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Royal Government of Bhutan
DAGANA DZONGKHAG ADMINISTRATION



Standard Operating Procedure for Unlocking Buffer Zone

Objectives:

1. Prevent and contain the spread of COVID-19 Virus in the Buffer Zones
2. Gradually ease Lockdown and allow restricted movement of people in the Buffer Zones
3. Make arrangement for systematic and coordinated opening of shops in the Buffer Zone

Application of SOP

The SOP shall apply to all the Buffer Zones of Daga Throm, Dagapela Throm and Lhamoizingkha Throm.

1. Movement by People

- 1.1. Movement of people shall be allowed within the Buffer Zone.
- 1.2. People shall not be allowed to move from Buffer Zone to Gewog Zones.
- 1.3. People shall not be allowed to move from their buffer zone to buffer zone of other Gewog
- 1.4. People from Buffer Zone shall be allowed to move to the Throm Zone for which a color-coded Movement Pass shall be issued to each household.
- 1.5. The Movement Pass shall be used for the designated time block for shopping essential items from the Town Zone.
- 1.6. People shall not be allowed to visit neighbor's houses.
- 1.7. While moving within the Buffer Zone, the following Health Containment Protocols shall be observed:
 - a. Wearing masks/cloth over nose and mouth.
 - b. Maintaining both physical distancing (minimum of 1 meter) and social distancing while on shopping/outing.
 - c. Washing hands before entering a shop and entering home.



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2. Movement of Vehicle

- 2.1. No movement of vehicle shall be allowed in the Buffer Zone.
- 2.2. Any movement of vehicle for transport of essential supplies and services, health services and emergency purposes within the Buffer Zone shall be allowed with prior approval from the Gewog Incident Commander.
- 2.3. Any movement for procurement of essential items by the identified shopkeepers from outside of the Buffer Zone/Dzongkhag shall be allowed only with prior approval from RBP.
- 2.4. Given the Lockdown situation, the Gewog Incident Commander shall ensure movement of minimum required vehicles.

3. Supply and Distribution of Essential items

- 3.1. With the issue of Movement Passes, which facilitate movement and shopping, home delivery of essential items is lifted.
- 3.2. Gewog Market Surveillance and Monitoring Teams shall monitor availability of essential items in the shops, price escalation and hoarding in the Buffer Zone.
- 3.3. Commercial Aggregators identified by the Dzongkhag Agriculture Sector shall be allowed to collect and distribute vegetables and fruits at other deficit Zones and the surplus to other Dzongkhags.
- 3.4. Dzongkhag Livestock Sector shall collect and Livestock produce and distribute to deficit zones and the surplus to other Dzongkhags.

4. Delivery of Essential Services

- 4.1. Relevant agencies shall provide uninterrupted essential services (electricity, water, telecommunication, cable, road and etc.) to the people.

5. Farming and Cattle Herding

- 5.1. Farm works shall follow respective SOPs developed and circulated by MoAF.



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- 5.2. All works related to Cattle Grazing & Herding shall follow the SOP for Cattle Grazing & Herding (Annexure)
- 5.3. Farmers shall be allowed to do farm works only in their own areas (household farm and separate farmland area) within the Buffer Zone. They shall strictly adhere to the Health Containment Protocols.
- 5.4. Households groups up to 5 members at a time shall be allowed to do farm works.
- 5.5. Collection of Non-Wood Forest Product (NWFP), timber and firewood within the Buffer Zone shall be allowed for household consumption only.
- 5.6. No commercial activities (quarries, mining, logging and etc.) shall be allowed.

6. Opening and Operation of Shops

- 6.1. All shops shall be allowed to operate in the Buffer Zone.
- 6.2. The timing for opening of shops shall be from 8 AM to 5 PM.
- 6.3. The shop owners shall not serve beverages and food to the customer.
- 6.4. Shops shall ensure availability of essential items at all times.
- 6.5. Shopkeepers shall observe the following Health Containment Protocols:
 - 6.5.1. Wearing mask/cloth over nose and mouth.
 - 6.5.2. Maintaining both physical distancing (min. of 1m) and social distancing while on shopping and farming.
 - 6.5.3. Washing hands before entering shops and home.
 - 6.5.4. Shopkeeper shall ensure the use of QR Code (Druk Trace App)/Visitor Log Book at all times.
 - 6.5.5. The Shop shall have clear demarcation for physical distancing inside and outside the shop.
 - 6.5.6. The Shopkeeper shall display the rates of essential items and Druk Trace App at a conspicuous spot outside the shop.
 - 6.5.7. The Shopkeeper shall ensure the entry of only one customer at a time inside the shop while the rest of the customers queue outside the shop.



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6.6. The afore mentioned conditions for the Opening and Operation of Shops shall be printed and stuck at the entrance of the shop with clear visibility.

6.7. If any of the shops violate the conditions prescribed above, they shall be immediately stopped from operating till further notice.

7. Gathering

7.1. Gathering of people shall not be allowed in the Buffer Zone.

7.2. Rituals and local festivals shall not be allowed in the Buffer Zone.

7.3. Games and sports shall be strictly prohibited.

7.4. Conduct of funeral rites shall be allowed with prior approval from the Incident Commander. People participating in the rites shall strictly observe the Health Containment Protocols.

8. Monitoring

8.1. Gewog Incident Commander shall oversee the implementation of SOP for the Buffer Zone

8.2. DeSuups and Volunteers shall monitor the implementation of the SOP for the Buffer Zones.

8.3. Agriculture and Livestock Sectors shall monitor the implementation of SOPs for farming and cattle grazing & herding respectively.

8.4. Gewog Market Surveillance and Monitoring Team shall monitor availability of essential items in the shops, price escalation and hoarding in the Buffer Zone.