

NOTIFICATION
130/PMO
03 Feb 2022
New relaxed
COVID-19 measures



NOTIFICATION

Attn: - Ministers, Heads of equivalent organizations
- Vientiane Capital Mayor and Provincial Governors nationwide

Subject: Guidance of the Government Meeting on COVID-19 preventive, control, and containment measures during the new phase of the pandemic.

- Pursuant to the Decree No 574/PM dated 28 September 2021 regarding organization and function of the Prime Minister's Office;
- Based on the guidance and decision of the Government Ordinary Monthly Meeting for January 2022.
- Based on COVID-19 Taskforce's proposal to the Government Ordinary Monthly Meeting for January 2022.

The Prime Minister's Office is pleased to notify the decision and guidance of the Government Ordinary Monthly Meeting for January on COVID-19 preventive, control, and containment measures during the new phase of the pandemic for your information and implementation:

1. Relax quarantine period for the following target group entering Lao PDR:
 - 1.1. [Official] delegations or technical team at all levels going on mission or attending seminars abroad and Lao citizens returning from overseas must be RT-PCR tested for COVID-19 on arrival and quarantine in a Taskforce designated quarantine facility to await for their test results within 48 hours. Those with a negative test result must continue to quarantine for 07 days at their own residence while strictly complying with infection preventive and control measures.
 - 1.2. Diplomats or embassy staff, staff/representative of international organization within the UN network, international organization with diplomatic privilege and immunity including their family members as authorized by the COVID-19 Taskforce, must be RT-PCR tested for COVID-19 upon arrival and continue to quarantine at their own residence for 07 days while strictly complying with infection preventive and control measures.
 - 1.3. Business groups or investors authorized to conduct business or invest in Lao PDR who will enter Lao PDR must be RT-PCR tested for COVID-19 upon arrival and quarantine in a Taskforce designated quarantine facility to await for their

test results within 48 hours. Those with negative test results can carry on their activities per their work plan, but must wear a medical monitoring device and strictly comply with preventive and control measures.

- 1.4.** Foreign experts, specialists, technical officers, workers, entrepreneurs, students, Lao nationals and their family members must be RT-PCR tested for COVID-19 upon arrival, await for their test result within 48 hours in a hotel designated by the Taskforce. Those with negative test results must continue to quarantine at their own residence for 07 days, but must wear a medical monitoring device while strictly complying with preventive and control measures.
- 1.5.** Tourist groups entering Lao PDR under the Green Travel Zone Scheme must be RT-PCR tested for COVID-19 upon arrival, wait for their test results within 48 hours in a hotel designated by the Taskforce. Those with negative test results are permitted to carry on with activities per their itinerary but they must wear a medical monitoring device while strictly complying with preventive and control measures.

Target groups identified in points 1.1 – 1.5 above who receive a positive test result can be treated at a hospital or treatment facility or self-treatment at their residence for at least 10 days based on their symptoms in line with the Guidelines as set out by the Ministry of Health from time to time.

- 2.** Foreigners residing in Lao PDR including those authorized to enter Lao PDR by the Central COVID-19 Taskforce must install and register the LaoKYC application in their mobile phone to enable them to use the “Lao Susu” function and apply for a vaccine ID as verification of their vaccination and risk status when travelling, entering Government offices, plants/factories, restaurants, and all other venues.
- 3.** Allow the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to issue visa for tourist groups who will enter Lao PDR under the Green Travel Zone Scheme, approved by the Government as stated in point 1.5 above. Ensure that tourists register for a QR Code (Vaccine ID) to be used when traveling in Lao PDR. At the same time, allow issuance of visas for the target groups defined in point 1.1 – 1.4 above as authorized by the Taskforce.
- 4.** Agree in principle for the reopening of traditional and local border checkpoints for goods transportation. The Vientiane Capital and provincial authorities bordering with other countries are tasked to inspect and consult with the local authorities of the bordering country. If deemed ready in all aspects including transport facilitation, ensuring COVID-19 prevention and control as well as high conformity; then Vientiane Capital and provincial authorities can reopen the borders.
- 5.** Agree for the private sector to be involved in collecting COVID-19 testing samples. The Ministry of Health is tasked to work out the details and act as the focal point in collaborating with concerned ministries in researching and defining the criteria and

procedures/regulations in managing business units authorized to conduct their own testing in accordance with the standards set out by the Ministry of Health.

6. The Central COVID-19 Taskforce is tasked to drive/encourage production of COVID-19 treatment medicine that meets the demand of society.
7. Local administrative authorities at all levels to push vaccination drive via various means and approaches to achieve maximum vaccination [rate] in accordance with Instruction by the Prime Minister No 24/PM dated 10 November 2021 on increasing COVID-19 vaccination.
8. Allow the opening of all forms of indoor and outdoor sports, but venue owners must have strict preventive and control measures in place.
9. Continue to close entertainment venues and karaoke parlors.
10. Local administrative authorities at all levels to allow and facilitate passenger transportation service, passengers, private vehicles travelling between provinces, districts, but drivers and passengers must be fully vaccinated. Strictly forbid administrative authorities at all levels from imposing barriers/difficulties for all citizens who are travelling and carrying on with their lives to make a living nationwide, by establishing regulations that differs from regulations set out by the Government and Central COVID-19 Taskforce.
11. COVID-19 Taskforces at all levels are tasked to promptly translate this Notice into a Recommendation for actual implementation.

Remark: This Notification replaces Notification No 1494/PMO dated 14 November 2021.

Hence, this serves as notification and implementation.

[pp] **Minister,**
Head of Prime Minister's Office

[Signed and Sealed]

Khamlavanh CHANTHALAVANH