

# **NOTIFICATION**

## **1330/PMO**

## **15 Oct 2021**

### **COVID-19 restrictions**

### **and relaxed**

### **measures for**

### **16-30 Oct 2021**

Prime Minister's Office

No 1330/PMO

Vientiane Capital, 15 October 2021

**NOTIFICATION**

**Attn:** - Ministers, Heads of equivalent organizations  
- Vientiane Capital Mayor and Provincial Governors nationwide

**Subject:** Extended implementation of measures on prevention, control, containment to the COVID-19 pandemic during 16 - 30 October 2021.

- Pursuant to the Decree No 574/PM dated 28 September 2021 regarding organization and operation of the Prime Minister's Office;
- Pursuant to the Prime Minister's Order No 15/PM dated 21 April;
- Pursuant to the Party Central Committee Office Notice No 56/PCCO dated 22 September 2021;
- Based on guidance of the Prime Minister on 14 October 2021.

The Prime Minister's Office is pleased to notify you that: based on assessment of the COVID-19 outbreak situation and implementation of the Prime Minister's Instruction No 15/PM dated 21 April 2021, Notification No 1260/PMO dated 30 September 2021 as well as other measures set out by the Central COVID-19 Taskforce; generally it can be seen that COVID-19 outbreak continues to spread in many countries and there has not been a country that can completely resolve as reported by World Health Organization. For Lao PDR, despite the guidance to resolve the pandemic with every measure by officials at all levels with visible drop in imported cases; community transmissions continue to increase rapidly and spread widely in local community and making it difficult to assess the situation in which the past two weeks, community outbreaks have increased by 98.5%. Therefore the Government deems it necessary to strictly enhance and extend implementation of provisions set out in Order 15/PM dated 21 April 2021, Notification No 1260/PMO dated 30 September 2021, for another 15 days starting from 00:00 of 16 October to 24:00 of 30 October 2021 as follows:

**1. Principles and rationale underpinning Government's measures:**

- The Government has thoroughly considered and set the goal to prevent and contain COVID-19 outbreak in Lao PDR so that the number of infections and deaths among Lao citizens and foreigners residing in the country can be kept to the minimal extent possible.
- Strive to lead the Lao people to transition from way of living pre-COVID19 pandemic to a 'new normal' in the time of COVID-19 pandemic.
- The approach towards a new normal in the time of COVID-19 in Lao PDR must be fine-tuned to the context and particular condition of our country, based on lessons that the Government attained from the international community and constructive feedback from our people. In light of this, we must highly endeavor to balance and integrate health, management, and economic measures. That means measures set out by the Government must ensure that COVID-19 control can be realized so that infections and deaths are kept minimal. At the same time the negative impacts on the economy and livelihood of the people must be considered with the best effort for people to make a living and adapt to the 'new normal', as well as strive to implement the 9<sup>th</sup> 5-year National Socio-Economic Development Plan.. On this basis, the Party members – administrative authorities at all levels must expand on these principles and establish action plans in each sectors and areas within their responsibility suited to their specific situation, organization, and locality in each period.

**2. Enhanced measures for implementation:****A. General measures**

1. Increase vaccination to target groups in accordance to plan and set goal through detailed planning, a systematic monitoring plan, and better carried out in a timely manner. Continue to urgently identify infected persons and their close contacts to receive treatment, get tested and quarantine in accordance to technical procedures/principles.
2. Continue closure of all international, customary, and local borders via land and road for the public, except for individuals with authorization to travel from the Central National Taskforce. Goods transportation shall follow point 3.11 of this Notice.

3. Continue suspension of travel visa for visitors. Diplomats, employees of international organizations, experts, and investors who need to enter the country for essential and urgent purposes are allowed entry to work at embassies, for business operations, and priority projects with authorization from the Taskforce and strict compliance with preventive measures. Ambassadors and country representatives of international organizations are allowed to quarantine in their own residence. Other staff must quarantine in hotels designated by the Taskforce.

