



MEDIA STATEMENT ON THE CURRENT SITUATION OF THE COVID-19 IN BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

15 March 2020

1. The Ministry of Health would like to update the public on the COVID-19 situation in the country.
2. As of 15 March 2020, 10 new cases have been confirmed bringing **the total number of COVID-19 cases to 50 people**. 7 of the new cases are related to the religious congregation (tabligh) cluster in Kuala Lumpur. 3 new cases are contacts of Case 25 that was reported on 12 March 2020, unrelated to the religious congregation (tabligh) cluster in Kuala Lumpur.
 - Case 41, aged 31 years old is the wife of Case 15 (tabligh cluster). She has no travel history and started developing symptoms (cough and flu) on 12 March 2020.
 - Case 42, aged 55 years old is the sister of Case 12 (tabligh cluster). She has no travel history and started developing symptoms on 9 March 2020.
 - Case 43 is a local man, aged 29 years. He did not attend the religious congregation (tabligh) in Kuala Lumpur but he attended a follow-up religious congregation (tabligh) on 5 March 2020 in Brunei Darussalam,

that was also attended by several other people who attended the gathering in Kuala Lumpur.

- Case 44, aged 23 years, is a contact of Case 25. This case attended a family gathering with Case 25 on 8 March 2020 and started developing symptoms (fever) on 10 March 2020.
- Case 45, aged 56 years, is a contact of Case 25. She also attended the same gathering with Case 25 on 8 March 2020 and started developing fever and flu on 12 March 2020.
- Case 46, aged 56 years, is a friend of Case 8 (tabligh cluster) that went with him on 9 March 2020. He started developing fever on 12 March 2020.
- Case 47 is a local man aged 68 years old. He didn't attend the religious congregation (tabligh) in Kuala Lumpur but attended a tabligh gathering on 5 March 2020 in Brunei Darussalam that was also attended the gathering in Kuala Lumpur.
- Case 48 is a local man aged 20 years. He did not attend the gathering in Kuala Lumpur but attended the tabligh gathering on 5 March 2020 in Brunei Darussalam that was also attended by several others who went to the religious congregation (tabligh) in Kuala Lumpur.

- Case 49, aged 24, is related to Case 25. This case attended a family gathering with Case 25 on 8 March 2020 and was asymptomatic.
 - Case 50, aged 55 years old is the wife of Case 36. She has no travel history and does not have any symptoms of infection.
3. Alhamdulillah, all cases are currently being treated at the National Isolation Centre and are well and stable, afebrile and do not require any respiratory assistance.
 4. The Ministry of Health would also like to advise any member of the public that attended any religious congregation (tabligh) from 5 March to 8 March 2020 in Brunei Darussalam that had participants from the religious congregation (tabligh) that went to the gathering in Kuala Lumpur to come forward to be tested for COVID-19 at the Sports Complex, Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha Hospital. Any person with knowledge of someone who attended any of these events and has not yet presented themselves should report these individuals to the Health Advice Line on 148.
 5. The Ministry of Health is currently actively conducting contact investigations for each case. To date a total of 886 people have been issued Quarantine Orders under the Infectious Disease Act (Section 204). Since January 2020, a total of 1,023 laboratory tests for COVID-19 have been conducted.

6. The Ministry of Health would like to inform the public that all 9 locals who attended the religious congregation in Kuala Lumpur who are currently still in Malaysia are still undergoing quarantine by the health authorities in Malaysia. Of these individuals, 3 people have been confirmed positive for COVID-19 and are being treated at Sg Buloh Hospital , Selangor. Meanwhile, one person has tested negative and five others are waiting laboratory results.

7. Furthermore, those who participated in the Pontianak Bike Week held on 12 March to 14 March 2020 in Kalimantan, Indonesia and the Borneo Ultra Trail Marathon 2020 held from 14 to 16 March 2020 in Sabah, Malaysia are required to register to the Port Health Unit at all points of entry, including at the Brunei International Airport to receive guidelines to undergo self-isolation for 14 days on arrival in Brunei Darussalam. Those who have returned back to Brunei Darussalam but have not yet registered are required to contact the Health Advice Line 148. The public should contact 148 to report any mass gatherings locally or events overseas that are attended by residents from Brunei Darussalam.

8. In relation to this, commencing 16 March 2020, **all citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam are restricted from leaving the country**, except in certain circumstances such as undergoing urgent medical care, attending court hearings or resuming study abroad. Requests for permission to leave the country are subject to the approval of the Prime Minister's Office. Any application in this regard may be addressed by e-mail to

travelapplication@jpm.gov.bn, by including scanned copies of the relevant documentation.

9. Contacts who are currently undergoing quarantine and in which their laboratory tests are negative, are advised to comply with the quarantine instructions. If they experience any signs of infection, they should contact the Health Advice Line 148. Any individual who is quarantined and does not comply with the quarantine order may be subject to legal action under the Infectious Disease Act (Cap 204). If convicted, they can be fined up to \$ 10,000 or up to 6 months in jail or both.

10. The Ministry of Health reminds anyone suffering from signs of infection not to visit patients in the hospital, especially those with chronic illnesses. Such individuals may infect patients and endanger life. Public cooperation is required to control the outbreak of COVID-19 in the country.

11. For more information and updates, the public can visit the Ministry of Health's website www.moh.gov.bn or contact Health Advice Line 148 (operating 24 hours).

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Reference : KK/PR/2

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