



PRESS STATEMENT MINISTRY OF HEALTH MALAYSIA

UPDATES ON THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) SITUATION IN MALAYSIA 17 October 2020

Current Status of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases Who Have Recovered

The Ministry of Health (MOH) would like to inform that **302 cases** have fully recovered and discharged today. **Cumulatively, 12,561 confirmed COVID-19 cases have been discharged** (64% of total cumulative cases). The breakdown of cases that have recovered by states is as follows:

- Sabah (236 cases)
- Selangor (41 cases)
- Perak (16 cases)
- Sarawak (4 cases)
- Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya (3 cases)
- Negeri Sembilan (1 case)
- Pulau Pinang (1 case)

Current Situation of COVID-19 in Malaysia

17 October 2020, 12 pm, a total of **869 additional confirmed COVID-19 cases** were reported to the National Crisis Preparedness and Response Centre (CPRC) MOH today, all local transmission cases. Cumulatively there are **19,627 confirmed COVID-19 cases** in Malaysia. Therefore, there are currently **6,886 active and infective COVID-19 cases**. They have all been isolated and given treatment.

Examining the breakdown of the number of cases reported today, Sabah continues to report the highest number of cases at 451 cases (51.9%).

Meanwhile, the states in the Klang Valley accounted for 20.3% of the total number of cases i.e. Selangor reported 159 cases, Kuala Lumpur 15 cases and WP Putrajaya 2 cases. All these states are under the Conditional Movement Control Order (CMCO).

In total, 224 cases (25.8%) today are from the Tembok Cluster, Penjara Reman Cluster and Penjara Seberang Perai Cluster. These cases are isolated in prisons and not infective to the local communities.

Of the 869 **local transmission** cases, 745 cases are Malaysians and 124 cases are non-Malaysians.

Of the total number of cases today, four (4) cases are returnees from Sabah, making the total number of cases with a history of travel to Sabah since 20 September 2020 is 441 cases.

The details of the local transmission COVID-19 cases are as follows:

- **Sabah: 451 cases**
 - 234 cases from screening of close contacts to confirmed COVID-19 cases.
 - 54 cases from existing clusters.
 - 2 cases from the **Teduh Cluster**, a new cluster.
 - 161 cases from other COVID-19 screenings.

- **Pulau Pinang: 189 cases**
 - 186 cases from existing active clusters.
 - 3 cases from screening of close contacts to confirmed COVID-19 cases.

- **Selangor: 159 cases**
 - 89 cases from existing clusters.
 - 23 cases from the **Keladi Cluster**, a new cluster.
 - 23 cases from screening of close contacts to confirmed COVID-19 cases.
 - 8 cases from the **Menara Cluster**, a new cluster.

- 2 cases from screening of returnees from high-risk areas (Sabah).
- 14 cases from other COVID-19 screenings.
- **Kedah: 38 cases**
 - 37 cases from the Tembok Cluster.
 - 1 case from the Bah Lunas Cluster.
- **Kuala Lumpur: 15 cases**
 - 7 cases from screening of close contacts to confirmed COVID-19 cases.
 - 4 cases from the **Sentral Cluster**, a new cluster.
 - 3 cases from the **Menara Cluster**, a new cluster.
 - 1 case from symptomatic screening.
- **Sarawak: 4 cases** from the Bah Arnab Cluster.
- **Perak: 4 cases**
 - 2 cases from existing active clusters.
 - 1 case from the **Menara Cluster**, a new cluster.
 - 1 case from screening at an Immigration Detention Centre.
- **Terengganu: 3 cases** from the **Bah Bemban Cluster**, a new cluster.
- **Johor: 2 cases**
 - 1 case from the Buntar Cluster.
 - 1 case from screening of close contacts to confirmed COVID-19 cases.
- **WP Putrajaya: 2 cases**
 - 1 case from the **Menara Cluster**, a new cluster.
 - 1 case from the Buntar Cluster.
- **Negeri Sembilan: 1 case** from screening of close contacts to confirmed COVID-19 cases.

- **Melaka: 1 case** from screening of close contacts to confirmed COVID-19 cases.

Currently, **91 confirmed COVID-19 cases** are receiving treatment in the intensive care units (ICUs), with **30 patients on ventilation support**.

Regretfully, four (4) additional COVID-19 deaths were reported to the National CPRC MOH today. Cumulatively, there are now **180 COVID-19 deaths** in Malaysia (0.9% of total cumulative cases).

