

No dam visitors allowed in Bukit Mertajam

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The district health office ordered the Mengkuang Dam to close for seven days on health concerns. (Facebook pic)

GEORGE TOWN: Penang's largest dam has been ordered to be closed to visitors by the health authorities following concerns that it could potentially spread diseases.

The Mengkuang Dam near Bukit Mertajam has been served a seven-day order by the district health office from today to Sept 23. The grounds for closure was cited as: "May cause an outbreak and spread a contagious disease."

The Penang Water Supply Corporation (PBAPP) said the other two dams, Air Itam and Teluk Bahang, including its Bukit Dumbar recreational park, would only be open to fully vaccinated visitors.

Its CEO Jaseni Maidinsa said visitors to the dams would be required to show "low risk" or "casual contact" in their MySejahtera app.

Those below 17 are required to be accompanied by a fully vaccinated parent or guardian.

He said before the latest incident, the facilities had limited visitors to 200 at any one time, with that limit extended to 350 for the Mengkuang Dam.

Jaseni said all visitors were strictly monitored for physical distancing of 3-5m.

The Mengkuang Dam was closed for six years for expansion and repairs by the federal government and was reopened to the public on Dec 10 last year.

Over the weekend, there was a large crowd at the dam, causing netizens to be concerned over Covid-19 spread.