



DETECTION OF THE FIRST CASE OF COVID-19 INFECTION IN BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

The Ministry of Health, Brunei Darussalam would like to inform the public on the detection of the first COVID-19 case, in which initial laboratory tests indicated positive result for the infection this afternoon.

The first case is a local male aged 53 years old. The patient traveled together with three of his friends to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and arrived back in Brunei on March 3, 2020. His symptoms began with feeling unwell with body ache, fever and cough on March 7, 2020 and he presented at the Emergency Department, Hospital Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha the next day. He was tested and found positive for COVID-19 and is currently receiving treatment at the National Isolation Centre, Tutong. The test result is currently undergoing additional verification in line with guidance from the World Health Organization (WHO).

At present, the patient is currently in a stable condition. The Ministry of Health has responded immediately to detect and conduct contact tracing to all of the patient's contact including family members and three (3) of his friends who was on the same trip as the patient. All close contacts are undergoing quarantine for 14 days. All contacts involved will also undergo laboratory tests to detect the COVID-19 infection.

The Ministry of Health will continuously maintain high vigilance to prevent and control the spread of the COVID-19 infection in Brunei Darussalam. Over the last two weeks, due to the rise of infection cases within the Asia-Pacific region, we have enhanced surveillance to detect any COVID-19 infection within the community.

In this regard, the Ministry of Health would like to advise the public not to panic and ensure that they take preventive measures including:

1. Observing good personal hygiene;
2. Practicing frequent hand washing with soap and clean water (especially before handling food or eating, after going to the toilet, or after coughing or sneezing);
3. Wearing a face mask if you develop respiratory symptoms such as a cough or runny nose;

4. Covering your nose and mouth with a tissue paper when coughing or sneezing, and disposing the soiled tissue paper in the rubbish bin immediately;
5. Being socially responsible if you have develop any respiratory symptoms, i.e. to seek medical attention and rest at home, as well as avoid from going out to public places and attending any social gathering.

The Ministry of Health recommends postponing any unnecessary travel to affected countries, to reduce the likelihood of imported cases into the country, as we know that there is definite human to human transmission of the disease. The Ministry of Health seeks the public cooperation to act responsibly and avoid spreading any information that is misleading and untrue, as well as to respect the privacy of the patient and his family members.

The Ministry of Health will continue to monitor the development of the COVID-19 through information received from the World Health Organisation (WHO) and regularly update the public.

For further and latest information, members of the public can visit the Ministry of Health's website at www.moh.gov.bn/SitePages/COVID-19.aspx or contact the following numbers:

- **Health Advice Line at 2381380 or 2381383** (during office hours) or;
- **Talian Darussalam 123** (after office hours).

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Reference : KK/PR/2
Date : 14 Rejab 1441H / 9 March 2020