



**PRESS STATEMENT
MINISTRY OF HEALTH MALAYSIA**

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

Current Status of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases Who Have Recovered

The Ministry of Health (MOH) would like to inform that **12 cases** have recovered and discharged today. **Cumulatively, 8,538 confirmed COVID-19 cases have fully recovered** (97.7% of total cumulative cases).

Current Situation of COVID-19 in Malaysia

16 July 2020, 12 pm – A total of **three (3) additional confirmed COVID-19 cases** were reported to the National Crisis Preparedness and Response Centre (CPRC) MOH today. Cumulatively there are now **8,737 confirmed COVID-19 cases** in Malaysia. Therefore, there are **currently 77 active and infective COVID-19 cases**. They have all been isolated and given treatment.

All three (3) additional cases reported today, one (1) is an imported case, **a Malaysian, who was infected overseas**. The two (2) **local transmission** cases are among non-Malaysians, and **no local transmission among Malaysians** are reported today.

The details of the local transmission cases among **non-Malaysians** (2 cases) are as follows:

- Kuala Lumpur – 1 case: Screening of detainees at the Jalan Duta Immigration Detention Centre prior to transfer to another Detention

Centre. Screening of the remaining 26 detainees were also done, whereby 25 tested negative and one (1) awaiting results.

- Sarawak – 1 case: Screening at a workplace conducted by the employer.

Currently, **three (3) 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).

The Number of Individuals Tested for COVID-19 in Malaysia Compared with Other Countries

As of 16 July 2020, 12 pm, a total of **868,394 individuals have been tested** for COVID-19 in Malaysia, i.e. equivalent to **27.14 individuals per 1,000 population**. Looking at the cumulative number of tests done up to 16 July 2020, preliminary data at the National CPRC shows that Malaysia has conducted **1,577,417 tests** (rt-PCR and RTK-Antigen). This is because there are individuals who require repeated tests.

The number of tests conducted by several neighboring countries, per 1,000 population, is as follows:

- Vietnam: 2.7 tests per 1,000 population
- Japan: 4.1 tests per 1,000 population
- South Korea: 26.29 tests per 1,000 population
- Singapore: 79.83 tests per 1,000 population
- Australia: 114.15 tests per 1,000 population
- New Zealand: 87.54 tests per 1,000 population

The number of tests in our country is comparable to that of South Korea. Although the laboratory capacity for testing in Malaysia has increased to 37,000 samples a day, the positive rate is only 1.05%. This means that almost 99% of the COVID-19 tests conducted are negative.

Recently, the daily reported COVID-19 cases in Malaysia are low. However, to ensure that COVID-19 cases in the community are constantly monitored, MOH has intensified surveillance. As of 16 July 2020, cumulatively MOH has reported 129 confirmed COVID-19 cases detected through clinical surveillance i.e.:

- Influenza Like Illness (ILI) sampling: 15 confirmed COVID-19 cases out of 3,174 samples (a positive rate of 0.47%)
- Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) sampling: 85 confirmed COVID-19 cases out of 21,544 samples (a positive rate of 0.39%)
- Pre-surgical sampling: 29 confirmed COVID-19 cases out of 66,081 samples (a positive rate of 0.04%)

Advantages and Disadvantages of COVID-19 Rapid Test Kit for Antigen

The Rapid Test Kit for Antigen (RTK-Ag) has the advantage of detecting COVID-19 infection in large numbers and in a short time. This advantage has been identified for using the COVID-19 RTK-Ag test to:

1. Screening of travellers returning at the International Ports of Entry, especially those receiving high numbers of travelers e.g. Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA)
2. Pre-surgical or pre-procedural screening for emergency and semi-emergency cases in hospitals
3. Screening for Brought-in-Dead (BID) cases suspected of having COVID-19 infection
4. Screening of Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) cases at MOH health clinics
5. Expansion of screening for identified target groups, including areas placed under movement control orders

The COVID-19 RTK-Ag test has been used by the MOH since 6 May 2020. The RTK-Ag test kit currently in use has passed the technical evaluation by the Institute for Medical Research (IMR). In addition, the repeated technical evaluation conducted on the latest distribution supply

showed an increase in the level of sensitivity from 84.4% to 90%, while the specificity level remained at 100%.

As of 15 July 2020, a total of 88,048 RTK-Ag tests have been conducted, of which 197 tests were positive for COVID-19 (a positive rate of 0.2%). Of these total tests, 25,038 were screening tests done at all International Ports of Entry (including KLIA, KLIA 2, Johor, Kedah and Penang International Airports), with an average of 357 people screened daily, with the majority at KLIA and KLIA 2.

As for the RT-PCR test, a total of 829,238 tests have been conducted so far.

There are incidents where a case is said to be false negative; this is because the RTK-Ag test has a sensitivity of 90%. This means that out of 100 people screened, there may be false negative results for 10 people. This is one of the disadvantages of this test.

Based on the investigations, it is very likely that individuals who get false negative results are in the incubation period, where the number of viruses (viral load) is too low to be detected with the RTK-Ag test. Therefore, each individual screened would still need to undergo a 14-day quarantine period as stipulated in the COVID-19 management guideline. If the individual develops symptoms, the nearest District Health Office must be notified for further action.

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

16 July 2020 @ 5.00 pm

Appendix 1

Number of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in Malaysia, by States (Cumulative, as of 16 July 2020, 12 pm)

State	No. of New Cases *	Cumulative
Perlis	0	18
Kedah	0	99
Pulau Pinang	0	121
Perak	0	258
Selangor	0	2,094
Negeri Sembilan	0	1,027
Melaka	0	258
Johor	0	701
Pahang	0	365
Terengganu	1 (1)	112
Kelantan	0	157
Sabah	0	380
Sarawak	1	584
WP Kuala Lumpur	1	2,448
WP Putrajaya	0	98
WP Labuan	0	17
Total	3 (1)	8,737

*() refers to imported confirmed COVID-19 case