



**PRESS STATEMENT
MINISTRY OF HEALTH MALAYSIA**

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

Current Status of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases Who Have Recovered

The Ministry of Health (MOH) would like to inform that **30 cases** have fully recovered and discharged today. **Cumulatively, 9,696 confirmed COVID-19 cases have been discharged** (90.7% of total cumulative cases).

Current Situation of COVID-19 in Malaysia

25 September 2020, 12 pm – a total of **111 additional confirmed COVID-19 cases** were reported to the National Crisis Preparedness and Response Centre (CPRC) MOH today. Cumulatively there are now **10,687 confirmed COVID-19 cases** in Malaysia. Therefore, there are **currently 858 active and infective COVID-19 cases**. They have all been isolated and given treatment.

Of the 111 additional cases reported today, four (4) are imported cases who were **infected overseas**, involving non-Malaysians. They were travellers from the following countries:

- **Indonesia – 2 cases:**
 - **1 case** reported in Selangor, an illegal migrant
 - **1 case** reported in Kuala Lumpur
- **India – 1 case** reported in Kuala Lumpur
- **Singapore – 1 case** reported in Johor

Of the 107 **local transmission** cases reported today, 76 cases are **Malaysians** and 31 cases are **non-Malaysians**. The details of the local transmission COVID-19 cases are as follows:

- **Sabah: 97 cases**
 - 74 cases from the Bangau-Bangau Cluster, involving 48 Malaysians and 26 non-Malaysians.
 - 13 cases from the Benteng LD Cluster, all Malaysians.
 - 2 cases from the Laut Cluster, both non-Malaysians.
 - 2 cases from hospital referral screening, both Malaysians.
 - 2 cases from workplace screening, 1 Malaysian and 1 non-Malaysian.
 - 2 cases from symptomatic screening, 1 Malaysian and 1 non-Malaysian.
 - 1 case from Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) screening in Tawau Hospital, a Malaysian.
 - 1 case from screening at the International Port of Entry, a Malaysian.

- **Kedah: 8 cases**
 - 7 cases from the Sungai Cluster, involving 6 Malaysians and 1 non-Malaysian.
 - 1 case from Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) screening in Sultanah Bahiyah Hospital, a Malaysian.

- **Pahang: 1 case** from symptomatic screening involving a Malaysian. The case has a history of travelling back from Semporna, Sabah.

- **Selangor: 1 case** from symptomatic screening involving a Malaysian. The case has a history of travelling back from Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.

Currently, **four (4) confirmed COVID-19 cases** are receiving treatment in the intensive care units (ICUs), with **three (3) patients on ventilation support**.

No additional COVID-19 deaths were reported to the National CPRC MOH today. Cumulatively, there remains **133 COVID-19 deaths** in Malaysia (1.24% of total cumulative cases).

A New Cluster in Johor: The Orkim Cluster

MOH would like to inform that there is a new isolated cluster has been identified in Johor. This cluster involves the crew of a ship anchored at Pasir Gudang Port, Johor. The first case for the cluster, Case10,572, is one of the ship crew, an Indonesian national. He signed-on in Singapore on 10 September 2020. The case developed fever, cough, shortness of breath, diarrhoea and vomiting since 13 September 2020 but did not inform the employer. He signed-off on 17 September 2020 and only received treatment at a private clinic on 22 September 2020. He was subsequently referred to Permai Hospital, Johor where he was found to be positive for COVID-19 on 23 September 2020, and subsequently admitted into Enche' Besar Hajjah Khalsom Hospital, Johor.

Screening of the other ship crew members found one (1) additional confirmed COVID-19 case, also an Indonesian national. This second case was asymptomatic and has been admitted into Enche' Besar Hajjah Khalsom Hospital, Johor. A total of 30 crew members on board were screened. Of these:

- Two (2) confirmed COVID-19 cases
- 24 individuals tested negative
- 4 individuals awaiting results

Measures to prevent and control the infection such as cleaning and disinfection have been carried out on the ship. The cause of the infection is still under investigation.

Current Status of the Three Clusters in Sabah and One Cluster in Kedah

1. The Bangau-Bangau Cluster

74 additional confirmed COVID-19 cases are reported for this cluster today. Cumulatively, there are now **134 confirmed COVID-19 cases** in this cluster. As of 25 September 2020, 12 pm, a total of 180 individuals have been screened in this cluster. The breakdown of screening is as follows:

- 134 confirmed COVID-19 cases (**74 additional cases** reported today)
- 37 individuals tested negative
- 9 individuals awaiting results

Of the 134 confirmed COVID-19 cases, 90 are Malaysians and 44 are Filipino nationals.

2. The Benteng LD Cluster

13 additional confirmed COVID-19 case is reported for this cluster today. Cumulatively, there are now **743 confirmed COVID-19 cases** in this cluster. As of 25 September 2020, 12 pm, a total of 10,634 individuals have been screened in this cluster. The breakdown of screening by districts involved is as follows:

a) Tawau (8,054 individuals screened):

- 576 confirmed COVID-19 cases (**6 additional cases** reported today)
- 6,136 individuals tested negative
- 1,342 individuals awaiting results

b) Lahad Datu (2,574 individuals screened):

- 164 confirmed COVID-19 cases (**5 additional cases** reported today)
- 1,901 individuals tested negative

- 509 individuals awaiting results

c) Kinabatangan (5 individuals screened):

- Two (2) confirmed COVID-19 cases (**2 additional cases** reported today)
- 3 individuals tested negative

d) Sandakan: One (1) confirmed COVID-19 case; no additional screening done.

