



PRESS STATEMENT MINISTRY OF HEALTH MALAYSIA

UPDATES ON THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) SITUATION IN MALAYSIA 23 July 2020

Current Status of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases Who Have Recovered

The Ministry of Health (MOH) would like to inform that **eight (8) cases** have recovered and discharged well today. **Cumulatively, 8,574 confirmed COVID-19 cases have been discharged** (97% of total cumulative cases).

Current Situation of COVID-19 in Malaysia

23 July 2020, 12 pm – A total of **nine (9) additional confirmed COVID-19 cases** were reported to the National Crisis Preparedness and Response Centre (CPRC) MOH today. Cumulatively there are now **8,840 confirmed COVID-19 cases** in Malaysia. Therefore, there are **currently 143 active and infective COVID-19 cases**. They have all been isolated and given treatment.

Of the nine (9) additional cases reported today, three (3) are imported cases who were **infected overseas**, involving one (1) Malaysian and two (2) non-Malaysians (with family residing in Malaysia or allowed to enter Malaysia for work). The three (3) imported cases were travellers from:

- Singapore – 1 case
- India – 1 case
- Philippines – 1 case

Of the six (6) **local transmission** cases, four (4) cases are among Malaysians and two (2) cases are among non-Malaysians.

Details of the local transmission cases among **non-Malaysians** (2 cases) are as follows:

- Sabah – 1 case: From screening prior to release from prison.
- Kelantan – 1 case: From screening of detainees in a prison prior to transfer to an Immigration Detention Centre.

Details of the local transmission COVID-19 cases among **Malaysians** (4 cases) are as follows:

- Sarawak – 4 cases:
 - 1 case: From the Stutong Cluster.
 - 1 case: From the Sentosa Cluster.
 - 1 case: From the Kuching Engineering Cluster.
 - 1 case: Still under investigation. The case was asymptomatic and has been admitted into Sarawak General Hospital.

Currently, only **five (5) confirmed COVID-19 cases** are receiving treatment **in intensive care units (ICUs)**, and two (2) patients are on ventilation support.

No additional COVID-19 death was reported to the National CPRC MOH today. Cumulatively, there are now **123 COVID-19 deaths** in Malaysia (1.39% of total cumulative cases).

The Decision for Mandatory Use of Facemasks in Certain Categories of Public Places

MOH welcomes the decision of the Special Meeting of Ministers on the Implementation of the Movement Control Order (MCO) today, that was announced by the Senior Minister (Security Cluster) earlier today, on the mandatory use of facemasks in public transport and crowded public places starting 1 August 2020. Individuals found violating this order may be fined.

For non-medical facemasks, the World Health Organization (WHO) recommends fabric or cloth facemasks with 3 layers consisting of:

- The material for the inner layer is hydrophilic, such as cotton or cotton blend.
- The material for the outer layer is hydrophobic such as polypropylene, polyester or a mixture. This layer can limit contamination from the outside from penetrating into the wearer's nose and mouth.
- The material for the middle layer made from synthetic non-woven materials such as polypropylene or a cotton layer that can increase the filtration or resistance to droplets.

In addition, facemasks should be worn properly and covers the space between the nasal space and the chin. Improper use by allowing facemasks to hang around the neck, forehead, or cover only part of the nose and mouth is inappropriate and carries the risk of contamination or infection to the wearer.

MOH recommends that facemasks should be worn properly.

Non-Compliance to the Home Surveillance Order and the Standard Operating Procedures

Malaysia had recorded the lowest number of daily additional COVID-19 cases during the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic just three weeks ago on 1 July 2020. On that day, the country recorded only one (1) additional COVID-19 case. Local transmission cases were zero for several days before this.

However, recently the number of daily additional cases have increased, sometimes reaching two figures. Since 1 July 2020, MOH has reported 15 new clusters. The rising trend of daily additional cases and the existence of these new clusters are most likely due to the complacency and non-compliance of the public to the directives and advisories from the Government in dealing with this pandemic.

As many are aware, of late, there were photographs of some individuals placed under the Home Surveillance Order (HSO) but were found in public places, that have been viralled on social media.

Analysis of the latest data obtained through the MySejahtera application showed that from 7 July 2020 to 20 July 2020, 24.8% of individuals placed under the HSO did not use the Home Assessment Tool function. Individuals placed under the HSO **must conduct a self-health assessment daily** using the Home Assessment Tool function throughout the 14-day quarantine period.

So far, the number of travellers returning from overseas, termed as Person Under Surveillance, who are required to undergo HSO is 31,674 individuals, and of these, 18,416 individuals have so far completed the quarantine period. However, of these, 10% had not undergone the mandatory day 13 COVID-19 screening.

Similarly, compliance to the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) set is also inadequate. From observation, more people are now eating out in restaurants and have returned back to work in offices. However, while the data through the MySejahtera application showed that the number of new registered users continue to increase for the past three weeks, the number of check-ins at premises such as restaurants, supermarkets and similar business premises showed a declining trend. This indicates that compliance with the SOPs is declining. Owners of business premises and the public are reminded to continue to comply with the set SOPs so that together we can break the transmission of the COVID-19 infection chain in the community.

As is often mentioned, the public now needs to play a more important social role in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. Continue to comply with the set SOPs. The public is also encouraged to continue to be the eyes and ears of the authorities by reporting actions that are found to violate the SOPs, to the enforcement authorities such as the Royal Malaysian Police (PDRM) for appropriate action.

Health Advisory on COVID-19

MOH advises the public to continue to remain vigilant and to always comply to the recommendations and health advisories repeatedly emphasised by the MOH. These advisories must be incorporated into everyday life as the new normal.

- Avoid the **3Cs**: Avoid **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

23 July 2020 @ 5.00 pm

Appendix 1

Number of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in Malaysia, by States (Cumulative, as of 23 July 2020, 12 pm)

State	No. of New Cases *	Cumulative
Perlis	0	18
Kedah	0	100
Pulau Pinang	0	121
Perak	0	261
Selangor	0	2,112
Negeri Sembilan	0	1,028
Melaka	0	258
Johor	1 (1)	718
Pahang	1 (1)	366
Terengganu	0	114
Kelantan	1	159
Sabah	1	384
Sarawak	4	632
WP Kuala Lumpur	1 (1)	2,454
WP Putrajaya	0	98
WP Labuan	0	17
Total	9 (3)	8,840

*() refers to imported confirmed COVID-19 case