



MEDIA STATEMENT

ON THE REDUCTION OF SOCIAL DISTANCING MEASURES BASED

ON THE CURRENT SITUATION OF COVID-19 IN BRUNEI

DARUSSALAM

22 Zulhijjah 1441 / 13 August 2020

1. The Ministry of Health would like to inform the public that today, Thursday, 22 Zulhijjah 1441 / 13 August 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 142 cases**, whereas the total number of cases that have recovered is **138 individuals**.
2. Meanwhile, currently there is **1 case** being treated at the National Isolation Centre and is in a stable condition. Whereas, 13 individuals of the close contacts to Case 142 is undergoing quarantine order at monitoring centers provided by the Government and are also in a stable condition and do not have any signs of infection. Meanwhile,

a total of **726 individuals** are undergoing mandatory isolation at the monitoring centers provided by the Government, for individuals who have just arrived in the country after travelling abroad. At present, a total of **4,128 individuals** have completed their mandatory self-isolation at the monitoring centers.

3. In the past 24 hours, a total of **1,098 samples** have been tested for the SARS-CoV-2 virus that brings the total number of laboratory tests conducted since January 2020 to **45,835 tests**. In this regard, the Ministry is pleased to inform that all 90 passengers who were on board the flight BI874 on 5 August 2020 together with Case 142 have been confirmed negative for the SARS-CoV-2 test.
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 which will commence on **Monday, 17 August 2020**, as follows:

- a. Allowing Arcade and Playground (indoor and outdoor) to be escalated from Level 1 to Level 2.
- b. Allowing activities to be escalated from Level 2 to Level 3 for the following activities:
 - Swimming pools
 - Cinemas
 - Activity centres for the elderly
 - Mass Gathering
- c. Maintaining Internet café activity at Level 3.
- d. Allowing activities to be escalated from Level 3 to Level 4 for the following activities:
 - Special needs classes
 - Child care centres
 - Museums, Galleries and Libraries
- e. Maintaining the following activities at Level 4:
 - Mosques, *surau* and praying halls
 - Other places of worship besides mosques and *surau*
 - 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

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 17 August 2020, Mass Gathering will be permitted but is limited to not more than 200 people only. Members of the public can refer to the detailed requirements in the Guidelines for Mass Gathering (Level 3) which will be uploaded on the Ministry of Health's website.

- b. Arcade and Playground (indoor and outdoor) will be permitted to operate at 60% capacity of their normal capacity at any one time. The Guidelines for Arcade and Playground (indoor and outdoor) Level 2, will be uploaded on the Ministry of Health's website.
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- 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 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.
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- 7. Meanwhile, 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 reduction of the charges for the RT-

PCR COVID-19 swab test imposed on foreigners that has been granted permission to enter the country from **\$1,000 (one thousand dollars)** to **\$350 (three hundred and fifty dollars)**, commencing tomorrow, Friday, 14 August 2020.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. Meanwhile, the public are encouraged to use the BruHealth application and scan the QR Code before entering and leaving premises, especially at public areas such as shopping malls, retail shops, restaurants, beauty establishments, barber shops and others. Therefore, the premise owners are advised to print and display the 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. In this regard, if the public has any issues when using the BruHealth application, it is advisable to **contact the Health Advice Line at 148 during office hours** or via e-mail to bruhealth.support@moh.gov.bn and askhal@moh.gov.bn
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 application healthinfo.gov.bn

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Reference : KK/PR/2

Date : 22 Zulhijjah 1441H / 13 August 2020