



# Indonesian Policies and Services Facing the Covid-19 Pandemic

Annisa Dewi Mirnasari<sup>1(✉)</sup> and Winarno Budyatmojo<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Faculty of Education, Universitas Sebelas Maret, Surakarta, Indonesia  
annisadewi@student.uns.ac.id

<sup>2</sup> Faculty of Law, Universitas Sebelas Maret, Surakarta, Indonesia

**Abstract.** The Covid-19 pandemic is a contagious epidemic that has become a global problem. The cause of this pandemic is the spread of the Corona Virus Disease 2019 (Covid-19). The first positive case in Indonesia was when two Indonesian citizens were infected by a Japanese citizen in 2019. The pandemic began to spread to 34 provinces in mid-April. At that time, there was considerable fear from the Indonesian people about the covid virus. The Covid-19 pandemic requires the government to issue new health policies and services for the community. This accommodation encourages the need for the state to provide policies to prevent and overcome Covid-19, especially in Indonesia. This becomes important along with the data on cases of events that tend to fluctuate.

**Keywords:** Covid-19 · government policy · pandemic

## 1 Introduction

Covid-19 is a new disease that first appeared in Wuhan, Hubei, China on December 1, 2019. The cause of this infectious disease is the coronavirus. This virus causes fear and concern in the community because it spreads very quickly and cannot be seen or touched. This condition has prompted the government to issue new policies, including mandatory quarantine for people who have traveled to infected areas. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDD), quarantine is a step to separate and limit the movement of people suspected of having an infectious disease to see if they are infected, this quarantine is done so that the virus does not spread further. Then the policy of wearing a mask when in public places and interacting with other people to prevent transmission through droplets (according to Wikipedia, droplets are droplets of mucus or liquid produced by the respiratory tract, these droplets are a medium for transmitting the virus from sick people to healthy people). COVID-19 usually presents as an acute viral respiratory tract infection and many differential diagnoses related to common viral pneumonia should be considered, such as influenza, parainfluenza, adenovirus infection, respiratory syncytial virus infection, metapneumovirus infection, atypical pathogens, such as *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* and *Chlamydia pneumoniae* infections, etc [1]. Covid-19 turns out not only to give disease to humans but also to animals. If humans are infected with this virus, they will experience flu, runny nose, fever, cough, sore throat, and other serious illnesses [2].

© The Author(s) 2023

S. U. Firdaus et al. (Eds.): YICGH 2022, AHSR 65, pp. 104–108, 2023.

[https://doi.org/10.2991/978-94-6463-206-4\\_15](https://doi.org/10.2991/978-94-6463-206-4_15)

The government issued a Social Distancing policy to prevent the spread of the virus. This policy is considered effective to prevent transmission because it prevents sick people from making direct contact with healthy people. COVID-19 interestingly spread faster than most pandemics and infected a far much greater number of people than most pandemics. Being a social disease, the first measure adopted by the authorities almost worldwide was to restrict social interactions. Cities and entire countries were placed on lockdown. The movement was severely restricted. International borders were shut down [3]. Guarantees and protection and work safety are needed for medical personnel in Indonesia because they have tried to prevent the spread of this virus. Policies related to health services can be said to be an important aspect of conditions in today's society. One of these policies is implemented to provide prevention and handling for the growing spread of Covid-19 in Indonesia.

## **2 Discussion**

### **2.1 Government Policy in Dealing with the Pandemic**

To stop the spread of COVID-19, the Indonesian government has been constantly reminding its citizens to make 3M efforts. In 2020, the government issued general policies to inhibit the growth rate of the COVID-19 virus, including mandatory compliance with health protocols, acceleration of behavior change, and the establishment of a national vaccination program. On April 3, 2020, the President issued Presidential Regulation (Perpres) No. 54 of 2020 concerning Changes in Detailed Posture and the 2020 State Budget. This Presidential Regulation is a follow-up to Perppu No.1 of 2020. The budgets of some ministries were cut by Rp. 97.42 trillion. However, some ministries experienced an increase in budgets, such as the Ministry of Education and Culture by Rp 36 trillion to Rp 70 trillion; and the Ministry of Health from Rp 57 trillion to 76 trillion [4].

On August 4, 2020, to prevent and control COVID-19, President Joko Widodo signed a regulation regarding the improvement of discipline and health protocols set out in Presidential Instruction No. 6 of 2020. This Presidential Instruction is addressed to ministers, TNI commanders, police chiefs, governors, mayors, regents, and heads of non-ministerial government agencies. The obligation to carry out health protocols is aimed at individuals and those who violate them can be subject to sanctions. In October 2020, to deal with the Covid-19 problem, the Behavior Change Division was established by STPC-19, namely by encouraging the acceleration of changes in people's behavior so that they consistently implement washing hands, wearing masks, and social distancing. Entering the end of 2020, the government began to focus on the procurement and implementation of vaccinations [5].

On October 5, 2020, the President stipulated a rule that the procurement and implementation of vaccinations include vaccine procurement, vaccine implementation, vaccine funding, and ministry support and facilities. The government also issued a policy in the field of education, namely the implementation of learning carried out restrictions and distance learning to prevent virus transmission. Then on November 20, 2020, the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Religion made a joint decision regarding face-to-face learning following the development of the Covid-19 case [6]. Some Indonesian citizens contracted Covid-19 in early

March 2020, this was announced by the president directly. Due to these conditions, the government took further steps by establishing a Covid-19 Handling Task Force based on Presidential Decree No. 7 of 2020. Due to the worsening conditions at that time, the government finally issued a large-scale social restriction (PSBB) policy which later changed its name to PPKM. Has been regulated in the Act. These restrictive policies include closed schools, and workplaces, restricted activities in public places, restricted use of public facilities, and restricted public transportation.

