



Malaysia

Situation summary

- As of 18 October 2020, there have been a total of 20 498 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Malaysia.
- In the past seven days, 4841 new cases have been reported, a 47.8% increase compared to the previous week.
- On 18 October, Malaysia recorded 871 new COVID-19 cases, the highest single-day report of confirmed cases since the start of the outbreak.
- In the past seven days, 30 new deaths have been reported. This brings the total number of COVID-19 deaths in Malaysia to 187. Of the newly reported deaths, 28 were from Sabah.
- Of the 4841 cases reported in the past seven days, only 19 (0.4%) were imported.
- Between the period of 22 September and 13 October, 394 COVID-19 cases reported in states other than Sabah had a travel history to Sabah.
- To date, 251 030 individuals in Sabah have been tested for COVID-19. The COVID-19 positivity rate for Sabah is 3.0%. The recent high number of cases reported in Sabah is partly due to efforts to clear a backlog of COVID-19 samples.

Upcoming events and priorities

- Conditional Movement Control Orders (CMCOs) have been enforced in the following states and federal territories:
 - Federal Territory (FT) Labuan: 17–30 October
 - Selangor, FT Putrajaya, FT Kuala Lumpur: 14–27 October
 - Sabah: 13–26 October.
- Other localized movement control orders:
 - An Enhanced Movement Control Order (EMCO) at Alor Setar Prison, Kedah, has been extended until 1 November.
 - Kampung Padang Che Mas in Balaing, Kedah, has been placed under CMCO until 31 October.
 - Kamunting Detention Centre in Taiping has been placed under EMCO.
- The Ministry of Health (MOH) has mobilized health-care workers from across Malaysia to address any shortages of workers in local Sabahan hospitals. Additionally, the MOH has called for the involvement of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to provide assistance in Sabah.
- China has agreed to list Malaysia as one of the priority recipients of the China-produced COVID-19 vaccine. Additionally, Malaysia has agreed to join the COVAX initiative. However, the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation (MOSTI) is leading further negotiations on vaccine costs.
- The MOH has urged Malaysians who were previously infected with COVID-19 to come forward and volunteer for a national study on immunity in recovered patients entitled “Longitudinal Study of Neutralising Antibody Response among COVID-19 Patients in Malaysia”.
- Authorities have expressed the need to review COVID-19 standard operating procedures in Peninsular Malaysia prisons.



