



MEDIA STATEMENT

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

30 Zulkaedah 1441 / 22 July 2020

1. The Ministry of Health would like to inform the public that today, Wednesday, 30 Zulkaedah 1441 / 22 July 2020, Alhamdulillah with the grace of Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'Ala, **there is no new case** of COVID-19 infection in the country. Therefore, **the total number of COVID-19 cases in Brunei Darussalam remains at 141 cases**, whereas the total number of cases that have recovered is **138 individuals**.
2. Meanwhile, currently there are **456 individuals** who are undergoing mandatory isolation at the monitoring centers provided by the Government, who have just arrived in the country after traveling abroad. At present, a total of **3,379 individuals** have completed their mandatory self-isolation at the monitoring centres.

3. In the past 24 hours, a total of **567 samples** have been tested for the SARS-CoV-2 virus that brings the total number of laboratory tests conducted since January 2020 to **37,058 tests**.

4. 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 **additional** reduction of the social distancing measures implemented following the COVID-19 outbreak in the country, as follows:
 - a. Commencing Level 1 on 27 July 2020 for Arcade and Playground (indoor and outdoor).

 - b. Allowing activities to be escalated from Level 1 to Level 2, commencing on 27 July 2020 for the following:
 - Swimming pools
 - Cinemas
 - Activity centres for the elderly
 - Mass Gathering

 - c. Allowing activities to be escalated from Level 2 to Level 3, commencing on 27 July 2020 for the following:
 - Special needs classes
 - Child care centres

- Museums, Galleries and Libraries
 - Internet café
- d. Allowing activities to be escalated from Level 3 to Level 4, commencing on 27 July 2020 for the following:
- Schools
 - Technical, vocational and higher education
 - Tuition schools and music schools
 - Driving schools
 - Gym and fitness centre
 - Sports facilities (indoor & outdoor)
 - Golf course
 - Restaurants, Cafés and Food Courts
 - Stalls and Markets
- e. Allowing activities to be escalated from Level 3 to Level 4, commencing on 03 August 2020 for the following:
- Mosques, *surau* and musalla (*balai ibadat*)
 - Other places of worship besides mosques and surau
- f. Meanwhile, expositions and trade fairs will also be allowed to take place under certain conditions.

Information regarding the reduction of the social distancing measures for each premises will be explained by the respective ministries.

5. Meanwhile, the following are the requirements for the reduction of social distancing measures for the respective activities:

a. Commencing on 27 July 2020, Mass Gathering will be permitted but is limited to not more than 100 people only. Members of the public can refer to the detailed requirements in the Guidelines for Mass Gathering (Level 2) which will be uploaded on the Ministry of Health's website.

b. Other places of worship besides mosque and surau will be permitted to operate to their normal capacity commencing on 3 August 2020. Guidelines for Other places of worship besides mosque and surau (Level 4) will be uploaded on the Ministry of Health's website.

c. Arcade and Playground (indoor and outdoor) will be permitted to operate at 30% capacity of their normal capacity at any one time. The Guidelines for Arcade and Playground (indoor and outdoor) will be uploaded on the Ministry of Health's website.

6. The Ministry of Health would like to inform that the public is required to comply with all regulations and directives related to the reduction of social distancing measures. 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 carries a fine of 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.

7. Meanwhile, following the enforcement patrols and monitoring conducted by the Health Enforcement Unit, the Ministry of Health through the 'Ops Merati' in collaboration with the Royal Brunei Police Force and the Ministry of Home Affairs during the first ten weeks of the reduction of social distancing measures, a total of 143 offences were found under the Infectious Diseases Act (Section 204), of which 13 of the premises were issued compound fines. Several of the offences that were found during the operation were:
 - They did not provide body temperature check before entering the premises;
 - The staffs and employees did not wear face masks for food handlers and barbers;
 - No social distancing measures were in place at the business premises for the safety of visitors.

Therefore, the Ministry of Health would like to inform the public, especially the owners and operators of business premises that commencing tomorrow, Thursday, 23 July 2020, any offense found under the Infectious Diseases Act (Section 204) will be immediately issued compound fines.

8. Furthermore, The Ministry of Health would like to emphasize and remind the public to continue to comply with all the directives issued by the Government, as well as 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.
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. 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 web application **healthinfo.gov.bn**

- **END** -

Reference : KK/PR/2

Date : 30 Zulkaedah 1441H / 22 July 2020