



PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

In line with the '**Press Release of the Prime Minister's Office**' dated March 19, 2022 and '**Measures and Protocols during the Transition to Phase-2**' of the Ministry of health, the DC19TF would like to notify the general public on the following measures as a way forward for Samtse Dzongkhag.

1. MOVEMENT

- Inter-Gewog movement including movement of vehicle shall be allowed from **March 21, 2022**.
- Movement of vehicles till Amochu shall be allowed without e-pass and testing.
- Movement of vehicles ferrying essential items, construction materials, animal feeds, agricultural and livestock products shall be allowed with e-pass and RT-PCR test result (The RT-PCR result will have 14 days validity period).
- Public transport (Taxi service) shall be allowed to pick and drop passenger to Sorchen with e-pass and RT-PCR test result (The RT-PCR result will have 14 days validity period).
- Movement of private vehicle to Sorchen to lift passenger shall be allowed with e-pass and Rapid Antigen Test result.
- Movement of individuals under home isolation/quarantine shall not be allowed.
- Movement of people and vehicles shall be restricted after 10:00 PM, except for medical emergencies.

2. ESSENTIAL DELIVERY

- Delivery of essential items to red houses/apartment shall be continued as before by the respective delivery teams in the Gewogs and Throm.

3. QUARANTINE/HIGH RISK TO LOW RISK TRAVEL

- Registered stranded travelers in the Dzongkhag shall be allowed to travel to Low Risk Areas as per the SOP for Home Quarantine for travel from High Risk to Low Risk Area.
- The home quarantine of stranded travelers shall be facilitated as per the schedule which will be notified separately.
- Registration of routine traveler through 1010 shall be opened after clearing of the stranded people.



4. OFFICE/INSTITUTION

- All offices and institutions shall be fully functional from **March 21, 2022**.
- COVID-19 protocols must be strictly followed during the reopening of the offices.

5. SHOPS/BUSINESS

- Except Karaoke all other shops and businesses shall be allowed to operate. However, take-away is encouraged for restaurant and bars.
- Shop opening timing shall be from 8:00 AM to 9:00 PM.
- Shopkeepers and helpers with flu like symptoms shall not attend to the shops.

6. CONTAINMENT CENTRE

- All activities currently operating under containment mode except at the MDP (Samtse, Gomtu and Pugli), Samtse ICP, Gomtu BCP and critical health shall be lifted with immediate effect.
- All industries and factories currently operating under containment mode shall be lifted with immediate effect. However, the loaders and the security personnel shall continue to work in strict containment mode.

7. REVERSE ISOLATION

- Individuals who are most vulnerable (comorbid individuals, elderly above 65 years) to COVID-19 will receive special care under the Reverse Isolation Program, an initiative under the Royal Command.
- The vulnerable group will be cared for in identified facilities or at their own homes.
- Dedicated health professional and personal caregivers, in coordination with the relevant health facilities will ensure the wellbeing of individuals in isolation.
- The Dzongkhag is in the process of compiling a list of vulnerable individuals. Any Individuals or families with vulnerable members can call helpline at 1010 for registration.

8. PUBLIC GATHERING/SOCIAL EVENTS

- No public gathering (*ritual, rimdros, or other ceremonies*) shall be allowed.
- No games and sporting activities shall be allowed.
- Funeral rites shall be limited to close family circles not exceeding **20 people** with prior approval from the DC19TF.

Considering the highly transmissible nature of Omicron and in keeping with the transition to new phase of COVID management, the responsibility to protect the



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Royal Government of Bhutan
Dzongkhag Administration
SAMTSE



vulnerable population and ourselves falls on every individual in the country. Now more than ever, the time has come to shoulder our civic responsibility as a responsible citizen of our beloved country. Therefore, the general public are requested to follow the COVID protocols (wearing mask, hand washing, using Druk Trace App, and physical distancing etc.) at all times and avoid any unnecessary movement. The DC19TF is sincerely grateful for the support and cooperation rendered by the general public in combating the virus and solicits the continued support and cooperation as we continue to live with the virus.



Dzongkhag
Dzongkhag Administration
Samise, Bhutan

**Incident Commander
DC19T**