



**MEDIA STATEMENT OF THE
CURRENT SITUATION OF THE COVID-19 INFECTION
IN BRUNEI DARUSSALAM
3 April 2020**

1. As of today, Friday, 09 Syaaban 1441 / 03 April 2020, the Ministry of Health would like to inform the public of **1 new case** of COVID-19 infection in the country, bringing the **total number of cases in Brunei Darussalam to 134 people.**

- Case 134, aged 22 years old is a local student who returned back to the country from the United States of America via the United Kingdom on-board Royal Brunei BI004 (seated 36G) on 29 March 2020. He has undergone self-isolation since his arrival to the country and does not have any signs of infection.

2. The Ministry of Health would like to inform the public that Alhamdulillah, by the grace of Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala, today, **9 more cases** treated at the National Isolation Center have recovered and allowed to return home, bringing **total number of people recovered so far are 65 people.** This means that there are 68 cases that are still being treated at the National Isolation Center. Of these, 3 cases are still in critical condition and require respiratory assistance in the Intensive Care Unit at the National Isolation Center, where one of them

still requires heart / lung machine (ECMO) assistance. Meanwhile, the rest are in stable condition.

3. At this time, a total of 440 individuals are undergoing quarantine in accordance to the Infectious Disease Act (Chapter 204). Whereas, 1,898 individuals have completed their quarantine and are in stable condition. Since early January 2020, a total of 7,566 laboratory tests for COVID-19 have been conducted, leading to a ratio of 1 in 57 residents of the country has been tested for COVID-19.

4. Monitoring of the current situation has shown that the number of laboratory tests being conducted in Brunei Darussalam has increased, bringing the maximum capacity of daily tests to 1,000. In addition, there has been a decreased in the number of confirmed and reported cases, as well as an increased in the number of recoveries. These are some of indicators that show that the COVID-19 outbreak in the country has been well controlled. However, citizens and residents of this country cannot be complacent and neglectful as the COVID-19 pandemic is still spreading rapidly in other countries. Today alone, the total reported global cases of COVID-19 are over one million people with more than 50 thousand deaths. Therefore, despite the fact that Brunei Darussalam has succeeded in "flattening the curve," our country is still under threat from the influx of the virus from outside the country. It is recommended that the community to continue to pray that our country will be able to control the spread of the COVID-19 outbreak, and pray that all our patients will fully

recover as well as our country to always be in the protection of Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala. Aammiin.

5. It is quite usual that an outbreak will only be declared over when there are no more cases being reported within two incubation periods of the infection (for COVID-19, it is 2 times 14 days, which is 28 days). However, it is expected that the virus may not be completely eradicated, especially considering the spread of the virus at the global stage that has yet to be controlled at this time. Therefore, it is important for us to work together to do our best to control the spread of the COVID-19 infection in the country, and in doing so, at least some of the current restrictions can be reduced or lifted gradually. The reduction of these restrictions will only be possible after the Ministry of Health and other agencies under the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam have examined and take into account the success of the regulatory efforts in this country, as well as at the regional and global level.

6. The Ministry of Health would like to clarify on the calculation of days for self-isolation for those arriving in the country. As what was informed before, the period of self-isolation is 14 days from the day of arrival. However, the arrival day is termed as day 0 or not counted for. As an example, for those arriving on 20 March 2020, self-isolation will end on 4 April 2020, which is the 15th day after completing the 14-day period. This is to ensure that the period of isolation is fully conducted. The Ministry of Health would also like to inform all parents and guardians to cooperate and abide by the scheduled time to fetch your children back home from the respective isolation facilities.

7. 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 (operating 24-hours)** or through the web application **healthinfo.gov.bn**

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Reference : KK/PR/2

Date : 09 Syaaban 1441H / 03 April 2020