



MEDIA STATEMENT ON THE CURRENT COVID-19 INFECTION IN BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

13 March 2020

1. The Ministry of Health Brunei Darussalam would like to inform the public of the recent development of the COVID-19 infection in the country.

2. As of today, 13 March 2020, 12 new cases have been confirmed bringing the **total number of COVID-19 cases in Brunei Darussalam to 37**. 11 of these new cases are related to the religious congregation (tabligh) cluster in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
 - Case 26 is a local woman aged 46, wife of case 12. She has no recent travel history to Kuala Lumpur and is currently not having any symptoms.

 - Case 27, aged 21 is a son of Case 12. He has no recent travel history to Kuala Lumpur and had only started complaining of body aches today.

 - Case 28, aged 25 is a son of Case 12. He has no recent travel history to Kuala Lumpur and has no symptoms.

- Case 29, aged 16 is a son of Case 12. He has no recent travel history to Kuala Lumpur and started having symptoms (cough and flu) on 9 March 2020.
- Case 30, aged 13 is a daughter of Case 12. She has no travel history to Kuala Lumpur and has no symptoms.
- Case 31 is a local man, aged 64 who recently travelled to Indonesia and Malaysia. He went to Kuala Lumpur via Labuan on 17 February 2020 and then on to Jogjakarta, Indonesia. He returned to Brunei on 4 March 2020 via Kuala Lumpur (on transit) and then on to Labuan on Air Asia flight AK5175. He traveled back to Brunei on the same day. He started having a cough since 10 March 2020.
- Case 32 is a local woman aged 25, wife of Case 19. She has no recent travel history to Kuala Lumpur and has no symptoms.
- Case 33, aged 39 is a brother of Case 13. He has no recent travel history to Kuala Lumpur and has no symptoms.
- Case 34, aged 2 is a niece of Case 13. She has no recent travel history to Kuala Lumpur and has no symptoms.
- Case 35 is a local man aged 60 who attended the religious gathering in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 28 February to 3 March 2020. He then flew to New Delhi, India on 4 March 2020 with 3 other friends who also attended same the religious gathering in Kuala Lumpur. He returned to

Brunei on 11 March 2020 on Royal Brunei Airlines BI874 (seat no 27K). He only started having a cough today. His 3 friends are still overseas and are advised to undergo COVID-19 screening as soon as possible.

- Case 36 is a local man aged 56 years old who also attended the religious gathering in Kuala Lumpur. He returned to Brunei on 5 March 2020 on Royal Brunei Airlines BI872 and started showing symptoms (fever, cough and flu) on 7 March 2020.
- Case 37 is a local man aged 28 years old. This case did not participate in the religious gathering in Kuala Lumpur but attended a religious gathering (tabligh) in Brunei Darussalam on 5 March 2020 which was also attended by several of the people who went to the religious gathering in Kuala Lumpur.

3. The Ministry of Health would like to inform the public that Alhamdulillah, all cases are being treated at the National Isolation Centre and are well and stable, afebrile and do not require any breathing assistance.
4. The Ministry of Health is still actively conducting contact investigation for each case. To date, a total of 523 people have been ordered to undergo quarantine under the Infectious Diseases Act Chapter 204. Meanwhile, since the start of COVID-19 outbreak in early January 2020, a total of 478 laboratory tests for COVID-19 have been conducted, covering 319 people.

5. The Ministry of Health would like to inform the public that all 75 locals who have attended the religious congregation (tabligh) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and are currently back in Brunei Darussalam, have been screened for COVID-19. Of these, 18 have been found positive, 51 are negative, and 6 are still awaiting test results. Alhamdulillah, all of them are either undergoing quarantine at the Games Village or being treated at the National Isolation Centre.
6. Meanwhile, out of the 10 people who are still overseas, one (a Brunei citizen studying in Malaysia) has informed that he had undergone COVID-19 screening in Malaysia and was found to be negative. Efforts are still underway to locate 9 other people. This means that the number of Brunei Darussalam citizens known to have been at the religious congregation (tabligh) in Kuala Lumpur so far is 85.
7. Taking into consideration the current situation of COVID-19 in Brunei Darussalam and in accordance with the recommendation by the World Health Organization, the Ministry of Health would like to inform the public that **all mass gatherings including weddings and sports events are temporarily prohibited.**
8. His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has consented **that the Israk and Mikraj Celebration this year is to be called off.**

9. Meanwhile, the public is also advised to promote social distancing measures such as non-touch social greetings e.g. no handshakes; avoid sitting close to other people in public places; and avoid congested areas especially for high-risk people such as those suffering from chronic diseases (diabetes, cardiovascular disease, kidney disease, respiratory and cancer), pregnant women and the elderly.

10. In addition, the Ministry of Health would also like to request the cooperation of the public in the following matters:

- i) Provide correct information if you are contacted by staff on duty; be respectful and speak politely to the officers and follow the instructions given.
- ii) Avoid hospitals or places where contact investigations are being conducted to prevent congestion and to protect yourself from exposure to infection, especially if you have no need to be in the area.
- iii) Use the Health Advice Line properly and prudently. Since the detection of COVID-19 in Brunei Darussalam on 9 March 2020, the Health Advice Line has received more than 700 calls.
- iv) The management of private companies or departments are requested not to send their employees for COVID-19 without any directives from the Ministry of Health.

11. For further information and latest developments, go to the Ministry of Health's website www.moh.gov.bn or call Health Advice Line 148 (operating 24-hours).

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Reference : KK/PR/2
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