



سيارن اخبار  
PRESS RELEASE

KEMENTERIAN KESIHATAN • Jalan Menteri Besar, Bandar Seri Begawan BB3910, Negara Brunei Darussalam.  
Tel: 2381640 samb./ext. 7734 • Faks/Fax: 2383016 • E-mel/E-mail: prohealth@brunet.bn

SIARAN AKHBAR 

## **STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE (SOP) ON THE MANAGEMENT OF FOREIGN PATIENTS ARRIVING IN BRUNEI DARUSSALAM WITH SYMPTOMS OF INFLUENZA; AND VIRAL INFORMATION ON FOREIGN PATIENTS RECEIVING TREATMENT AT GOVERNEMENT HOSPITAL SUSPECTED WITH HINI VIRUS AND CORONAVIRUS**

The Ministry of Health, Brunei Darussalam would like to inform the public that since the news about the 2019-nCoV virus infection situation was announced by the World Health Organization on 7 January 2020, the Ministry of Health has stepped up its vigilance and preparations to control the entry of the virus into Brunei Darussalam. Among the steps taken are re-introducing body temperature screening for passengers arriving in the country via the Brunei International Airport, especially from cities in China, starting 21 January 2020; strengthening the implementation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) in government clinics and hospitals; as well as continuous risk monitoring and assessment of the status of the infection worldwide.

The Ministry of Health would also like to explain, in accordance with the current Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), anyone presenting with signs of influenza-like infection such as high fever, coughing and shortness of breath, especially those with a travel history to China, will be taken to the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha Hospital for further examination. This is also a routine procedure done for any sick passenger(s) upon arrival in Brunei Darussalam.

Following the recent dissemination of an image and few information that was viralled through social media application WhatsApp and Facebook, showing a foreign patient receiving treatment at the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha Hospital and suspected of being infected with HINI or Coronavirus, the Ministry of Health would like to clarify that the information is inaccurate and has been disseminated by irresponsible parties.

With regards to the viralled image of the patient that was said to be a foreign visitor from China, the Ministry of Health would like to confirm that the patient has been examined at the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha Hospital and sent to the National Isolation Centre for further investigation, as a precautionary measure. The patient is currently in a stable condition and the Ministry of Health is in the process of determining if the patient has any connection with the 2019-nCoV virus from Wuhan, China.

With that, the public is advised to not panic with the image or information that was disseminated and viralled. The Ministry of Health would also like to advise the public to not be easily deceived and believe information or news spread via the internet or other media platforms such as WhatsApp, Twitter and Facebook without first verifying the information. The public is hereby reminded and urged to be more responsible and not to spread baseless information which is not verified by the Ministry of Health.

The act of spreading false and unverified information, especially of bogus origin and created by those with intention to confuse and cause alarm is a criminal offence and can be reported under the Section 34, Public Order Act, Chapter 148, that is, anyone who either verbally or in writing or uses any means, disseminates false reports or makes false statements, resulting in disruptive public order carries a penalty of imprisonment of three years and a fine of BND3,000.

For further information, members of the public can visit the Ministry of Health website at [www.moh.gov.bn](http://www.moh.gov.bn) or call the Talian Darussalam 123.

**-END-**

Reference : KK/PR/4

Date : 28 Jamadilawal 1441 / 24 Januari 2020