National transmission assessment

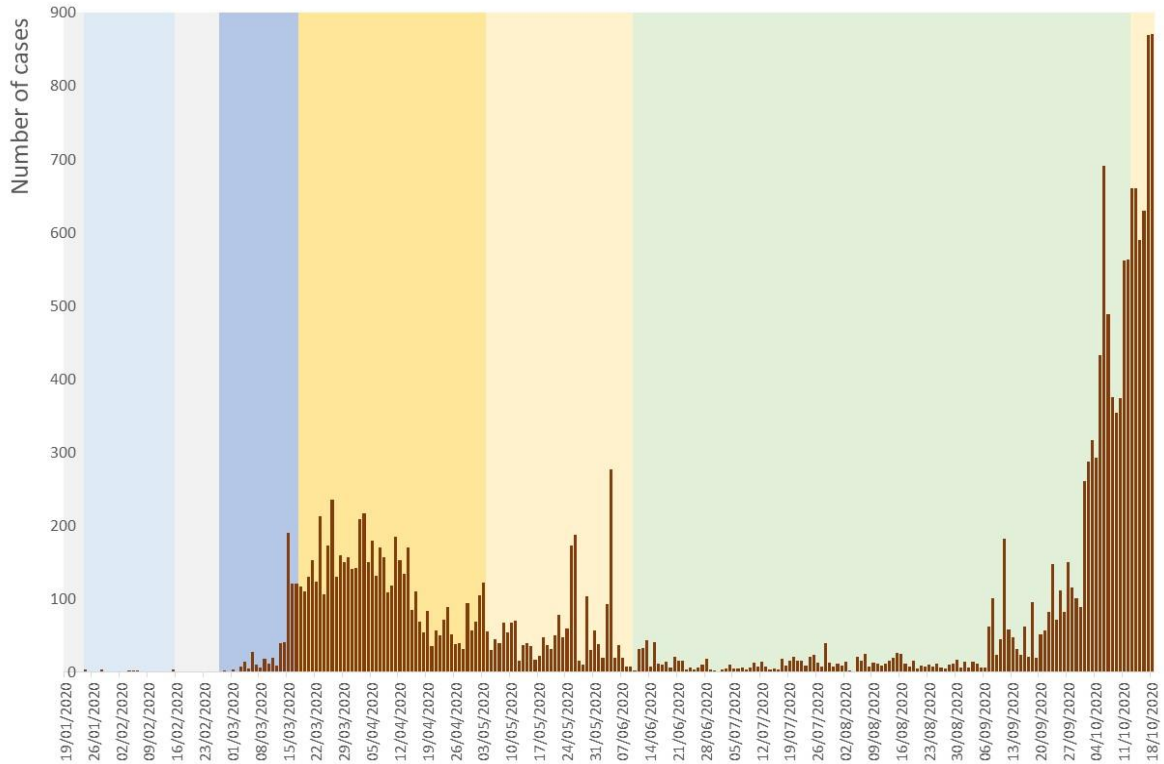
At the national level, Malaysia remains in **Stage 2, localized community transmission**, with increasing trends in the number of new cases and the geographical spread of cases detected. New cases in the past seven days increased by almost 50% compared to the previous week. Malaysia reported its highest single-day increase on Sunday, 18 October, adding 871 cases. Sabah and Selangor are the two states with the highest number of new cases reported. In the week ending 18 October, Sabah reported 3109 new cases (49.1% of total) and Selangor reported 649 cases (13.4% of total). Up to 1779 (36.7%) cases in the past seven days are either unlinked or not yet determined on the day of reporting. Of these, 1588 were reported in Sabah. Resource mobilization is in place to increase testing and health-care capacities in the affected areas, especially in Sabah. State-wide Conditional Movement Control Orders have been enforced in Sabah, Selangor and the federal territories of Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya and Labuan.

Epi Update COVID-19 <i>Data reported for epi week ending 18 October 2020 (% difference compared to the previous 7 days)</i>	Tests 146 979 Tests in the past 7 days (+18.7%)	Cases 4841 New cases in the past 7 days (+47.8%)	Deaths 30 Deaths in the past 7 days (+50.0%)	ICU 17.3% ICU utilization rate (-4.4%)
	1 885 847 Cumulative tests 1.09% Positivity rate	20 498 Cumulative cases	187 Cumulative deaths 0.9% Case fatality rate	497 ICU beds for COVID-19 patients
Imported cases and clusters	19 (0.4%) Imported cases in the past 7 days	1779 (36.7%) Cases in the past 7 days with no link	85 Active clusters	NA Active clusters with more than three generations



Epidemiology

Fig 1. Daily reported COVID-19 cases, Malaysia, as of 18 October 2020



Mortality

- In the past seven days, 30 new deaths were reported in Malaysia, including 28 (93.3%) recorded in Sabah. Fourteen (46.7%) deaths were reported among females, nine (30.0%) were reported among non-Malaysians, and 17 were reported among people over 60 years old.

Geographical distribution

- As of 18 October, all states and federal territories in the country, except for Perlis, are reporting active cases, ranging from 1 active case in Kelantan to 5050 active cases in Sabah. Kedah and Selangor reported 1134 and 758 active cases, respectively. This state-level reporting is on a rolling 14-day basis, from 5 to 18 October 2020, and excludes imported cases.

Clusters

- There are currently 85 active clusters.
- In the past seven days, three clusters have been declared closed, i.e. Tawar, Ara and Bunga clusters.
- Twenty-nine new clusters were identified in the last week.
- Among the active clusters, 29 are located in Sabah and 26 have an index case with travel history to Sabah.

