



PRESS STATEMENT MINISTRY OF HEALTH MALAYSIA

UPDATES ON THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) SITUATION IN MALAYSIA 15 July 2020

Current Status of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases Who Have Recovered

The Ministry of Health (MOH) would like to inform that **two (2) cases** have recovered and discharged today. **Cumulatively, 8,526 confirmed COVID-19 cases have recovered** (97.6% of total cumulative cases).

Current Situation of COVID-19 in Malaysia

15 July 2020, 12 pm – A total of **five (5) additional confirmed COVID-19 cases** were reported to the National Crisis Preparedness and Response Centre (CPRC) MOH today. Cumulatively there are now **8,734 confirmed COVID-19 cases** in Malaysia. Therefore, there are **currently 86 active and infective COVID-19 cases**. They have all been isolated and given treatment.

All five (5) additional cases reported today, one (1) is an imported case who was **infected overseas**, a **non-Malaysian** (allowed to enter Malaysia for work).

Of the four (4) **local transmission** cases, one (1) is a non-Malaysian, detected through symptomatic screening in Kuching, Sarawak. This case was admitted into Sarawak General Hospital for treatment. The other three (3) cases are among Malaysians, details as follow:

- Selangor – 1 case: Pre-surgery screening in Sungai Buloh Hospital.
- Sarawak – 2 cases:

- 1 case: Screening of close contact of a confirmed COVID-19 case (Case 8,732).
- 1 case: Screening of healthcare workers at a medical centre.

Currently, five (5) confirmed COVID-19 cases are receiving treatment in intensive care units (ICUs) and **one (1) patient is on ventilation support.**

Fortunately, **no additional COVID-19 death** was reported to the National CPRC MOH today. Cumulatively, there are now **122 COVID-19 deaths** in Malaysia (1.39% of total cumulative cases).

Flash Floods and Prevention of Transmission of COVID-19 Infection in Flood Relief Centres

The Malaysian Meteorological Department has stated that the country is experiencing wet weather on and off and this is expected to continue until the end of July. Flash floods have occurred in several areas in Johor, Pahang, Selangor and Melaka. Accordingly, **Flood Relief Centres have been opened** to house flood victims in the affected areas. To date, 18 flood relief centres have been opened in seven (7) districts, housing a total of 1,267 flood victims from 303 families.

The high number of flood victims in the flood relief centres carry the risk of transmission of COVID-19 infection among the flood evacuees and staff. Therefore, COVID-19 prevention measures in the flood relief centres must be taken and practiced by the flood evacuees and all agencies responsible for the management and welfare of the flood evacuees at the flood relief centres. Practices such as safe social distancing, hand washing with soap and water, and good coughing and sneezing etiquette must be practised at all times. Flood evacuees and staff are also advised to practice the **3Ws** and avoid the **3Cs** i.e. avoid **C**rowded places; **C**onfined spaces; and **C**lose conversations – at all times at the flood relief centres.

MOH has developed a COVID-19 prevention and management guideline in flood relief centres, that starts from the process of evacuating victims to these centers, to the process after completion of placement at the flood

relief centers. This guideline can be used by all parties responsible for the management of flood relief centres during disasters. The recommendations contained in this guideline include:

- All flood relief centres must place markers for safe social distancing in common or shared spaces.
- All flood relief centres must provide soap and water, or hand sanitisers. The hand washing or hand sanitiser stations must be placed at strategic locations such as the main entrance or exit of the centres, and inside the centres.
- Barriers, cubicles or tents must be spaced at least 2 metres away.
- All flood relief centres must provide 3-ply facemasks to flood evacuees with symptoms.
- All flood relief centres must place posters on good coughing and sneezing etiquette as well as good hand hygiene at strategic locations to inform and remind the flood evacuees as well as staff on duty.
- Food must be provided with individual packaging or food containers.
- Portable toilets should be added to the existing toilets at the flood relief centres.
- Common areas must be cleaned and disinfected regularly.
- Special or isolation areas must be provided to isolate individuals with symptoms.
- Flood evacuees who checked into the flood relief centres and having symptoms, has history of close contact or history of returning from overseas, will be placed in the isolation areas at the flood relief centres.

Compliance to the Standard Operating Procedure can Prevent the Transmission of COVID-19 Infection in Schools

As was announced earlier, secondary school students as well as Year 5 and Year 6 primary school students have resumed their school sessions today. Congratulations to the State Education Departments, District Education Offices and the school management who have been responsible for taking all necessary steps to ensure that students and school staff comply with the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) that

has been set. This is very important to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 infection in schools.

The school management must ensure that there is a safe social distancing of at least 1 metre between students as well as with teachers in the classroom and outside of the classroom. The number of students in the classroom must also be considered to ensure that safe social distancing can be practised at all times.

The school management is also advised to conduct temperature and symptoms screening for all students before they enter the school grounds or the classroom. If found to be unwell, the students should be referred to the nearby health facility for examination and treatment. Schools must also provide handwashing facilities with water and soap or hand sanitisers, that must be correctly and regularly used. Good coughing and sneezing etiquette must be practiced in schools. Students and teachers are strongly encouraged to wear facemasks during the school session.

It is vitally important that the transmission of COVID-19 infection in schools be prevented as it can lead to widespread transmission among the students, teachers and subsequently to family members at home, consequently transmission within the community. Therefore, compliance to all advisories and recommendations from the MOH is important to protect the public from the COVID-19 infection.

Health Advisory on COVID-19

MOH urges the public to continue to remain vigilant and to practice all of the health advisories issued 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

15 July 2020 @ 5.00 pm

Appendix 1

Number of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in Malaysia, by States (Cumulative, as of 15 July 2020, 12 pm)

State	No. of New Cases *	Cumulative
Perlis	0	18
Kedah	0	99
Pulau Pinang	0	121
Perak	0	258
Selangor	1	2,094
Negeri Sembilan	0	1,027
Melaka	0	258
Johor	0	701
Pahang	0	365
Terengganu	0	111
Kelantan	0	157
Sabah	0	380
Sarawak	3	583
WP Kuala Lumpur	1 (1)	2,447
WP Putrajaya	0	98
WP Labuan	0	17
Total	5 (1)	8,734

*() refers to imported confirmed COVID-19 case