## 2.2 Challenges Faced by the Government During the COVID-19 Pandemic

In handling the COVID-19 pandemic, the government experienced several challenges/obstacles, including:

1. Lack of facilities in the hospital.

Hospitals are the most important thing in handling the treatment of Covid-19 patients. One of the important services that need attention is outpatient services because the community chooses fast and complete services. Due to the large number of patients exposed to Covid, many hospitals lack equipment and facilities. For example, the lack of isolation rooms and ventilators, the lack of human resources to handle COVID-19 patients, and personal protective equipment for medical personnel, which are expensive and unavailable. Factors that hinder services are the limited time the services are provided and limited space due to social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic [7].

2. Many violations of health protocols were found.

Many people do not believe in the covid-19 virus and think that this virus is a mild disease, so people ignore health protocols. The impact of this community behavior causes the virus to spread quickly and the number of positive corona patients is increasing. Seeing this situation, education about the dangers of COVID-19 and the importance of complying with health protocols needs to be carried out by the government for its citizens. Furthermore, there is also a stigma in the community regarding the implementation of health protocols, especially social distancing. That residents think social distancing and physical distancing will make family relationships more tenuous, therefore the importance of socialization to change the mindset of residents about this so that residents know the importance of doing Social distancing and Physical distancing during the Covid-19 pandemic [8].

3. The decline in the country's economy.

The call to work from home and social distancing has caused several sectors to experience setbacks, one of which is the economic sector. Several companies in Indonesia have even terminated their employees due to declining company finances. As a result, unemployment in Indonesia has increased. Based on data reported by the Ministry of Manpower, there are 2.8 million workers who are directly affected by Covid-19. They consist of 1.7 million formal workers laid off and 749.4 thousand laid off (Employment) [9].

4. The state has to spend quite a lot of money.

Because the country's economy is declining and there is a lot of unemployment, the government must spend large enough funds to support the economy and provide assistance to people affected by COVID-19. BanIndonesia's survey in the first quarter

of 2020 indicated a decline in the economy in various sectors. This is indicated by the Weighted Net Balance Value (SBT) in the first quarter of 2020 worth -5.56 percent decreased by 7.79 percent in the fourth quarter of 2019. The decline was caused by a decrease in demand and supply due to covid-19 [10].

### 3 Conclusion

Based on the discussion above, the Covid-19 virus must be suppressed so that it does not cause further harm. The policies issued include quarantine for people who have recently traveled to areas infected with the virus, carrying out 3M efforts, social distancing, large-scale social restrictions (PSBB), the establishment of a Covid-19 task force, and procurement and implementation of vaccinations. Besides that, there are also challenges that the government must face in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic, including lack of hospital facilities, lack of medical personnel, spending large enough to deal with the pandemic situation, and a declining economy. The government must provide education for its citizens so that citizens are obedient and orderly with the policies issued.

### References

1. Wu, Y.-C., Chen, C.-S., Chan, Y.-J.: The outbreak of COVID-19: An overview. *Journal of the Chinese Medical Association* 83(3), 217–220 (2020).
2. Sukur, Moch Halim, Bayu Kurniadi, Haris, R. F. N.: Handling Health Services during the Covid-19 Pandemic in the Perspective of Health Law. *Journal Inicio Legis* 1(1), 1–17 (2020).
3. Socrates, E. I. C. G.: Impacts of Covid-19 on Human Existence in the Contemporary World. *International Journal of Trend in Scientific Research and Development (IJTSRD)* 6(3), 1736 (2022).
4. Wibawa, P. A. C. N. K. C. A. P.: Kebijakan Pemerintah Dalam Menangani Covid-19. *Gane-sha Civic Education Journal* 3(1), 14 (2021).
5. Gitiyarko, V.: Kebijakan Pemerintah Menangani Covid-19 Sepanjang Semester II 2020. *Kompaspedia.Com.* (2020), <https://kompaspedia.kompas.id/baca/paparan-topik/kebijakan-pemerintah-menangani-covid-19-sepanjang-semester-ii-2020>
6. Gitiyarko, V.: PSBB Hingga PPKM, Kebijakan Pemerintah Menekan Laju Penularan Covid-19. *Kompaspedia.Com.* (2021).
7. Salasiah dan Rohayati S, S.: Tinjauan tentang Kualitas Pelayanan di Masa Pandemi Covid 19 pada Puskesmas Loa Duri Ilir Kecamatan Loa Janan Kabupaten Kuta Kartanegara. *Jurnal Dedikasi* 22(1), 99–109 (2021).
8. Hasma, H., Musfirah, M., Rusmalawati, R.: Penerapan Kebijakan Protokol Kesehatan dalam Pencegahan Covid-19. *Jurnal Ilmiah Kesehatan Sandi Husada* 10(2), 356–363 (2021).
9. Juaningsih, I. N.: Analisis Kebijakan PHK Bagi Para Pekerja Pada Masa Pandemi Covid-19 di Indonesia. *Buletin Adalah Hukum Dan Keadilan* 4(1), 191 (2020).
10. Muliati, N. K.: Pengaruh Perekonomian Indonesia di Berbagai Sektor Akibat Corona Virus Disease 2019 (Covid-19). *Widya Akuntansi Dan Keuangan* 2(2), 78–86 (2020).

**Open Access** This chapter is licensed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>), which permits any noncommercial use, sharing, adaptation, distribution and reproduction in any medium or format, as long as you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons license and indicate if changes were made.

The images or other third party material in this chapter are included in the chapter's Creative Commons license, unless indicated otherwise in a credit line to the material. If material is not included in the chapter's Creative Commons license and your intended use is not permitted by statutory regulation or exceeds the permitted use, you will need to obtain permission directly from the copyright holder.

