



**PRESS STATEMENT  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH MALAYSIA**

**UPDATES ON THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)  
SITUATION IN MALAYSIA  
27 August 2020**

**Current Status of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases Who Have Recovered**

The Ministry of Health (MOH) would like to inform that **16 cases** have recovered and discharged well today. **Cumulatively, 8,994 confirmed COVID-19 cases have been discharged** (96.8% of total cumulative cases).

**Current Situation of COVID-19 in Malaysia**

27 August 2020, 12 pm – a total of **five (5) additional confirmed COVID-19 case** were reported to the National Crisis Preparedness and Response Centre (CPRC) MOH today. Cumulatively there are now **9,296 confirmed COVID-19 cases** in Malaysia. Therefore, there are **currently 177 active and infective COVID-19 cases**. They have all been isolated and given treatment.

Of the five (5) additional cases reported today, two (2) are imported cases who were **infected overseas** i.e. in the Philippines and Egypt, involving **Malaysians**. These cases are reported in Selangor.

All three (3) **local transmission cases** are among **Malaysians** in Melaka:

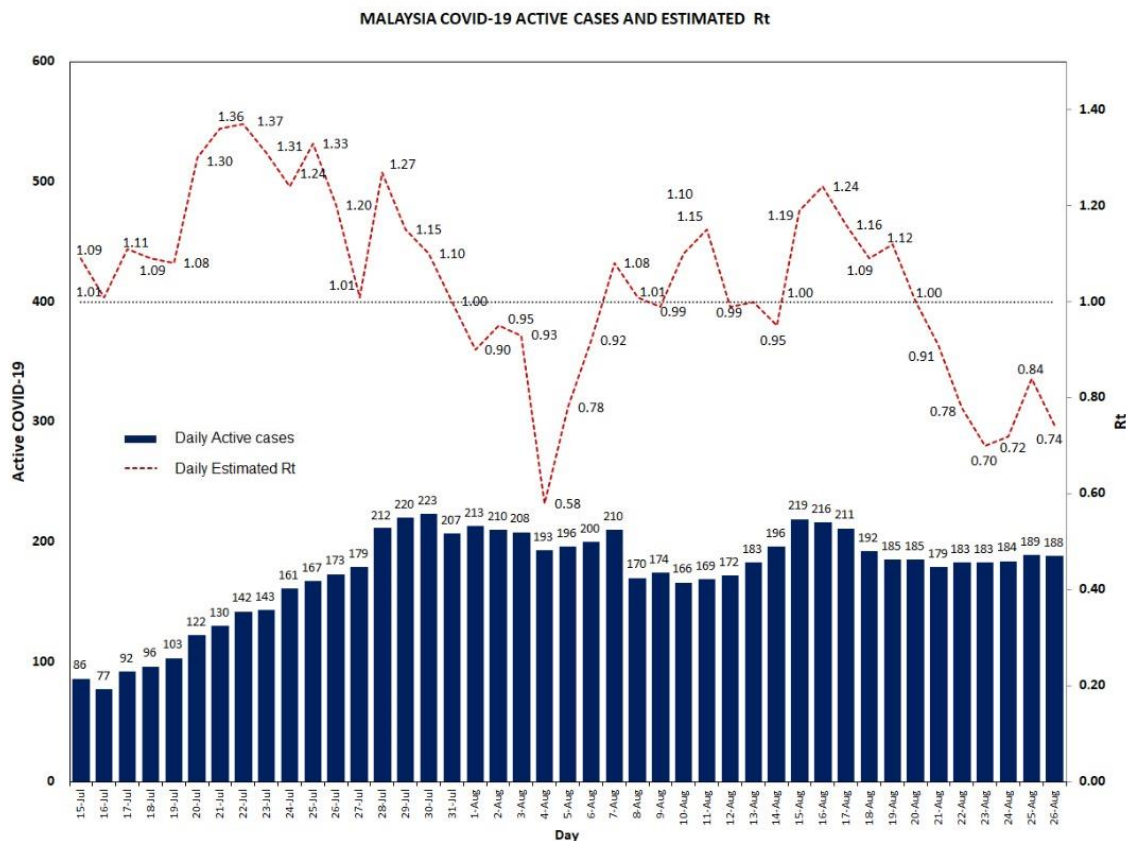
- 2 cases: From pre-surgery screening at Terendak Camp Military Hospital.
- 1 case: From symptomatic screening in Terendak Camp Military Hospital.

Currently, **eight (8) confirmed COVID-19 cases** are receiving treatment in the **intensive care units (ICUs)**, with **six (6) patients** on ventilation support.

**No additional COVID-19 death** was reported to the National CPRC MOH today. Cumulatively, there remains **125 COVID-19 deaths** in Malaysia (1.34% of total cumulative cases).

