



PRESS STATEMENT MINISTRY OF HEALTH MALAYSIA

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

Current Status in Malaysia

9 March 2020, 12 pm – A total of **18 additional confirmed COVID-19 cases** were reported to the National Crisis Preparedness and Response Centre (CPRC) MOH. They have all been identified and isolated for further management. Investigation and identification of close contacts for testing are currently ongoing.

MOH wishes to inform that Case 101 was detected amongst Patient Under Investigation (PUI). He has a history of travelling to Iran with a business colleague from 20 to 27 February 2020. He developed symptoms on 5 March 2020 and tested positive on 8 March 2020. He was admitted to the isolation ward in Tuanku Jaafar Hospital, Negeri Sembilan for further management.

With these additional 18 cases, cumulatively there are now **117 confirmed COVID-19 cases** in Malaysia. Of these, 19 cases were amongst Patients Under Investigation (PUI), 96 cases amongst close contacts, and two (2) amongst evacuees of the Humanitarian Assistance missions. The two (2) cases that were reported yesterday to be in the intensive care units (ICU) are still in the ICU requiring ventilation support.

Of all confirmed cases reporting during this second wave of COVID-19 infection in Malaysia (Cases 23 to 117), only six (6) cases were reported amongst PUI with histories of travelling overseas. **Whereas the remaining cases were from a cluster of close contacts or history of close contact with each other.**

MOH is also conducting COVID-19 surveillance to detect sporadic and local cases in Malaysia through patients with influenza-like-illness (ILI) and severe

acute respiratory syndrome (SARI) with no history of travelling to affected countries or contacts with confirmed COVID-19 cases. As of 9 March 2020, a total of 574 samples have been tested and none were found to be positive for COVID-19. **Currently there is no sporadic COVID-19 cases that have been detected by this surveillance.**

Collection of Samples for COVID-19 at Home

MOH is currently collaborating with the private sector to provide services for collection of samples for COVID-19 at home. Through this collaboration, asymptomatic individuals can undergo COVID-19 testing at their own homes without having to go to a health facility. The public can access this service by downloading the related application to schedule the home visit appointment for sample taking (Appendix 1). However, there will be charges for this service.

Health Advisory

1. MOH advises the public the importance of self-care, and if symptomatic to avoid from going to crowded public places. These two simple measures have been proven to reduce the risk of infection through respiratory droplets in the community. These measures were also implemented in the People's Republic of China for the COVID-19 infection and were shown to contribute to the reduction of cases.
2. The public is also advised to constantly **maintain a high level of personal hygiene**, wash hands frequently with soap and water, or use hand sanitisers. Please seek early medical treatment for symptoms of respiratory tract infection e.g. fever, cough and/or difficulty breathing.
3. MOH advises all Malaysians to **postpone all travels overseas**, particularly to provinces or cities declared with COVID-19 outbreaks in the People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea, Japan, Italy and Iran (as announced previously).
4. The public is also reminded not to share or disseminate unverified news or information on COVID-19. The official information on the latest development on COVID-19 can be obtained from the MOH's website; www.moh.gov.my.

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

Thank you.

DATUK DR NOOR HISHAM ABDULLAH
Director General of Health Malaysia

9 March 2020 @ 4 pm

Collaboration between MOH and the Private Sector for Collection of Samples for COVID-19 at Home

1. Currently, samples are taken only from individuals identified as Patient Under Investigation (PUI). However, there are also individuals who wish to be tested despite not meeting the criteria for PUI. Therefore, MOH has no objections for these individuals to obtain the testing services from the private sector.
2. MOH is currently collaborating with the private sector for collection of samples for COVID-19 at home through:
 - a) Training of private healthcare personnel in managing PUI cases
 - b) Training in the collection and management of COVID-19 samples
 - c) Quality control for COVID-19 testing
3. The sample collection services will be conducted by private medical officers and paramedic personnel who have been trained, and samples will be tested at private laboratories.
4. There will be charges for this service as determined by the private sector.
5. This service is currently being offered by the following private organisations;
 - a) BookDoc
 - b) Pantai Premier Pathology Sdn. Bhd.
 - c) Lablink (M) Sdn. Bhd. (KPJ)
 - d) Qualitas Medical Group Sdn. Bhd.
 - e) Gleneagles Kuala Lumpur
 - f) Pantai Hospital Kuala Lumpur
 - g) Pantai Hospital Cheras
 - h) Pantai Hospital Klang
 - i) Pantai Hospital Ayer Keroh, Melaka
 - j) Twin Tower Medical Centre, KLCC
 - k) DoctorOnCall
6. The visit their respective websites for further information. This list of organisations will be updated periodically.