



# **TEST AND GO PROTOCOL FOR INCOMING TRAVELERS**

**Ministry of Health**

**Thimphu, Bhutan**

**1<sup>st</sup> version**

**03 July 2022**

## **1. Rationale and justification for Test-and-go**

- The current global outbreak is caused by the Omicron variant which is known to have high transmissibility but mild disease.
- Since transitioning to Phase II, there has been sustained low positivity rate and promising trends of zero fatalities and hospitalization.
- There is high advocacy, preparedness and confidence amongst the general public and health workers with experiences gained from the ongoing local outbreak and the level of protection provided by the high national vaccination coverage.
- The new variants under observation are limited to fewer countries and not yet known to cause severe disease although probably more transmissible.
- The system of variant surveillance through gene sequencing has been established in the RCDC to detect new variants at the earliest.

## **2. Eligibility for Test-and-Go**

2.1 All incoming travelers are eligible for the test-and-go system with a mandatory observation of 24 hours in a hotel or home (separate room) until the RT-PCR test result is declared.

## **3. Process for Test-and-Go**

3.1 All incoming travelers will be required to fill up and submit the Test-and-Go undertaking available on the Ministry of Health website ([www.moh.gov.bt](http://www.moh.gov.bt)) at the points of entry.

## **4. Travel to destination**

4.1 Incoming travelers should have arrangements to travel in private cars to their respective destinations. Incoming travelers' private cars will be labeled with stickers by the authority to facilitate travel without having to stop on the way.

4.2 Incoming travelers will only be allowed to travel to a destination that does not entail a night halt.

4.3 During travel, the Test-and-Go individual shall avoid stopping in public places, entering any shops, hotels/restaurants along the way and avoid coming in contact with other people.

## **5. Testing**

5.1 Incoming travelers are encouraged to travel through entry points where RT-PCR testing facility is availing i.e. Paro, Phuentsholing, Gelephu and Samdrup Jongkhar.

- 5.2 RT-PCR test results for incoming travelers entering through other points of entry may take more than 24 hours due to non-availability of RT-PCR testing facilities.
- 5.3 RT-PCR samples will be collected at the respective points of entry upon payment of Nu. 500 and test results will be shared within 24 hours.
- 5.4 The individual can have free movement if the RT-PCR test result is negative at the end of the 24-hour mandatory (observation) period.
- 5.5 However, those testing positive will then follow self-isolation for 5 days.

## **6. Do's and Don'ts during 24-hour observation**

- 6.1 Individuals shall strictly observe the 24-hour observation until the declaration of the RT-PCR test result.
- 6.2 The Test-and-Go individual shall isolate in a hotel or home (separate isolation room) during the 24-hour observation and shall not be allowed to leave home or come into contact with anyone except during health conditions requiring medical intervention.
- 6.3 All Test-and-Go individuals must follow COVID-19 health protocols at all times (use face mask, practice hand hygiene) and must clean frequently touched surfaces like doorknobs, tables, light switches, cabinet handles, toilets, and faucets and sinks.
- 6.4 During the observation period, adequate ventilation must be maintained to improve fresh air circulation.
- 6.5 In case of medical emergencies during observation, individuals shall contact the Health Help Center (112) to seek medical help.

## **7. Isolation requirement**

- 7.1 In the event the Test-and-Go individual tests positive on the RT-PCR, the individual will be required to home isolate for 5 days from the day of the positive test including the family/household members.
- 7.2 The individual shall complete home isolation at the end of the 5 days without testing.
- 7.3 In case of medical emergencies during home isolation, the individual shall contact the Health Help Center (112) to seek medical help.

## **8. Monitoring and reporting**

- 8.1 Under Test-and-Go individuals shall be subjected to random monitoring through virtual mechanisms or physical visits by authorities.
- 8.2 Any breach of the undertaking shall be taken seriously and liable for legal action as per the provisions of the Penal Code of Bhutan.

**COVID-19 Test-And-Go Undertaking**

I, Mr./Ms./Dasho/ .....(Title).....(Name)

holding (CID/Passport/Work permit number/Trading card license holder).....

from.....(Village).....(Gewog)

.....(Dzongkhag) OR working agency/local point of contact (for non-Bhutanese) .....

..... agree to the following under the COVID-19 “Test-and-Go” protocol:

1. Undertake RT-PCR test at the point of entry upon arrival and provide proof of vaccination (unless you are below 5 years old) or evidence of COVID-19 infection in the last six months. If these conditions are not fulfilled, an individual shall undergo 5-day home or facility quarantine.
2. Observe the mandatory stay home/hotel for 24 hours or until negative RT-PCR test is received.
3. Self-isolate for five days at home/hotel if the RT-PCT test is positive.
4. Make arrangements to travel by dedicated vehicle to the place of stay (home/hotel) that does not entail an overnight halt without stopping in public places, entering shops/restaurants or coming in contact with other people.
5. Ensure that family/household members’ movement will be restricted during the mandatory 24-hours stay and five days isolation period (if test is positive).
6. Be fully responsible for any breach of these protocol by me or my family/household members and to be dealt as per the existing laws of the country.
7. If staying in a hotel, obtain a confirmation from the hotel that the “Test-and-Go” protocol in terms of 24 hours mandatory stay and five days isolation (if test is positive) has been agreed to by the hotel in keeping with COVID-19 safety protocol.

Additional details are attached.

**Signature of applicant:**

**Name:**

**Residential Address:**

**Phone no:**

**Emergency Contact Person and number:**

**COVID-19 Test-and-Go**  
*(Additional details)*

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**1. Date of arrival (dd/mm/yy):**

**2. Port of embarkation:**

**3. If you are traveling with family please provide the following details (separate undertaking not required):**

*a) Name and contact number:*

*b) Name and contact number:*

*c) Name and contact number:*

*d) Name and contact number:*

**4. Place of stay/residence (location/name):**

**5. Number of household members:**

**6. Details of person who will pick you up at the point of entry:**

*a) Name:*

*b) Contact number:*

*c) Vehicle number:*

*d) Driver license number:*

**Signature:**

**Name:**