



Ministry of Health, Bhutan

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ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Secretary's Office
THIMPHU BHUTAN
P.O BOX: 726



SECRETARY

Ref no- MOH/SEC/44/2019-20/ 12137

10th April 2020

The Secretary
Ministry of Agriculture & Forests
Thimphu

Subject: Health Advisory for the Cordyceps Collectors

Dear Sir,

This has in reference to the letter no. DOFPS/SFED/2020/1587 dated 7th April 2020 regarding the Health Screening for cordyceps collectors. The Ministry appreciates the initiative and concern shown by your ministry at this stage. In order to further reinforce the guidelines being developed by your ministry, we are pleased to share the Health Advisory for the Cordyceps Collectors & Forest Officials as attached here.

Thank you for your continuous support.

Sincerely,

(Dr. Ugen Dophu)
SECRETARY

Copy to:

1. The PS to Her Excellency the Minister, MoH for kind appraisal
2. The PS to Her Excellency the Minister, MoAF for kind appraisal
3. The Director General, DMS, MoH for kind information



COVID-19 Health Advisory for the Cordyceps Collectors & Forest Officials

1. For Cordyceps Collectors

a. Pre-departure

- Any individual with underlying conditions diabetes, hypertension, heart diseases, chronic pulmonary disease, chronic kidney disease, liver disease should be strongly discouraged for the cordyceps collection
- The elderly people (>60 years) should be also strongly discouraged for the cordyceps collection
- An undertaking letter stating that individual won't cross the border and interact with the people across the border should be obtained
- The health officials in collaboration with the Gup of concerned gewog should give health education on the precautionary measures on COVID-19 during the briefing (before the issuance of the collection permit).

b. During Collection

- Practice cough etiquette and frequent hand washing.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, mouth, face without washing hand or using hand sanitizer
- Maintain physical distance of 1 meter while collecting cordyceps or sleeping in the tents
- Avoid hugging or handshake with friends, colleagues, and strangers.
- Avoid mass gathering or avoid contact with strangers
- If any collector develops signs/symptoms like fever, cough, shortness of breath, diarrhea, fatigue, loss of smell or taste, etc during the collection period, immediately inform the concerned Gup, or health officials of nearest health facilities or call Ministry's Surveillance team @ 17123203 or 17123201
- The precautionary measures to be followed by the forest official

c. After collection

- The collectors and forest officials should be screened (fever) at the exit point upon their return from the collection
- They should be advised to stay home and monitor their health conditions at least for 21 days

*Note Name, age, sex and contact details of the collectors to be provided to Surveillance Team, Ministry of Health