



CURRENT SITUATION OF THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (2019-NCOV) INFECTION AND MEASURES TAKEN BY BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

1. The Ministry of Health would like to inform the public of the current status of the novel Coronavirus (2019 n-CoV) infection in China, regionally and globally. A total of 7,711 cases have been confirmed to be infected with the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in 31 provinces in China; of which 1,370 people from these cases are of serious condition and are currently hospitalized for treatment, while another 170 people have died from the infection. This number also includes cases that have been confirmed outside of mainland China such as Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China (10), Macau Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China (7) and Taiwan (8).
2. Some of the cases of the infection have also been confirmed in several countries as follows:
 - i) Thailand (14 cases)
 - ii) Japan (7 Cases)
 - iii) South Korea (4 cases)
 - iv) United States of America (5 cases)
 - v) Singapore (10 cases)
 - vi) Vietnam (2 cases)
 - vii) Nepal (1 case)
 - viii) France (3 cases)
 - ix) Australia (5 cases)
 - x) Malaysia (8 cases)
 - xi) Cambodia (1 Case)
 - xii) Sri Lanka (1 case)
 - xiii) Canada (2 cases)
 - xiv) Germany (4 cases)
 - xv) United Arab Emirates (4 cases)
 - xvi) Philippines (1 case)
3. The Government of China has tightened control measures in China where on January 27, 2020, the Government of China has banned tourist groups from visiting

the country. Following the ban, the number of Chinese tourists to Brunei Darussalam has dropped sharply since January 27, 2020.

4. At present, no cases of severe acute respiratory infections have been detected in Brunei Darussalam, that is linked to the novel Coronavirus (2019 n-CoV) infection. In an effort to increase vigilance and precautionary measures in the country, the Ministry of Education has taken steps for Brunei students in China and has returned to Brunei Darussalam to undergo self-isolation for 14 days. Whereas a total of 39 Hengyi Industries workers who recently returned to Pulau Muara Besar, Brunei from China are also in self-isolation for 14 days.
5. For public's information, a total of 73 Brunei students are currently studying in China and at present, only 31 of them are still situated there. InshaAllah, 29 of them will return to Brunei Darussalam on Friday, January 31, 2020. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will work to send back the remaining two students in the near future.
6. The Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam will also implement additional measures as follows:
 - a. Any visitor from the Hubei Province or anyone holding a passport of the People's Republic of China issued in Hubei will not be allowed to enter Brunei Darussalam;
 - b. Anyone who has travelled to Hubei Province within 14 days before arriving in Brunei Darussalam will not be allowed to enter this country, with the exception of citizens and permanent residents of Brunei Darussalam;
 - c. Anyone who has been in China for 14 days before arriving in Brunei Darussalam and allowed to enter the country will be required to undergo self-isolation for 14 days;
 - d. Citizens or permanent residents of Brunei Darussalam who are in China (regardless of province) are allowed to return to Brunei Darussalam. They will be required to undergo self-isolation for 14 days. On this matter, any citizen or permanent resident of Brunei Darussalam who are in China and are sick or unwell, is advised to postpone their return to this country and is also advised to seek the assistance of the Brunei Darussalam Embassy in China for further advice; and
 - e. The Ministry of Health will issue a travel advisory for the residents of Brunei Darussalam to avoid travelling to Hubei Province and postpone non-essential travel to China.

7. All of the additional measures above are on a **temporary basis** and will be reviewed from time to time.

8. As a precautionary measure, members of the public are reminded to maintain the following good practices at all times:
 - Avoid contact with sick live animals including poultry and birds, and consumption of raw and undercooked meats;
 - Avoid close contact with people who are unwell or showing symptoms of illness;
 - Observe good personal hygiene;
 - Practice frequent hand washing with soap (e.g. before handling food or eating, after going to toilet, or when hands are dirtied by respiratory secretions after coughing or sneezing);
 - Wear a mask if you have respiratory symptoms such as a cough or runny nose;
 - Cover your mouth with a tissue paper when coughing or sneezing, and dispose the soiled tissue paper in the rubbish bin immediately; and
 - Seek medical attention promptly if you are feeling unwell.

9. The Ministry of Health continues to maintain high vigilance, working alongside the World Health Organization (W.H.O) and neighbouring countries to control the novel Coronavirus (2019 n-CoV) infection situation. In this regard, the public is advised to continue to remain calm and to not panic. The Ministry of Health, from time to time, will endeavor to update the public on any current developments and measures being implemented in the country. For further information, members of the public can contact Talian Darussalam 123 or via our website www.moh.gov.bn.

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Date : 5 Jamadilakhir 1441 / 30 January 2020
Reference : KK/PR/2