



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

31 May 2020 – The Ministry of Health (MOH) would like to inform that **23 cases** have fully recovered and discharged well today. **Cumulatively, 6,353 confirmed COVID-19 cases have fully recovered** (81.3% of total cumulative cases).

Current Situation of COVID-19 in Malaysia

31 May 2020, 12 pm – A total of **57 additional confirmed COVID-19 cases** were reported to the National Crisis Preparedness and Response Centre (CPRC) MOH today. Cumulatively there are now **7,819 confirmed COVID-19 cases** in Malaysia. Therefore, there are **currently 1,351 active and infective COVID-19 cases**. They have all been isolated and given treatment.

Of the 57 additional cases reported today, 10 are imported cases who were infected overseas. Of the 47 locally transmitted cases, 43 cases are non-Malaysians, whereby:

- 24 cases were detected in Sepang Immigration Detention Centre
- 15 cases were detected in Pahang, involving three (3) workers' clusters
- 1 case from the Kampung Sungai Lui Cluster
- 1 case from the Pudu Cluster
- 1 case involving an illegal immigrant, who was in-transit to an Immigration Detention Centre

- 1 case involving a worker in Klang

The remaining 4 cases are local transmission amongst Malaysians.

Currently, nine (9) confirmed COVID-19 cases are receiving treatment in intensive care units (ICU), and of these, two (2) cases are on ventilation support.

Fortunately, **no additional COVID-19 death** was reported to the National CPRC MOH today. Cumulatively, there are **115 COVID-19 deaths** in Malaysia (1.47% of total cumulative cases).

The Risk of COVID-19 Infection Increases with Smoking

Every year, tobacco kills more than 8 million people worldwide. Of these, over 7 million deaths were caused by direct tobacco use, and around 1.2 million deaths were caused by non-smokers exposed to second-hand smoke. In conjunction with the World No Tobacco Day Celebration held on 31 May each year, the theme for this year's No Tobacco Day in Malaysia is "Protect the Young Generation" ("*Generasi Muda Mesti Diliindungi*"). In addition to the younger generation, MOH calls on all levels of the society to refrain from smoking.

"Stop smoking... you will be healthier".

Smoking has been proven to cause a variety of diseases and weakens the human immune system, while increasing the risk of bacterial and viral infections including during this COVID-19 pandemic. The World Health Organization (WHO) in a statement issued on 27 May 2020, and supported by several studies conducted in several countries, have found that **smokers are at a higher risk** of developing serious complications when infected with the COVID-19 virus.

COVID-19 is an infectious disease that attacks mostly the lungs. Smoking impairs lung function, therefore making our body more susceptible to the coronavirus and other infectious diseases.

The recent National Health and Morbidity Survey (NHMS) 2019 report that was recently launched on 29 May 2020, showed that the prevalence of Malaysians with hypertension were 30% and diabetes at 18.3%. These groups of individuals are at higher risk of developing serious complications when infected with COVID-19; more so if they have additional risk factors such as smoking. NHMS 2019 also reported that an estimated 21.3% of Malaysians are smokers, and smokers are also at higher risk of serious complications due to COVID-19 compared to non-smokers.

Preliminary analysis of medical history of smoking and non-communicable disease (NCD) risk factors conducted on 86 out of the 115 COVID-19 deaths in Malaysia has found that 19.8% (17 deaths) were among smokers.

The analysis also found that for COVID-19 deaths that had no history of chronic diseases but were smokers, the number of deaths were higher in this group compared to non-smokers (e.g. 17.6% versus 12.1%).

MOH continues to monitor for offences in the sale of tobacco and smoking products. Despite the enforcement of the Movement Control Order (MCO) and the Conditional Movement Control Order (CMCO), while most of the sales premises are not operating as usual, online sales are still active through e-commerce platforms.

Offences of online sales and offenses on sale of products containing nicotine are regulated under the Control of Tobacco Products Regulations 2004 and the Poisons Act 1952 respectively. During the enforcement of the MCO and CMCO, a total of 118 private, e-commerce and social media websites were found to have committed offences. Legal actions have been taken against them.

MOH is concerned about smokers who want to quit smoking but have limited opportunities to do so due to the enforcement of the MCO and CMCO. Therefore, MOH in collaboration with the Malaysian Pharmaceutical Society, the International Islamic University Malaysia (UIAM) and the National University of Malaysia (UKM), are providing

online smoking cessation counselling services. In addition, various information on the dangers of smoking and COVID-19 are also available through the MySejahtera mobile application and on www.jomquit.moh.gov.my .

During the MCO and CMCO time period, a total of 400 smokers had signed up for online smoking assistance, and over 5,000 individuals have visited www.jomquit.moh.gov.my. This figure shows that there is an increase in awareness among the public especially among smokers about the dangers of smoking. MOH hopes for more smokers to be proactive and take responsibility to act quickly to protect their own health and to protect their loved ones, especially older adults and children.

Health Advisory on COVID-19

MOH advises the public to continue to adhere to all the advice and recommendations continually emphasised by the Government. These practices must be incorporated as the new norms and normal in everyday life, including:

- 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, the public is advised to continue to adhere to **THIS**:

- **T: Terms** and SOPs set under the CMCO
- **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 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

31 May 2020 @ 5.00 pm

Appendix 1

Number of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in Malaysia, by States (Cumulative, as of 31 May 2020, 12 pm)

State	No. of New Cases *	Cumulative
Perlis	0	18
Kedah	0	96
Pulau Pinang	0	121
Perak	0	256
Selangor	31 (3)	1,909
Negeri Sembilan	2	858
Melaka	1	219
Johor	0	675
Pahang	15	361
Terengganu	0	111
Kelantan	0	156
Sabah	0	346
Sarawak	0	552
WP Kuala Lumpur	8 (7)	2,028
WP Putrajaya	0	97
WP Labuan	0	16
Total	57 (10)	7,819

*() refers to imported confirmed COVID-19 cases