



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

17 March 2020

1. The Ministry of Health would like to update the public on the COVID-19 situation in the country.
2. As of today, 17 March 2020, 2 new cases have been confirmed **bringing the total number of cases in Brunei Darussalam to 56 people.**
  - Case 55, aged 21 is part of the second generation of the Kuala Lumpur tabligh cluster wherein the said person was not directly associated with the religious gathering in Kuala Lumpur, but had close association with the tabligh group. Case 55 is currently undergoing isolation at the National Isolation Centre in Tutong.
  - Case 56 is a local male aged 17 years old. He did not participate in the tabligh gathering in Kuala Lumpur but was in attendance at a tabligh gathering in Brunei Darussalam on 5 March 2020 that was also attended by some of the members who had been at the Kuala Lumpur gathering.
3. The Ministry of Health would like to inform the public that all the confirmed cases are currently being treated at the National Isolation Centre of which two are in critical condition, requiring respiratory assistance, and are undergoing treatment at the Intensive Care Unit of the National Isolation Centre. Meanwhile, one case is being monitored closely and the remaining are well and in a stable condition.
4. The Ministry of Health is actively performing contact tracing for each confirmed case, of which 1,257 individuals are currently being quarantined, in accordance to the Infectious Diseases Act (Chapter 204). To date, 23

individuals have completed their quarantine at the Games Village Complex at Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium and are all well. Since early January 2020, a total of 1,536 laboratory tests for COVID-19 have been conducted.

5. The Ministry of Health would also like to update the public on the status of the nine (9) locals who participated in the tabligh group who are still in Kuala Lumpur. All nine (9) have been tested for COVID-19, of which four (4) have tested positive and one (1) tested negative. They are being treated at the Sungai Buloh Hospital and the Kuala Lumpur Hospital. The remaining four (4) are still waiting their test results and are now being quarantined at the Masjid Jamek Sri Petaling in Selangor.
6. In relation to yesterday's announcement of the closure of several premises, the Ministry of Health would like to inform that all cinemas will also be closed as of tomorrow, Wednesday, 18 March 2020.
7. The Ministry of Health has also revised the measures regarding in-bound visitors as follows:
  - i. Maintaining the ban of entry for visitors from the Hubei province of the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Iran. The ban is also now extended to any visitors from Europe, including the United Kingdom. This ban applies to those who arrive from the aforementioned countries and those who have been in those countries within 14 days before their arrival in Brunei Darussalam. Citizens and permanent residents of Brunei Darussalam are exempted from this ban.
  - ii. Those who have arrived in Brunei Darussalam from any other country are required to undergo a 14-day self-isolation from the moment of their arrival. This means that the risk categorization for COVID-19-affected countries / areas will no longer apply.
8. Foreign nationals who reside outside of Brunei Darussalam but commute by land to and from Brunei for work, OR those who reside in the country

but work outside of Brunei, and those who have applied / are applying for entry-and-exit permit from the Prime Minister's Office, will only be granted entry for 1-month period, following which they can renew their application.

9. Brunei-registered companies are not required to apply for the entry-and-exit permit for the purpose of trade and delivery of goods. This exemption also applies to foreign-registered companies.

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](http://www.moh.gov.bn) or by contacting the **Health Advice Line 148 (HAL 148)** (operating 24-hours).

11. The Ministry of Health would also like to convey its deepest appreciation to all the front liners, officers and staff from all the ministries and agencies, who have been working hard together to contain the outbreak of COVID-19 in Brunei Darussalam. This appreciation also applies to individuals including volunteers and the private sector that has contributed in the Government's effort to combat this epidemic. May Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala shower all of us with blessings for all the cooperation and collaboration given by all the parties involved and grant victory to Negara Brunei Darussalam, In sha Allah.

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Reference : KK/PR/2

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