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ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

May 11, 2022

Press release
Further relaxation of COVID-19 measures

Under the constant guidance of His Majesty The King, our COVID-19 pandemic responses averted a major public health crisis and made a well-timed cautious transition to Phase II on April 4, 2022. Supported by emerging evidence and viral characteristics and efficacy of vaccines, further relaxations came into effect on May 2, 2022.

Our current surveillance shows a continuous decline in the national case trend and positivity rate. The rates of severity in cases and hospitalization in COVID-19 hospitals have decreased significantly. Moreover, our vaccination coverage continues to improve and no major outbreaks were reported even after the opening of all schools.

Thus, given the current situational status, it gives us renewed confidence to announce further relaxation for the entire nation as follows **with effect from May 9, 2022.**

1. All entertainment centres including movie theatres can now **resume their regular business at full capacity till 12am.**
2. All mass gatherings including religious ceremonies such as *Tshechus* and *Moenlam Chenmos* will be allowed with strict observance of basic COVID-19 protocols such as face masks and hand washing.
3. All indoor and outdoor sporting activities including tournaments will be permitted with spectators. However, individuals showing COVID-19 symptoms are discouraged from taking part in any sporting activities.



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4. Virtual meetings/conferences/seminars/training are strongly encouraged to bring about greater efficiency and resource-saving. In cases where it is absolutely necessary to have in-person meetings, the meetings should be held in a well-ventilated room/hall and coordinators must ensure that all participants use facemasks and practice hand washing/sanitizing.
5. Bhutanese travelling abroad will no longer be required to seek travel clearance from the NC19TF/Department of Immigration. However, outbound Bhutanese travellers are encouraged to be fully vaccinated and to take all precautionary measures for COVID-19 while travelling. Outbound travellers must ensure that they meet all the requirements (RT-PCR negative report, vaccination, health/travel insurance, etc.) at the transit and destination countries before travel. For official travel, government agencies must exercise due diligence, and prioritize such travels based on national priorities.
6. Information related to RT-PCR test requirements in different countries can be accessed from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website at https://www.mfa.gov.bt/?page_id=9178