



PRESS STATEMENT MINISTRY OF HEALTH MALAYSIA

UPDATES ON THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) SITUATION IN MALAYSIA

Current Status of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases Who Have Recovered

15 April 2020 – The Ministry of Health (MOH) would like to inform that **169 cases** have fully recovered and discharged well today. **Cumulatively, 2,647 confirmed COVID-19 cases have fully recovered and discharged well** (52.2% of total cumulative cases). **The number of cases discharged is almost double than the number of additional confirmed cases reported.**

Current Situation of COVID-19 in Malaysia

15 April 2020, 12 pm – A total of **85 additional confirmed COVID-19 cases** were reported to the National Crisis Preparedness and Response Centre (CPRC) MOH today. Cumulatively there are now **5,072 confirmed COVID-19 cases** in Malaysia. After removing cases discharged well and deaths, there are **currently 2,342 active and infective COVID-19 cases**. They have been isolated and provided treatment.

Currently, **56 confirmed COVID-19 cases are receiving treatment in intensive care units (ICU)**, and of these, 32 cases are on ventilation support.

Regretfully, **one (1) additional COVID-19 death** was reported to the National CPRC MOH. Cumulatively, there are now **83 COVID-19 deaths** in Malaysia (1.64% of total cumulative cases):

1. **Death #83:** Case 4,988 is a 69 year-old Malaysian man with a history of diabetes and hypertension. He was admitted into University of Malaya Medical Centre on 21 March 2020 and was pronounced dead on 15 April 2020 at 6.41 am.

MOH conveys condolences to all family members.

Summary Analysis Following the Second Phase of the Movement Control Order

As announced by the Prime Minister, the second phase of the Movement Control Order (MCO) from 1 April 2020 to 14 April, 2020 has now been extended into the third phase. After nearly one month of the implementation of phase one and two of the MCO, the trend of new COVID-19 cases was relatively stable without any sudden increases. In addition, the number of daily cases recovered and discharged well from the wards has increased. These are encouraging outcomes of the implementation of the MCO, as also demonstrated by the trend of daily active cases.

Following the first and second phase of the MCO, phase three of the MCO is enforced starting today, 15 April 2020 until 28 April 2020. The main aim is to continue to support MOH's existing measures and to intensify further efforts to reduce the number of COVID-19 positive cases in Malaysia by using a targeted approach.

The compliance of the community with the MCO is crucial at this stage. However, based on the monitoring by the authorities and of the road traffic situation recently, it appears that the public is less compliant towards the MCO.

In this regard, MOH welcomes the decision by the National Security Council that more severe action will be taken against the few members of

the community not complying to the MCO. It is hoped that this will lead to a positive impact in flattening the epidemic curve and thus ensure that MOH healthcare facilities are able to manage all COVID-19 patients. MOH is concerned that non-compliance to the MCO can negate and undo all the hard work that has been done so far. MOH thanks all the related agencies for assisting in the enforcement of the MCO to ensure that the level of compliance can be further improved.

MOH, therefore, calls on the cooperation of all Malaysians to play their part as responsible citizens in ensuring that the COVID-19 infection transmission can be broken. This can be achieved by continuing to practice the following:

- i. Compliance with the MCO
- ii. Consistently maintain a high standard of personal hygiene such as washing hands frequently with water and soap
- iii. Practice social distancing of at least 1 metre away from others

MOH is also aware that a number of individuals are required to attend to work especially those in essential services. MOH, therefore, advises them to:

- i. Avoid being in crowded and confined spaces with many people, e.g. work pantry
- ii. Maintain a distance of at least 1 metre when having face-to-face conversations
- iii. Ensure any dining areas in the office remains clean, and use disinfectants for frequently touched common surfaces

Use of Disinfection Box, Chamber, Tunnel, Booth, Partition or Gate to Reduce COVID-19 Infection

MOH would like to inform that several endorsement applications have been received for the use of disinfection box/chamber/tunnel/booth/partition/gate to reduce COVID-19 infection, whereby their use have been evaluated by the Health Technology

Assessment (HTA) Unit, MOH. This is because the use of such disinfection devices has been reported in several countries.

Evaluations have been conducted on several models of such devices in several countries, as well as existing devices in Malaysia. It was found that the disinfection processes of these devices were evaluated involving a person passing through the device for a period of 20 to 30 seconds, during which the person is sprayed with disinfectant solutions. All the devices evaluated used various disinfectant solutions.

The HTA evaluation showed that there is currently no evidence of the effectiveness of such devices in reducing COVID-19 infection. The duration of 20 to 30 seconds is inadequate for effective disinfection. The process also does not kill the viruses inside the human body. Besides, the disinfectant solutions may also cause damage to the skin and mucosal membranes of the human body (e.g. eyes and mouth).

Based on the HTA evaluation, MOH therefore does not recommend the use of disinfection box/chamber/tunnel/booth/partition/gate as a measure to reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection in humans.

MOH will continue to monitor the development of the COVID-19 situation based on all available information, and the public will be continuously updated on the latest information.

Thank you.

Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah
Director General of Health Malaysia

15 April 2020 @ 5.00 pm

Appendix 1

Number of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in Malaysia, by States (Cumulative, as of 15 April 2020, 12 pm)

State	No. of New Cases	Cumulative
Perlis	0	18
Kedah	1	94
Pulau Pinang	0	119
Perak	0	250
Selangor	17	1,316
Negeri Sembilan	1	363
Melaka	0	147
Johor	14	601
Pahang	17	253
Terengganu	0	106
Kelantan	0	154
Sabah	0	285
Sarawak	8	371
WP Kuala Lumpur	27	926
WP Putrajaya	0	54
WP Labuan	0	15
Total	85	5,072