

# Sibu MMA proposes drastic measures to curb spread of Covid-19 in S'wak

NATION 

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By ANDY CHUA



SIBU: The Sibu branch of the Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) has come up with four proposals for the state government to consider in efforts to contain the spread of Covid-19.

Chairman Dr Wong Chya Wei said on Saturday (March 14), that more stringent measures must be taken to ensure that Covid-19 will be better controlled and contained.

"The first step, the state government must set up diagnostic centres throughout the state.

"Without testing, we have no idea how extensive the infection is and who should be isolated," he said at a press conference at the Dudong SUPP office.

He added that according to infection statistics, about 1% of the population will be affected by the virus and that could mean 30,000 people, about the number of people living Sibujaya, from the state's population of three million could be infected.

Dr Wong said Sibu MMA also wanted all religious gatherings or services to be suspended for 30 days instead of just postponing all government and public gatherings involving more than 250 participants as ordered by the Sarawak government.

For its third proposal, the association suggested that those coming from peninsular Malaysia be prohibited from entering the state for 30 days due to the high number of cases there.

"Sarawakians who return to the state must undergo a 14-day supervised quarantine and be subject to random testing," he said.

Dr Wong said all schools must be also closed for 30 days.

"We are lucky that this coming week is the school holidays but if the infection continues to worsen, the state government should extend the closure of schools," he added.

He wanted all these proposals should be implemented as the number of cases continues to rise in the country.

As at 10pm on March 12, Malaysia had reported 197 confirmed cases of Covid-19.

"To be able to bring outbreaks under control, very aggressive measures must be taken effectively," Dr Wong said.

Meanwhile, SUPP Dudong chairman Wong Ching Yong called on young doctors in the country to emulate their counterparts in China, who had volunteered to serve in hospitals crowded with Covid-19 patients.

"When Wuhan was locked down, these young doctors volunteered to serve in droves. We hope the spirit of the young Chinese doctors would be a model for all in the medical profession in the country," he added.

**TAGS / KEYWORDS:**

**Covid-19 , Sibu , Sarawak , Doctors , Malaysian Medical Association**

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**It is insightful**

**Not in my interest**

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