



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

17 June 2020 – The Ministry of Health (MOH) would like to inform that **140 cases** have fully recovered and discharged well today. **Cumulatively, 7,873 confirmed COVID-19 cases have fully recovered** (92.5% of total cumulative cases).

Current Situation of COVID-19 in Malaysia

17 June 2020, 12 pm – A total of **ten (10) additional confirmed COVID-19 cases** were reported to the National Crisis Preparedness and Response Centre (CPRC) MOH today. Cumulatively there are now **8,515 confirmed COVID-19 cases** in Malaysia. Therefore, there are **currently 521 active and infective COVID-19 cases**. They have all been isolated and given treatment.

No imported cases from overseas are reported today. Of the **ten (10) local transmission cases**, three (3) cases are non-Malaysians and seven (7) cases are among Malaysians.

Details for the local transmission cases among non-Malaysians (3 cases) are as follows:

- Kuala Lumpur – 1 case: Close contact to a confirmed COVID-19 case (Case 8,455).
- Negeri Sembilan – 1 case: Detainee at the Malaysian Immigration Academy who was transferred from the Bukit Jalil Immigration Detention Centre.

- Sabah – 1 case: Pre-surgical screening at the Women and Children’s Hospital, Kota Kinabalu.

The details of the COVID-19 **local transmission cases among Malaysians** (7 cases) are as follows:

- Selangor – 5 cases:
 - 4 cases: Senior Care Facility Cluster in Kuala Selangor i.e. close contacts to a confirmed COVID-19 case (Case 8,490). The detail of this Cluster is described below.
 - 1 case: Screening at a religious school
- Sarawak – 1 case: Another close contact (family member) to a confirmed COVID-19 case (Case 8,453).
- Sabah – 1 case: Another close contact to a confirmed COVID-19 case (Case 8,403, death #120). The detail of this Cluster is described below.

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

Fortunately, **no additional COVID-19 death** was reported to the National CPRC MOH today. Cumulatively, there are now **121 COVID-19 deaths** in Malaysia (1.42% of total cumulative cases).

New Cluster in Sabah

MOH would like to inform that a new cluster has been identified in connection to Death #120 (Case 8,403) in Sabah.

The first confirmed COVID-19 case (Case 8,403) was an elderly woman who died at home on 12 June 2020 due to complications of heart disease and was brought to the Forensic Department of Queen Elizabeth Hospital. COVID-19 screening was done, and she was found to be positive. She had previously received treatment for heart disease at Queen Elizabeth 2 Hospital.

Screening of close contacts was done and two (2) healthcare workers (HCWs) in the ward were found to be positive for COVID-19. As of 17 June 2020, 12 pm, a total of 63 individuals (21 HCWs, 2 patients, 40 family members and friends) have been identified and screened.

Preventive measures such as cleaning and disinfection have been carried out in all the identified high-risk areas, including the ward and the deceased's home. The clinical services at Queen Elizabeth 2 Hospital are not affected and continue as usual. The source of infection for this cluster is still under investigation.

Current Status of the Senior Care Facility Cluster in Kuala Selangor

As of 17 June 2020, 12 pm, a total of 64 individuals have been screened for COVID-19 at a senior care facility in Kuala Selangor after a confirmed COVID-19 case was identified among one of the residents. The individuals screened were:

- 12 staff
- 24 residents
- 10 family members
- 13 HCWs
- 5 members of the public

From the screening, the results were:

- Seven (7) confirmed COVID-19 cases
- 43 individuals tested negative
- 14 are still pending results

Preventive measures such as cleaning and disinfection and have been carried out at the senior care facility. The staff of this centre have been briefed on preventive practices such as safe social distancing and the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) when managing the residents.

The senior care facility is still operating as usual and residents have been quarantined at the centre. MOH will continue to monitor the health status of the residents. Those who develop symptoms will be hospitalised for further treatment.

Early Report on the Effectiveness of Dexamethasone in the Treatment of Hospitalised COVID-19 Patients

MOH is aware of the recent development of a randomised clinical trial on the use of Dexamethasone in the treatment of COVID-19, known as the “Recovery Trial” at the University of Oxford, United Kingdom.

Dexamethasone is a steroid drug used to reduce inflammation in many diseases. Initial findings of the Recovery Trial showed that this drug reduces the risk of death by up to one-third amongst COVID-19 patients with serious respiratory symptoms, especially those requiring ventilatory support.

However, this clinical trial also found that this drug was not effective in the treatment of COVID-19 patients with mild symptoms or in patients who do not require ventilatory support.

This important scientific finding is important in the evolving management of COVID-19 patients. MOH would like to thank the Government of the United Kingdom, the University of Oxford and all parties involved in this clinical trial.

However, MOH urges the public **not to abuse or take dexamethasone without prescription from a doctor**. This is because this drug also has side effects and must be judiciously used in treating certain diseases.

Health Advisory on COVID-19

The general public is also reminded to always follow the health advisories repeatedly mentioned by the MOH, that includes:

- 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

17 June 2020 @ 5.00 pm

Appendix 1

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

State	No. of New Cases *	Cumulative
Perlis	0	18
Kedah	0	96
Pulau Pinang	0	121
Perak	0	257
Selangor	5	2,004
Negeri Sembilan	1	994
Melaka	0	255
Johor	0	684
Pahang	0	365
Terengganu	0	111
Kelantan	0	156
Sabah	2	361
Sarawak	1	561
WP Kuala Lumpur	1	2,418
WP Putrajaya	0	97
WP Labuan	0	17
Total	10 (0)	8,515

*() refers to imported confirmed COVID-19 case