



Lao People's Democratic Republic
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

Prime Minister Office

No. 597/PMO

Vientiane Capital, dated 29 May 2020

NOTICE

To: - Honorable Ministers and Heads of Ministry Equivalence.
- Honorable Vientiane Capital and Provincial Governors.

Subject: Continuing to implement easing measures and measures to prevent, control, contain and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic for the period of 2 - 30 June 2020.

- Pursuant to the Prime Minister's Order No. 06/PM, Dated 29 March 2020.
- Pursuant to the Reports on the past implementation of measures to prevent, control, contain and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and proposed measures to be implemented after 1 June 2020 of the Task Force Committee to the Joint Meeting between Politburo members and Central Party Committee Secretariat on 15 May 2020.
- Pursuant to the Notice of the Cabinet of the Party Central Committee No. 23/CPCC, dated 28 May 2020.

The Prime Minister Office has the honor to inform the followings: through the implementation of the relaxed preventive measures, we are able to continue to control the outbreak of the virus with no more new cases and 16 out of the total 19 infected cases have been cured. We are able to make society, business sector, business owners, projects and factories to gradually return to live their lives and conduct businesses under the new normal.

Nevertheless, we should seriously not take it for granted since there are still high risk and challenges lying ahead for the possible new wave of infection coming from the ongoing rising outbreak in many countries that has not been able to control the pandemic. Therefore,

it is necessary to continue implementing measures to prevent, contain and control the outbreak of the COVID-19. The Government has decided on some measures as follows:

1. The Task Force Committee, local administrative authorities at all levels and relevant sectors shall continue to advertise and educate people in an in-depth and outreach manner about the danger of the virus and preventive measures by providing detail guidance and in a format of an easy understanding to disseminate through various media outlets. At the same time, they shall also continue to focus on the tasks of addressing the issues of fake news, rumors, anti-social news and slander.
2. Agree to continue implementing the easing measures identified under the Notice of the Prime Minister Office No. 580/PMO, dated 15 May 2020.
3. Agree to ease some measures under the Notice of Prime Minister Office No. 580/PMO and further relax certain measures to minimize the socio-economic impact as much as possible, and creating favorable conditions that enabled communities to gradually live their new normal lives, whilst implementing preventive measures against infection such as maintaining social distancing of at least 1 meter, handwashing with soap and clean water or hand sanitizer, wearing face mask, taking body temperature and cleaning the venue per advised by the Task Force Committee. Details of the relaxed measures are as follows:
 - 3.1. Allow Ministry of Education and Sports and other sectors that have schools and academic institutions under their supervision to reopen the classrooms for childcare and Kindergarten, primary school students from year 1 to year 4, secondary school students from year 1 to year 3 and year 5 to year 6; open the classroom for final year students of vocational colleges, pedagogy college and university; and can conduct workshop and short term courses from 2 June 2020. For the remaining classes shall be allowed to open from 15 June 2020. They shall follow the practice of social distancing of at least 1 meter, providing hand-washing facility with soap and clean water or hand sanitizer, wearing face mask, checking body temperature and cleaning the venue as advised by the Task Force Committee. The Ministry of Education and Sports shall issue detailed instruction for practical implementation;
 - 3.2. Allow to organize all types of sport competition, but with no audience;
 - 3.3. Allow night market, eatery (non alcoholic shops for social gatherings) that has been legally authorized and cinema to open, but they have to follow the practicing of social distancing of at least 1 meter, providing hand-washing facility with soap and clean water or hand sanitizer, wearing face mask, checking body temperature and cleaning the venue as advised by the Task Force Committee;

- 3.4. Allow projects, businesses and factories to operate as usual by following the conditions and preventive measures against infection, such as the practicing of social distancing of at least 1 meter, providing hand-washing facility with soap and clean water or hand sanitizer, wearing face mask, checking body temperature and cleaning the venue as advised by the Task Force Committee. The relevant sectors shall issue detailed instruction on the practical implementation;
4. Agree to continue to strictly implement some measures specified in the Prime Minister's Order No. 06/PM, dated 29 March 2020, as follows:
 - 4.1. Continue to close night clubs, karaoke shops, game shops and casinos;
 - 4.2. Continue to prohibit non official social meeting, partying and celebrative activities. Prohibit traditional festivals that cannot maintain social distancing of at least 1 meter and risk of infection. For marriage, official registration is sufficient and constitutes a legally married couple. For wedding party, it shall be organized according to the fine traditional practice of barci ceremony in the spirit of non-extravagance and the practicing of social distancing of at least 1 meter and ensured risk free infection;
 - 4.3. Continue to close all customary and local border checkpoints for the entry and exit of individuals and transportation of goods, except for certain customary and local border checkpoints that have been authorized for the crossing of the vehicles for transportation of goods. Continue to close all international checkpoints for the entry and exit of individuals, except for crossing of the Lao nationals and foreigners who have been authorized by the Task Force Committee based on the necessity and urgency. For the transportation of goods crossing the international checkpoints, it can do so as usual;
 - 4.4. Continue to suspend the issuance of tourist and visitor VISA for individuals traveling from or transiting the countries with on-going COVID-19 outbreak. For diplomats, staffs of international organizations, experts, technical officers and foreign workers who have to enter Lao PDR to carry out their essential and urgent works in their respective embassies, businesses and projects, they can do so, but with the prior authorization from the Task Force Committee. For the practical steps, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will issue a separate advice.
5. Implementation methods:
 - 5.1. This relaxed measure is temporary. If there is a report of confirmed infected case in a particular province, there will be re-imposed of strict measures on that province to be announced by its Provincial Task Force Committee. In case of an infection found in a cluster of 2 provinces or more, the measures specified in the Prime Minister's Order No.06/PM will be strictly re-imposed;

- 5.2. All ministries, agencies, local authorities shall review their own orders and instructions, and update them in line with the measures under this Notice and put it into details in a timely manner and for the same understanding for the implementation;
- 5.3. Defense forces, police personnel, Task Force Committee, Ministries, agencies, local administrative authorities at all levels and every sector in the society shall together monitor, provide security, maintain social orders and strictly implement the measures specified in this Notice. In case of any violation to this Notice, the police personnel and concerned authorities shall take strict action in accordance with the relevant laws and regulations;
- 5.4. The measures specified under this Notice enter into force from 2 to 30 June 2020. Through the practical implementation, there will be an evaluation, review, and revise as appropriate. In case of any changes, the Government will provide further notice.

I have the honor to notify you, for your kind information and implementation of this Notice.

Minister,

Permanent Secretary of the Prime Minister Office

Phet Phomphiphak