Table 1: New clusters reported in the week ending 18 October 2020

Cluster name	State	Total cases	Date first reported	Notes
Baiduri	FT Kuala Lumpur	20	12 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involves districts located in Selangor (Hulu Langat) and FT Kuala Lumpur (Cheras). • The index case (#14 312) tested positive for COVID-19 infection on 7 October following pre-surgery screening. • Cases have been detected among police personnel of the Cheras Police headquarters.
Bah Perdana	FT Kuala Lumpur	9	12 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First identified in the Cheras district. • The index case (#11 305) tested positive on 28 September following symptomatic screening of returnees from high-risk areas (Sabah).
Kolong	Sabah	10	12 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified in Keningau district. • The index case (#13 548) was detected through community screening on 7 October.
Bah Tropicana	Selangor	42	12 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified in the Petaling district. • The index case (#11 804) was detected through screening of returnees from high-risk areas (Sabah) on 2 October.
Rinting	Johor	10	12 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involves districts in Malacca (Melaka Tengah) and Johor (Johor Bahru). • The index case (#14 350) was detected following back-to-work screenings on 7 October.
Bah Kasturi	FT Putrajaya	25	12 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involves districts in Negeri Sembilan (Seremban), FT Kuala Lumpur (Cheras), FT Putrajaya, Selangor (Klang, Petaling, Hulu Langat, Gombak, Kuala Langat). • The index case (#12 553) was detected on 24 September through screening of returnees from high-risk areas (Sabah).
Semarak	Sabah	14	13 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involves the district of Tawau. • The index case (#12 200) was identified through symptomatic screening on 3 October.
Bina	Sabah	24	13 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involves the district of Beaufort. • The index case (#15 575) was identified through screening for hospital admittance in Hospital Sipitang on 10 October.
Sabindo	Sabah	14	13 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified in Tawau. • The index case (#11 897) was detected on 3 October following symptomatic screening.
Bestari	Sabah	26	13 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified in Sandakan. • The index case (#14 830) was detected on 10 October through symptomatic screening.
Bah Kenangan	Selangor	25	13 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involves the Hulu Langat district. • The index case (#11 802) was identified on 2 October through screening of returnees from high-risk areas (Sabah).

Penjara Seberang Perai (Jawi)	Penang	72	13 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified in Seberang Perai Selatan district. Cases were detected following screening of inmates into the Remand Prison Timur Laut on 11 October.
Kencana	Selangor	18	14 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involves districts in Selangor (Hulu Langat, Petaling, Klang, Gombak), FT Kuala Lumpur (Cheras), and Johor (Johor Bahru, Batu Pahat, Pontian). The index case (#13 805) was detected through symptomatic screening conducted on 7 October.
Olive	Sabah	17	15 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involves districts in Selangor (Hulu Langat) and Sabah (Kota Marudu, Penampang). The index case (#11 489) was detected through screening of returnees from high-risk areas (Sabah) and tested positive on 2 October.
Bah Pasir	Negeri Sembilan	5	15 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involves districts in Negeri Sembilan (Port Dickson) and FT Putrajaya. The index case (#14 329) was detected through screening of returnees from high-risk areas (Sabah). The index case tested positive on 8 October.
Bah Pengkalan	Perak	6	15 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detected in the Hulu Perak district. The index cases (#14 345 and #14 346) were screened as returnees from high-risk areas (Sabah). They tested positive on 8 October.
Saguking	FT Labuan	9	15 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The index case (#15 657) tested positive on 11 October following admittance screening into hospital.
Lekir	Perak	11	16 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involves the Manjung districts. The index case (#17 528) was detected positive following symptomatic screening on 14 October.
Buntar	Kedah	11	16 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involves districts in Kedah (Kuala Muda), Perak (Kerian), and FT Putrajaya. The index case (#18 035) was identified through symptomatic screening on 15 October.
Merbok	Selangor	12	16 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involves the districts of Kuala Langat, Klang, Kuala Selangor and Petaling. The index case (#17 983) was identified through symptomatic screening on 9 October.
Teduh	Sabah	13	17 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involves the district of Lahad Datu. The index case (#13 000) was detected through screening of individuals with a history of travel to high-risk districts (Semporna) on 6 October.
Menara	Selangor	39	17 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involves districts in Selangor (Gombak, Petaling, Klang, Sepang, Hulu Langat), FT Kuala Lumpur (Lembah Pantai, Titiwangsa, Cheras), Perak (Larut Matang dan Selama), and FT Putrajaya.



