



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

24 Mac 2020

1. As of today, 29 Rejab 1441 / 24 March 2020, the Ministry of Health would like to inform the public of 13 new cases of COVID-19 infection in the country, bringing the **total number of cases in Brunei Darussalam to 104 people.**

- Case 92, aged 39 years old is the wife of Case 81 and she started developing symptoms (fever) on 22 March 2020. She does not have a travel history.
- 8 cases today are related to Case 91, consisting of family members who had travelled to Surabaya, Indonesia and returned to Brunei on 20 March 2020 onboard Royal Brunei BI796, which are:
 - Case 93, a local man aged 57 years old;
 - Case 96, a local man aged 50 years old;
 - Case 97, a local woman aged 60 years old;
 - Case 98, a local woman aged 30 years old;
 - Case 99, a local man aged 66 years old;
 - Case 100, a local man aged 66 years old;
 - Case 102, a local woman aged 60 years old; and

- Case 104, a local woman aged 51 years old.
 - Case 94, aged 56 years old is a work contact of Case 84. He does not have a travel history and started developing symptoms (fever) on 22 March 2020.
 - Case 95, aged 42 years old is the wife of Case 90. She does not have any travel history and started developing symptoms (flu) on 20 March 2020.
 - Case 101, aged 45 years old is a contact of Case 73. She does not have any travel history and started developing symptoms (fever) on 22 March 2020.
 - Case 103, a local man aged 41 years old. He started developing symptoms (fever and sore throat) on 12 March 2020. Contact tracing investigation is still ongoing for this case.
2. The Ministry of Health would like to inform the public that from the 102 Cases that are currently treated in the National Isolation Centre, one is still in critical condition and in need of respiratory assistance and the assistance of a heart/lung machine (ECMO). Meanwhile, two are still in intensive care, while the remaining cases are in stable condition.
 3. The Ministry of Health would also like to inform that as of today, there are currently 1,388 individuals who are undergoing quarantine, in accordance to the Infectious Diseases Act (Chapter 204). Meanwhile, 376 individuals

have completed their quarantine and are in stable condition. Since early January 2020, a total of 3,647 laboratory tests for COVID-19 have been conducted.

4. Alhamdulillah, so far, arrangements for those required to undergo mandatory self-isolation is going well and managed by the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) in collaboration with Ministry of Home Affairs; the Ministry of Religious Affairs; the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism; the Ministry of Health; Ministry of Development; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Transport and Infocommunicatoins; Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports; the Royal Brunei Armed Forces; the Royal Brunei Police Force, as well as the private sector, hotels and volunteers. The health status of those undergoing self-isolation is monitored by the Ministry of Health with the help of the agencies where the Ministry of Health is currently undertaking a series of COVID-19 laboratory tests in stages according to the locations.

5. Following the statement released by the Ministry of Home Affairs on Monday, 23 March 2020, no foreign nationals will be allowed entry to Brunei Darussalam whether by land, sea or air until further notice and this prohibition includes foreign nationals entering the country for transit. In the same statement, the Ministry of Home Affairs announced that special consideration will be given to those whose affairs are of national importance or pertain to the national interest of Brunei Darussalam. In relation to this, any business that requires immigration clearance which involves the transportation of basic necessities such as food, vegetables, fish, medical supplies and similar, is exempt from the need to obtain approval from the Department of Immigration and National Registration.

These goods must adhere to the laws and conditions set out by the Royal Brunei Customs and Excise Department and other controlling Government agencies. The entry of employees of these businesses must also comply with any updated advice set out by the Ministry of Health.

6. In accordance with the press statement released by the Ministry of Home Affairs on 18 March 2020, all dining establishments including restaurants, cafes, foodcourts, food markets and similar are currently forbidden from serving food on their premises, and are only allowed to provide take-away service to customers. As stated in Section 62(A) of the Infectious Diseases Act (Chapter 204), legal action will be taken against anyone found to be in violation of this directive. This directive includes any private homes, whether in possession of license or not, which provide the services similar to a restaurant.
7. 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 (operating 24-hours).

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Reference : KK/PR/2

Date : 29 Rejab 1441H / 24 March 2020