

**MEDIA STATEMENT BY THE
CHIEF MINISTER OF PENANG ON 3 MAY 2020
AT KOMTAR, GEORGE TOWN**

To all my fellow Penangites. Salam sejahtera.

Today marks the 47th day of the enforcement of the Movement Control Order (MCO). In general, the State Government has taken note of the announcement made by the Prime Minister on 1 May 2020 regarding the Conditional Movement Control Order which begins on 4 May 2020.

According to the information provided by the State Health Department (JKNPP), all districts in Penang remained as Green Zone for 14 days from 19 April 2020 until 2 May 2020 except for Northern Seberang Perai (SPU) which had TWO (2) notified cases within this 14-day period.

Since 5 March 2020, the State Government has taken pre-emptive action based on a strategized plan in our fight against the Covid-19 pandemic in Penang.

The 3P Strategy which stands for Pandemic Control (Pengawalan Wabak); Public Information (Penerangan Awam); and Impact Management (Pengurusan Impak) through a joint cooperation between the State and Federal Governments had

effectively shown result, whereby Penang consistently recorded the second lowest number of Covid-19 cases per capita in the country.

The early action by the State Government in handling matters pertaining to foreign workers also ensured that there's no Covid-19 cases arising from this community so far.

Since Phase 3 of MCO started, the State Government also introduced the 'Penang Next Normal Strategies' to prepare the state in facing the new normal as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. The three main thrusts of 'Penang Next Normal Strategies' are; to strengthen Penang's ecosystem; to align the ecosystem with the changes of the 21st century; and to build up Penang's resilience in facing any possible future crisis.

The think tank for the State Government, Penang Institute, has also published various crisis assessment reports as guidelines for policy-makers, stakeholders and the general public.

A month ago, the State Government requested the Federal Government to implement 3 things in Penang; 1) increase the Covid-19 screening test rate; 2) implement movement control at the state border; and 3) implement EHS Covid-19 protocol.

With the introduction of the State Security Council Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and state border controls, the State Government is requesting the Federal Government, through the

Health Ministry, to increase the Covid-19 screening test rate in Penang.

Penang's Recovery Must Prioritize Public Health and Safety

As an industrial state with more than 67,000 Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) in various sectors, the State Government recognizes that Penang must take steps to recover the state's economy.

However, the easing of the MCO cannot be done suddenly and without planning. The public health and safety of all Penangites remain a priority for the State Government.

According to a statement from the Director General of Health, Dato' Dr. Noor Hisham Abdullah on 2nd May, the first week, beginning 4th May 2020, should be used to formulate strategies, plan and implement new SOP issued by the National Security Council (NSC), and not necessarily for each sector to start fully operating.

At the National Security Council Special Meeting: Management of Covid-19 chaired by the Prime Minister on 28th April, last Tuesday, members of the meeting were informed that the Federal Government would obtain feedback from each state based on the SOP to be distributed in the near future. Unfortunately, this did not happen and the challenge is that the

implementation of the Conditional Movement Control Order (CMCO) will take place tomorrow, 4th May 2020.

Hence, in accordance with the instructions from NSC and the MOH guidelines, as well as the decisions made by the members of the State Security Committee (JKKN) in the meeting this morning, the Penang Government has decided to implement the 'Penang Gradual Recovery Strategy' based on the necessary adaptation and adjustments made to ensure the public health and safety of all Penangites and the well-being of the state's economic sector.

This means that tomorrow, on 4th May 2020, the existing MCO will remain enforced in Penang. In other words, only those individuals / parties / companies allowed to operate and work during Phase 1, Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the MCO are allowed to continue their respective movement **as in previous phases of the MCO without any changes** including the public transport companies.

For those not listed under the MCO Phases 1, 2 and 3, the enforcement and operation of the 'Penang Gradual Recovery Strategy' will begin on 8th May 2020, Friday. The State Government will make further announcements on this matter.

Why 8th May 2020? This is not only to enable the State Government to provide a more comprehensive set of guidelines especially in terms of enforcement, but this four (4) day period is also to enable companies / employers / employees / parents

and others to plan their respective operations and movements. This includes the preparation for hand sanitizers, social distancing, rules on wearing face masks and so on for mutual safety in supervised premises.

Penang Gradual Recovery Strategy

The strategy will be divided into three phases:

Phase	Period	Description
1	4 - 7 May 2020	<p>The preparation phase. All sectors are encouraged to use this period to plan, prepare and enforce SOP for implementation in their respective areas.</p> <p>All other activities are not permitted, unless expressly stated in the Gradual Recovery Strategy Schedule which will be announced.</p>
2	8 - 12 May 2020	<p>The familiarisation phase. Authorized sectors need to strictly implement SOP.</p> <p>All other activities are not permitted, unless expressly stated in the Gradual Recovery Strategy Schedule which will be announced.</p>

3	13 May 2020 onwards	The opening phase. All sectors are allowed to operate but must strictly adhere to the SOP.
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The three goals of the Penang Gradual Recovery Strategy are:

1. Prevention of crowd and crowding.
2. Familiarisation in adhering to the SOP introduced by the National Security Council (NSC).
3. Opening and recovery of economic sectors in phases.

General Regulations of the Penang Gradual Recovery Strategy

The General Regulations below must be complied with by all Penangites including the business community operating in the state.

1. The NSC SOP must be strictly adhered to.
2. List of prohibited activities issued by NSC must be strictly adhered to.
3. The operating hours in Penang for all sectors tomorrow, 4th May 2020 will remain the same. The operating hours from

8th May 2020 onwards will be announced by the local authorities including the categories and security measures to be adhered to.

4. Employers are encouraged to continue with the Work From Home method and practice flexible working hours during the entire 'Penang Gradual Recovery Strategy' period.

5. Penangites are reminded that the MCO is not over until 12th May 2020. Therefore, all outdoor activities other than authorized work are prohibited.

6. Unless expressly stated in the 'Penang Gradual Recovery Strategy' schedule, all sectors are only allowed to carry out the SOP-compliant preparations in Phase 1, and full operations under the NSC SOP can only be carried out in Phase 2 which is on 8th May 2020.

7. All sectors are allowed to fully operate in Phase 3 (13th May 2020), BUT must strictly adhere to the SOP.

8. Improvements under the 'Penang Gradual Recovery Strategy' will be announced from time to time.

Meanwhile, the list of sectors authorised to operate from 8 May 2020 based on the JKKN meeting outcome is as follows: -

- Transportation (air, land)
- Food (for food packaging only)
- skilled and professional services
- Manufacturing
- Finance
- Gas

- Mine and quarry
- Electricity
- Agriculture (paddy and rice)
- Fisheries
- Farming
- Communication
- Information technology
- e-commerce
- Environment
- IWK water supply and sewerage
- Construction
- Lawsuits
- Security
- Cleaning
- Strata management
- Finance (community credit and mortgage taxes)
- Hotel
- Retail
- State Government Agencies / Local Authorities / Statutory Bodies / State GLCs

The list of sectors authorized to operate from 13th May 2020 is as follows: -

- Sports
- Unity Development
- Neighborhood Association (Rukun Tetangga)
- Cooperation
- Agricultural commodities
- Forest research
- Debt management

- Creative industries
- Culture and art

The two sectors that are still under consideration and not allowed to operate are: -

- Education
- Social care sector (nursery)

and further decisions will be announced later.

All these information that I announced earlier will be posted on the Penang Fights Covid-19 website.

Based on this decision, I hope that all Penangites will continue to comply with all the instructions for us to completely break the Covid-19 outbreak chain.

Penang Fights Covid-19!

CHOW KON YEOW