



## MEDIA STATEMENT

### ON THE REDUCTION OF SOCIAL DISTANCING MEASURES BASED ON THE CURRENT SITUATION OF COVID-19 IN BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

**06 Safar 1442 / 24 September 2020**

1. The Ministry of Health would like to announce that today, Thursday, 06 Safar 1442 / 24 September 2020, **there is 1 new case** of COVID-19 infection in the country. Therefore, as of now the total number of COVID-19 cases in Brunei Darussalam is **146 cases**.
  - **Case 146** is a local man aged 29 years old who arrived in Brunei Darussalam on Royal Brunei BI4112 flight (seated at 26J) on 18 September 2020 from India. He showed no signs of infection and is currently being treated at the National Isolation Centre. The Ministry of Health has identified a total of five (5) contacts of which three (3) have undergone

the COVID-19 swab test and were confirmed negative, while the rest are still awaiting test results.

2. Meanwhile, of the total COVID-19 cases in Brunei Darussalam, **a total of 142 cases have been confirmed recovered.**
3. Furthermore, a total of **428 individuals** are undergoing mandatory self-isolation at the monitoring centers provided by the Government, which are individuals that have just arrived in this country after traveling from abroad. At present, a total of **6,014 individuals** have completed their mandatory self-isolation at the monitoring centers.
4. In the past 24 hours, a total of **325 samples** have been tested for the SARS-CoV-2 virus that brings the total number of laboratory tests conducted since January 2020 to **57,517 tests.**
5. Meanwhile, taking into account the situation of COVID-19 in Brunei Darussalam which is currently under control, with the

consent of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Ministry of Health would like to inform the public on the **changes** in the reduction of the social distancing measures implemented which will **commence on Monday, 28 September 2020**, as follows:

- i) Allowing Arcade and Playground (indoor and outdoor) to be escalated from Level 2 to Level 3.
  - ii) Allowing Swimming Pool activity to be escalated from Level 3 to Level 4.
  - iii) Meanwhile, the reduction of social distancing measures for other activities remains the same.
6. For Arcade and Playground (indoor and outdoor), operating capacity will be increased to 80% of normal capacity at one time. The Guidelines for Arcade and Playground (indoor and outdoor) Level 3, will be uploaded on the Ministry of Health's website.

Meanwhile, for the public's information the capacity for Mass Gathering is **maintained at 350 people at any one time**, where this limit is for the total number of people present at an event, which includes all the guests, organizer's family members, committee members, catering staff and anyone present at the event. The Guidelines for Mass Gathering have been uploaded in the Ministry of Health's website.

Furthermore, Guidelines for Swimming Pool (Level 4) and other announcements related to sports activities will be explained by The Honorable Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

7. In this regard, the Ministry of Health requires the public to comply with all regulations and directives related to the reduction of social distancing measures that have been issued and are still in force at the moment.
  - i) The public are required to use the BruHealth application and scan the QR Code when they enter and exit premises,

especially at public areas such as shopping malls, retail shops, restaurants, beauty establishments, barber shops and others. Furthermore, premise owners are required to print and display their QR code at their respective entrances. The public are urged to take the usage of the BruHealth application seriously, especially in scanning the QR Code as it is used by the Ministry of Health for contact tracing purposes in the event of an outbreak of infection.

- ii) The public are also required to practice their social responsibilities by maintaining personal hygiene, practice proper cough and sneeze etiquette, recommended to wear a face mask in crowded public places and if feeling unwell, not to go to public places and attend social gatherings. The public especially those attending Friday prayers are reminded that they are required to wear a face mask when they are within the compounds of the mosques, before and after the Friday

prayers, as well as bringing their own prayer mat and to scan the QR Code when entering the mosque or surau.

- iii) Any individual found to be in violation of or disobey any order issued shall be an offense under the Infectious Diseases Act (Section 204), which if found guilty can be issued compound fine up to \$5,000 or can be prosecuted in court carrying a fine up to \$10,000 or imprisonment up to 6 months or both. The Ministry will not hesitate to take legal action against anyone who does not comply with the directives issued.
8. Since the enforcement of the directives issued during the pandemic in June 2020 until at present, a total of **891 business premises** have been inspected nationwide, where **540** violations have been found and compound fines issued. Among the common offences are that food handlers are not wearing face masks while working and premises do not perform temperature checks on customers and visitors.

9. The Ministry of Health will continue to monitor the situation of the outbreak at the national as well as regional and global level and carry out ongoing risk assessments to consider further mitigation measures. If the outbreak situation becomes alarming yet again, the Ministry of Health will not hesitate to tighten the social distancing measures that need to be taken to control the outbreak. The Ministry of Health will notify the public of any changes to this situation, if necessary from time to time.
  
10. The Ministry of Health would also like to inform the public who wish to make payment for the SARS-CoV-2 test or swab test for the purpose to enter Brunei Darussalam , the payment can be made online via the link as shown on the screen: (<https://www.healthinfo.gov.bn/entry-payment/#/user/login>). For information, within 7 days since it was first made accessible, a total of 47 payment has been made online.

11. 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** or through the **BruHealth App**

- **END** -

Reference : KK/PR/2

Date : 06 Safar 1442H / 24 September 2020