### Rt (R naught - R0) Value for COVID-19 in Malaysia

The value of Rt or R naught (R0) refers to the infectivity of a virus in the community at the beginning of an epidemic i.e. how many individuals on average can be infected by a case. Off late, the highest Rt (R0) recorded in Malaysia was 1.37 on 22 July 2020 and the lowest Rt (R0) was 0.58 on 4 August 2020. After 4 August 2020, new clusters were reported in Malaysia, including the Tawar Cluster, and Rt (R0) had increased. As of 26 August 2020, the reported Rt (R0) was 0.74.



MOH continually strives to reduce the Rt (R0) to less than 1. This will help in breaking the chain of transmission of the COVID-19 infection in Malaysia. Therefore, the community is requested to continue to comply to the COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) set by the Government.

### **Administrative Enhanced Movement Control Order (EMCO) in Aman Jaya, Kedah**

As of 27 August 2020, 12 pm, a total of 4,521 individuals have been screened in the Tawar Cluster. Today, no additional cases are reported. Therefore, cumulatively there are 73 confirmed COVID-19 cases in this cluster. The breakdown of screening by states involved is as follows:

1. Kedah (3,983 individuals screened):
  - 62 confirmed COVID-19 cases (3 cases in ICUs)
  - 3,453 individuals tested negative
  - 468 individuals awaiting results
2. Pulau Pinang (527 individuals screened):
  - 11 confirmed COVID-19 cases
  - 516 individuals tested negative
3. Perak: All 11 individuals screened tested negative (no additional screening done)

The first case for the Tawar Cluster was reported to the National CPRC on 12 August 2020. Within 14 days, a total of 72 confirmed cases were detected for this cluster (a positive rate of 1.61%), involving three generations of infection. The breakdown of cases by the generation of infection is as follows:

- First generation: 29 cases
- Second generation: 23 cases
- Third generation: 20 cases

Taking into account the sudden increase in cases involving other districts and states, the Institute for Medical Research (IMR) MOH has conducted a virological study for the Tawar Cluster. A total of 14 samples were taken for the purpose of full genomic sequencing and a total of four (4) samples successfully obtained the virus for this sequencing study. It was found that the viruses have the D614G mutation.

The viruses from the Tawar Cluster (4 samples) were compared to the viruses from the Sivagangga PUI Cluster (3 samples). The results showed that all seven viruses are from the same clade. This suggests that the infection for Tawar Cluster and the Sivagangga PUI Cluster were most likely from the same source. However, further investigations are still underway.

In addition to the public health activities such as active case detection and screening of close contacts to curb the spread of COVID-19 infection, a risk assessment for the Tawar Cluster was also conducted. The risk assessment found that:

- The distribution of confirmed COVID-19 cases were not concentrated only in one locality.
- Disease transmissions were reported to occur from asymptomatic cases.
- The D614G virus is similar to Sivagangga PUI Cluster virus.
- The populated areas are relatively dense.
- High mobility of the population within and between districts.
- Low population screening coverage (positivity rate of more than 1%).

Therefore, as announced by the Senior Minister (Security), YB Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob earlier today, it has been decided that the Administrative Enhanced Movement Control Order (EMCO) will be implemented in Aman Jaya, Kedah effective at 12.01 am, 28 August 2020 until a period of will be notified later, involving three (3) zones in Aman Jaya i.e.:

- Kenanga
- Mawar
- Melur

The EMCO is a Government action to enable more targeted public health activities, in particular the detection of new cases in a high-risk location found to have COVID-19 infection. The public is called upon to cooperate with the frontliners, as the ultimate goal that everyone wants to achieve is to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic effectively.

### **Health Advisory on COVID-19**

MOH advises the public to remain vigilant and continue to follow the recommendations and health advisories that are often emphasised. These advisories must be incorporated as the new normal in our daily life, including:

- 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 is now mandatory in public areas (starting from 1 August 2020 as directed by the National Security Council) or highly recommended 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** as the new normal:

- **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 physical 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.

**Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah**  
Director General of Health Malaysia

27 August 2020 @ 5.00 pm

## Appendix 1

### Number of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in Malaysia, by States (Cumulative, as of 27 August 2020, 12 pm)

State	No. of New Cases *	Cumulative
Perlis	0	32
Kedah	0	212
Pulau Pinang	0	136
Perak	0	269
Selangor	2 (2)	2,161
Negeri Sembilan	0	1,034
Melaka	3	262
Johor	0	751
Pahang	0	370
Terengganu	0	114
Kelantan	0	160
Sabah	0	417
Sarawak	0	696
WP Kuala Lumpur	0	2,560
WP Putrajaya	0	99
WP Labuan	0	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>5 (2)</b>	<b>9,296</b>

\*( ) refers to imported confirmed COVID-19 case