



MEDIA STATEMENT

YANG BERHORMAT MINISTER AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMY II AS CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE COVID-19 STEERING COMMITTEE

1. With the consent of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu`izzaddin Waddaulah Ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar `Ali Saifuddien Sa`adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Prime Minister's Office hereby informs that the control measures announced at the Ministry of Health's media conference on 3rd September are **extended by 14 days beginning Monday, 4 October until Sunday 17 October 2021**. During this two-week period, several additional strategies will also be implemented as follows:
 - i) Enforcement agencies will step up surveillance and enforcement activities to ensure that the public will continue to comply with the restrictions issued by the Ministry of Health.
 - ii) The public are advised and required to remain at their respective residences from 8.00 p.m. to 4.00 a.m daily. This is to restrict movement and reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19. Exceptions are only granted for emergencies, urgent matters and critical frontline workers only.
 - iii) In addition to ongoing efforts, Penghulu and Village Heads are expected to jointly monitor local residents to ensure their compliance

with orders to control the spread of COVID-19 as well as to practise social distancing and not to hold any social gatherings.

iv) The hotline at the National Coordination Centre for COVID-19 (N3C) will operate 24 hours daily for the public to report incidents or violations of any regulations or Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to the authorities. The hotline numbers are as follows:

- 8176148
- 8175148
- 8166148
- 8155148

The measures that will be enforced for these upcoming two weeks will be known as ***Operasi Pulih***.

2. Following the Ministry of Health's statement issued on 7 August 2021 regarding the reinstatement of tighter control measures as a result of the second wave of COVID-19 in Brunei Darussalam, government agencies and non-government organisations, as well as volunteers and the general public have joined hands to curb the spread of the pandemic in the country. However, the number of positive cases has clearly not subsided, and at the same time, isolation centres are reaching maximum capacity of bed occupancy or bed capacity, which currently is at 78%.
3. Based on the statistics obtained in the last two months, the number of positive cases in this second wave is as follows: approximately 75% have not received a single dose of the COVID-19 vaccine; 17% have received a single dose of the COVID-19 vaccine; and only 8% have been fully vaccinated (two doses). According to these statistics, approximately 1% of patients will experience severe symptoms, thereby requiring treatment at the Intensive Care Unit (Category 5). At present, none of the patients that have been fully vaccinated are in Category 5.
4. These statistics underline the importance of expediting nationwide protection through vaccinations. Such efforts are crucial to avoid burdening the

healthcare system. In the coming weeks, the Government will intensify efforts to ensure that 80% of the citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam will have completed two doses of COVID-19 vaccinations by the end of 2021. This is a major effort, as the initial target date for reaching the 80% level was expected to be in March 2022. InshaAllah, Brunei Darussalam will be able to reach the aforementioned target.

5. At the same time, the Government will continue to implement efforts for the country to emerge from the pandemic in phased transitions. We will succeed when all levels of the society and individuals in the country stand and work together to curb the spread of COVID-19. With this, the public is once again urged not to leave their homes unless for emergency and urgent purposes and for those who are working to “Work From Home” as much as possible. InshaAllah, pressure on the country’s healthcare system will reduce when the number of positive COVID-19 cases begin to decline and priority will be allocated towards resources that will successfully execute the national vaccination programme. The execution of *Operasi Puhli* and other strategies mentioned intends to control the risk of COVID-19 and more importantly, restore the situation to normal post-COVID-19 and at the same time, recover the country’s economic situation which has been affected by the pandemic.
6. The country’s recovery is our shared responsibility where the public plays a critical role in ensuring the success of any government strategy. To this end, the cooperation of all parties is highly appreciated. We must continue to pray and work together, alongside having faith in Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta’ala so we can all be safe from COVID-19.

PRIME MINISTER’S OFFICE

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Bandar Seri Begawan BB3913
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24th Safar 1443
1st October 2021