价格投机只是导致价格高涨的第二个原因。但现在，只要有存货，买得起的人就不会有太大的经济负担。为了降低 B40 开销，政府可以考虑免费提供口罩。相比与疫情蔓延的后果，政府给 B40 免费口罩的成本不会比在卫生体系的开销来得高。。

因此，我个人认为这项政策是必须的。



有鉴于确诊病例激增，作者建议雇主和校方可以考虑重新落实居家作业和上网课。(档案照：透视大马)

第二，居家工作/居家上课

从之前的限行令经验中，我们自己知道许多行业实际上可以实现居家作业，尤其是非劳动的专业行业。当然，在办公室工作对雇主更有利，雇主可以保证他们的员工在“工作”而不是居家“不工作”。要解决这个问题最直接的方法是，设置一个不是以工作时间为主的关键绩效指标（KPI）。再者，在办公室工作，雇主和员工还可以利用只有在办公室才能使用的任何设施或文件。解决方法很简单，每周允许1至2天到办公室，这可以通过规划来实现。如果实在不行，政府可以考虑给予更多的回旋余地。

简而言之，这些都是可以管理的，尤其是对于非劳动和非服务行业。毫无疑问，这可能会带来一些不便，但这是必须做出的牺牲。另外，在初期阶段，政府可以采取柔和与宽松的方式来执行，甚至可以采取鼓励的方式，而不是强制实施。如果行

业愿意配合就没有问题。如果不愿意，政府可以才来强制执行。同样的情况，如果采用软性和宽松的方式，没有滥用即可。如果滥用的人多，政府可以才来加强执法。

同样，高等教育学府也应实现在线化。我相信，即使冠病案件没有激增，大多数高等教育学生也应该已经配备了上网课的设备，因此，这样就不会给他们带来太大的经济负担。不过，我也理解有些学生经济困难。对于这部分学生，我认为人数应该很少，因为那些需要帮助的人可能已经在上一次的限行令中得到了设备帮助。其余的学生可以继续留在校园里，使用大学的设施学习。这就是我的意思，与以上的情况类似，即以柔和宽松的方式，制定一个规则，所以在最初阶段，给那些确实无法遵守规则的人留有余地。

就学校而言，也许上网课还不适合。所以，先把这部分学生放在一边，让他们照常上课，除非情况恶化。



祖基菲里日前已经表明，目前不会重启限行令。（档案照：透视大马）

第三， 保持社交距离

政府可以考虑在不影响运营和经济的前提下强制推行社交距离。例如，航空或运输行业，保持社交距离意味着造成金钱损失，因此可以暂不实行。但例如，会议或活动或任何可能有身体接触的活动可以强制执行。

在居家办公模式下，由于实际出席人数较少，这一政策是可行的。同样，如果由于正当理由确实无法履行，也可免于执行。

结论

我个人的建议是执行一切可能的政策，即使这带来不便，但是底线是不改变实体或在线办工的生产率，以及最重要是不会对经济造成大影响。对于那些确实有理由不遵守的人或行业可以给予豁免。正如我多次提及强制执行，唯要以柔和宽松的方式，并且得到民众积极配合。倘若人们和行业自私或不愿妥协，那就改弦易辙，从严从硬。

现在的小小不方便，总比将来出现不可逆转或不便的更好。

** 刘哲伟目前在国际伊斯兰大学政治学系任职助理教授。在此之前，也曾其他高等学府执教。刘哲伟先后于马来西亚国立大学取得政治学学士及硕士学位，并于英国布里斯托大学取得政治学博士。*

相关文章

- 5大措施应对疫情升温 卫长：Omicron引发病例上升
(<https://www.themalaysianinsight.com/chinese/s/477241>)
- 与大专讨论学生宿舍问题 赞比里：大学疫情受控制
(<https://www.themalaysianinsight.com/chinese/s/476836>)
- 企合部：发逾51亿融资助受疫情影响商家 (<https://www.themalaysianinsight.com/chinese/s/476007>)
- 依温：疫情物价腾飞双重打击 2020年4月拖垮近一成企业家
(<https://www.themalaysianinsight.com/chinese/s/473174>)
- 705起乘公交出入医院 不再强制戴口罩 (<https://www.themalaysianinsight.com/chinese/s/450005>)
- 不利因素蒙上阴影 建筑业复苏仍需时间 (<https://www.themalaysianinsight.com/chinese/s/447927>)

若想留言，请订阅或登录。

[Liu Zhewei Column] The epidemic is coming again, and preventive measures should be taken early



Liu Zhewei

Last updated 1 year ago · Published on 21 Dec 2023 at 3:01 PM · 0 comments



The author recommends implementing all possible policies, even if they bring inconvenience, but the bottom line is that they do not change the productivity of physical or online work, and most importantly, do not have a major impact on the economy. (File photo: Malaysian Insight)

First, the appointment of Dzulkefly as Health Minister was a perfect decision. Relatively speaking, he enjoys greater public trust than his predecessor. Second, prevention is better than cure, and the best approach right now is prevention to prevent the situation from worsening. Of course, the simplest and most direct way to curb the COVID-19 pandemic is to implement movement restrictions, banning foreigners from entering the country, and so on, but these come at a heavy cost. Therefore, my suggestion is that the government

consider effective preventive measures that won't significantly impact the country's economy. Implementing TRIIS (Test, Report, Isolate, Notify, Track) is one approach. My personal suggestions are as follows:

First, re-implement mandatory mask wearing

There are two main considerations for mandatory mask wearing: first, convenience, and second, cost savings.

