



HEALTH INFORMATION ON THE CURRENT SITUATION OF THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (2019-NCOV) INFECTION

1. Following the press release from the Ministry of Health dated 30th January 2020 on the latest status of the novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) infection, the Ministry of Health would like to inform the public that **Alhamdulillah no cases of severe acute respiratory infections linked to the novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) has so far been detected in Brunei Darussalam.**
2. The Ministry of Health in collaboration with relevant government and non-government agencies will always ensure a high level of preparedness to ensure that the response on the novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) infection is implemented quickly and effectively. To this end, certain measures have been implemented such as; body temperature screening at all points of entry in the country and the use of the Health Declaration Forms for incoming flights to the country; strengthening the capacity of the Virology Laboratory and National Isolation Centre in Tutong; and the implementation of the Self-Isolation Policy for individuals returning to Brunei Darussalam from the People's Republic of China.
3. In light of the current development of the novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) infection globally, the Ministry of Health has reviewed and updated the travel advice for citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam that was previously issued, as follows:
 - 3.1. As an addition to Hubei, the public is advised not to make any travel arrangements to Zhejiang and Jiangsu provinces of the People's Republic of China. This is because the authorities in China has initiated a lockdown order for Zhejiang and Jiangsu provinces starting 9th February 2020.
 - 3.2. The public are advised to avoid making non-essential travel to mainland China.

4. In the meantime, measures to control incoming visitors to Brunei Darussalam have also been reviewed and updated as follows:
 - 4.1. Any visitors from the Hubei, Zhejiang and Jiangsu provinces are not allowed to enter Brunei Darussalam, with the exception of citizens and permanent residents of Brunei Darussalam;
 - 4.2. Citizens and permanent residents of Brunei Darussalam as well as long-term visa holders who have been in other regions of the People's Republic of China within 14 days of arriving in Brunei Darussalam are required to undergo self-isolation for 14 days upon arrival to this country; and
 - 4.3. Citizens or permanent residents of Brunei Darussalam who are in the People's Republic of China (regardless of province) are allowed to return to Brunei Darussalam. They will be required to undergo self-isolation for 14 days. On this matter, any citizen or permanent resident of Brunei Darussalam who are in the People's Republic of China and are sick or unwell, is advised to postpone their return to this country and is also advised to seek the assistance of the Brunei Darussalam Embassy in the People's Republic of China for further advice.

5. As a precautionary measure, members of the public are reminded to maintain the following good practices at all times:
 - Avoid contact with sick live animals including poultry and birds, and consumption of raw and undercooked meats;
 - Avoid the consumption of raw and undercooked meats;
 - Avoid close contact with people who are unwell or showing symptoms of illness such as high fever, cough or breathing difficulties;
 - Observe good personal hygiene;
 - Practice frequent hand washing with soap (e.g. before handling food or eating, after going to toilet, or when hands are dirtied by respiratory secretions after coughing or sneezing);

- Wear a mask if you have respiratory symptoms such as a cough or runny nose;
- Cover your mouth with a tissue paper when coughing or sneezing, and dispose the soiled tissue paper in the rubbish bin immediately;
- Avoid visiting people who are unwell if you yourself feel unwell or have symptoms of infection; and
- Seek medical attention promptly if you are feeling unwell.

6. Regarding the use of face mask, the Ministry of Health would like to share the correct way of using it. There are various types of masks available in the market including surgical face masks, paper masks and cloth masks. However, only surgical face masks are recommended for use in preventing respiratory infections. The correct procedure for wearing surgical face mask are as follows:

- I. **Step one** – Cover your mouth and nose with the surgical face mask and ensure the inner white layer is facing your mouth and the outer (blue or green) layer is facing outwards. Attach the straps to the back of the ears and make sure there is no space between your face and the surgical face mask;
- II. **Step two** – Do not touch the surgical face mask when you are using it;
- III. **Step three** – Remove the surgical face mask by using the right technique – do not touch the outside of the surgical face mask and remove the straps from the back of the ears; and
- IV. **Step four** – After removing or touching the used surgical face mask, wash your hands with water and soap or with a hand sanitiser.

7. The Ministry of Health would also like to remind the public to keep up-to-date with the latest and accurate information on the novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) infection in Brunei Darussalam from trusted sources, especially from the Ministry of Health. The

public are advised not to 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.

8. The Ministry of Health continues to maintain high vigilance, working alongside the World Health Organization (W.H.O) and neighbouring countries to control the novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) infection situation. In this regard, the public is advised to continue to remain calm and to not panic. The Ministry of Health, from time to time, will endeavor to update the public on any current developments and measures being implemented in the country.

For further information, members of the public can contact the Health Advice Line at 2381380 and 2381383 during office hours or Talian Darussalam 123 after office hours. For the latest updates on the novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) infection situation, the public can go to the Ministry of Health's website at www.moh.gov.bn/SitePages/2019nCoV.aspx.

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