



ཀླུ་ཡོངས་ནད་ཡམས་གོ་མིན་-༡༩་པའི་ལས་བྱེད་ཚོགས་ཀྱི་
National Covid-19 Task Force



NC19TF/03/ 120

6th November, 2020

**The Chairpersons
Central, Southern and Eastern COVID19 Task Force
Phuentsholing, Thimphu, Samdrup Jongkhar**

Dasho(s),

This is to convey the decisions of the 38th NC19TF meeting held on 6th November, 2020.

1. Opening of Bhimtar point of Entry (Samtse Dzongkhag)

- a) *The NC19TF directed to allow the operation of export and import of goods plying through the checkpoint before COVID-19 at the earliest.*
- b) *The Samtse Dzongkhag should expedite the construction of infrastructure for Bhimtar Checkpoint and seek additional resources (manpower and budget) if required.*
- c) *The Samtse COVID-19 Task Force should ensure the enforcement of health and COVID-19 protocols.*

2. Transferring jurisdiction of Panbang Dungkhag together with Zhemgang Dzongkhag under the SC19TF in the context of COVID-19 situation (SC19TF and ECTF)

- a) *The NC19TF approved the transfer of Zhemgang Dzongkhag under EC19TF for COVID-19 related activities.*
- b) *The Bumthang Dzongkhag will now be under the jurisdiction of CC19TF for COVID-19 related activities*

3. Request to consider other Chiwogs, except Sarphu under Darla Gewog as a low risk area (SC19TF).

- a) *The NC19TF approved to include Darla Gewog as a low risk area, however areas below Sarphu chiwog shall continue to remain under high risk area.*
- b) *The Dzongkhag in coordination with RBP should strictly monitor the movement of people in this area.*

4. Increasing number of positive cases among the foreign workers could pose tremendous stress on the limited number of isolation wards/facilities in the country.

The NC19TF decided that it would not be advisable to enforce moratorium on foreign workers however the following were discussed:

- a) *The models followed by RBA on testing of IMTRAT/DANTAK could be adopted (testing of RT-PCR before entering Bhutan).*

1 of 4



རྒྱལ་ཡོངས་ནད་ཡམས་གོ་མིན་-༡༩པའི་ལས་བྱེད་ཚོགས་ཚུངས།

National Covid-19 Task Force



b) *The Hydropower authorities could also arrange to test their foreign workers before entering the country as it could save the cost of quarantine, treatment and ICU for them.*

Such arrangements are adequate to prevent COVID-19 transmission in the community.

5. Quarantining 168 students of CST and 106 students and staff of Arura Institute of Health Sciences who are travelling from Phuentsholing to low-risk areas in the country (SC19TF)

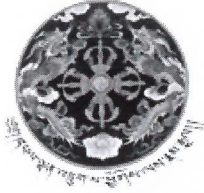
- 1) *The NC19TF approved the quarantine of 106 students of Arura Institute of Health Sciences in their campus before traveling to Mongar.*
- 2) *The NC19TF approved the movement of 168 students of CST after 7 days of institute quarantine.*

6. Who will bear cost of seven days facility quarantine for IMTRAT/ DANTAK personnel travelling from high to low risk areas

- 1) *The NC19TF decided that the IMTRAT/DANTAK should bear their own quarantine expenses.*
- 2) *The RBA may recommend the COVID-19 Task Force for such people if the cost of the quarantine is to be borne by the government.*

7. Mandatory facility quarantine for frontline workers travelling from high-risk to high-risk areas. The existing protocol on the movement of people from high-risk to high-risk areas do not require 7-day mandatory facility quarantine.

- 1) *The NC19TF directed that regional COVID-19 task force(s) should work out a schedule so that escorts can be provided for the movement of frontline workers. The NC19TF also directed that the vehicles do not stop on the way while travelling from high risk to high risk area through the low risk area..*
- 2) *The schedule should be shared with the people and updated in the CPMS to avoid inconvenience to the people.*
- 3) *The NC19TF advised the SC19TF to ensure that loaders working in small warehouses are properly quarantined/ informed about the health and COVID-19 protocols.*
- 4) *The De-suups/RBP personnel providing escort services should ensure that all health/COVID-19 protocols are complied with, besides ensuring that the driver and loaders/other people do not come into contact.*
- 5) *The NC19TF noted in social media that there were COVID-19 protocol lapses while managing the queue for Ngultrum-Rupee exchange. The responsibilities for enforcement of COVID-19 protocol should be handled by law enforcement authorities.*



ཀླུ་ཡོངས་ནད་ཡམས་གོ་མིན་-༡༩་པའི་ལས་བྱེད་ཚོགས་ཀྱི་

National Covid-19 Task Force



8. **Budget for transhipment station at Sorchen**

- 1) *The NC19TF instructed that detailed cost of construction and expenses incurred for establishment of Sorchen transhipment facility be submitted.*
- 2) *The NC19TF directed the SC19TF to rework and submit the recurrent cost for maintenance of the transhipment areas.*
- 3) *The budget for logistics should be only for those people involved in escorting the vehicles.*

9. **In view of the mounting pressure on budget hotels, approval to use star rated hotels is sought. Maximum amount of Nu. 700 (per day) fixed by the government will be paid by the government and the top up to be borne by the people undergoing facility quarantine.**

- 1) *The NC19TF noted that there is shortage of budget hotels in Phuntsholing.*
- 2) *As proposed by the COVID-19 Task Force, the usage of Star rated hotels has been approved by NC19TF. However, the NC19TF directed to share the cost on a 50/50 basis instead of topping up on the rate of the Star hotels by the user.*

10. **Movement of people from Phuentsholing (high risk area) to low risk areas within Chhukha Dzongkhag or other Dzongkhags for official purposes remains restricted without completion of 7 days mandatory quarantine.**

The NC19TF directed that the organisation should reorganise and realign themselves so that the people from high risk are not required to travel to low risk areas for maintenance of their equipment/towers and other services.

11. **Request for import of IOC Technician, Bongaigaon for repairing fuel dispensing machine in Tengkudingkha fuel depot under bubble mode (Panbang, Zhemgang)**

The NC19TF directed to inform the Dungkhag that the company should explore the possibility of recruiting local engineers/technicians for maintaining fuel dispensing machines.

12. **M/s Quality Gases Pvt. Ltd in Pasakha seeks permission to bring in an engineer from India to repair the Plant.**

The NC19TF approved the import of engineers from Kolkata. The SC19TF should ensure that all COVID-19 containment protocols are followed.

13. **Opening of private driving training and computer training institutes in Phuentsholing**

The NC19TF approved the operation of private driving and computer training institutes.

14. **The SC19TF has requested for use of Troops Transit Camp, RBA, Phuentsholing for accommodating loaders of MDP.**

