

Subject : Important Notice from Prime Minister's Office (PMO)
Source : PMO's Official Verified Social Media Account

It is observed that increasing number of people are gathering at entertainment outlets, restaurants, and other public places, especially in Thimphu.

This is happening despite the standing order to avoid non-essential gatherings, maintain social distancing, observe minimum attendance and ensure proper COVID-19 protocols.

With the aggravating situation world over, and heightened threats from the pandemic in the country, we are at a very critical stage. As we all know, a lockdown had to be enforced in Samdrup Jongkhar following detection of case in the community. This, and worse could befall on other districts too.

With immense concern, His Majesty the King had been shuttling between high risk places along the border for almost three weeks now. Just yesterday, His Majesty had to return to Samdrup Jongkhar traversing risky environments, while enduring immense inconvenience to dodge the looming threats along the way.

As we live in comfort here, one cannot imagine the struggles and sacrifices His Majesty is undertaking to fence us all from the disease.

So, in order to match His Majesty's endeavours to shield the borders, it becomes our obligation to behave responsibly within the communities. If we cannot perform this simple act in times of crises, what Bhutanese solidarity are we talking about?

Therefore, this notice is being issued as a reminder to maintain highest caution.

All business entities and essential events should **ensure a maximum of 50 percent customer capacity or 25 heads**, whichever is less, at all times. All shops and outlets are also reminded to **maintain proper spacing of customers**.

All live-music clubs, and other popular bars and hang-out places will be closely monitored by law enforcing personnel. **Strict actions will be taken on the spot for all defaulters.** It will also include **cancellation of business licenses and un-announced detention** by the police.

There has also been increasing reports of **social gatherings at private venues**. All ceremonies and celebrations like weddings, promotions or birthdays should be **limited to family members**. Elaborate preparations to attract crowd are strictly prohibited.

Moreover, we would like to reiterate the importance of **use of facemask**, which will reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection by almost 50 percent. And one of the easiest yet most effective ways to prevent spread of virus is to wash your hands frequently using soap. But above all, **choose to stay home** if your task outside is not worth the risk.