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JAWATANKUASA PEGUAM PULAU PINANG PENANG BAR COMMITTEE

Court Liaison 36/20

9 Oct 2020

To Members of the Penang Bar,

Update: Outbreak of Covid-19 in Penang Remand Prison and Court-related Issues

Reference is made to our previous [Circular Court Liaison 35/20](#).

Due to the outbreak of Covid-19 at the Penang Remand Prison and the ongoing testing by the Ministry of Health (MOH) on the Prison inmates and personnel (tests are being carried out in batches), we advise and urge Members who have been in contact or close proximity with any inmates of the Penang Prisons either in Court or during visitation at the said Prisons during the period of 14 days before 6 Oct 2020 (i.e. the last date inmates of Penang Remand Prison were brought to the Penang Courts) to undergo Covid-19 screening at an approved health facility.

We have been informed by the Court that some of the inmates from the Penang Remand Prison who have tested positive for Covid-19 were brought to Court recently. The lawyers who acted for those inmates or who were present in the relevant Court rooms on the dates in question were immediately notified last night and this morning, and told to contact a representative from the MOH for further instructions. Other affected parties such as the Court officers have also been directed to do the same.

The Court will inform us if further cases involving inmates brought to Court are detected and we will constantly monitor the situation to assist and notify the affected Members.

In the meantime, Members who are concerned about their safety and the possible risk factors related to the ongoing situation may apply in writing to the respective Courts for adjournments of their cases.

We urge Members to remain calm and to continuously comply with the relevant health and safety Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) stipulated by the Courts, MOH and National Security Council and to be vigilant at all times. The Court has assured us that sanitisation work is carried out at all the Courts, especially court rooms, lock-ups, lifts and other common areas, on a daily basis. The Ministry of Health has also carried out disinfection work at the affected Courts recently.

We will update Members as and when we receive any official information or updates.

Members who have any concerns or queries may contact the following for further details and information:

Lee Guan Tong	012-393 6464
Ravi Chandran	012-472 2751

Lee Guan Tong & Imavathi Subramaniam
Co-Chairpersons
Court Liaison Subcommittee