

UPDATE ON THE CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK – PRESS RELEASE FROM MINISTRY OF HEALTH, BRUNEI DARUSSLAM

Current status of the 2019-nCoV and steps taken by Brunei, released: 30 January 2020

1. The Ministry of Health would like to inform the public of the current status of the novel Coronavirus (2019 n-CoV) infection in China, regionally and globally. A total of 7,711 cases have been confirmed to be infected with the new coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in 31 provinces in China; 1,370 people from these cases are of serious condition and currently hospitalized for treatment while another 170 died from the infection. This number also includes cases that have been confirmed outside mainland China namely the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China (10), Macau Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China (7) and Taiwan (8).
2. Some cases of the virus infection have also been confirmed in several countries as follows:
 - Thailand (14 cases)
 - Japan (7 Cases)
 - South Korea (4 cases)
 - United States (5 cases)
 - Singapore (10 cases)
 - Vietnam (2 cases)
 - Nepal (1 case)
 - France (3 cases)
 - Australia (5 cases)
 - Malaysia (8 cases)
 - Cambodia (1 Case)
 - Sri Lanka (1 case)
 - Canada (2 cases)
 - German (4 cases)
 - United Arab Emirates (4 cases)
 - Philippines (1 case)
3. The Chinese government has tightened control measures in China where on January 27, 2020, the government of China banned tourists from visiting the country. As a result, the number of Chinese tourists to Brunei Darussalam has dropped sharply since January 27, 2020.
4. At present, no cases of severe acute respiratory infections have been detected in Brunei Darussalam, related to the novel Coronavirus (2019 n-CoV) infection. In an effort to increase vigilance and precautionary measures in the country, the Ministry of Education has taken steps for students in China and has returned to Brunei Darussalam and has been advised to undergo 14 days of self-isolation. Whereas a total of 39 Hengyi Industries workers who recently returned to Pulau Muara Besar, Brunei from China are also in self-isolation for 14 days.
5. For public's information, a total of 73 Brunei Darussalam students are studying in China and currently, only 31 of them are still there. InshaAllah, 29 of them will return to Brunei Darussalam on Friday, January 31, 2020. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will work to send back the remaining two students in the near future.

6. The Brunei Darussalam government will also implement some of the following measures:
 - a. Any visitor from the Hubei Province or anyone holding a passport of the People's Republic of China issued in Hubei will not be allowed to enter Brunei Darussalam;
 - b. Anyone who has traveled to Hubei Province within 14 days before arriving in Brunei Darussalam will not be allowed to enter this country, with the exception of citizens and permanent residents of Brunei Darussalam;
 - c. Anyone who has been in China for 14 days before arriving in Brunei Darussalam and allowed to enter the country will be required to undergo self-isolation for 14 days;
 - d. Citizens or permanent residents of Brunei Darussalam who are in China (regardless of province) are allowed to return to Brunei Darussalam. They will be required to undergo self-isolation for 14 days. On this matter, any citizen or permanent resident of Brunei Darussalam in China is advised to postpone their return and is advised to seek the assistance of the Brunei Darussalam Embassy in China for further advice; and
 - e. The Ministry of Health will issue travel advisory for the residents of Brunei Darussalam to avoid any traveling to Hubei Province and postpone non-essential travel to China.
7. All of the additional measures above are on temporary basis and will be reviewed from time to time.
8. As a precautionary measure, members of the public are reminded to maintain the following good practice at all times:
 - Avoid contact with sick animals including poultry and birds; and consumption of raw and undercooked meats;
 - Avoid close contact with people who are unwell or showing symptoms of illness;
 - Observe good personal hygiene
 - Practice frequent hand washing with soap (e.g. before handling food or eating, after going to the toilet, or when hands are dirtied by respiratory secretions after coughing or sneezing);
 - Wear a mask if you have respiratory symptoms such as a cough or runny nose;
 - Cover your mouth with a tissue paper when coughing or sneezing, and dispose the soiled tissue paper in the rubbish bin immediately; and
 - Seek medical attention promptly if you are feeling unwell.
9. The Ministry of Health will continue to maintain high vigilance, working alongside the World Health Organisation (W.H.O) and neighboring countries to control the novel Coronavirus (2019 n-CoV) infection situation. In this regard, the public is advised to continue to remain calm and to not panic. The Ministry of Health, from time to time, will endeavor to update the public on any current developments and measures being implemented in the country. For further information, members of the public can contact Talian Darussalam 123 or via the www.moh.gov.bn website.

Royal Brunei Airlines asks our guests to take the precautionary measures as outlined above. Additional information on this outbreak can be found at;

World Health Organisation (WHO):

[https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/30-01-2020-statement-on-the-second-meeting-of-the-international-health-regulations-\(2005\)-emergency-committee-regarding-the-outbreak-of-novel-coronavirus-\(2019-ncov\)](https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/30-01-2020-statement-on-the-second-meeting-of-the-international-health-regulations-(2005)-emergency-committee-regarding-the-outbreak-of-novel-coronavirus-(2019-ncov))

International Air Transport Association (IATA):

<https://www.iata.org/en/programs/safety/health/diseases/>