



Unofficial Translation

MEDIA STATEMENT

YAB PRIME MINISTER

TRANSITION TO ENDEMIC

A. 'TRANSITION TO ENDEMIC' PHASE

1. In recent weeks, the number of daily cases COVID-19 increased sharply as a result of the Omicron waves. However, the number of patients in Categories 3, 4, and 5 are very low at 0.7 percent. Several COVID-19 patients that need to be treated and monitored at The Intensive Care Unit (ICU) are also controlled at the moment which is at an occupancy rate of 42 percent.
2. At the same time, most members of the Malaysian Family have received a complete vaccination as well as a booster dose through vaccination programs especially the COVID Immunization Program-19 Nationals (PICK), Adolescent PICK, and PICKids. Until 7th March 2022, the complete vaccination rate for the adult population in the country is 98.7 percent; while the booster dose vaccination rate for the adult population is 64 percent.
3. Overall, the country's planning to reopen in stages or following the 'Reopening Safely' plan which is undertaken by the Government, especially through the Ministerial Quartet, and is running smoothly under the Senior Minister of Defense, YB Dato 'Seri Hishammuddin Hussein; Minister of Health, YB Khairy Jamaluddin; Minister of Finance, YB Tengku Zafrul; and the Minister of Communications and Multimedia, Tan Sri Annuar Musa.
4. Accordingly, **after taking into account various factors, including doing a risk assessment, getting an opinion from the Ministry of Health Malaysia (MOH), and examining the recommendations of the Ministerial Quartet, I would like to announce today that the country will enter the 'Transition to Endemic' phase starting April 1, 2022.**
5. I need to inform you, this 'Transition to Endemic' Phase is an exit strategy to allow us all to return to a normal life after almost two years at war with COVID-19. This phase is also temporary before the country moves into the Endemic Phase for which it is subject to announcements that can only be made by World Health Organization (WHO).

6. Starting April 1, 2022:
 - I. Wearing face masks in public places is still mandatorily adhered to by each individual.
 - II. Operating hours for business premises will be abolished. Premises owners are allowed to carry out operating hours on the respective premises following the terms of the operating license of the premises. This means that you can all dine till after midnight, especially with the Ramadan month coming soon. We are allowed to have 'sahur' outside.
 - III. Admission using MySejahtera is still required and only exempted for open areas and not crowded/no crowd gathering places. Additionally, MYSJ Trace is still required for a closed place filled with guests/visitors.
 - IV. Congregational prayer activities at the mosque/surau or ceremony prayers in houses of worship other than Islam may be performed without physical distancing. However, implementation and the final SOP for the mosque/surau is subject to the ruling State Religious Authorities and for Houses of Worship other than Islam is subject to the Ministry of Unity Malaysia/Unit of Religious Affairs of Other Religions. (UNIFOR).
 - V. Vaccination requirements:
 - Employee capacity limits previously dependent on vaccination coverage will be abolished.
 - All individuals are allowed to cross-state regardless of their vaccination status.
7. Previously, there was a 50 percent capacity limit for the activity involving big gatherings. Today, with the announcement of the transition to endemic, the limit will be abolished altogether. There will be no more of the 50 percent capacity limit. However, physical distancing is very important and still encouraged.

B. OPENING OF NATIONAL BORDERS

8. The 'Transition to Endemic' phase is the opening of national borders. Thus, in line with the planning to enter the Phase on April 1, 2022, the **Government has decided that the border of the country will also be reopened on April 1.**
9. I believe this is among the most important announcement awaited by the people. This announcement will also revitalize the economy of the country as a whole, especially the tourism industry, which has been severely affected as a result of the pandemic.

10. This decision is made based on three basic things, namely:
 - a. First, it is guided by the latest science and relevant facts related to the COVID-19.
 - b. Second, compared the border opening requirements in other countries.
 - c. Third, to give comfort to the traveler and not complicate their journey. Most importantly, Malaysia is now an open and visitable destination.
11. With the reopening of the country's borders, Malaysians who have a valid travel document can now exit and enter the country as usual and be allowed to go anywhere in a country that also opened its borders to outside travelers. At the same time, citizens of foreign countries with a valid travel document can also move in and out of Malaysia without the need to apply MyTravelPass which is to be abolished soon. Instead, it is just necessary to download and activate the MySejahtera application as well as complete the Pre-Departure Form through the "Traveler" function in MySejahtera.
12. However, taking into account the situation of COVID-19 transmission especially the Omicron wave that is still plaguing our country and most countries around the world, several procedures must be complied with whether by Malaysians themselves or foreign travelers who want to enter Malaysia.
13. For those who have received a complete vaccination, **there is no need to undergo any quarantine period and only have to go through the Covid-19 RT-PCR detection test two days before departure as well as RTK-Ag (professional) testing within 24 hours after the arrival.**
14. For another vaccination status, such as not receiving the vaccine for medical reasons and did not receive any vaccinations, the Minister of Health will detail its procedures and release the information to the general public tomorrow.
15. The relevant Ministry will also issue a list of SOPs for the opening of the borders of the country in more detail shortly, especially concerning the procedure at the International Entrances (PMA) on land and sea.
16. In the meantime, I would also like to inform you, for some countries that are still closing their borders, the people can still take advantage of the Vaccinated Travel Lane (VTL) method that has been agreed by the Government of Malaysia with the countries involved.
17. As many are aware for now, VTL has been utilized with Singapore since last year. Furthermore, as I announced recently, the VTL will also be utilized for implementing inbound and outbound movements between Malaysia and Thailand, Malaysia-Brunei, and Malaysia-Indonesia.
18. We hope that people who want to take advantage of the opening of the border (of the country), will implement it according to the guidelines set, for the safety of themselves, the people around, and the country as a whole.



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19. On behalf of the Government, I express my deepest appreciation to all members of the Malaysian Family who are resilient, strong, enthusiastic, and disciplined in complying with SOPs as well as supportive of the Government's initiative in combating COVID-19. Without the contribution of the Malaysian Family, the country will not be able to move to the 'Transition to Endemic' phase.
20. I also thank all the COVID-19 Ministerial Quartet led by YB Dato 'Seri Hishammuddin Hussein for his efforts and their hard work to ensure the country's efforts for Reopening Safely, especially to move into the 'Transition to Endemic' Phase, will and can be done according to plan. Details of the phases of the transition to endemic and border opening will be informed by the Ministerial Quartet soon.
21. Not forgetting also to all Ministers, Chief Ministers, the Head of State, and every ministry that has played the role very well in the success of each of the Government's strategies to combat the COVID-19.

**#KeluargaMalaysia
#BekerjaBersamaRakyat**

**YAB DATO' SRI ISMAIL SABRI BIN YAAKOB
PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA
8 MARCH 2022**

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