



HOLISTIC MEASURES AGAINST COVID-19

The Malaysian Healthcare Coalition supports the *Prihatin Rakyat* economic stimulus package announced by the Prime Minister on 27 March 2020.

In particular, we welcome the additional RM1 billion allocation to the Health Ministry and the special allowances for front-liners in the health and security agencies. Income replacement for Persons Under Investigation (PUI) in the B40 group will reduce the barriers to testing and support their economic situation through quarantine.

We have now seen economic stimulus packages under two different administrations. These benefits will help the health system manage the impact of COVID-19 by helping the Rakyat stay home during the MCO. We must always protect the welfare of our fellow Malaysians who deliver essential services, such as hospital cleaners, food workers and medical equipment factory workers.

At all times, clear accountability and effective delivery are crucial. We must actively help those who need it the most, especially the poor. All Malaysians must be able to access these benefits, so that no one is left behind in our joint national effort against COVID-19.

From a health perspective, we urge the government to focus on four specific areas: increasing mass testing & contact tracing; decentralizing testing across the country to increase speed; appropriately monitoring the MCO for everyone and quarantines for relevant individuals; and providing essential routine non-COVID healthcare services (including enhanced mental health support).

Malaysia requires multiple health and non-health measures if the Movement Control Order (MCO) is extended again. Therefore, the government must lead an all-of-society effort, providing adequate leadership, space and support for the private sector, civil societies and communities to play an equal part.

BERKHIDMAT UNTUK NEGARA.

The Malaysian Health Coalition
(<https://myhealthcoalition.org/>)

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