



PRESS STATEMENT MINISTRY OF HEALTH MALAYSIA

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

Current Status of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases Who Have Recovered

12 June 2020 – The Ministry of Health (MOH) would like to inform that **103 cases** have fully recovered and discharged well today. **Cumulatively, 7,168 confirmed COVID-19 cases have fully recovered** (85.3% of total cumulative cases).

Current Situation of COVID-19 in Malaysia

12 June 2020, 12 pm – A total of **33 additional confirmed COVID-19 cases** were reported to the National Crisis Preparedness and Response Centre (CPRC) MOH today. Cumulatively there are now **8,402 confirmed COVID-19 cases** in Malaysia. Therefore, there are **currently 1,115 active and infective COVID-19 cases**. They have all been isolated and given treatment.

Of the 33 additional cases reported today, 16 are imported cases who were infected overseas. Of the 17 local transmission cases, 14 cases are non-Malaysians, and three (3) cases are among Malaysians.

The details of the 3 cases among Malaysians are as follows:

- 1 case, screening of close contacts to a confirmed COVID-19 case (Case 7,735) in Kuala Lumpur
- 1 case, screening in a religious school in Selangor
- 1 case of a COVID-19 death in the community (reported below, Death #119).

Currently, four (4) confirmed COVID-19 cases are receiving treatment in intensive care units (ICUs), and no patient is on ventilation support.

Regretfully, **one (1) additional COVID-19 death** was reported to the National CPRC MOH today. Cumulatively, there are now **119 COVID-19 deaths** in Malaysia (1.42% of total cumulative cases):

1. **Death #119:** Case 8,370 is an 85 year-old Malaysian woman. She passed away at home on 11 June 2020, and the deceased was brought to Keningau Hospital Sabah. She was found positive for COVID-19 upon testing.

MOH conveys condolences to the family members.

Infectivity and Discharging COVID-19 Patients

As MOH has repeatedly emphasised, new knowledge and discoveries about COVID-19 are constantly evolving and changing. This has helped the World Health Organization (WHO) and national authorities such as the MOH to improve COVID-19 outbreak management procedures and guidelines.

Based on the monitoring by MOH in the management of COVID-19 patients, the results of COVID-19 rt-PCR testing for many patients who have recovered still remained positive over a prolonged time period. The rt-PCR test is very sensitive in detecting the presence of the virus proteins.

Although they remained positive, these recovered patients do not have symptoms, are not sick and do not spread the disease to other family members. Repeated virus culture studies showed that the COVID-19 virus failed to propagate. Thus, MOH concluded that the positive COVID-19 results in these patients were due to viruses or virus fragments (deoxyribonucleic acid or DNA) that are no longer viable.

Similar findings have also been reported from several countries such as Korea, China, Singapore and Germany. Studies in China showed that

infection occurs 2.3 days before the onset of symptoms and is at the highest level at 0.7 days before the patient becomes symptomatic. The infectivity decreases to a very low level after 7 days. Another study in Taiwan found that after 5 days of being infected with COVID-19, these patients did not spread the infection to exposed close contacts.

The research findings in Korea meanwhile showed that although 25.9% to 48.9% of recovered COVID-19 patients were suspected to become positive again after discharge, the COVID-19 tests conducted on 790 close contacts of 285 recovered COVID-19 patients showed that these individuals were not infected with COVID-19. This means that the recovered COVID-19 patients were no longer infective.

These findings are consistent with results of investigations that found that the infectious period begins 2 to 3 days before symptoms develop, and reaches a peak 1 day before patients become symptomatic. The infectivity then decreases to a very low level after 7 days.