**B. Measures for community outbreak areas:**

1. Continue closures of all forms of entertainment venues, cinemas, spas, karaoke parlours, bars, internet cafes, snookers, casinos, and game venues nationwide.
2. Prohibit opening of massage places, beauty salons, barber shops, night markets, restaurant gardens, and tourist attractions.
3. Close industrial factories and enterprises in areas with local transmission in the factory or community. Exceptions are granted for factories authorized by the Taskforce, factories producing consumable goods, medicine and medical supplies with strict compliance to measures set out by the Taskforce. Business units that fail to cooperate and implement COVID-19 preventive and control measures in practice will be temporarily suspended until further consideration.
4. People are prohibited to enter-exit the area [with community outbreak] as set out by the Taskforce except for those authorised by the taskforce, and for transportation of goods.
5. Close all forms of indoor and outdoor sport complex including prohibition of all types of sport matches and exercising in public parks.
6. Prohibit all forms of functions or gatherings at all places.
7. Strictly prohibit opportunistic behaviors like stockpiling food, increasing prices of consumable and non-consumable goods, medical supplies and other necessity goods.
8. Close traffic within VTE Capital and provinces with community outbreak from 22.00 to 5.00 except for trucks/vehicles transporting goods, foods, medical supplies; ambulances, fire trucks, rescue

teams, vehicles of the taskforce and officials on duty, and vehicles authorized by the Taskforce.

9. Close all schools at all levels and postpone start of school year for all levels as well as admission tests of vocational, teacher, and tertiary education in areas with community transmissions.
10. Prohibit meetings, gatherings or other activities of more than 20 participants, namely religious and traditional ceremonies, weddings. Essential meetings and functions must be authorized by central or provincial taskforce. Ministries and equivalent organizations that will hold their Party General Meeting must submit their concerned COVID-19 preventive and control measures to the Taskforce for consideration on a case-by-case basis.
11. Ministries and equivalent organizations, enterprises in Vientiane Capital and provinces with community outbreaks can allow their employees and government officials to work on a rotational basis or work from home through electronic means. Those considered in the 'at-risk' groups and pregnant women who cannot be vaccinated shall work from home.

### **3. Extended Relaxed Measures**

- Permit opening of retail-wholesale shops, supermarkets, minimarts, fresh markets, food markets, and adherence to COVID-19 preventive measures by conducting temperature checks, 1 metre physical distancing, masking, hand-washing with soap or hand gels. Proper entrance-exit pathways must be arranged. All services must be strictly closed by 20:00.
- Funerals and related ceremonies [pre- and post-funeral] must strictly follow Recommendation by the Taskforce No 4291/TSF dated 15 September 2021.
- Permit opening of barber shops and beauty salons, servicing only hair-cuts and styling, in areas outside of red zones. Other services are absolutely prohibited and customer crowding is not allowed. Shop owner, service provider, and client must be fully vaccinated and strictly adhere to preventive and control measures. Service must be strictly closed by 19:00.
- Permit opening of massage venues, beauty salons, barber shops in areas with no community spread. Service provider and customer must

- be fully vaccinated, strictly comply with preventive measures, and strictly close service hours at 20:00
- Permit opening of restaurants and coffee shops in areas with no community transmissions. Dine-ins is allowed but seat arrangements must allow for 1 metre physical distancing, ban the sale of all types of alcoholic beverages, and strictly comply with preventive measures. Outbreak areas are allowed for take-away.
  - Permit opening of factories and enterprises in areas without community transmission. Employees and workers must be fully vaccinated and are not from a community outbreak (red village/zone) area. Factories with the capacity to provide onsite accommodation for their workers should do so, to reduce the risk of virus infection and transmission. A detailed prevention plan must be established for approval by concerned Taskforce.
  - Permit meetings outside of community outbreak area but must strictly comply with measures as set out by the taskforce namely temperature checks, 1 metre physical distancing, masking, hand-washing with soap and hand gels, full vaccination without requiring to test for COVID-19. Meetings in other provinces must obtain advance approval by the concerned provincial taskforce.
  - Permit fishing boats to operate along the river bordering with other countries from 06:00 to 18:00. Local authorities in collaboration with local police-military to issue regulation, restrict the numbers of fishing boats before granting approval. The release and return of boats must be recorded as well as closely and strictly monitor and inspect implementation of mentioned measures.
  - Permit normal entry-exit within local areas with no community transmissions.
  - Permit passenger transport by road, water, and air between provinces with no community transmissions and without requiring quarantine. Foreigners entering Lao PDR with the intent to travel to other provinces must have their travel documents, their 14-days quarantine certificate, and their authorization letter from the Central Taskforce without requiring to undergo quarantine at destination province. Exceptions are granted to foreigners working or living in Lao PDR for an extended period of time, who can undergo the same process as Lao people.

