

NOTIFICATION

37/MVC

30 Sept 2021

Extended COVID-19

preventive, control,

and response

measures in VTE

Capital for

01-15 Oct 2021

NOTIFICATION

Attn: Government and private organizations, Lao People, aliens, and foreigners working and living in Vientiane Capital.

Subject: Extended implementation of measures on prevention, control, and response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Vientiane Capital during 01 - 15 October 2021.

- Pursuant to the Prime Minister's Order No 15/PM dated 21 April;
- Pursuant to the Notification by the Prime Minister's Office No 1094/PMO dated 31 August 2021, No 1177/PMO dated 15 September 2021, and No 1260/PMO dated 30 September 2021;
- Based on guidance by the Vientiane Capital Party Member Meeting on 30 September 2021.

The Vientiane Capital Administration is pleased to notify you that: based on assessment of the COVID-19 outbreak situation and implementation of the Order by the Vientiane Capital Mayor No 016/MVC; it can be seen that implementation at all levels and among government and private organizations and Lao People have been a collective and extended effort. However, as of 30 September 2021, community transmissions has increased and spread to seven districts, 129 red villages, and imminent daily upward trend. Therefore it is necessary to strictly enhance and extend implementation of provisions set out in the Prime Minister's Order, notifications by the Prime Minister's Office, and expand on Notification No 1260/PMO dated 30 September 2021 for another 15 days starting from 00:00 of 01 October to 24:00 of 15 October 2021 as follows:

1. Strictly implement the principles and rationale underpinning the Government's measures outlined in Notification by the Prime Minister's Office No 1260/PMO dated 30 September 2021, particularly in setting goals on preventing and containing COVID-19 outbreak in Vientiane Capital so that the number of infections and deaths among Lao citizens and foreigners residing in the Capital can be kept minimal to the extent possible and transitioning towards a 'new normal' fine-tuned to the context and specific condition of Vientiane Capital and our country. This would be based on lessons that the Government attained from other countries, friendly international community, and feedback from the people. In light of this, we must highly endeavor to balance and integrate health, management, and economic measures as well as measures set out by the COVID-19 Taskforce to ensure COVID-19 prevention and control targets can be realized with due consideration to the negative impacts on

the economy and livelihood of the people. On this basis, the Vientiane Capital Administration will translate the above into detailed action plan in each sector/area of work and locality suited to the specific situation of Vientiane Capital in each period.

2. ENHANCED MEASURES

- 2.1.** Accountable team in Vientiane Capital to establish a vaccine distribution plan and complete administering vaccination to target groups (people at all level/strata) in accordance to plan and set goal by October 2021. At the same time, ensure that vaccines are strictly not damaged or lose potency/quality. Create an integrated mechanism with the central Health Division [Ministry of Health] and district administrative authority in identifying infected persons and their close contacts to receive treatment, get tested and quarantine in accordance to technical procedures/principles.
- 2.2.** Police Office, Public Works and Transport Division, Customs Management Office Area 5, and Management of the Lao-Thai Friendship Bridge 1 in Vientiane Capital to maintain strict closure of Ban Donh Border Checkpoint of Pak-ngeum District, Thadeua Border Checkpoint of Hatxaifong District, Nongda Border Checkpoint of Sikhotabong District, and Khok-hae Border Checkpoint of Sangthong District. Close travel via the Lao-Thai Friendship Bridge 1 for the public, except for individuals with authorization from the Central National Taskforce. Goods transportation shall strictly follow measures outlined in the Notice by the Ministry of Public Works and Transport No 242/PWT dated 23 April 2021, while drivers of transportation trucks must be fully vaccinated.
- 2.3.** Responsible units managing quarantine centers to enhance measures at authorized hotels to be established as quarantine facilities in Vientiane Capital by deploying medical measures, monitoring, and strict and definite prevention measures in these facilities.
- 2.4.** District Administrative Authorities to maintain closures of all forms of entertainment venues, karaoke parlours, cinemas, massage places, spas, bars (including grill/bbq restaurants servicing alcoholic beverages), restaurant gardens, tourist attractions, night markets, beauty salons, internet cafes, snookers, casinos, and game venues in Vientiane Capital. The Information, Culture and Tourism Division; the Industry and Commerce Division, the Technology and Communication Division along with districts, village, and police authorities to regularly conduct daily monitoring of these operations. Any identified violations shall face withdrawal of business license and face legal actions; and are not allowed to be warned or educated as this has been a long-standing measure.
- 2.5.** The Industry and Commerce Division to maintain closure of industrial factories, operation, activities, and enterprises in areas with transmissions within the

factory and community that have been designated as a red zone. These operation or area shall be closed within one day upon being designated as a red zone, and District Administrative Authority and concerned village shall take control of the zone to establish checkpoint as a red village (zone), and apply measures outlined in Notification by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce No 0913/ອກ.໑໙໗ dated 1 October 2021. Exceptions are granted for factories that have passed through risk assessment and authorized by the Taskforce; factories producing consumable goods, medicine and medical supplies with strict management and established agreement in complying with measures set out by the Taskforce. Factories that fail to cooperate and implement COVID-19 preventive and control measures in practice will be temporarily suspended until further consideration.

