



MEDIA STATEMENT

UPDATED GUIDELINES ON THE EARLY ENDEMIC PHASE

Bandar Seri Begawan, Thursday, 28th April 2022

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 COVID-19 Steering Committee hereby announces updated guidelines under **the Early Endemic Phase of the National COVID-19 Recovery Framework, which has been extended until Tuesday, 31st May 2022**, as follows:

- 1- In reference to the Media Statement by the COVID-19 Steering Committee which was announced on Friday, 22nd April 2022, Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebrations for the year 1443 Hijrah at private residences are allowed for close family members only in accordance to the current capacity permitted for mass gathering, that is, a maximum 30 guests (excluding the host).

This matter has been re-evaluated and further aligned to current risk assessments, as follows:

- **Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebrations at private residences are allowed for close family members at a maximum capacity of 30 guests for events held indoors or 200 guests for events held at outdoor areas of the residence (excluding the host);**
- The maximum capacity for events held at event halls is maintained at 300.

As announced previously, the public is reminded to undergo Antigen Rapid Test (ART) prior to leaving the house to visit relatives, to wear face masks except when eating and drinking, avoid shaking hands as well as visiting in groups, to be extra cautious and to stay at home if they feel unwell.

- 2- Meanwhile, the guideline on the use of face masks has also been updated, as follows:



- Members of the public are still required to wear face masks while in public buildings (indoors); and
- The use of face masks outdoors is encouraged, especially in crowded places and during mass gatherings.

The updated guidelines take into account the daily COVID-19 infection rates that have remained low and stable as well as high vaccination rates among the citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam. As the COVID-19 situation has been kept under control, the reinstatement of mass gathering restrictions to those prior to the start of the third wave would enable us to celebrate Hari Raya Aidilfitri more comfortably and safely. The public is reminded to continue to adhere the Standard Operating Procedures – SOPs and health protocols that are issued. Further information and details can be found on the Prime Minister’s Office website at www.jpm.gov.bn.

On this occasion, on behalf of members of the COVID-19 Steering Committee, we would like to wish all muslims in the country a blessed month of fasting. May we all strengthen our deeds of worship, especially in the final days of the blessed month of Ramadhan so that Allah *Subhanahu Wata’ala* will continue to bestow His blessings upon us to perform deeds of worship in this holy month and pray for Allah *Subhanahu Wata’ala* to protect us from COVID-19. *Amin ya rabbal 'alamin*.

COVID-19 STEERING COMMITTEE

Jalan Perdana Menteri
Bandar Seri Begawan BB3913
Negara Brunei Darussalam

26th Ramadhan 1443 / 28th April 2022