



PRESS STATEMENT
UPDATES ON THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)
SITUATION IN MALAYSIA

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CENTRAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE ON COVID-19 INFECTION, NUMBER 5, YEAR 2020
(JAWATANKUASA PENGURUSAN BENCANA PUSAT – JPBP)

21 February 2020, Putrajaya – This morning I chaired the Special Meeting of the High-Level Committee on the COVID-19 infection to discuss the latest updates from all related ministries, departments and agencies.

This Meeting was also attended by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Secretary Generals, Secretaries of state governments and representatives, Director Generals and representatives of related agencies.

Current Status

Based on information from the Ministry of Health (MOH), up to 21 February 2020, 8 am, a total of 75,641 cases and 2,122 deaths due to COVID-19 have been reported worldwide.

No new COVID-19 case was reported to the National Crisis Preparedness and Response Centre (CPRC) today. The total cumulative confirmed COVID-19 cases in Malaysia remains at 22 cases, with five (5) cases still receiving treatment in hospitals, and 17 cases have been discharged well.

Out of the five (5) cases still admitted; Three (3) in Kuala Lumpur Hospital; One (1) in Sultanah Bahiyah Hospital, Kedah; and one (1) in Sungai Buloh Hospital.

Malaysia is still in the **early containment** phase, where there is no sustained human-to-human transmission, no sporadic cases in the community, no deaths

due to COVID-19 reported, and the infection are being managed well with existing capacity and resources.

The Ministry of Education (MOE) has formed a COVID-19 Management Committee and established an Operations Room for this Committee at the Education Malaysia Division, Department of Higher Education.

All 20 Public Institutes of Higher Learning have developed their Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to manage the COVID-19 infection, while 17 Private Institutes of Higher Learning have also developed their own SOPs, including Xiamen University that has many students from China.

Up to today, all students returning from China have undergone health screenings and found to be negative for COVID-19.

Education Malaysia Beijing in collaboration with several Malaysian student associations in China have developed the COVID-19 Overseas Students Management Dashboard, to assist monitoring of health status of Malaysian students in China.

The Education Malaysia Division of MOE, together with Malaysian Public Universities Health Council (Majlis Kesihatan Universiti Awam Malaysia, MAKESUM) and MOH have developed the “Preparatory Plan to Prevent Transmission of the COVID-19 for Malaysian Institutes of Higher Learning”.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA), together with AirAsia Berhad, are planning to bring back about 75 Malaysians and family members from Wuhan, China. The flight is planned for 25 February 2020.

This second Humanitarian and Disaster Relief (HADR) mission will be conducted similar to the first mission, whereby upon landing at Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA), all passengers will be subjected to health screening at the Air Disaster Unit, before being transported to the Higher Education Leadership Academy (Akademi Kepimpinan Pendidikan Tinggi – AKEPT) for the 14-day home surveillance.

Decisions

Based on the presentations by the ministries and agencies at this Meeting today, the High-Level Committee has made the following decisions:

1. All Chinese national students are required to undergo health screening, except those who have arrived in Malaysia for more than 14 days. The Education Malaysia Division of MOE has already conducted the health screening based on the SOP jointly agreed by MOH and MOE, and will continue to do so.
2. The health screening for Malaysians visiting and returning back from China will be made more stringent; in addition to screening using the thermal scanner, a swab test will also be done. Individuals found positive with COVID-19 infection will be transported to the hospital. If found negative, they will be allowed home to undergo home surveillance based on the guideline published by MOH.
3. Health screening at the Johor-Singapore checkpoints will also be strengthened. MOH will be discussing with their Singaporean counterparts on methods for more effective land border entry and exit surveillance control and screening, at the upcoming Bilateral Joint-Working Group Committee on 25 February 2020.
4. To ensure adequate supply of face masks, the Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs will coordinate the supply with manufacturers and limit exports. NADMA will assist in providing face masks to all frontline staff.

Advisory for Individuals with Symptoms (cough / runny nose / difficulty breathing)

Always wear a face mask. If not wearing one, please cover mouth and nose with tissue when coughing or sneezing, dispose tissue appropriately after use and wash hands immediately with soap and water or sanitizer.

Please maintain and keep a safe distance (of at least 1 meter) from other people.

DATO' SERI DR WAN AZIZAH DR WAN ISMAIL

Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia

21 February 2020