- Passengers travelling into or from provinces with community transmissions must be authorized by the Provincial Taskforce at departing and destination province.
  - Drivers and employees of goods transport companies travelling between provinces, and between Vientiane Capital and provinces can deliver their goods up to point of destination without requiring to unload their goods en-route, undergo COVID-19 tests, and quarantine in province at point of destination. However, they must strictly implement preventive measures as set out by the Taskforce.
    - Permit International goods transportation by complying with Recommendation by the Ministry of Public Works and Transport No 242/PWT dated 23 April 2021. At the same time, drivers of international transportation entering Lao PDR must be vaccinated.
  - Continue opening educational institutions for early childhood education, general education, vocational education, colleges and tertiary education in provinces with no community transmissions, subject to approval from Provincial COVID-19 Taskforce. Classroom arrangements must allow physical distancing with strict implementation of COVID-19 preventive measures. Boarding schools authorized by the provincial and Vientiane Capital COVID-19 Taskforce, with no movements of students and teachers from the school area, can conduct lessons with strict compliance to COVID-19 preventive and control measures
  - Continue to open all indoor and outdoor sports center in localities without community outbreaks. Sports center must have legal authorization to operate. These venues are prohibited from selling alcoholic beverages and strictly comply with preventive measures set out by the COVID-19 Taskforce.
4. Individuals, legal entities and organizations in violation of COVID-19 preventive and control measures set out by the Government, Taskforce, central line ministries, Vientiane Capital, and provinces will face legal actions based on concerned violation severity level.
  5. People authorized to enter Lao PDR per concerned approval shall install *Lao Susu* via the LaoKYC application. At the same time, international borders, provincial borders and other authorized service providers must

create and put up their QR-Code to allow people to scan the concerned QR code when entering Laos and using their services

6. The COVID-19 Taskforce at all level are tasked with the following work:
  - Investigate, trace contact and source of infection and accountable organizations and individuals concerned in causing the outbreak in each area aimed at drawing on lessons learned and avoiding further outbreak reoccurrence.
  - Urgently establish a plan to equitably distribute and administer vaccination for target groups (for people at all level). At the same time, ensure that vaccines are absolutely not damaged or lose their quality/potency.
  - Continue to guide concerned sectors in the promotion, awareness raising and campaign for people and businesses to understand and uptake implementation of measures set out by the Government and local authorities through various means (television, radio, loud speakers, newspaper, and social media). At the same time, collaborate with concerned sectors in assessing these mentioned activities. If deemed necessary, acquire support from volunteers especially from the [Lao] youth union for the timely and safe deployment of these activities.
  - Continue to prepare adequate quarantine and treatment facilities and allocate budget to purchase medical supplies, vaccines, medicine, and associated testing supplies. At the same time, establish a remuneration policy for concerned health workers and authorities and various other incentives. Closely provide guidance and timely collaborate with concerned sectors to urgently resolve identified difficulties.
7. Central COVID-19 Taskforce to take the lead in providing guidance and suggestions on the approach and messages delivered in the daily press briefing for improved understanding, uptake, and involvement by everyone in the society including in the implementation of measures set out by Taskforces at all level.
8. Vientiane Capital and Provincial administrative authorities nationwide to collaborate with concerned sectors to continue implementing Notice No 976/PMO dated 06 August 2021 on improving quarantine and treatment centers. Also, collaborate with concerned sectors in central and local levels to mobilize lab specialists, doctors, nurses, and medical specialists

to help in handling community outbreaks in each area according to circumstances.

9. For Lao workers, students, and employees entering from neighboring countries that have completed 14-days quarantine in Vientiane Capital or provincial centres; local administrative authorities are to strictly administer them for 14-days quarantine at the district or village quarantine camps unless they have already completed 14-days quarantine in hotels approved by the COVID-19 Taskforce.
10. The Government continues to welcome well intentions/goodwill of Lao people nationwide including domestic and international business operators at all levels in contributing to the Government's policy and measures in a peaceful and orderly manner.
11. The Government calls on employees, veterans, the Lao people and foreigners working in Laos to join hands in strictly complying with measures set out by Taskforce; to report on any illegal entries and violations you may hear or know of to allow timely solution by the taskforce and local administrative authorities.
12. Ministries, equivalent organizations, local authorities, and COVID-19 Taskforces at all levels are tasked to expand on and strictly implement this Notification suited to actual situation in each area.

This serves as notification and implementation.

**Signed and sealed**

Minister,  
Head of Prime Minister's Office

Khamchen Vongphosy