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MEMBERSHIP ALERT !!

FEBRUARY 13, 2020

From: Wayne Forrest, President

Update on Corona Virus

The coronavirus (COVID-19) that started in China has had a ripple effect on the world's economy, disrupting both the flow of goods and travelers. Here's what we know about **Indonesia as of today**. Information is from official, media, and trusted private sources. Members traveling to Indonesia should follow CDC recommendations listed on their [website](#).

Minister of Health Terawan Agus Putranto Statement: No cases

- "In the current era of openness, nothing is covered up. The fact that Indonesia has no [corona] case, it is thanks to the Almighty and I believe it is all of our prayers that there wouldn't be any (case)," Terawan said at the Bogor Presidential Palace, Java West, Tuesday (02/11/2020).
- None of the 285 people who were evacuated from Wuhan and are now in quarantine on the Indonesian island of Natuna have shown signs of the virus.
- MOH communicable disease prevention and control director, Wiendra Waworuntu, said on Thursday that the lab had received 2,000 primers for testing from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in January. The ministry's lab has tested 50 specimens as of Friday; 49 of them tested negative while the remaining test was still awaiting results.
- A 2011 study conducted by the University of Hong Kong and published by open-access publisher Hindawi showed that the high temperatures and high relative humidity in Indonesia might be the reason it did not have hospital-based outbreaks of SARS virus. The case was possibly different in Singapore and Hong Kong, where there was an intensive use of air conditioning, as transmission occurred in well air-conditioned environments.

US Embassy Statement

- The most recent Embassy health advisory is from February 4th. The statement makes no specific references to travel to Indonesia, only China. "U.S. citizens who have visited China's Hubei Province within 14 days before reentry to the United States will face a mandatory quarantine, while citizens returning from other parts of mainland China will face advanced screening and a self-imposed quarantine to monitor their health. U.S. permanent residents, immediate family of U.S. citizens and permanent residents and others exempted from the entry ban are also expected to be subject to quarantine.
- Foreign nationals who have visited China within 14 days of seeking admission to the United States will be denied entry, with the exception of lawful permanent residents, immediate family members of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents, and certain others."
- US Center for Disease Control (CDC) issued a no/non-essential travel warning for mainland China, but not Macau and Hong Kong.

Harvard School of Public Health Study and Indonesia's Response

- Looking at the fact that Singapore has reported 58 reported coronavirus cases and Indonesia none, on February 11 Harvard epidemiologist Marc Lipsitch stated: "Unfortunately, I think it's more likely to be that it's gathering steam (in Indonesia). We've released a preprint(report) that we've been discussing publicly - and trying to get peer reviewed in the meantime - that looks at the numbers internationally, based on how many cases you would expect from normal travel volumes. And a couple of things are striking. One is that there are countries that really should be finding cases and haven't yet, like Indonesia and maybe Cambodia".
- Indonesian health minister Terawan Agus Putranto called the Harvard report "insulting" late Tuesday and said the country had proper testing equipment. "They can be baffled but it's a fact" there are no cases, he told reporters in Jakarta.

Chinese Traveler

- On February 12, two Indonesian news sources (Jakarta Post and Detik) reported that a Chinese citizen from Wuhan (epicenter of the virus outbreak) who had visited Bali from January 22- January 28 was diagnosed with the virus on February 5th. An Indonesian Ministry of Health spokesperson said February 5 would have put the patient beyond the incubation period. However, the patient may have had symptoms prior to that date and not checked into a health center. Indonesian authorities in Bali are now tracing the travel path of the individual as a precaution.

Diagnostic Difficulty

- Indonesia's wide-ranging geography impedes the dissemination of specific diagnostic tools to distinguish between coronavirus and the common flu; both present initially with similar symptoms.
- The chairman of the Indonesian Red Cross, former VP Jusuf Kalla, said it was possible that the disease had already entered the country and that Indonesians might not recognize the symptoms as being coronavirus. Kalla told the NY Times on February 11th, "Singapore has a tight system, but even there the virus got in," he said. "It's possible that there are infected people but here in Indonesia people think that it is only a regular fever or they think it is dengue fever." Mr. Kalla expressed concern about how prepared Indonesia was to handle the virus if it were to strike in remote parts of the archipelago nation where underfunded community health centers are the main health care provider.
- Although there is no panic, nervousness already exists among Indonesians and there has been some hoarding of face masks. Several Jakarta-based sources say that their doctors are reporting a spike in flu cases.

Economy: Need for Diversification

- Indonesia is preparing for lower trade volumes with China, and a decrease in tourism. But, so far, no concrete measures have been taken. Because of Indonesia's dependence on China as an export market for its commodities, a Moody's report projected GDP loss of .5-1.5% because of the virus.
- The World Bank's new managing director, former Indonesian trade minister Mari Pangestu, said the coronavirus outbreak has been a great reminder that Indonesia must diversify its export destinations and supply chain sources. "What's now happening is a supply chain interruption, just like what happened with SARS and the tsunami in Japan," Mari Elka said after a meeting with President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo on Tuesday. She was referring to the severe acute respiratory syndrome in China in 2002 and the Japan tsunami in 2011. "We were also left vulnerable then because we relied on only one source. Then we diversified, moving away from Japan, "We hope this time the silver lining would be an encouragement for investments that will reduce our dependence on industrial parts from China," Mari said.

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