



PRESS STATEMENT MINISTRY OF HEALTH MALAYSIA

UPDATES ON THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) SITUATION IN MALAYSIA 9 September 2020

Current Status of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases Who Have Recovered

The Ministry of Health (MOH) would like to inform that **seven (7) cases** have fully recovered and discharged today. **Cumulatively, 9,143 confirmed COVID-19 cases have been discharged** (95.4% of total cumulative cases).

Current Situation of COVID-19 in Malaysia

9 September 2020, 12 pm – a total of **24 additional confirmed COVID-19 cases** were reported to the National Crisis Preparedness and Response Centre (CPRC) MOH today. Cumulatively there are now **9,583 confirmed COVID-19 cases** in Malaysia. Therefore, there are **currently 312 active and infective COVID-19 cases**. They have all been isolated and given treatment.

Of the 24 additional cases reported today, six (6) are imported cases who were **infected overseas**, involving three (3) **Malaysians** and three (3) **non-Malaysians**. They were travellers from the following countries:

- Bangladesh – 2 cases; 1 case in Negeri Sembilan and 1 case in Kuala Lumpur
- China – 1 case in Sabah
- Indonesia – 1 case in Sabah
- Singapore – 1 case in Sarawak
- South Korea – 1 case in Selangor

MOH would like to inform that the imported cases involving non-Malaysians had entered Malaysia **before** the implementation of the entry restrictions that came into effect on 7 September 2020. The two (2) cases from Bangladesh arrived in Malaysia on 6 September 2020 and were screened on the same day. Meanwhile, the one (1) case from China arrived in Malaysia on 5 September 2020 and was screened on 6 September 2020. Their screening test results were reported positive for COVID-19 today. This is the same for the imported cases reported on 8 September 2020.

Of the 18 **local transmission** cases reported today, 16 cases are among **Malaysians** and two (2) cases are among **non-Malaysians**. The details are as follows:

- Kedah – 16 cases:
 - 13 cases: From the Sungai Cluster.
 - 1 case: From the Telaga Cluster.
 - 1 case: From symptomatic screening at Sultanah Bahiyah Hospital.
- Sabah – 2 cases: From the Benteng LD Cluster.

These clusters are detailed below.

Currently, seven (7) confirmed COVID-19 cases are receiving treatment in the intensive care units (ICUs), with four (4) patients on ventilation support. **No additional COVID-19 death** was reported to the National CPRC MOH today. Cumulatively, there remains **128 COVID-19 deaths** in Malaysia (1.34% of total cumulative cases).

Current Status of Four Clusters

MOH would like to inform that additional confirmed cases are reported in four clusters today i.e. the Sungai Cluster, Telaga Cluster, Tawar Cluster and Benteng LD Cluster. The breakdown of screening and the current situation according to the clusters are as follows:

1. The Sungai Cluster (1,091 individuals screened):

a) Kedah (1,056 screened):

- 38 confirmed COVID-19 cases (**13 additional cases** reported today)
- 432 individuals tested negative
- 586 individuals awaiting results

b) Pulau Pinang (31 screened):

- 1 individual tested negative
- 30 individuals awaiting results

c) Perlis (4 screened):

- One (1) confirmed COVID-19 case
- 3 individuals waiting results

2. The Telaga Cluster (4,584 individuals screened):

a) Kedah (4,537 screened):

- 11 confirmed COVID-19 cases (**1 additional case** reported today)
- 4,399 individuals tested negative
- 127 individuals awaiting results

b) Pulau Pinang (47 screened):

- 46 individuals tested negative
- 1 individual awaiting result

3. The Tawar Cluster (18,233 individuals screened):

a) Kedah (17,659 screened):

- 68 confirmed COVID-19 cases (**1 additional case**)
- 17,591 individuals tested negative

b) Pulau Pinang (563 screened):

- 11 confirmed COVID-19 cases
- 552 individuals tested negative

c) Perak (all 11 individuals screened were negative)

4. The Benteng LD Cluster, Sabah (2,349 individuals screened):

a) Tawau (1,814 screened):

- 43 confirmed COVID-19 cases (**2 additional cases** reported today)
- 625 individuals tested negative
- 1,146 individuals awaiting results

b) Lahad Datu (535 screened):

- 87 confirmed COVID-19 cases
- 287 individuals tested negative
- 161 individuals awaiting results

Risk of COVID-19 Transmission Among Healthcare Workers and Infection Prevention Measures

Recently, there has been an increase in the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases among frontliners, especially healthcare workers (HCWs) from the public and private sectors. This is a worrying situation because HCWs play an important role as the backbone of the Nation's healthcare system.

Investigations found that the confirmed COVID-19 cases among MOH HCWs were mostly due to transmission of infection among the HCWs themselves. This accounts for 53% of all cases involving HCWs, meaning

more than half of HCWs with COVID-19 were infected from other HCWs. Infections from the community were 22%; while infections during managing patients with unknown COVID-19 status were 17%. So far, no MOH HCWs was infected with COVID-19 during the management of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the COVID-19 wards or in the ICUs.

Therefore, it is very important for all HCWs to ensure that COVID-19 infection prevention measures are practiced **at all times**, especially while on duty. Safe physical distancing in the workplace among colleagues and during patient management should be practiced throughout the working hours. The same goes for the cleanliness of the common use areas such as the nurses' counter, dining area, pantry, prayer room and staff toilet.

As is often emphasised, MOH would like to remind all MOH HCWs working in hospitals and health clinics to wear a 3-ply surgical facemask **during working hours**. HCWs should also practice good hand hygiene, cough etiquette and wear personal protective equipment (PPE) that is appropriate according to the needs while performing the clinical procedures.

MOH would like to recommend that the above-mentioned practices be followed by medical practitioners and HCWs in the **private sector and the universities** as well. This includes the use of 3-ply surgical facemasks while handling **all patients** and at all times at work. Private medical practitioners should also use appropriate PPE when performing any clinical procedures and for managing confirmed COVID-19 cases.

MOH calls on all HCWs in both the public and private sectors to take the following steps while at home and in public places, for example:

1. Practicing and cultivating the new normal while at home i.e.:
 - i. Self-isolate if symptomatic;
 - ii. Wear a facemask if symptomatic;
 - iii. Ensure that safe physical distancing and good hand hygiene are always practiced while receiving guests; and
 - iv. If symptoms develop, stay at home and do not visit public places. Please seek immediate treatment.

2. Adopt the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) that have been set while in public places e.g.:
 - i. Wearing a facemask while in crowded or confined public places where physical distancing is difficult to achieve;
 - ii. Use the MySejahtera app every time entering a public premise;
 - iii. Perform health screening by taking the body temperature and checking for symptoms every time entering a public premise; and
 - iv. Follow the specific SOPs, e.g. in restaurants, places of worship, hotels etc. as set by the authorities.

Health Advisory on COVID-19

MOH advises the public to continue to follow 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

9 September 2020 @ 5.00 pm

Appendix 1

Number of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in Malaysia, by States (Cumulative, as of 9 September 2020, 12 pm)

State	No. of New Cases *	Cumulative
Perlis	0	33
Kedah	16	266
Pulau Pinang	0	138
Perak	0	269
Selangor	1 (1)	2,189
Negeri Sembilan	1 (1)	1,039
Melaka	0	262
Johor	0	752
Pahang	0	371
Terengganu	0	114
Kelantan	0	160
Sabah	4 (2)	552
Sarawak	1 (1)	700
WP Kuala Lumpur	1 (1)	2,616
WP Putrajaya	0	99
WP Labuan	0	23
Total	24 (6)	9,583

*() refers to imported confirmed COVID-19 case