- 2.6. Village Group Police, village administrative authority, units with 10 houses within their management shall establish checkpoints and patrol 24/7 for people travelling within Vientiane Capital. People are **prohibited** from leaving their house, **close** alleys, small alleys of red zones/villages including **closure** of factories, plants, operations, activities; **closure** of offices; **prohibit** meetings; **prohibit** dine-ins at restaurants but only allow take-away and deliveries as stipulated in point 2 of this Notice and Notice by the Ministry of Health No 0488 dated 20 May 2021. At the same time, practice health measures such as sanitize/disinfection, waste disposal and other necessary health procedures.
- 2.7. Police to establish checkpoints and patrols. **Prohibit** people in Vientiane Capital to travel to areas and provinces with community transmissions; and **prohibit** people from other provinces with community transmissions to travel to Vientiane Capital. For necessary travels, individuals must undergo a 14-days quarantine and take account for all related costs. Exceptions are granted to goods transportation and those authorized by the Central, Vientiane Capital, or concerned Provincial COVID-19 Taskforce.
- 2.8. District Administrative Authority to **close** all forms of indoor and outdoor sport complex including **prohibition** of all types of sport matches and **prohibit** exercises in public parks in areas with community outbreak (red zone) designated by the Taskforce. The Education and Sport Division along with district and village authority, police, and concerned units responsible in the management of public parks are to conduct monitoring and inspection daily. Any identified violations shall face withdrawal of license to operate and face strict legal actions; and are not allowed to be warned or educated as this has been a long-standing measure.
- 2.9. Police together with village authority to regularly monitor and patrol individuals, legal entities, and organizations that are holding all forms of functions or

gatherings at all places. Any violations shall face legal actions including fines, health and criminal measures on a case-by-case basis.

- 2.10. District authority to maintain **prohibition** of individual and legal entity opportunistic behaviors in stockpiling food, increasing prices of consumable and non-consumable goods, medical supplies and other necessity goods. The Industry and Commerce Division to work with the village, district, and police authority in the monitoring. Any identified violations shall face withdrawal of license to operate and face strict legal actions; and are not allowed to be warned or educated as this has been a long-standing measure. At the same time, the Industry and Commerce Division to establish a pricing structure for necessity goods while lockdown is in place, to avoid unnecessary increase in cost of living.
- 2.11. Police – Military, district authority and village group police to establish a patrol checkpoint. **Close** traffic across VTE Capital from 21.00 to 5.00 in accordance to established plans on check points that changes daily and enforced appropriately. Authorized vehicles are: vehicles used for medical work, ambulances, fire trucks, rescue teams, vehicles of electrical-water supply repair team; vehicles of the media; vehicles of the taskforce; vehicles of officials on duty, vehicles transporting goods and food, and vehicles authorized by the Taskforce.
- 2.12. The Vientiane Capital Education and Sport Division and District Education and Sport Offices to **close** all schools at all levels and delay start of school year for all levels.
- 2.13. Police, Lao Front for National Development, and village authority to monitor, check, and implement **prohibition** of meetings, gatherings or other activities of more than 20 participants namely religious and traditional ceremonies, weddings. Essential meetings and official functions of more than 20 people must be authorised by the Taskforce.
- 2.14. Divisions and equivalent organizations, districts, enterprises in Vientiane Capital and government employees can go 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. Line ministries are advised to consider the risks and arrange people on duty as appropriate. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is advised to consider and issue a Recommendation as appropriate for embassies and international organizations in accordance to the Prime Minister's Office Notice No 1260/PMO dated 30 September 2021.

3. RELAXED MEASURES

- 3.1. Permit opening of retail-wholesale shops, supermarkets, and minimarts that are outside of red zones/villages from 09:00 to 20:00 and opening of fresh markets outside of red zones/villages from 06:00 to 19:00 with strict adherence to COVID-19 preventive and control measures such as: strictly conducting temperature

checks, 1 meter physical distancing, masking, hand-washing with soap or hand gels, and arrangement of orderly entrance and exit pathways. The Industry and Commerce Division along with police authority to strictly conduct regular daily monitoring of each venues. Any shops or market violating measures shall be closed temporarily until corrective actions are in place. At the same time, shops and markets shall have a response plan should their employee become infected and spread COVID-19, as well as take on all costs such as: costs for quarantining close contacts, treatments, accommodation, medical procedures, and other related costs.

