



Lao People's Democratic Republic
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

Prime Minister's Office

Ref. No. 580/PMO
Vientiane Capital, 15 May 2020

NOTICE

- To: Ministers, heads of equivalent authorities;
Major of Vientiane Capital and provincial governors nationwide.
- Re: continue to release some additional measures and implement measures to prevent, control and respond COVID-19 from 4-18 May to 1 June 2020
- Based on PM's Order 06 dated 29 March 2020
 - Based on COVID-19 Taskforce report on 14 May 2020
 - Based on resolution and instruction of deputy minister – minister meeting (joint by COVID-19 Taskforce and relevant parties) dated 14 May 2020

The Prime Minister's Office is pleased to inform you as following: the outbreak of COVID-19 is affecting all countries around the world and quickly spread and continue to increase its severity with more and more infected cases and continually increase. We do not know when this would be ended. In addition, it also has severe impact to global economy and society. In Lao PDR, after having implemented PM's Order 06 dated 29 March 2020, PMO notice 524 dated 1 May 2020, other notices and instructions from concerning parties for more than one month, we can control the outbreak with no additional infected cases and treat 14 infected cases. International and other countries indicated that Lao PRD has effective measures to prevent the wide outbreak of COVID-19.

However, we should not be careless but we should think that it's just the beginning stage. In coming days, we may face another outbreak and many challenges as there are still outbreak in many countries. Therefore, we must continue implementation of measures for prevention, control and response to COVID-19 but to minimize the impact to socio-economic, allow community to resume to normal life step by step, the Government has agreed and instructed as following:

1. Ministries, organization equivalent to ministry, local authorities in all levels, relevant parties, public workers, military, police, ethnic minority in the country to continue to follow PM's Order 06 to prevent, control and surveillance COVID-19 with high precaution and ownership.
2. citizen, public workers, employees, military, police, entrepreneur, alien and foreigner living in Lao PDR continue to strictly implement measures to against contamination such as keep at least 1m distance, hand washing or use sanitizer, wear mask, monitor body temperature, proper cleaning of the premises as advised by COVID-19 Taskforce.
3. The Taskforce, local authorities at all levels and relevant parties continue to disseminate via all media information on danger and preventive measures of COVID-19 with content that easy to understand. In addition, it should prepare action plan to respond to fake news.
4. Agree to relax some more measures to minimize impact to socio-economic, to allow community to resume to normal life step by step but must implement preventive measures such as keep at least 1m distance, hand washing or use sanitizer, wear mask, monitor body

temperature, proper cleaning of the premises as advised by the Taskforce. Here are released measures:

- 4.1. Authorize public government offices, private offices to resume to normal operation and allow staff to go to office but has to apply preventive health measures to minimize contamination risk. The organizations that have the possibility to use electronic working tools are encouraged to continue using them as seen fit;
 - 4.2. Authorize citizens, employees, public workers, military, police, foreigners and residents in the Lao PDR to travel within the country but must follow preventive health measures against contamination when doing so;
 - 4.3. Authorize transportation by road, water, and air within the country between provinces but must follow preventive health measures against contamination.
 - 4.4. Authorize trainings and meetings within the country but not allow to organize party. The social distancing rules must be applied with at least 1m meter separating participants, available hand wash with clean water, soap or hand sanitizer, wearing face masks, monitoring body temperature, and proper cleaning of the premises as advised by the Taskforce; for organizing the party meeting in 3 levels (district, province, and central levels) must follow addition guideline of central party secretariat no. 08 dated 11 May 2020.
 - 4.5. The Ministry of Education and Sports, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Public Security may open primary school grade 5, secondary school grades 4 and 7 and military and police academies from 18th May 2020. Preventive measures shall be implemented such as social distancing of at least 1m, accommodate hand washing points with clean water and soap or hand sanitiser, wear face masks, body temperature monitoring and cleaning of premises as per the recommendations by the Task Force. As for pre-schools and kindergartens, primary schools up to G4 and secondary schools up to G6, colleges, universities and other education facilities shall prepare to reopen their term on 2nd June 2020.
 - 4.6. Allow practicing outdoor and indoor sports of all type, but preventive measures as recommended by the Task Force shall be adopted at all times
 - 4.7. Allow the opening and operating of shops and services: restaurants, food market, convenience stores, barbershops, beauty saloon, fresh markets, shopping malls, wholesale and retail shops, supermarkets, coffee shops, garages, car washes, drinking water factories, ice making factories, tourist attractions, massages and spas may operate normally but under the supervision of the relevant authorities and which strict opening and closing times.
 - 4.8. Big projects, companies and factories may operate but shall implement the measures as laid out in recommendation no. 071/TF dated 11 May 2020 issued by the Task Force.
 - 4.9. Allow foreign citizens who are working and studying in the Lao PDR to return to their origin country if necessary. For Lao citizens who wish to travel abroad for work or study may do so, but must abide to the regulation of the host country.
5. Measure that must continue to be in strictly in effect, from the the PM decree no. 06/PM dated 20th March 2020

- 5.1. Continue closing of night markets, entertainment services, bars (serving alcohol, beer and other alcoholic beverages), karaokes, arcade shops, cinemas, casinos and sport competitions that attract large crowds where the implementation of preventive measure is not possible.
 - 5.2. Prohibit private gatherings, parties and celebrations. No traditional events or weddings which more than 50 attendees where implementation of preventive measure is not possible.
 - 5.3. Continue closing of land and air borders for individuals, while allowing the transportation of goods and individuals in article 4.9. From this document, and those who have obtained authorisation from the task force.
 - 5.4. Continue suspension of all general visas for individuals who are traveling from or through countries with increasing COVID19 infections, with the exception of diplomats, professionals, experts, and foreign labour that are required to work in various projects with high importance. Be it as it may, these individuals shall strictly implement preventive measures based on recommendations from the Task Force. For detailed processes and implementation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs shall make the proper recommendations.
6. On implementation:
- 6.1. This relaxing of the measures is temporary and subject to close monitoring, should there be any additional cases in any given Province, that province shall go into lockdown under the supervision of the provincial task force; should there be additional infection cases in 2 provinces or more, PM decree 06/PM shall come back into full effect.
 - 6.2. Give responsibility to each ministry, division, local authorities of all levels, to review their respective notices and recommendations, to comply with this notice. Each organisation shall do so in a timely manner, for easy understanding and clear implementation.
 - 6.3. The military forces, police forces, task forces, ministries, divisions, local authorities of all levels and all stakeholders of society shall strictly assume their responsibilities in the surveillance, safekeeping of public order, as laid out in this notice. Any infringement of articles in this notice shall be subject to prosecution under the Law.
 - 6.4. Articles in this notice come into effect from 18th May to 1st June 2020. Their implementation are subject to review and assessment for adaption. Should there be any revisions, the Government shall inform accordingly.

As such, this notice is made for your information and acknowledgment.

Minister
Chief of the Cabinet of the Prime Minister's Office
[signed & sealed]

Phet Phomphiphak

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