Summary of the deaths reported today is shown in the following table:

Death #	Case	State	Sex	Age (years)	Hospital	Medical History
177	11,860	Sabah	Male (M'sian)	78	Queen Elizabeth	Hypertension & chronic kidney disease
178	14,976	Sabah	Male (M'sian)	88	Queen Elizabeth	Hypertension, diabetes, dyslipidaemia & stroke
179	16,652	Sabah	Female (M'sian)	71	Tawau	-
180	19,209	Sabah	Male (Non-M'sian)	53	Duchess of Kent	-

MOH extends its condolences to all their family members.

Five New Clusters Reported Today

MOH would like to inform that **five new clusters** have been identified today.

1. The Teduh Cluster

This new cluster involves the Lahad Datu district in Sabah. The index case for this cluster (Case 13,000) was detected positive for COVID-19 through screening of individuals with history of travel to high-risk districts i.e. Semporna on 6 October 2020 and was admitted into Lahad Datu Hospital. Screening of close contacts has identified 10 additional confirmed COVID-19 cases.

As of 17 October 2020, 12 pm, a total of 535 individuals have been screened, of which:

- 11 confirmed COVID-19 cases
- 524 individuals awaiting results

2. The Menara Cluster

This new cluster involves the Gombak, Petaling, Klang, Sepang and Hulu Langat districts in Selangor; the Lembah Pantai, Titiwangsa and Cheras districts in Kuala Lumpur; the Larut Matang dan Selama district in Perak, as well as Putrajaya. The index case for this cluster (Case 16,041) was detected positive for COVID-19 through symptomatic screening on 9 October 2020 and was admitted into Sungai Buloh Hospital. Screening of close contacts has identified 32 additional confirmed COVID-19 cases.

As of 17 October 2020, 12 pm, a total of 180 individuals have been screened, of which:

- 33 confirmed COVID-19 cases
- 33 individuals tested negative
- 114 individuals awaiting results

3. The Keladi Cluster

This new cluster involves the Klang district, Selangor. The index case for this cluster (Case 17,381) was detected positive for COVID-19 through screening of close contacts on 13 October 2020 and was admitted into Sungai Buloh Hospital. Screening of close contacts has identified 25 additional confirmed COVID-19 cases.

As of 17 October 2020, 12 pm, a total of 107 individuals have been screened, of which:

- 26 confirmed COVID-19 cases
- 74 individuals tested negative
- 7 individuals awaiting results

4. The Sentral Cluster

This new cluster involves the Kepong, Cheras and Titiwangsa districts, Kuala Lumpur. The index case for this cluster (Case 18,676), also COVID-19 death #176, was detected positive for COVID-19 from a post-mortem screening at a medical centre on 16 October 2020. Screening of close contacts has identified four (4) additional confirmed COVID-19 cases.

As of 17 October 2020, 12 pm, a total of 135 individuals have been screened, of which:

- Five (5) confirmed COVID-19 cases
- 122 individuals tested negative
- 8 individuals awaiting results

5. The Bah Bemban Cluster

This new cluster involves the Dungun district, Terengganu and Kota Kinabalu district, Sabah. The index case for this cluster (Case 12,082) was detected positive for COVID-19 through screening of returnees from high-risk areas (Sabah) on 3 October 2020 and was admitted into Hulu Terengganu Hospital, Kuala Berang. Screening of close contacts has identified 11 additional confirmed COVID-19 cases.

As of 17 October 2020, 12 pm, a total of 222 individuals have been screened, of which:

- 12 confirmed COVID-19 cases
- 210 individuals tested negative

MOH Increases Capacity to Control COVID-19 in Sabah

MOH has taken the situation of COVID-19 transmission in Sabah seriously since the beginning of the increase in the number of COVID-19 cases there. Numerous efforts have been made such as increasing capacity and mobilising assets and human resources. These measures were taken to ensure that the Public Health and Medical Care systems in Sabah continues to be sustainable in controlling the COVID-19 transmission situation. Among the measures that have been taken and are currently underway include:

1. Increasing laboratory capacity for RT-PCR and RTK Antigen testing

- The laboratory test capacity in Sabah has doubled. In July 2020, the RT-PCR test capacity in Sabah was 1,350 tests. Now, it has been increased to 2,600 RT-PCR tests a day.
- RT-PCR samples are delivered daily to the Institute for Medical Research (IMR) and the National Public Health Laboratory (MKAK) using the services of the Royal Malaysian Air Force (TUDM) and Pos Laju.
- Outsourcing services to private laboratories have also been done. For example, on 16 October 2020, a total of 4,327 tests were outsourced to private laboratories so that more screening could continue in the field.
- Delivery of more RTK Antigen test kits, where starting from October 2020, a total of 100,000 RTK Antigen test kits will be sent every month, especially to Sabah to help COVID-19 screening in the field.

