



**PRESS STATEMENT
MINISTRY OF HEALTH MALAYSIA**

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

Current Status of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases Who Have Recovered

The Ministry of Health (MOH) would like to inform that **15 cases** have fully recovered and discharged today. **Cumulatively, 9,250 confirmed COVID-19 cases have been discharged** (92.0% of total cumulative cases).

Current Situation of COVID-19 in Malaysia

17 September 2020, 12 pm – a total of **21 additional confirmed COVID-19 cases** were reported to the National Crisis Preparedness and Response Centre (CPRC) MOH today. Cumulatively there are now **10,052 confirmed COVID-19 cases** in Malaysia. Therefore, there are **currently 674 active and infective COVID-19 cases**. They have all been isolated and given treatment.

Of the 21 additional cases reported today, five (5) are imported cases who were **infected overseas**. They are all Malaysians returning from the following countries:

- New Zealand – 2 cases in Selangor
- India – 1 case in Sabah
- Pakistan – 1 case in Sabah
- China – 1 case in Sabah

Of the 16 **local transmission** cases reported today, 15 cases are among **Malaysians** and one (1) **non-Malaysian** case. The details of the local transmission cases are as follows:

- **Sabah: 5 cases**
 - 2 cases from the Benteng LD Cluster; involving 1 Malaysian and 1 non-Malaysian.
 - 1 case from the Selamat Cluster, a new cluster in Semporna; involving 1 Malaysian.
 - 1 case from admission screening at Tawau Hospital; involving 1 Malaysian.
 - 1 case from sign-off screening at a ship in Sipitang Harbour; involving 1 Malaysian.
- **Kedah: 7 cases**
 - 6 cases from the Sungai Cluster; all Malaysians.
 - 1 case from screening in the administrative Enhanced Movement Control Order (EMCO) area in Kota Setar District; a Malaysian.
- **Pulau Pinang: 2 cases** from screening of close contacts of Case 9,397, who are members of the same household; both Malaysians.
- **Selangor: 1 case** from symptomatic screening at Sungai Buloh Hospital; a Malaysian
- **Sarawak: 1 case** from screening at the international port of entry, a Malaysian.

These clusters are detailed below.

Currently, **13 confirmed COVID-19 cases** are receiving treatment in the intensive care units (ICUs), with **two (2) 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 (1.27% of total cumulative cases).

The Selamat Cluster

MOH would like to inform that a new cluster has been reported in Semporna, Sabah. The index case for this cluster (Case 9,969) is a 32-year-old Malaysian woman. She was found positive for COVID-19 on 14 September 2020 during the screening for admission into Tawau Hospital for premature delivery. As a result of screening of close contacts and active case detection, one (1) additional confirmed COVID-19 case was detected. The case is the medical officer who had treated the index case. As of 17 September 2020, a total of 118 individuals have been screened in this cluster. Of these:

- **Two (2)** confirmed COVID-19 cases
- 116 individuals awaiting results

Measures to prevent the spread of infection such as disinfection and cleaning have been carried out at known locations. The cause of infection is still under investigation and activities to control the transmission of infection for this cluster are actively carried out in the field.

Current Status of the Benteng LD Cluster and Sungai Cluster

1. The Benteng LD Cluster

Two (2) additional confirmed COVID-19 cases are reported for this cluster today. Cumulatively, there are now **474 confirmed COVID-19 cases** in this cluster. As of 17 September 2020, 12 pm, a total of 7,670 individuals have been screened in this cluster. The breakdown of screening by districts involved is as follows:

a) Lahad Datu (1,869 individuals screened):

- 142 confirmed COVID-19 cases (**1 additional case** reported today)
- 1,306 individuals tested negative
- 421 individuals awaiting results

b) Tawau (5,801 screened):

- 332 confirmed COVID-19 cases (**1 additional case** reported today)
- 3,052 individuals tested negative
- 2,417 individuals awaiting results

From the total number of screenings for this cluster, the breakdown is as follows:

- 1,388 prisoners and detainees, of which 430 are confirmed COVID-19 cases
- 1,158 staff from the Lahad Datu District Police QH and Tawau Prison, of which 11 are confirmed COVID-19 cases
- 1,386 family members of staff, prisoners and detainees, of which 10 are confirmed COVID-19 cases
- 994 personnel from other government agencies, all tested negative for COVID-19
- 2,744 social close contacts, of which 23 are confirmed COVID-19 cases

The number of cases will be constantly updated and the categories for confirmed cases may change depending on the latest information from field investigations.

Of the cumulative 474 confirmed COVID-19 cases, 215 cases are among Malaysians while 259 cases were among non-Malaysians from:

- Philippines – 168 cases
- Indonesia – 91 cases

2. The Sungai Cluster

Six (6) additional confirmed COVID-19 cases are reported for this cluster today. Cumulatively, there are now **65 confirmed COVID-19 cases** in this cluster. As of 17 September 2020, 12 pm, a total of 22,317 individuals have been screened in this cluster. The breakdown of screening by states involved is as follows:

a) Kedah (22,153 individuals screened):

- 64 confirmed COVID-19 cases (**6 additional confirmed cases** reported today)
- 19,584 individuals tested negative
- 2,505 individuals awaiting results

b) Pulau Pinang (136 screened)

- 136 individuals tested negative

c) Perlis (28 screened):

- One (1) confirmed COVID-19 case
- 24 individuals tested negative
- 3 individuals awaiting results

The total screening for this cluster included 1,148 healthcare workers, of which 26 were found to be positive for COVID-19.

Screening of close contacts and active case detection for these clusters are still ongoing. The latest status of these clusters will be informed from time to time.

Comply with the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) while Attending Any Kind of Gathering and In Public Places

COVID-19 is spread from individual to individual through respiratory droplets when a person coughs, sneezes, speaks and touches. Therefore, if the physical distance between individuals to other individuals is less than one (1) metre, the risk of infection is higher.

Physical distancing is difficult to practice in confined and crowded areas; however, the community needs to comply with the advisories given to reduce the risk of infection. Furthermore, gatherings activities organized without complying with the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) can increase the risk of COVID-19 transmission in the community. Therefore,

it is very important for us to always be vigilant and strive to protect ourselves, our family and the community around us from the COVID-19 infection. The transmission of this virus can be avoided by always ensuring safe physical distancing, frequent hand washing with soap and water or hand sanitiser, and the use of facemasks.

Health Advisory on COVID-19

MOH advises the public to continue to comply to 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

17 September 2020 @ 5.00 pm

Appendix 1

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

State	No. of New Cases *	Cumulative
Perlis	0	33
Kedah	7	312
Pulau Pinang	2	141
Perak	0	269
Selangor	3 (2)	2,202
Negeri Sembilan	0	1,043
Melaka	0	262
Johor	0	752
Pahang	0	371
Terengganu	0	114
Kelantan	0	160
Sabah	8 (3)	945
Sarawak	1	701
WP Kuala Lumpur	0	2,626
WP Putrajaya	0	99
WP Labuan	0	23
Total	21 (5)	10,052

*() refers to imported confirmed COVID-19 case