



MEDIA STATEMENT ON THE CURRENT COVID-19 INFECTION IN BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

11 March 2020

I. The Ministry of Health Brunei Darussalam would like to inform the public of the recent development related to COVID-19 in the country. The five contacts of the first case (Case 1) that were reported yesterday have been confirmed positive for COVID-19.

- Case 2 is a local man aged 61, a friend of Case 1 who attended the same religious congregation (tabligh) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and they flew back together to Brunei Darussalam on 3 March 2020. He started to develop symptoms (fever and difficulty breathing) on 7 March 2020. He is currently in a stable condition and no longer has a fever. Contact investigation for this case is still ongoing.
- Case 3 is the son to Case 2, aged 30, who also attended the same religious event in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. He returned to Brunei Darussalam on 2 March 2020 on Royal Brunei flight BI872 and started showing symptoms (fever and body aches) on 9 March 2020. Contact tracing is also still ongoing for this case.

- Case 4 is the wife of Case 1, aged 46. She has no travel history to Kuala Lumpur in the period of 14 days prior to showing symptoms (cough) on 9 March 2020.
 - Case 5 and Case 6 are children of Case 1, aged 12 and 5 years old with no travel history to Kuala Lumpur. Case 5 has no symptoms, however Case 6 developed a cough on 10 March 2020.
2. All six confirmed cases are currently treated at the National Isolation Centre and are in stable condition, afebrile and do not require any breathing assistance.
3. Today, the Ministry of Health would like to inform the public of five new confirmed cases of COVID-19.
- Case 7 aged 34 years old and Case 8 aged 32 years old are Bruneian locals who also attended the same religious congregation (tabligh) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. They are from the same family who traveled together and returned to Brunei Darussalam on 4 March 2020 on Malaysia Airlines flight MH2594 from Kuala Lumpur to Miri, Sarawak. Case 7 has not been showing any signs of infection while Case 8 started developing symptoms on 10 March 2020. Contact investigation for these cases are still ongoing.

- Case 9 is a 59-year-old local man who also attended the same event in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. He returned to Brunei Darussalam on 3 March 2020 on Air Asia flight AK3541 from Kuala Lumpur to Miri, Sarawak. He started showing symptoms (sore throat) on 5 March 2020 and had remained at home since then.
 - Case 10, aged 33 years is the wife of Case 3 and Case 11, aged 52 years is the wife of Case 9. Case 10 has not be showing any symptoms while Case 11 developed symptoms (cough) on 10 March 2020. Both cases have no travel history to Kuala Lumpur and contact investigation for both of them is still ongoing.
4. All today's newly confirmed cases are in stable condition, afebrile and do not require any breathing assistance. These new cases have brought the **total number of COVID-19 cases in Brunei Darussalam to 11.**
5. The Ministry of Health is currently conducting contact investigation for all cases confirmed today. Quarantine Order under the Infectious Disease Act Chapter 204 is issued to all contacts of the cases. As of 2 pm, 11 March 2020, over 100 people were sampled for COVID-19 where 66 of them have been tested and the remainder are still waiting for results. Laboratory test for COVID-19 usually takes up to 4 to 6 hours. Meanwhile, Quarantine Order has been issued to 80 contacts of the confirmed cases.

6. The Ministry of Health would also like to advise the public not to panic in the event more cases are detected following ongoing investigations. Those who may be involved in contact investigation are required co-operate with the officers on duty. There is no evidence that points to widespread community transmission at the moment and the situation is under control.

7. The Ministry of Health will continue to monitor the situation and inform the public of any developments. The Ministry of Health will ensure that all preventive and control measures are undertaken, as required. The public is advised to avoid direct contact with other people such as by shaking hands, and to avoid going out of the country, if it is not essential.

8. Mass gatherings are discouraged. However, anyone attending mass gatherings including events such as weddings should practice personal hygiene and those with signs of infection are not encouraged to attend. The Ministry of Health urges the public to be socially responsible.

9. For further information and latest developments, go to the Ministry of Health's website **www.moh.gov.bn** or call:
 - **Health Advice Line - 2381380 or 2381383** (office hours only) or;
 - **Darussalam Hotline 123** (outside office hours).

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