2. Increasing bed capacity at COVID-19 hospitals as well as the Quarantine and Low Risk Treatment Centres (PKRC)

- Sabah currently has nine (9) COVID-19 Hospitals and 21 PKRCs.
- To accommodate the increasing number of COVID-19 cases in Sabah, the number of COVID-19 hospital and PKRC beds have been increased 2.5 times, from 2,129 beds in early September 2020, to the latest number of 5,414 beds. The current bed occupancy rate (BOR) is 35%.

- Setting up of a field hospital in collaboration with the Malaysian Armed Forces (ATM) in Tawau, that will house 100 beds for non-COVID-19 patients so that more beds in Tawau Hospital can be used for COVID-19 patients.

3. Increasing the capacity of the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds and ventilators

- ICU ventilators and beds have been obtained not only through procurement using special allocations by the Government, but also through donations from various parties.
- Especially for Sabah, there is a total of 180 ventilators allocated, where the usage rate is 32% (this also includes use by non-COVID-19 patients).
- The number of ICU beds in Sabah is currently 122 beds, of which the usage rate is 72% (this also includes use by non-COVID-19 patients).
- To increase the number of ICU beds, MOH has repurposed clinical areas in several health facilities, where areas within the hospital are modified for the purpose of treatment of critical COVID-19 patients (i.e. ICU modular wards). This helps to increase the number of existing ICU beds in Sabah.
- An innovation to enable one ventilator machine to be used by two COVID-19 patients was introduced. This innovation is called "ventilator splitter" that uses 3D printing technology that has been implemented in several other countries.

4. Increasing the capacity and mobilisation of human resources in Medical and Public Health Systems

- Mobilisation of support teams involving 767 MOH Medical and Public Health healthcare workers (HCWs) from various categories and service schemes that have been deployed to Tawau, Lahad Datu, Semporna, Sandakan and Kota Kinabalu internally in Sabah and also from other states has been implemented. More HCWs will be mobilised later, with an additional 99 HCWs leaving for Sabah this week and next week (36 Public Health and 63 Medical HCWs).
- MOH will implement contract appointments (or contract of service) for 1,899 HCWs, subject to the approval of the central agencies.

These HCWs will be mobilised for use in states in need, especially in Sabah.

- MOH has also intensified the involvement of more volunteers from Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and individual volunteers in dealing with this crisis. The number of feedbacks received from interested parties is very encouraging. To date, 4,794 registrations have been received and are still in the process of being screened. More volunteers are called upon to assist MOH. So far, two (2) NGOs have sent 15 of their members to Sabah.

5. Outsourcing of Medical services for non-COVID-19 patients

- To ensure the continuity of services and treatment to non-COVID-19 patients are not affected, the Sabah State Health Department has discussed and signed several agreements with private hospitals.
- The list of Private Hospitals involved in this outsourcing:
 - i. National Heart Institute (IJN)
 - ii. Gleneagles Hospital Kota Kinabalu
 - iii. Gleneagles Hospital Pulau Pinang
 - iv. Sabah KPJ Specialist Hospital
 - v. Tawau Specialist Medical Centre
 - vi. Jesselton Medical Centre

Health Advisory on COVID-19

MOH advises the public to continue to comply to 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, including bumping parts of the body in lieu of shaking hands
- 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

17 October 2020 @ 5.30 pm

Appendix 1

Number of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in Malaysia, by States (Cumulative, as of 17 October 2020, 12 pm)

State	No. of New Cases *	Cumulative
Sabah	451	6,737
Selangor	159	3,173
WP Kuala Lumpur	15	2,839
Kedah	38	1,928
Negeri Sembilan	1	1,097
Johor	2	836
Sarawak	4	763
Pulau Pinang	189	591
Pahang	0	387
Perak	4	387
Melaka	1	282
Kelantan	0	173
Terengganu	3	160
WP Putrajaya	2	125
WP Labuan	0	111
Perlis	0	38
Total	869	19,627

*() refers to imported confirmed COVID-19 cases

Current Status of Active Clusters with Additional Confirmed COVID-19 Cases Reported Today
(17 October 2020)

Cluster	States	Districts	Additional cases	Total cases	Total screened	Active cases (ICU)	Total recovered	Non-M'sians	Total deaths
1. Penjara Reman	Pulau Pinang	Timur Laut	160	377	2,914	376 (0)	0	25	1
2. Utama	Selangor, Melaka	Gombak, Hulu Langat, Petaling, Alor Gajah	42	177	583	177 (0)	0	145	0
3. Tembok	Kedah, Perak	Kota Setar, Baling, Kuala Muda, Sungai Petani, Kubang Pasu, Larut Matang & Selama	38	1,563	6,977	1,076 (7)	486	96	1
4. Tujuh Serangkai	Sabah	Tuaran	30	124	2,563	105 (0)	18	5	1
5. Penjara Seberang Perai	Pulau Pinang	Seberang Perai Selatan	26	54	625	54 (0)	0	5	0

