

PROPER CLEANING, DISINFECTION MAKE PTEB SAFE FOR RETURNING STUDENTS

By Corporate Communications Division, Ministry of Education



Photo shows the environment at Pusat Tingkatan Enam Belait (PTEB)

Pusat Tingkatan Enam Belait (PTEB), once set up as one of the COVID-19 isolation centres, has recently undergone cleaning and disinfection and will be ready to resume its school operations today. All teachers and students will return to continue their face-to-face teaching and learning activities at the school.

From August 2021 to April 2022, PTEB, formerly named as COVID-19 Holding Area Belait (CHABEL6), functioned as an accommodation facility for COVID-19 patients, making it one of the high-footfall places with many touchpoints. Therefore, it is important for proper infection control and cleaning measures to be adopted at the school premises and its environment. This is to ensure PTEB and its environment are clean, safe and conducive to face-to-face learning.

Infection Control and Cleaning Measures

Initially, joint cleaning efforts were implemented at the school in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Development through Public Works Department, Royal Brunei Navy and volunteers. PTEB Principal Madam Chin Ai Fong said, "Since April, cleaning has been done thoroughly to prepare for the return of our sixth form students. Thanks to the help and support from our Cluster 6 teachers and Department of Schools, we managed to get the labour force to help with the cleaning and sanitising of the school.

"The Ministry of Health also assisted us in coordinating with relevant agencies in the demobilisation of CHABEL 6. For instance, the Public Works Department in the removal of structures and Royal Brunei Navy in cleaning, keeping school properties safe as well as removal of furniture used in CHABEL 6," Madam Chin Ai Fong added.

In an effort to show PTEB's full commitment to protect all members of the school community from COVID-19, infection control and cleaning measures were also conducted by a professional cleaning provider. This is also to obtain the Certificate of Clearance, proving the school premises and its environment are safe.

Emphasising the certificate's importance was Cikgu Awang Haji Siasa bin Tambah, Acting Head of Health and Safety Environment, Department of Administration and Services, Ministry of Education. He said, "Obtaining the Certificate of Clearance will further reassure members of the school community as well as parents and give them confidence that the school is secure."

"Among the requirements to earn the certificate include Fire Safety Order 2016 compliance, good housekeeping, safe and efficient drop-off and pick-up areas, COVID-19 SOPs compliance, complete preparations for isolation rooms and sick bays, and clean school premises as well as its environment," Cikgu Awang Haji Siasa added.

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Peace of Mind and Comfort

All teachers, students and members of the school community, who were temporarily relocated at Sekolah Menengah Sayyidina Ali, as well as parents now breathe a sigh of relief as they can go back to an institution they identify with. Expressing her excitement, Cikgu Siti Khadzah binti Roslan of PTEB said, "I am grateful to return back to PTEB. I hope, with the cleaning efforts, tutors and students will be further motivated to resume face-to-face teaching and learning at the school."

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Meanwhile, an upper sixth student, Dayang Chang Jing Yee said, "The cleaning and disinfecting processes certainly give us students, and our parents a peace of mind. Moreover, my batchmates and I look forward to having our own lounging area as it gives us feasible and comfortable space to do personal study sessions."

Another student, Awang Raynold Anak Ramy, expressed his happiness for being able to return to PTEB for physical learning. He also said, "With a clean environment at school, students can focus better on their studies. It will also prevent us from getting sick and protect us from diseases such as flu."

In ensuring an absolute protection of the school population, it is essential for all students and staff to be socially responsible and adhere to the existing COVID-19 guidelines and SOPs. Awang Raynold also said, "We should wear face masks at all times. If possible, bring extra face masks to school. We should also avoid sharing food and drinks, bring hand sanitisers and always maintain our social distance. Students must not come to school if they are unwell and inform their teachers about their well-being."

"Our BruHealth app must be kept up-to-date as well," he added.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought attention to the importance of cleaning and disinfecting as well as the essential roles of people in schools, institutions or organisations alike. As an educational institution, PTEB is critical of its safety reputation. Hence, with the cleaning initiatives by various parties, the school gives assurance that the safety of its students and staff is paramount.



A school staff cleaning the metal railings at PTEB



A worker from a professional cleaning provider using cleaning equipment to wash school floor