

# COVID-19: A TALE OF THE FIRST LOCAL TRANSMISSION IN MALAYSIA

Noor Ani Ahmad, MPH, Chong Zhuo Lin, MPH, DrPH.

Institute for Public Health, National Institutes of Health, Ministry of Health Malaysia

## INTRODUCTION

China reported a cluster of pneumonia of unknown cause in Wuhan city late December 2019 which was then spread to the rest of the world.<sup>1</sup> The first case of COVID-19 in Malaysia, imported case from China, was detected on 24 January 2020.<sup>2</sup> In this study, we described the first local transmission cluster of COVID-19, confirmed on 5 February 2020.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study is part of the Spread of COVID-19 Pandemic in Malaysia study (NMRR-20-720-54598).

Data was extracted from the relevant COVID-19 Outbreak Investigation Format from the District Health Offices in Kuala Muda District, Kedah and Petaling District, Selangor. The source of infection, number of positive cases and time taken for the cluster to end were identified.

## RESULTS

The index case of this local transmission of COVID-19, was the first Malaysian imported case. The source of infection for this case was the hotel-linked cluster in Singapore.<sup>3</sup> Only **2 cases** found as positive in this first local transmission cluster. A total of **48 close contacts** were traced; 12 and 36 close contacts from the first and second cases respectively, and all were tested negatives. The cluster ended on **22 February 2020**.<sup>2</sup>

## DISCUSSION / CONCLUSION

- COVID-19 spread rapidly from symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals through droplets.
- Close contacts from inter-state movement and public/family gathering were identified as the source of transmission.
- Family gathering as a source of COVID-19 transmission also reported in China.<sup>4</sup>
- Family or public gathering during festival or religious event should be prohibited or controlled in COVID-19 prevalent areas.
- Detail description of this first local cluster was published recently.<sup>2</sup>

## REFERENCES

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Detail timelines as below:

Date	Index Case (Mr A)	First Local transmission (Mdm B)	Second case of local transmission (Mdm C)
Jan 16	Went to Singapore	No travel history	No travel history
Jan 20- Jan 22	Attended conference at Singapore with delegates from China	Live in Kuala Muda district, Kedah state, Malaysia	Live in Petaling district, Selangor state, Malaysia
Jan 23	<b>Had fever, cough and runny nose</b> Took flight from Singapore to KLIA, Malaysia Met wife at airport Flight to Penang Airport, Penang state Fetched by sister, Mdm B	Went with daughter to fetch brother (Mr A) and his wife from Penang Airport Directly brought Mr A to	
Jan 24	Stayed at mother's house throughout the day	Went to grocery store and wet market	
Jan 25	Stayed at mother's house, no other people	Visited relatives at Penang state	
Jan 26	Took flight from Penang Airport to KLIA. Had dinner with relatives and mother-in-law, Mdm C	Sent Mr A and his wife to Penang airport	Had dinner with relatives including Mr A (36 attendees)
Jan 27	Lunch with same relatives including Mdm C	Went to mother's house for dinner	Lunch with same relatives including Mr A
Jan 28	Sought treatment at private clinic	Bought breakfast at local food court	
Jan 29- Jan 30 Jan 31	Went to private hospital at Selangor state, admitted and treated	Went to mother's house and Had meal with family members at a food court in Penang state	Stayed at home with husband, son and helper
Feb 1		<b>Had fever and sore throat</b>	
Feb 2	Referred as PUI to public hospital	Went to mother's house	
Feb 3	<b>Laboratory-confirmed as positive for COVID-19</b> Contact tracing: <b>60 contacts</b>	Went to workplace at Baling district, Kedah state and met 5 co-workers	
Feb 4		Traced by RAT from Kuala Muda DHO, Kedah state Home quarantine Swab taken, together with family	Stayed at home
Feb 5		<b>Laboratory-confirmed as positive for COVID-19</b> Contact tracing: <b>12 contacts</b> Admitted by RRT to a public hospital at Kedah state	Brought to a private hospital for dizziness, sweatiness and lethargy, no fever Had a CT-brain and sent home
Feb 6			Stayed at home
Feb 7	Treated at public hospital at Selangor state		Traced and brought to public clinic for swab and home quarantined
Feb 8			<b>Laboratory-confirmed as positive for COVID-19</b> Contact tracing: <b>36 contacts</b>
Feb 9-Feb 16		Treated at Public Hospital at Kedah state	Admitted by RRT to a public hospital at Selangor state
Feb 17	Discharged with home quarantine for 14 days		
Feb 18			
Feb 19			Discharged with home quarantine for 14 days
Feb 22		Discharged with home quarantine for 14 days	

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