Cluster	States	Districts	Additional cases	Total cases	Total screened	Active cases (ICU)	Total recovered	Non-M'sians	Total deaths
6. Jalan Meru	Selangor, Johor, Kelantan, WP Kuala Lumpur & Putrajaya, Pahang	Hulu Langat, Klang, Gombak, Petaling, Hulu Selangor, Kuala Selangor, Johor Bahru, Kota Bharu, Titiwangsa, Lembah Pantai, Kepong, Cheras, Temerloh	11	118	1,005	58 (0)	60	1	0
7. Ramai-Ramai	Sabah	Sandakan	9	165	702	139 (0)	26	16	0
8. Simera	Terengganu, Pahang, Selangor, Negeri Sembilan, Perak, Johor	Besut, Kuantan, Petaling, Klang, Hulu Langat, Gombak, Port Dickson, Manjung, Hilir Perak,	8	41	597	40 (0)	1	2	0

Cluster	States	Districts	Additional cases	Total cases	Total screened	Active cases (ICU)	Total recovered	Non-M'sians	Total deaths
		Johor Bahru							
9. Bah Manggis	Sabah, Selangor	Tawau, Kuala Langat	7	36	580	35 (0)	1	1	0
10. Benteng LD	Sabah	Lahad Datu, Tawau, Sandakan, Kinabatangan, Tuaran	6	1,046	16,487	236 (0)	809	408	1
11. Bah Kasturi	Negeri Sembilan, WP Kuala Lumpur & Putrajaya, Selangor	Seremban, Cheras, Titiwangsa, Petaling, Putrajaya, Klang, Kuala Langat, Hulu Langat, Gombak	5	25	601	24 (0)	1	0	0
12. Bah Kenangan	Selangor	Hulu Langat	5	25	42	17 (0)	8	0	0
13. Bah Tropicana	Selangor,	Petaling, Gombak, Klang, Titiwangsa	4	37	714	31 (0)	6	0	0

Cluster	States	Districts	Additional cases	Total cases	Total screened	Active cases (ICU)	Total recovered	Non-M'sians	Total deaths
	WP Kuala Lumpur & Putrajaya								
14. Highway	Sabah	Kota Belud	4	28	162	28 (0)	0	0	0
15. Bah Arnab	Sarawak	Kuching	4	8	40	8 (0)	0	0	0
16. Sungei Way	Selangor, WP Kuala Lumpur	Petaling, Klang, Gombak, Hulu Langat, Titiwangsa, Lembah Pantai, Cheras	3	36	274	33 (0)	3	0	0
17. Buntar	Kedah, Perak, Putrajaya, Johor	Kuala Muda, Kerian, Putrajaya, Batu Pahat	2	10	110	10 (0)	0	0	0
18. Laut	Sabah	Kunak	1	118	617	56 (0)	62	114	0
19. Benteng PK	Selangor	Klang, Kuala Langat	1	58	429	45 (0)	13	43	0

Cluster	States	Districts	Additional cases	Total cases	Total screened	Active cases (ICU)	Total recovered	Non-M'sians	Total deaths
20. Kasih	Sabah	Lahad Datu	1	46	1,861	17 (0)	29	3	0
21. Bah Sintok	Kedah, Negeri Sembilan, Selangor	Kubang Pasu, Seremban, Gombak	1	37	491	37 (0)	0	0	0
22. Kasih	Sabah	Lahad Datu	1	46	1,861	17 (0)	29	3	0
23. Bah Sintok	Kedah, Negeri Sembilan, Selangor	Kubang Pasu, Seremban, Gombak	1	37	491	37 (0)	0	0	0
24. Tanamera	Sabah	Tawau	2	31	84	22 (0)	9	5	0
25. Seri Anggerik	Selangor	Hulu Selangor	1	23	89	19 (0)	4	0	0
26. Bina	Sabah	Beaufort, Sipitang	1	23	80	23 (0)	0	8	0
27. Merbok	Selangor	Kuala Langat, Klang, Kuala	1	10	580	10 (0)	0	0	0

Cluster	States	Districts	Additional cases	Total cases	Total screened	Active cases (ICU)	Total recovered	Non-M'sians	Total deaths
		Selangor, Petaling							
28. Lekir	Perak	Manjung	1	7	174	7 (0)	0	0	0
29. Bah Lunas	Kedah	Kulim	1	5	152	3 (0)	2	0	0