

Covid-19 shutdown: Govt says laundry shops must close; customer call centres, rubbish collection allowed

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BY IDA LIM



The Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry said laundry services will have to be temporarily suspended to avoid crowds. — AFP pic

KUALA LUMPUR, March 18 — Malaysians will have to find other means of doing their laundry if they have been going to self-service laundry shops as these outlets will have to close during the two-week restriction of movement order starting today.

In a list of 20 frequently-asked questions for the retail sector that was released today, the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry (KPDNHEP) said such laundry services have to be temporarily suspended during this two-week period lasting from March 18 to March 31 to avoid crowds.

“Self-service laundry shops cannot operate throughout the period of the restriction of movement order to avoid the public from gathering,” it said in a brief reply in the FAQ list.

As for customer service call centres, the ministry said these services will be allowed to continue operating during this two-week period.

In an effort to limit crowds where the Covid-19 can spread easier and faster, the government had on Monday said the order to restrict the public's movement would ban public gatherings and require non-essential businesses to stop.

Under the two-week order, only essential services such as those in this list can continue to operate: water, electricity, telecommunications, postal, transportation, irrigation, oil and gas, fuel, lubricants, broadcast, financial, banking, health, pharmacies, fire and rescue services, prison services, ports, airports, security, defence, cleaning, sundry goods and food supply.

Today, the KPDNHEP in its FAQ list responded to the question of whether security guards at supermarkets can continue on, replying that security-related services are allowed to continue operating.

The ministry also said rubbish collection companies can continue to operate at outlets such as supermarkets and convenience stores.

In the same FAQ list, the ministry, however, said that any ongoing renovation works at business premises have to be "postponed".

"If there are security issues, the company has to obtain permission from the Works Ministry and the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) for renovation works to go on," it added.

The KPDNHEP's list of FAQ today is on top of the National Security Council's separate list of FAQ yesterday addressing the do's and don'ts during this two-week period.

RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT ORDER

DOS & DON'TS

PERIOD: MARCH 18 - 31, 2020

SCOPE: MALAYSIA

ENFORCED UNDER THE PREVENTION & CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES ACT 1988 & THE POLICE ACT 1967

1 Celebrations/weddings/feasts

- Marriage ceremonies with a small number of attendees permitted
- Receptions etc. should be deferred

2 Running low on necessities

- Permitted to go to the store, but must return home promptly

3 Malaysian married to a non-citizen

- Permitted to return, spouse must show marriage registration document, couple must undergo a medical test & self-quarantine

4 Malaysian student overseas

- Permitted to return, must undergo a medical test & self-quarantine

5 Long-term pass holder who left Malaysia before the order was issued

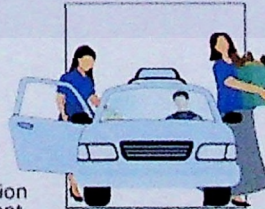
- Only foreign workers involved in the provision of essential services permitted to enter Malaysia
- Must present employment verification letter to the Immigration Department officer at port of entry

6 Malaysian working in Singapore

- Individuals working in Singapore but living in Malaysia are prohibited from leaving & entering each day

7 Paid up holiday in Malaysia

- Travel destinations are off limits unless for matters of national importance



8 Airport pickup

- Allowed, but must be swift

9 Replacement classes for school students

- Not required

10 Classes/activities at public & private higher learning (IPT)/skills training institutions

- Subject to the restriction of movement order

11 Students, especially foreign students, in IPT accommodation

- Advised to return home/to country
- Foreign students not allowed to come back until the order is lifted
- Foreign students who choose to stay in Malaysia & IPT accommodation must report themselves to the IPT administrator
- Are subject to the restriction of movement order

12 Restaurants (fast food joints, stalls etc.)

- Will remain open, but only for takeout & food deliveries (e.g. GrabFood, Foodpanda)

13 Public transport (bus, train, LRT, MRT)

- Allowed to continue operation

14 Refund for hotel booking

- Request to discuss with the hotel

15 Prayer for a deceased person (non-Covid-19) & tahlil gathering

- Allowed sans tahlil
- Only conducted by close relatives & mosque/surau congregants

Source: National Security Council (MKN)

Bernama Infographics