				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The index case (#16 041) was detected through symptomatic screening on 9 October.
Keladi	Selangor	27	17 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involves the Klang district. The index case (#17 381) tested positive following close contact screening on 13 October.
Sentral	FT Kuala Lumpur	6	17 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involves the districts of Kepong, Cheras and Titiwangsa. The index case (#18 676) was the 176th mortality, reported on 16 October, and was detected through post-mortem screening.
Bah Bemban	Terengganu	12	17 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involves districts in Terengganu (Dungun) and Sabah (Kota Kinabalu). The index case (#12 082) was detected through screening of returnees from high-risk areas (Sabah) on 3 October.
Bah Layangan	FT Labuan	13	18 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involves districts in FT Labuan and Negeri Sembilan (Rembau). The index case (#15 654) was detected through symptomatic screening on 10 October. The index case also had a travel history to high-risk districts.
Alma	Penang	7	18 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involves the districts of Seberang Perai Selatan and Seberang Perai Tengah. The index case (#18 066) was detected through symptomatic screening on 14 October.
Auto	Selangor	9	18 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involves districts in Selangor (Petaling, Kuala Langat, Klang) and Negeri Sembilan (Seremban). The index case (#19 354) was detected through symptomatic screening on 15 October.
Penjara Kepyau	Sabah	49	18 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified in Kota Kinabalu. The index case (#19 628) was detected through pre-admission screening into Queen Elizabeth Hospital on 14 October.

Situation in Sabah

Surveillance and testing

- The maximum testing capacity of Sabah state health laboratories is 2600 RT-PCR tests per day. The MOH is transporting excess samples daily to the Institute for Medical Research (IMR) and the National Public Health Laboratory (MKAK) for testing. As of 16 October, a total of 4327 tests had been outsourced to private laboratories.
- On 15 October, the MOH reported that a total of 75 000 antigen rapid test kits had been sent to Sabah. An additional 25 000 rapid test kits will be delivered to the state next month.



- The government will set up transit quarantine centres for undocumented migrants in four locations in Sabah to curb the spread of COVID-19 among immigration detention depot detainees. Newly arrested individuals will be screened and undergo 14-day quarantine at these centres before being sent to the detention depots.

Health-care capacity

- Sabah currently has nine COVID-19 hospitals as well as 21 quarantine and low-risk treatment centres. The MOH has reported that bed capacity for COVID-19 patients in Sabah has been increased. The current total number of COVID-19-designated beds available in hospitals and centres is 5414 beds; current usage is at 35%.
- The Malaysian Armed Forces have built a field hospital in Semporna. Additionally, the field hospital in Tawau will be activated with 100 beds allocated for the treatment of non-COVID-19 cases, including emergency, trauma surgery, and maternity services.
- The MOH has mobilized two medical laboratory technologists and radiographers from Peninsular Malaysia to assist a hospital in Sabah. A total of 767 MOH medical and public health workers have been deployed to Tawau, Lahad Datu, Semporna, Sandakan and Kota Kinabalu. An additional 99 health-care workers will be mobilized next week.
- Sabah currently has 180 ventilators and 122 ICU beds. A new 3D printing innovation, known as the ventilator splitter, was introduced to allow the use of one ventilator machine by two COVID-19 patients simultaneously.

Non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPI)

- Effective 11 October, all travellers from Sabah to other parts of the country will now be required to undergo COVID-19 screening at points of entry. Additionally, travellers will be placed on mandatory 14-day quarantine under a Home Surveillance Order (HSO).
- Effective 13 to 26 October, two locations in Lahad Datu (Taman Khazanah Indah and PPR Mutiara Kasih) have been placed under EMCO.
- Sabah marine police have taken a multi-pronged approach to ensure that the maritime community complies with COVID-19 standard operating procedures. The approach includes working with other enforcement agencies, district officers and community leaders.

National strategic approach

Non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPI)

- Following the implementation of the CMCO in Sabah, Selangor, FT Putrajaya and FT Kuala Lumpur, new standard operating procedures have been put in place.
 - All economic sectors and business activities will be allowed to continue subject to more stringent measures.
 - All government services will also remain operational; civil servants will adopt a rotation system of work or work fully from home.
 - Inter-district travel will only be permitted for work purposes subject to proper permission from employers. Roadblocks along key routes will be put in place. FT Kuala Lumpur residents will be free to travel within the capital as it is considered to be a single district.
 - Businesses that will require more than two people to travel in a car together must obtain police permission to do so.
 - Inter-state travel will require a police permit.
 - All public transport will be allowed to operate. However, taxis and e-hailing vehicles will only be permitted a maximum of two passengers and will only be allowed to operate from 6:00 to midnight.



