



MEDIA STATEMENT OF THE CURRENT SITUATION OF THE COVID-19 INFECTION IN BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

27 Ramadhan 1441 / 21 May 2020

1. The Ministry of Health would like to inform the public that today, Thursday, 27 Ramadhan 1441 / 21 May 2020, Alhamdulillah with the grace of Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'Ala, **there is no new case** of COVID-19 infection in the country. Therefore, **the total number of COVID-19 cases in Brunei Darussalam remains at 141 cases.**
2. Meanwhile, **there are no case that** has recovered from COVID-19 today, therefore **the total number of cases recovered remains at 136 individuals.** This brings the number of active cases still being treated at the National Isolation Center to **4 cases**, where 2 are still in critical condition. However, only one of them still require heart / lung machine (ECMO) as well as respiratory assistance, and one case only requires respiratory assistance. Meanwhile, the rest are in a stable condition.

3. Today, all contact cases undergoing quarantine in accordance to the Infectious Diseases Act (Chapter 204) have completed their quarantine, bringing a total of **2,679 individuals**.

4. In the past 24 hours, a total of 292 samples have been tested for the SARS-CoV2 virus, that brings the total number of laboratory tests conducted since January 2020 to 18,010 tests.

5. Furthermore, the Ministry of Health is aware that the **Bruhealth App** is still in its early stages of implementation and therefore, there are some issues that may be encountered by the public either during registration or updating their daily health status. For the public's information, the Bruhealth App is currently being updated to ease its usage especially for those who are unable to download the application due to phone incompatibility. In addition, the Ministry of Health would like to seek the public's cooperation to be patient and be considerate, as well courteous when contacting the operators of the Health Advice Line 148 for advice and assistance. Legal action can be taken to any caller who is found to be rude and violent to the operators on duty.

6. Alhamdulillah, there are currently many premises that have been registering and applying for the Bruhealth QR Code. However at the

same time, a number of business managers have been found to falsify information when filling in the total capacity of their premise. This act is an offence under the Infectious Diseases Act (Chapter 204) where if found guilty can be prosecuted with a fine up to \$10,000 or imprisonment up to 6 months or both. The Ministry of Health would like to emphasise that anyone who is found to violate or disobey any of the directives that has been issued, the Ministry will not hesitate to take legal actions against them. The Government will conduct random patrol to ensure that this directive is being complied.

7. In this regard, it has come to attention that a number of restaurants have been facing difficulties especially when the allowed customer entry quota is being filled up by takeaway customers and customers who forgot to scan the QR code upon leaving the restaurant. With that, the Ministry of Health has renewed this process in which customers who are registered in the premise for more than 2 hours will be automatically removed from the Bruhealth system. While for restaurants who also offer takeaway services, a new feature will be introduced in the application commencing tomorrow whereby a separate QR Code for takeaway customers can be generated for the same premise via www.healthinfo.gov.bn/register.

8. Furthermore, in view of the COVID-19 situation in country which is currently under control, and by the consent of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Ministry of Health would like to inform the public that the Ministry has issued guidelines for the celebration of Eid Aidilfitri this year as follows:

- I. The Eid celebration is only to be held with immediate family members i.e. individuals visiting their parents or siblings.
- II. Large families must ensure that the mass gathering guideline is complied i.e. to only limit 20-30 people at any one time according to the size of the home.
- III. Social visits to parents' or siblings' homes must be scheduled accordingly such as to not come all at once, take turns visiting and contacting the parents or siblings first before visiting their homes.
- IV. Members of the public are not allowed to hold "Open Houses" or similar events. This includes hosting an open office at the workplace.
- V. Anyone with signs of infection or feeling unwell is not allowed to visit or be visited by their immediate family members.
- VI. The practice of shaking hands and hugs during Eid must be avoided; it is sufficient to give a gesture of greeting by

placing the hand over the chest, smiling, or nodding the head as a sign of respect and greeting. Avoid as much as possible any attempts to touch or make physical contact with others.

- VII. Ensure good and well maintained personal and environmental hygiene especially the cleanliness of the hands.
 - VIII. Practice correct cough and sneeze etiquette at all times.
 - IX. Avoid from sharing food and drink utensils such as spoon, fork, plates and glasses.
 - X. Ensure that the Eid food preparations for immediate family members are healthy and hygienic. Reduce the intake of sweet, salty, and fatty food. Enhance your body's immune system with intake of nutritious food and plain water as your main choice.
9. Eventhough the Eid celebration this year is different from the previous years; this does not mean that we cannot joyfully and safely celebrate it with our loved ones. What is important is to always practice our social responsibilities to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 infection.

10. For further information and latest updates, members of the public can visit the official website of the Ministry of Health at **www.moh.gov.bn** or by contacting the **Health Advice Line 148** or through the **BruHealth App** or **healthinfo.gov.bn**

Ramadhan Mubarak. Let us intensify our ibadah as we approach the end of Ramadhan and pray to Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala that all the patients treated in the National Isolation Centre will be granted full recovery by Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'Ala and Brunei Darussalam to be free from the COVID-19 outbreak. Aamiin Ya Rabbal Alamiin

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Reference : KK/PR/2

Date : 27 Ramadhan 1441H / 21 May 2020