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

- 1,771 prisoners and detainees, of which 620 are confirmed COVID-19 cases
- 1,160 staff from the Lahad Datu District Police QH and Tawau Prison, of which 24 are confirmed COVID-19 cases
- 1,394 family members of staff and prisoners, of which 27 are confirmed COVID-19 cases
- 1,534 personnel from other government agencies, none tested positive for COVID-19
- 4,775 social close contacts, of which 72 are confirmed COVID-19 cases

Of the cumulative 743 confirmed COVID-19 cases, 428 cases are among Malaysians while 315 cases are among non-Malaysians from:

- Philippines – 202 cases
- Indonesia – 113 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.

3. The Laut Cluster

Two (2) additional confirmed COVID-19 cases are reported for this cluster today. Cumulatively, there are now **24 confirmed COVID-19 cases** in this cluster. As of 25 September 2020, 12 pm, a total of 533 individuals have been screened in this cluster. The breakdown of screening is as follows:

- 24 confirmed COVID-19 cases (**2 additional cases** reported today)
- 353 individuals tested negative
- 156 individuals awaiting results

All 24 confirmed COVID-19 cases in this cluster are Filipino nationals.

4. The Sungai Cluster

Seven (7) additional confirmed COVID-19 cases are reported for this cluster today. Cumulatively, there are now **98 confirmed COVID-19 cases** in this cluster. As of 25 September 2020, 12 pm, a total of 25,273 individuals have been screened. The breakdown of screening by states involved is as follows:

a) Kedah (25,053 individuals screened):

- 97 confirmed COVID-19 cases (**7 additional cases** reported today)
- 24,850 individuals tested negative
- 106 individuals awaiting results

b) Pulau Pinang (142 screened):

- 142 individuals tested negative

c) Perlis (78 screened):

- One (1) confirmed COVID-19 case
- 77 individuals tested negative

Of the 98 confirmed COVID-19 cases in this cluster, 97 cases are Malaysians and one (1) case a Thai national.

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

Risk Assessment of COVID-19 Transmission in Sabah

As of 25 September 2020, there are still five areas in Malaysia that have turned into Red Zones. There are four red zones in Sabah (Tawau, Lahad Datu, Kunak and Semporna) and one red zone in Kedah i.e. Kota Setar.

As informed in the Press Statement of the Director General of Health dated 24 September 2020, **symptomatic individuals** who have recently visited or travelled from the **Red Zones must perform a COVID-19 screening test** at a nearby health facility. **Asymptomatic individuals** who have recently visited or travelled from the Red Zones are also **strongly encouraged** to undergo self-initiated screening tests and home quarantine to protect family members, friends and the surrounding community. **Any changes to these instructions will be made public from time to time.** Please avoid from trusting and spreading false or misleading information.

Based on the current situation, it is found that the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Sabah is still increasing. As announced, 97 additional confirmed COVID-19 cases are reported today in Sabah. In addition, **10 confirmed COVID-19 cases were detected among individuals returning from Sabah** in the 39th Epidemiological Week (i.e. 20 September 2020 until today). All these cases have been isolated and are now receiving treatment at the hospital. Tracing of close contacts for all these cases is also being actively carried out by the relevant District Health Offices.

The latest results received from the Institute for Medical Research (IMR) laboratory showed that the 23 COVID-19 virus samples isolated and cultured from the Benteng LD Cluster in Sabah were found to have the

D614G mutations; however they are not related to the COVID-19 D614G mutation viruses found in the clusters in Kedah.

Therefore, based on this risk assessment, MOH urges all communities in Sabah to be more vigilant and improve compliance to the Standard Practice Procedures (SOPs) set, including during the campaign period for the Sabah State Election and during the polling day. Following our culture in Malaysia, members of the public is strongly encouraged to remind one another in complying with the SOPs so that we can protect each other, our families and our community from the COVID-19 infection.

MOH encourages the community to go out to vote by fully **complying with the SOPs** set at the polling stations, and to safe practice physical distancing, maintain good personal hygiene especially washing hands with water and soap or hand sanitisers, as well as wearing facemasks especially in public, crowded and confined spaces, and during close conversations. Please seek early medical attention if symptoms develop.

Please fulfill your responsibilities and rights to voting. MOH will also continue to increase preparedness in the field, health clinics, laboratories and hospitals to continue to break the transmission of the COVID-19 infection in Sabah.

Health Advisory on COVID-19

MOH advices 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

25 September 2020 @ 5.00 pm

Appendix 1

Number of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in Malaysia, by States (Cumulative, as of 25 September 2020, 12 pm)

State	No. of New Cases *	Cumulative
WP Kuala Lumpur	2 (2)	2,652
Selangor	2 (1)	2,222
Sabah	97	1,483
Negeri Sembilan	0	1,044
Johor	1 (1)	754
Sarawak	0	703
Pahang	1	372
Kedah	8	352
Perak	0	269
Melaka	0	262
Kelantan	0	161
Pulau Pinang	0	142
Terengganu	0	114
WP Putrajaya	0	99
Perlis	0	33
WP Labuan	0	25
Total	111 (4)	10,687

*() refers to imported confirmed COVID-19 cases