It's true that many people are reluctant to wear masks anymore. Honestly, there's no gain without pain. It's hard to expect everything to go our way, or for everything to be easily resolved. If the government insists on reinstating mask-wearing, I don't think it will be a big problem. Of course, exceptions can be made in certain circumstances, such as for health reasons or exercise. Simply put, masks should be mandatory initially, with exemptions made as needed and appropriate based on specific circumstances.

Secondly, as always, whenever costs are involved, the government must intervene. It could follow suit and set a price ceiling. In fact, given the current situation, even without a price ceiling, mask prices should not be excessively high. This situation differs from years ago, when inventory was extremely scarce, and price speculation was only a secondary factor in the inflated prices. But now, as long as inventory exists, those who can afford it will not face a significant financial burden. To reduce B40 costs, the government could consider providing masks for free. Compared to the consequences of the spread of the epidemic, the cost of providing free masks to the B40 would not be higher than the cost to the health system.

Therefore, I personally believe that this policy is necessary.



In light of the surge in confirmed cases, the author suggests that employers and schools may consider re-implementing work-from-home arrangements and online classes. (File photo: Malaysian Insight)

Second, work/study from home

From our experience with previous movement control orders, we know that many industries can actually operate from home, especially those in non-labor-intensive professional sectors. Of course, working from the office is more advantageous for employers, as they can ensure their employees are "working" rather than "not working" at home. The most direct way to address this issue is to set a key performance indicator (KPI) that is not primarily based on working hours. Furthermore, working from the office allows employers and employees to utilize any facilities or documents that are only available in the office. The solution is simple: allow one to two days of office time per week, which can be achieved through planning. If this is not possible, the government could consider providing more leeway.

In short, these are manageable, especially for non-labor and non-service industries. While this may undoubtedly cause some inconvenience, it's a necessary sacrifice. Furthermore, in the initial stages, the government can

adopt a soft and lenient approach to enforcement, even encouraging rather than mandating it. If the industry is willing to cooperate, there's no problem. If not, the government can enforce it. Similarly, a soft and lenient approach can be adopted as long as there's no abuse. If abuse becomes widespread, the government can then strengthen enforcement.

Similarly, higher education institutions should also move online. I believe that even without a surge in COVID-19 cases, most higher education students would already be equipped to take online classes, so this wouldn't place a significant financial burden on them. However, I understand that some students face financial difficulties. Regarding this group of students, I believe the number will be small, as those who need assistance likely already received equipment during the previous movement control order. The rest of the students can continue to stay on campus and use university facilities to study. This is what I mean, similar to the above situation: a soft and relaxed approach to establishing rules, so that in the initial stages, there is room for those who truly cannot comply.

As far as schools are concerned, perhaps online classes are not suitable yet. So, put these students aside for now and let them go to class as usual unless the situation worsens.



Zulkifli has already stated that the movement control order will not be reinstated at this time. (File photo: Malaysian Insight)

Third, maintain social distance

Governments could consider mandating social distancing as long as it doesn't impact operations and the economy. For example, in the aviation or transportation sectors, where social distancing would mean financial losses, it could be temporarily suspended. However, for example, meetings, events, or any other activities where physical contact is likely, social distancing could be mandatory.

This policy is feasible in the context of working from home due to the low number of people actually present. Similarly, if it is truly impossible to fulfill the policy due to legitimate reasons, it can be waived.

in conclusion

My personal advice is to implement all possible policies, even if they cause inconvenience. The bottom line is that these policies should not alter productivity, whether in-person or online, and, most importantly, should not significantly impact the economy. Exemptions can be granted to individuals or industries with genuine reasons for non-compliance. As I've repeatedly stated, enforcement should be done gently and with the public's active cooperation. If individuals or industries are selfish or unwilling to compromise, then we should change course and implement stricter and tougher measures.

A small inconvenience now is better than irreversible or inconvenient things in the future.

** Liu Zhewei is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at the International Islamic University. Prior to this, he taught at other institutions of higher learning. He received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Political Science from the National University of Malaysia and his PhD in Political Science from the University of Bristol, UK.*

Related Articles

- Five measures to address rising epidemic situation; Health Minister: Omicron causes rise in cases (<https://www.themalaysianinsight.com/chinese/s/477241>).
- Zambry discusses student dormitory issues with universities: University epidemic is under control (<https://www.themalaysianinsight.com/chinese/s/476836>).
- Ministry of Enterprise Cooperation: Issued over 5.1 billion in financing to help businesses affected by the epidemic (<https://www.themalaysianinsight.com/chinese/s/476007>).
- Yiwen: The double blow of the epidemic and soaring prices dragged down nearly 10% of entrepreneurs in April 2020 (<https://www.themalaysianinsight.com/chinese/s/473174>).
- Starting from July 5, it is no longer mandatory to wear a mask when entering and leaving the hospital by public transportation (<https://www.themalaysianinsight.com/chinese/s/450005>).
- Unfavorable factors cast a shadow, and the recovery of the construction industry will take time (<https://www.themalaysianinsight.com/chinese/s/447927>).

If you would like to leave a comment, please subscribe or log in.