- Petrol stations can only operate from 6:00 to 22:00. Petrol stations along highways may operate 24 hours.
- Restaurant, eateries, food trucks, stalls and food courts will only be permitted to operate from 6:00 to 22:00. Dine-in is permitted but limited to two or five (in Selangor only) people per table; dependent on table size.
- Only two people from each household will be allowed to leave home to buy essential items.
- Operating hours for markets will be restricted.
- All public schools will be closed. Private universities and college may proceed with scheduled international examinations.
- All religious activities will be suspended. However, congregational prayers may continue but will be limited to six participants.
- All recreational and cultural activities (including weddings) will be prohibited. However, outdoor sports done individually and without physical contact will others may continue. In addition, effective 19 October, all gyms, futsal and badminton courts will be permitted to re-open.
- Sarawak authorities will strengthen border control along Sabah, Kalimantan and the Merapok-Sindumin border crossing to prevent the illegal movement into the state. Authorities have stopped all legal travel entering Sarawak from Kalimantan and Sabah, for the time being. Moreover, existing entry restrictions into the state for travellers from Sabah and Peninsular Malaysia will be enforced until 15 November.
- Keretapi Tanah Melayu (Malaysian Railways Limited) is now conducting a pilot test of helmets to be worn by officers on duty. The helmets aim to assist officers on duty to detect and identify commuters that may exhibit COVID-19 symptoms such as high body temperature.
- Kedah state government has allocated RM 100 000 for the operation of special quarantine stations for former detainees and prisoners at Alor Setar and Pokok Sena prisons. These stations will house former detainees who have been released from both aforementioned prisons for 14 days.

Surveillance and testing

- As of 17 October, the MOH reports that Malaysia is using 38% of the current COVID-19 laboratory capacity. Malaysia has a maximum RT-PCR testing capacity of 54 706 tests per day conducted by 61 laboratories nationwide; Sabah has a maximum testing capacity of 2600 tests per day.
- As of 13 October, 18 478 individuals with a history of travel from Sabah had been screened at points of entries.
- As of 17 October, a total of 296 845 rapid antigen tests had been conducted.
- The MOH is encouraging all those who travelled from Sabah to other states before 27 September to undergo COVID-19 testing.
- Effective 18 October, Sarawak state government has agreed to bear the cost of COVID-19 swab tests for every Sarawakian travelling past Brunei Darussalam borders via land.
- All election workers and campaigners from outside Sarawak state must now obtain a work permit from the state immigration department before being permitted to enter in the event of a state election.

Health-care capacity

- Kelantan has prepared four hospitals for the quarantine and treatment of COVID-19 patients. Additionally, the Tumpat Training Centre has been turned into a quarantine centre. In total, Kelantan has allocated 419 beds to COVID-19 cases.
- The MOH is setting up a makeshift hospital facility at Pokok Sena Prison in Kedah to treat COVID-19 patients. The facility will be erected from two workshop blocks in the prison to provide COVID-19 treatment, including oxygen assistance. The facility will be able to accommodate up to 250 patients, including those from other prisons in Kedah. The hospital is expected to be fully operational on 20 October.



Risk communication and community engagement

- Authorities in the MOH have urged medical and health personnel to sign up as volunteers. The MOH is looking to fill positions of medical doctors, scientific microbiologist officers, nurses, assistant medical officers, and medical laboratory technicians.
- The MOH has made it clear that they believe complacency regarding COVID-19 standard operating procedures is the main factor behind the recent spike in cases.
- Local NGOs have been encouraged to donate face masks to Penang prisons as the supply allocated for inmates is reportedly running low. The two affected prisons, Penang Remand Prison and Seberang Perai Prison, require at least 4500 face masks daily.
- Sabah state government will carry out daily press conferences on Sabah's COVID-19 situation.