



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

21 March 2020 – The Ministry of Health (MOH) would like to inform that **27 cases** have fully recovered and discharged well today. Cumulatively, 114 confirmed COVID-19 cases have fully recovered and discharged well.

Current Situation of COVID-19 in Malaysia

21 March 2020, 12 pm – A total of **153 additional confirmed COVID-19 cases** were reported to the National Crisis Preparedness and Response Centre (CPRC) MOH today. Cumulatively there are now **1,183 confirmed COVID-19 cases** in Malaysia. Based on preliminary investigation, of these 153 additional confirmed cases, 90 cases are related to the *Tabligh* gathering in Seri Petaling mosque.

Currently, **37 confirmed COVID-19 cases are receiving treatment in intensive care units (ICU)**. Of these, 23 cases are on ventilation support.

Regretfully, **two (2) additional COVID-19 deaths** (Case 152 and Case 238) were reported to the National CPRC MOH in the past 24 hours. Cumulatively, there are now **four (4) COVID-19 deaths** in Malaysia:

1. Case 152 has been reported yesterday evening by the Director General of Health through a Facebook posting. He is a 58 year-old Malaysian man from the *Tabligh* gathering cluster and was treated in the ICU in Tawau Hospital, Sabah. He was pronounced dead on 20 March 2020 at 6.27 pm.

2. Case 238 is a 50 year-old Malaysian man, also from the *Tabligh* gathering cluster. He was admitted into Melaka Hospital on 12 March 2020 with symptoms of Severe Acute Respiratory Infection. He was put on ventilation support on day five of admission into the isolation ward and while in the ICU. His condition deteriorated and he was pronounced dead on 21 March 2020 at 1.30 am.

Spread of COVID-19 Infection Amongst Healthcare Workers

To date, a total of 19 MOH healthcare workers (HCWs) and 5 HCWs from private healthcare facilities have been diagnosed with COVID-19. Of the 19 MOH HCWs, two (2) are currently in the ICU. The sources of infection for all these HCWs **were not** due to non-compliance to guidelines in managing COVID-19 cases in their respective healthcare facilities. Investigations found that they were all the first- and second-generation close contacts to the *Tabligh* gathering cluster.

As of 14 March 2020, a total of 337 MOH HCW have been tested for COVID-19. Of these, 251 HCWs were found to be negative, with the remaining 86 with results pending.

MOH reminds all HCWs managing patients on the importance of using facemasks, maintaining good personal hygiene, particularly washing hands correctly and more frequently.

Investigation and Contact Tracing of Individuals Who Participated in the *Tabligh* Gathering Amongst Refugees and Asylum Seekers

MOH is working closely with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) to ensure that refugees and asylum seekers are also covered in the preventive and control activities undertaken by the Government. This is to prevent any potential spread of infection in the community.

To track down individuals involved with the *Tabligh* gathering within this group of people, UHNCR has collaborated with IMARET, the Malaysian

Relief Agency and MERCY Malaysia as their Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) partners. MOH is also involved through the involvement of HCWs at the District Health Office level.

These joint teams will channel information about the COVID-19 infection to refugees and asylum seekers. This includes the importance of seeking early treatment if unwell with respiratory tract infection symptoms, even if they did not attend the gathering. This takes into account that they live in small communities and have close interactions.

Source of Information on COVID-19 from MOH

If unwell, please contact the Virtual Health Advisory for advice, and join the webinar session that is held daily starting at 9:00 am via the following link:

<http://www.doctoroncall.com.my/coronavirus>

The public can also contact the National CPRC MOH hotline. Further information on the COVID-19 situation in Malaysia is also available through the National CPRC MOH Telegram channel <https://t.me/cprckkm>.

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**

21 March 2020 @ 3.30 pm

Appendix 1

NUMBER OF CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASES IN MALAYSIA, BY STATES (CUMULATIVE, AS OF 21 MARCH 2020, 12 PM)

STATE	NO. OF CASES
PERLIS	9
KEDAH	47
PULAU PINANG	50
PERAK	55
SELANGOR	292
NEGERI SEMBILAN	70
MELAKA	22
JOHOR	129
PAHANG	37
TERENGGANU	27
KELANTAN	61
SABAH	136
SARAWAK	68
WP KUALA LUMPUR	166
WP PUTRAJAYA	9
WP LABUAN	5
TOTAL	1,183