This is in-line with the WHO's "Clinical management of COVID-19, Interim guidance, May 2020", that stated that most COVID-19 positive patients **can only transmit the disease within 10 days from the start of the disease.**

In this regard, MOH has updated the COVID-19 patient discharge guidelines, where patients with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 infection can be discharged from the infectious disease wards upon meeting the following criteria:

1. For symptomatic patients:
 - At least 3 days (72 hours) after recovering from fever (without fever medication) as well as respiratory symptoms (such as cough and shortness of breath) have improved; **AND** at least 14 days have passed since the symptoms began.

2. For asymptomatic patients:

- 14 days have passed from the date of the COVID-19 test was reported positive, assuming they had no symptoms after their positive test.

The COVID-19 test **is not required before the patient is discharged** from the infectious disease wards. If a patient still needed medical treatment other than COVID-19 treatment, the patient can be transferred to the other wards.

Health Advisory on COVID-19

MOH urges the cooperation of every individual so that together we can prevent the COVID-19 outbreaks and break the transmission chain of the COVID-19 infection in the country. The recommended actions are:

- Avoid the **3Cs**: **C**rowded places; **C**onfined spaces; and **C**lose conversations
- Practice the **3Ws**: **W**ash hands frequently with water and soap; **W**earing facemasks are strongly encouraged in public areas or if symptomatic; **W**arn self and others for the following, in line with MOH's advisories:
 - Avoid shaking hands or touching others
 - Practice good coughing and sneezing etiquette
 - Seek early treatment if symptomatic
 - Stay at home and avoid from visiting others
 - Regularly clean and disinfect commonly touched surfaces in common areas

In addition to the SOPs, continue to adhere to **THiS**:

- **T**: Terms set under the Recovery Movement Control Order (RMCO)
- **Hi**: High-risk groups such as children, infants, older adults and the disabled must be protected, and if unwell with symptoms, to seek early treatment
- **S**: Safe social distancing is practiced at all times, of at least 1 metre away from others

MOH will continue to monitor the development of the COVID-19 situation, both in the country as well as internationally, based on available information from the World Health Organization (WHO). The public will be continuously updated on the latest information. In addition, MOH will ensure that appropriate preventive and control measures are continuously implemented.

Thank you.

Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah
Director General of Health Malaysia

12 June 2020 @ 5.00 pm

Appendix 1

Number of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in Malaysia, by States (Cumulative, as of 12 June 2020, 12 pm)

| State | No. of New Cases * | Cumulative |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Perlis | 0 | 18 |
| Kedah | 0 | 96 |
| Pulau Pinang | 0 | 121 |
| Perak | 0 | 256 |
| Selangor | 13 (6) | 1,987 |
| Negeri Sembilan | 4 | 931 |
| Melaka | 4 (4) | 250 |
| Johor | 1 (1) | 678 |
| Pahang | 0 | 363 |
| Terengganu | 0 | 111 |
| Kelantan | 0 | 156 |
| Sabah | 1 | 356 |
| Sarawak | 0 | 556 |
| WP Kuala Lumpur | 10 (5) | 2,409 |
| WP Putrajaya | 0 | 97 |
| WP Labuan | 0 | 17 |
| Total | 33 (16) | 8,402 |

*() refers to imported confirmed COVID-19 case

References

1. WHO, Clinical management of COVID-19, Interim guidance, May 2020
2. He, X., Lau, E.H.Y., Wu, P. et al. Temporal dynamics in viral shedding and transmissibility of COVID-19. Nat Med 26, 672–675 (2020)
3. Cheng H, Jian S, Liu D, et al. Contact Tracing Assessment of COVID-19 Transmission Dynamics in Taiwan and Risk at Different Exposure Periods Before and After Symptom Onset. JAMA Intern Med. Published online May 01, 2020
4. Findings from investigation and analysis of re-positive case, May 2020, KCDC
<https://www.cdc.go.kr/board/board.es?mid=a30402000000&bid=0030>
5. The Hindu: When are COVID-19 patients most likely to infect others?
<https://www.thehindu.com/data/data-when-are-covid-19-patients-most-likely-to-infect-others/article31675247.ece>