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2019-2020

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

19th April 2020

**Use of surgical gloves by public not recommended.
Public should prioritize hand washing with soap, hand sanitizing and social distancing.**

The Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) appreciates the swift action taken to remove the video that promoted handshaking with gloves on that was uploaded on YouTube recently.

In maintaining the practice of social distancing, we wish to encourage the public to use the 'Salam Malaysia' greeting (gesture of placing a hand on the chest) for now instead of the handshake.

The wearing of gloves by the public as protective gear against COVID-19 is not recommended as they can do more harm. The danger is that gloves can give people a false sense of security to a point that other safety precautions are ignored. The improper use of gloves can also transfer germs from one surface to another. This can lead to increased risks of infection. If gloves are improperly removed, the user can also be exposed to germs. Use of such surgical gloves should only be confined to certain professions in a strictly controlled environment such as in a clinical setting under strictly observed protocols in infectious disease control. The public should prioritise frequent washing of hands with soap, regular hand sanitizing and social distancing during this time. These preventive measures are evidence based and are recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and our Ministry of Health (MOH) to protect against COVID-19.