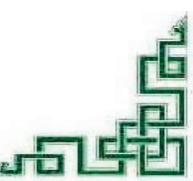
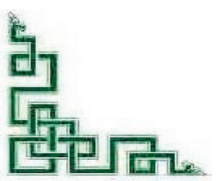




Bhutan's Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

WHO information sharing session
30 April 2020





“We must exhibit the strength that comes out of our smallness, remain united and support one another. During such exceptional circumstances, the government will take the responsibility of alleviating any suffering to the people due to the virus.”



Daily SitRep No. 38 Date 29.04.2020

COVID-19 in Bhutan

CONFIRMED 7* **RECOVERED 5** **DEATH 0**

Pandemic Stage ■ ■ ■ ■

Quarantined (new in 24 hrs)

Facility	2176 (10)
Home	0 (0)
Total	2176 (10)

Facility Discharged 3387 (11)
Home Discharged 384 (0)

No. of facilities 85 (0)

OUTBREAK & SURVEILLANCE (new in 24 hrs)

Rapid tests	7730 (75)
RT-PCR tests	2234 (24)
Total Samples tested	9964 (99)
Ground screened	2 429 116 (422)
Airport screened	13 924 (5)

SCREENING AT 54 FLU CLINICS (new in 24 hrs)

Cases screened	36 817 (186)
Suspected sample	100 (1)

COVID-19 Outside Bhutan

	Cases (new cases in last 24 hrs)	Deaths (new deaths in last 24 hrs)
Global	2 954 222 (76 026)	202 597 (3932)
India	29 435 (1543)	934 (62)
Nepal	52 (1)	0 (0)
Bangladesh	5913 (497)	152 (7)
Thailand	2938 (7)	54 (2)
Singapore	14 423 (799)	14 (2)

TOP 3 COUNTRIES AFFECTED

1. USA	960 916 (29 218)	49 170 (1190)
2. Spain**	209 465 (1831)	23 190 (0)
3. Italy	199 414 (1739)	26 977 (333)

** New Deaths Report Pending

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- 1st case : 5th March (Tourist – US)
- 2nd case: 19th March (Tourist – US)
- 3rd Case: 25th March (Bhutanese – UK)
- 4th Case: 28th March (Bhutanese – UK)
- 5th case: 1st April (Bhutanese – US)
- 6th Case: 20 April (Bhutanese-Middle East)
- 7th case: 22 April (Bhutanese- Middle East)



Stage	COVID-19 status	Objective	Response
Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No confirmed case in BhutanCOVID-19 outbreak is limited to few countries (subject to risk assessment)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To prevent importation of COVID cases	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Active screening at POEs
Yellow	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No confirmed case in BhutanCOVID-19 is reported in the multiple countries (subject to risk assessment)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To prevent importation of COVID cases	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Active screening at POEs
Orange	<ul style="list-style-type: none">One or more isolated confirmed cases in Bhutanwithout secondary transmission.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Early detection, early containment, early treatment of COVID	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Partial Lockdown and quarantine of suspected cases
Red	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Multiple cases with local transmission	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Early case management and reduce fatality	<ul style="list-style-type: none">National Lockdown - Declare State of Emergency and scale up emergency response mechanism



COVID-19 INTERVENTIONS: BHUTAN



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Key features of Bhutan's response

- Under the leadership of His Majesty the King of Bhutan, whole of society and whole of government approach was followed to respond to this situation
- Unified and effective command system which is evidence-based
- In collaboration with the WHO country office, simulation exercise carried out at the international airport.
- National preparedness and response plan including worst-case scenario
- Medical surge plan: recruitment of retired health professionals, Mapping of health worker outside the health system and studying outside.
- Response plan focused on early detection, early reporting, early isolation and early treatment
- All Districts contingency plan aligned with the national plan



Challenges

- Limited health workforce (currently only 1 ICU physician with approximately, 109 specialists and 116 GDMOs)
- Disruption of supply of PPE, test kits and equipment including critical care equipment
- Clinical management expertise to manage critical cases with comorbid conditions
- Disruptions to regular health services which might have detrimental impact on primary health indicators (disruption of vaccine and essential drug supplies)



Way Forward

1. Humanitarian corridors for supply of equipment and drugs and human resources.
2. Strengthening regional collaboration for preparedness and Responses including stockpiling of essential equipment and drugs
3. Exchange of knowledge, surveillance data and clinical experiences
4. Quality and efficacy of test kits currently flourishing in the markets.
5. Pool procurement system