



PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE • 23 OCTOBER 2020

Transparent Health Data is Key for Success

The Malaysian Health Coalition lauds the government's regular updates in the initial phases of Covid-19. This was vital to provide accurate knowledge of the virus and reassurance to residents of Malaysia.

We urge the following:

1. Share data across all levels of government and all government agencies

Detailed Covid-19 data must be made accessible to ensure quick, informed decision-making across all sectors (as stated on [22 July 2020](#) and [3 July 2020](#)). During the first two waves of the pandemic, the rate of infection remained relatively low due to close intragovernmental collaboration and data sharing. We urge the government to resume this close cooperation that will help protect the Rakyat.

2. All stakeholders must analyse and report data in responsible ways

All government agencies, health organisations, researchers and media personnel who are given access to government-gathered data on Covid-19 must analyse and report in responsible and mature ways. The Ministry of Health (MOH) cited uncoordinated conclusions on data analysis as the key reason for the federal government's decision to halt raw data sharing with state governments ([as reported on 19 October 2020](#)). Responsible data analysis and reporting prevents misinformation, panic, chaos and harm.

3. Balance data transparency with privacy

We acknowledge that certain categories of information must remain confidential to protect the privacy of Covid-19 patients. While demographic information may be useful for understanding the virus spread and broader public health research in the country, all personal data from contact tracing must remain confidential under the Medical Act 1971 and Personal Data Protection Act 2010. However, non-personally identifiable data can and should be shared.

Managing Covid-19 involves sustained cooperation at all levels of government. With data-sharing, we can build more community trust that is necessary to beat the virus.

BERKHIDMAT UNTUK NEGARA.

Malaysian Health Coalition

Full Signature List on myhealthcoalition.org.

23 October 2020

Full signature list:

Organisations

1. Academy of Medicine of Malaysia
2. Academy of Family Physicians Malaysia
3. Association of Private Hospitals Malaysia
4. Befrienders Kuala Lumpur
5. CERAH Haze Action Group Malaysia
6. IKRAM Health
7. College of Anaesthesiologists
8. College of Emergency Physicians
9. College of Ophthalmologists
10. College of Physicians
11. College of Public Health Malaysia
12. College of Surgeons
13. Dr Wu Lien-Teh Society
14. Family Medicine Specialists Association
15. Federation of Reproductive Health Associations
16. Islamic Medical Association Malaysia (IMAM)
17. Lung Cancer Network of Malaysia
18. Malaysian Association of Dental Public Health Specialists
19. Malaysian Association of Environmental Health
20. Malaysian Association of Medical Assistants
21. Malaysian Association of Speech-Language & Hearing
22. Malaysian Dental Association
23. Malaysian Health Diplomacy Foundation
24. Malaysian Medical Association
25. Malaysian Mental Health Association
26. Malaysian Nurses Association
27. Malaysian Oncological Society
28. Malaysian Paediatric Association
29. Malaysian Pharmaceutical Society
30. Malaysian Society of Anaesthesiologists
31. Malaysian Society of Geriatric Medicine

32. Malaysian Society of Clinical Psychology
33. Malaysian Society of Intensive Care
34. Malaysian Society of Nephrology
35. Malaysian Thoracic Society
36. Medical Practitioners Coalition Assoc of Malaysia
37. MyWATCH Action for Tobacco
38. National Cancer Society Malaysia
39. #OpsHarapan
40. Perinatal Society of Malaysia
41. Pertubuhan Doktor-doktor Islam Malaysia (PERDIM)
42. Public Health Physicians Association
43. Rare Diseases Alliance Foundation of Malaysia

Individuals

1. Tan Sri Dr Abu Bakar Suleiman
2. Tan Sri Dr Mani Jegathesan
3. Dato' Dr Ahmad Faizal Perdaus
4. Dato' (Dr) Anwar Fazal
5. Dato' Dr Amar Singh-HSS
6. Datuk Dr Christopher Lee
7. Prof Dato' Dr Hanafiah Harunarashid
8. Prof Datuk Dr Lokman Hakim
9. Prof Dato' Dr Mohd Zin Bidin
10. Prof Datuk Dr Zulkifli Ismail
11. Prof Dr Ahmad Hata Rasit
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14. Prof Dr Roslina Abdul Manap
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16. Prof Dr Shaiful Bahari Ismail
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19. Dr Khor Swee Kheng