



**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

17 March 2020 – The Ministry of Health (MOH) would like to inform that **seven (7) cases** have fully recovered and discharged well today. Cumulatively, 49 confirmed COVID-19 cases have fully recovered and discharged well.

Current Situation of COVID-19 in Malaysia

17 March 2020, 12 pm – A total of **120 additional confirmed COVID-19 cases** were reported to the National Crisis Preparedness and Response Centre (CPRC) MOH today. Cumulatively there are now **673 confirmed COVID-19 cases** in Malaysia. Based on preliminary investigation, of these 120 additional confirmed cases, 95 cases are related to the *Tabligh* gathering in Seri Petaling mosque.

Currently, **twelve (12) confirmed COVID-19 cases** are receiving **treatment in intensive care units (ICU)** requiring ventilation support.

Regretfully, **two (2) COVID-19 deaths** (Case 178 and Case 358) were reported to the National CPRC MOH today.

1. Case 178 is a 34 year-old Malaysian man who had attended the *Tabligh* gathering at the Seri Petaling mosque. He started to develop fever on 5 March 2020. He was admitted into Permai Hospital Johor Bahru for treatment on 12 March 2020 after found to be positive for

COVID-19. His condition deteriorated and he was transferred to the ICU. He was pronounced dead on 17 March 2020.

2. Case 358 is a 60 year-old Malaysian man, with a history of chronic disease. He developed fever, cough and difficulty breathing on 7 March 2020. He was treated in Sarawak General Hospital on 14 March 2020 after found to be positive for COVID-19. His condition deteriorated and he was transferred to the ICU. He was pronounced dead on 17 March 2020.

Movement Control Order, 18 to 31 March 2020

On 16 March 2020, the Prime Minister of Malaysia announced the implementation of the Movement Control Order, to be enforced under the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Act 1988 (Act 342) and the Police Act 1967 (Act 344).

MOH wishes to inform that the Government of Malaysia took this drastic measure to prevent further spread of the COVID-19 infection by restricting public movement. The Government is implementing this approach to prevent even more Malaysians from being infected by COVID-19 that is now in the second wave of infection. However, this restriction will not affect healthcare services as these will continue to be delivered by MOH at all healthcare facilities. Similarly, private healthcare services will also continue.

MOH urges the public to comply to all directives issued under this Order, that will be enforced from 18 March 2020 until 31 March 2020. Failure to comply to any directives under this Order, if convicted of an offense, may be punishable under Section 24 of Act 342:

1. First offense, punishable by imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or fined, or both;
2. Second offense or subsequent offenses, punishable by not less than five years imprisonment or fined, or both;

3. Further offenses are punishable by a fine not exceeding RM 200.00 for each day that the offense continues.

Health Advisory on COVID-19

Every Malaysian can fulfil their duties as responsible citizens to assist the Government to successfully control the spread of the COVID-19 infection. Some of the measures that each Malaysian must undertake to prevent and control the COVID-19 infection, in line with the Movement Control Order, include:

1. Constantly maintain a high level of personal hygiene at all times, **wash hands** frequently with soap and water, or use hand sanitisers;
2. Practice **good cough etiquette** – cover mouth and nose with tissue when coughing or sneezing, dispose tissue appropriately after use and wash hands immediately; and
3. Seek **early treatment** if unwell with respiratory tract infection symptoms e.g. fever, cough, runny nose and/or sore throat.

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

Thank you.

YB DATO' SERI DR ADHAM BIN BABA

Minister of Health Malaysia

17 March 2020 @ 5 pm

Appendix 1

Number of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in Malaysia, by States

State	No. of Cases
Perlis	8
Kedah	31
Pulau Pinang	23
Perak	23
Selangor	161
Negeri Sembilan	45
Melaka	17
Johor	77
Pahang	28
Terengganu	7
Kelantan	25
Sabah	82
Sarawak	29
WP Kuala Lumpur & Putrajaya	113
WP Labuan	4
Total	673

Additional Information

1. Following the announcement made by the Prime Minister of Malaysia on 16 March 2020, MOH took steps to gazette the Declaration of Infected Local Areas Order 2020, under Section 11 of the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Act 1988 [Act 342].
2. This Order will be enforced from 18 March 2020 to 31 March 2020. For this duration, everyone will be subjected to the Movement Control Order.
3. For the duration of this Order, Authorised Officers shall have the power to instruct any individuals residing in a local area of infection to permit themselves to be:
 - Treated;
 - Isolated, observed or monitored for a specified time period; or
 - Subjected to any steps considered necessary to control the infection.
4. It shall be an offense for any individual who violates this Order. They can be punished and can be prosecuted.
5. In accordance with the Movement Control Order enforced throughout the country from 18 March 2020 to 31 March 2020, MOH has issued a guideline for Heads of Department and Officers within MOH. In general, all healthcare facilities will continue to operate as normal to deliver health and medical services to the people, and also to implement measures to prevent further spread of the COVID-19 infection.
6. However, for some healthcare personnel that are not required to be in the healthcare facility full-time or on duty on a rotational basis, they may be allowed to work from home. This will be at the discretion of the respective Heads of Department.
7. Nurseries and kindergartens where services are required by MOH will continue to operate for the purpose of providing childcare support for MOH personnel required to work in healthcare facilities. In this regard,

MOH advises that all preventive and security measures be given priority during the duration of enforcement of the Movement Control Order.