- 3.2. Funerals and related ceremonies [pre- and post-funeral] must strictly follow Recommendation by the Taskforce No 4291/TSF dated 15 September 2021. Village authority, groups, police and village security to strictly check and monitor.
- 3.3. **Permit** opening of barber shops and beauty salons outside of red ones from 09:00 to 19:00, servicing only hair-cuts and styling. Other services are absolutely prohibited and customer crowding is not allowed, with strict compliance to preventive and control measures. Shop owner, service provider, and client must be fully vaccinated; and all must not come from a red zone which is the responsibility of the shop owner to thoroughly check/validate. The Industry of Commerce Office together with the village authority, police and village security to check and monitor daily. Any violations will face strict actions in accordance to regulations.
- 3.4. Permit opening of restaurants and coffee shops outside of red zones from 06:00 to 20:00. Dine-ins is permitted 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. The Information, Culture, and Tourism Division along with village authority, police, and village security to check and monitor daily. Any violations will face strict actions in accordance to regulations.
- 3.5. Permit opening of factories and enterprises outside of red zones. Prior to opening, these operations must have undergone Safety Workplace Assessment (Assessment form, 10 areas and 35 indicators) as outlined in the Notice by the Central COVID-19 Taskforce No 4303/TSF dated 17 September 2021; have established an 'Assurance Agreement' in complying with safe workplace and accommodation measures; have a response plan in place should their employee and workers become infected and spread COVID-19, as well as take on all costs such as: costs for quarantining close contacts, treatments, accommodation, medical procedures, and other related costs.
- 3.6. Permit meetings with participants not exceeding 20 people/time. People from the red zone/village and close contacts (C1s, C2s) are not allowed to join the meetings. Necessary meetings of over 20 participants must obtain approval by the Central and Vientiane Capital Taskforce.

- 3.7. Permit fishing boats to operate along the river bordering with other countries from 06:00 to 18:00. District authorities in collaboration with local police-military to issue regulation. Village authority, police of group village and village security to take stock and record the numbers of fishing boats, the release and return of boats as well as closely and strictly monitor and inspect implementation of mentioned measures. Any violations will face strict actions in accordance to regulations.
- 3.8. Permit fully vaccinated drivers and employees of goods transportation operation to enter-exit Vientiane Capital with strict compliance to COVID-19 preventive and control measures.
- 3.9. Prior to receiving consideration for reopening, indoor and outdoor sports complex and public parks outside of red zones/villages must have undergone a Safety Venue Assessment, established an 'Assurance Agreement' in complying with safe venue measures. Should the venue become a source COVID-19 infection, the venue owner must be responsible for all costs such as: costs for quarantining close contacts, treatments, accommodation, medical procedures, and other related costs.
4. Measures against violators: Individuals or legal entities in violation of COVID-19 preventive and control measures set out by Central and Vientiane Capital Taskforce, and this Order will be strictly and definitely fined as follows:
 - Individual: fined 3,000,000 kip/person/time;
 - Legal entity: fined 10,000,000 kip/legal entity/time.

Police to work with concerned sectors to monitor and supervise by imposing measures based on concerned violation severity level starting from fines, operation suspension or closure, then legal actions.

5. Vientiane Capital and District Taskforce to discuss and implement measures on those providing news and information about people violating measures set out by the COVID-19 Taskforce at all level through appreciation/recognition and disciplinary measures on those providing misinformation that create social panic and disorders, including fines and criminal charges and actions.
6. Vientiane Capital in collaboration with concerned sectors to advise authorized shops and service providers to install *Lao Susu* via the LaoKYC application, create and put up their QR-Code, and advise their clients to scan the concerned QR code when using their services each time.
7. The Vientiane Capital COVID-19 Taskforce to provide guidance to concerned sectors as follows:
 - Police to take the lead, in collaboration with concerned sectors namely the Health Division to investigate, trace contact and source of infection and accountable organizations, legal entities, and individuals concerned in causing

- the outbreak in each area aimed at drawing on lessons learned and avoid further outbreak reoccurrence.
- Public Relations Unit of the Taskforce to 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 Vientiane Capital. Various means should be deployed (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.
 - Vientiane Capital Taskforce to continue to prepare adequate quarantine and treatment facilities in accordance to Notice No 976/PMO dated 06 August 2021. At the same time, prepare medical supplies, vaccines, medicine, and associated testing supplies as well as 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.
8. For Lao workers, students, and employees entering from neighboring countries that have completed 14-days quarantine in Vientiane Capital; district and village 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.
 9. The Vientiane Capital continues to welcome well intentions/goodwill of Lao people, business operations including foreigners and aliens in the Capital in contributing to the Taskforce's policy and measures in a peaceful and orderly manner.
 10. The Vientiane Capital Administration calls on employees, veterans, the Lao people and foreigners working in the Capital 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.
 11. The Taskforce, Police-Military, VTE Capital Divisions and equivalent organizations, district and village authorities to supervise, facilitate and provide guidance on the strict implementation of this Notification suited to actual situation in each area.

This serves as notification and implementation.

Signed and sealed

Mayor of Vientiane Capital

Athsaphangthong SIPHANDONE