



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

30 March 2020

1. As of today, 05 Syaaban 1441 / 30 March 2020, the Ministry of Health would like to inform the public of **1 new case** of COVID-19 infection in the country, bringing the **total number of cases in Brunei Darussalam to 127 people**.
 - Case 127, aged 3 years old is the son of Case 120. He does not have travel history and started developing symptoms (fever) on 21 March 2020.
2. The Ministry of Health would like to inform the public that *Alhamdulillah*, by the grace of *Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala*, today, 4 more cases treated at the National Isolation Centre has recovered and allowed to return home, bringing **total number of people recovered so far are 38 people**. This means that there are 88 cases still being treated at the National Isolation Center. However, today, another patient who had undergone intensive care is in critical condition. This brings the number of cases in critical condition and requires respiratory assistance in the Intensive Care Unit at the National Isolation Center to 3 people. Meanwhile, one patient is still under close monitoring and the rest are in a stable condition.

3. The Ministry of Health would like to inform the public that 4 out of the 9 individuals in Malaysia who attended the tabligh congregation in Kuala Lumpur have returned to Brunei on 29 March 2020. All four of them were tested positive with COVID-19 and have received treatment at the hospitals in Kuala Lumpur. The Ministry of Health will continue to monitor their health to ensure that they remain in good health, based on their respective risk assessments.
4. At this time, currently a total of 829 individuals are undergoing quarantine in accordance to the Infectious Disease Act (Chapter 204). Meanwhile, 1,289 individuals have completed their quarantine and are in stable condition. Since early January 2020, a total of 5,980 laboratory tests for COVID-19 have been conducted.
5. So far, 531 people have registered to undergo mandatory isolation in their homes after arriving in the country following international travel, of which a total of about 346 people are students. Most of them have presented themselves for laboratory tests for COVID-19. Once again the Ministry would like to emphasise, anyone who has not submitted themselves for the laboratory test is advised to immediately go to the Sports Complex, Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha Hospital.
6. In the meantime, the Ministry of Health is also actively conducting COVID-19 laboratory tests on those undergoing mandatory self-isolation at facilities provided by the Government. So far, out of a total of 1425 people registered in these facilities, a total of 1051 people (about 72%) had

undergone laboratory tests. Anyone who tested positive for COVID-19 has been taken for treatment to the National Isolation Center.

7. The Ministry of Health would also like to seek for cooperation from anyone who has undergone laboratory tests to make sure that the mobile phone number given to the Ministry of Health's staff is correct and can receive SMS text messages. This is because the Ministry of Health will send test results via SMS as soon as their test results are available. The initiative started on 28 March 2020 and is still in its trial phase. Therefore, there may be a slight delay in sending SMS text messages. In the meantime, those who had received a telephone call from the Ministry of Health of their laboratory test results will not receive the results via SMS.
8. Regarding the viral message on the search for a contact for one of the COVID-19 positive Case, the Ministry of Health would like to inform the public that the Case has been admitted to the National Isolation Center for treatment since 28 March 2020 and has remained at the National Isolation Center ever since. However, to assist further investigation on this Case, the Ministry of Health would like to ask those who have had contact with the Case from 10 to 15 March 2020 to call 2380665 or 8163065 (during office hours only). In addition, public cooperation and consideration is also requested to stop the spread of the message in order to maintain the privacy of the Case.
9. For the public's information, the Ministry of Health is pleased to share that, *Alhamdulillah* construction of an extension of the virology laboratory located at Jalan Sumbiling, Bandar Seri Begawan is now completed and

InshaaAllah will begin operations on 1 April 2020. The construction project between the Ministry of Development and the Ministry of Health began on 17 March 2020 and it is a project run by a local contractor company, LSL Sdn Bhd in partnership with Beijing Genomic Institution (BGI). With this additional virology laboratory *InshaaAllah* will be able to increase capacity and accelerate the laboratory testing process for COVID-19 in the country.

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 (operating 24-hours)** or through the web application **healthinfo.gov.bn**

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Reference : KK/PR/2

Date : 05 Syaaban 1441H / 30 March 2020