



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

16 March 2020

- I. The Ministry of Health would like to update the public on the COVID-19 situation in the country.

- I. As of today, 16 March 2020, 4 new cases have been confirmed **bringing the total number of cases in Brunei Darussalam to 54 people**. 3 of these new cases are categorised as the *second generation* of the Kuala Lumpur tabligh cluster. These are individuals who were infected indirectly due to being close contacts with the attendees of the Kuala Lumpur tabligh cluster. There is also a single imported case.
 - Case 51, aged 29 is a colleague of Case 37, wherein Case 37 is a part of the first generation tabligh cluster. Case 51 does not have a travel history and has not shown any symptoms of the virus.
 - Case 52, aged 27 is the wife of Case 43, wherein Case 43 is also part of the first generation tabligh cluster. Case 43 does not have a travel history and had a fever, coughs, headaches and fatigue beginning 12 March 2020.
 - Case 53, a British citizen aged 42 who has family members in Brunei. Case 53 arrived in the Sultanate on 9 Mac 2020 onboard the Royal Brunei flight BI004. Prior to landing in Brunei, Case 53 had gone to Switzerland and

several cities in the United Kingdom. Case 53 had a fever, sore throat, cold, coughs and difficulty breathing from 14 Mac 2020.

- Case 54, aged 39 is a contact of Case 30, wherein Case 30 is also part of the first generation tabligh cluster. Case 30 does not have a travel history and had suffered from coughs and sore throat from 12 Mac 2020.
2. The Ministry of Health would like to inform the public that all the confirmed cases are currently treated at the National Isolation Centre. One of the confirmed cases is currently in a critical state and requires respiratory assistance and is treated at the Intensive Care Unit in the Centre. However, the case is in a stable condition. Two more cases are being monitored closely, while the remaining cases are well and stable.
 3. In this regard, the Ministry of Health welcomes blood donors to help donate blood to to help increase the supply of blood increase the current supply in the Blood Bank, Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha Hospital. Donors can contact 2242424 extension 5745 to obtain appointments.
 4. The Ministry of Health at this point in time is still actively performing contact tracing for every confirmed case. As of today, as many as 1,013 individuals have been directed to undergo quarantine according to the Infectious Disease Act (Chapter 204). Since the emergence of COVID-19 in early January 2020, as many as 1,301 laboratory tests for COVID-19 have been conducted.
 5. Following yesterday's announcement concerning the nationwide travel ban for all citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam, any member of the general public

seeking further information on this matter may call 2235962 or 2235953 from 7.45 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. on working days only or by filling in Form A for holders of Brunei Darussalam Identity Cards who are not civil servants nor members of statutory bodies; Form B for civil servants and members of statutory bodies and Form C for Applications to Travel Outside of Brunei for Businesses. These forms can be downloaded from the Prime Minister Office's official website, i.e. www.pmo.gov.bn and via e-mail addressed to travelapplication@jpm.gov.bn, attaching scanned copies of the required documents. The Ministry would also like to inform the general public that **hours of operation for Immigration Control Posts on land will be shortened, starting from 6.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m.**

6. For further information and latest updates, members of the public may visit the official website of the Ministry of Health, i.e. www.moh.gov.bn or by contacting the **Health Advice Line 148** (at any time).

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