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ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN
COVID-19 ZONING TASK FORCE
PUNAKHA DZONGKHAG



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Preamble

With reference to the current national lockdown due to COVID-19 pandemic, Punakha Dzongkhag has developed the standard operation procedures for gradual easing of lockdown, while improving situation or the other way round. This is being done through zoning of Dzongkhag area based on existing Dzongkhag town and satellite town considering dimension of vulnerability of community to COVID-19 transmission through more exposure and high population density. This can be achieved by creating zones to contain any outbreak within a zone by strictly confining movement of people within the zone while also allowing them to do their essential shopping. Digital monitoring will be implied to ensure compliance of the zoning guidelines and documentation will be done by timely update for easier tracing in case of an outbreak.

Zoning Methodology

The Dzongkhag has identified 2 core zones, 3 buffer zones and 32 self-contained zones and 11 gewog zones. Core zones are the areas where there is high population density with major market center and buffer zones are areas engulfing core zone with lesser population density but comparatively higher to that of the rural community, and has easy access to the core zone settings. The zone boundary is decided to meet the objectives of COVID-19 task and not as per the political boundary. This systematic zoning is done with the expectation to ease the lockdown and enhance safe operation of public movement while also ensuring stepwise tracing of contacts in case of an outbreak.

Separate SOPs are prepared to respective zones, whereby residents falling within the zones are required to abide by it and strict monitoring should be done implying the respective SOPs. To have movement identity in the zones, movement cards are to be issued to every household, which will depict as the movement pass for card holders.

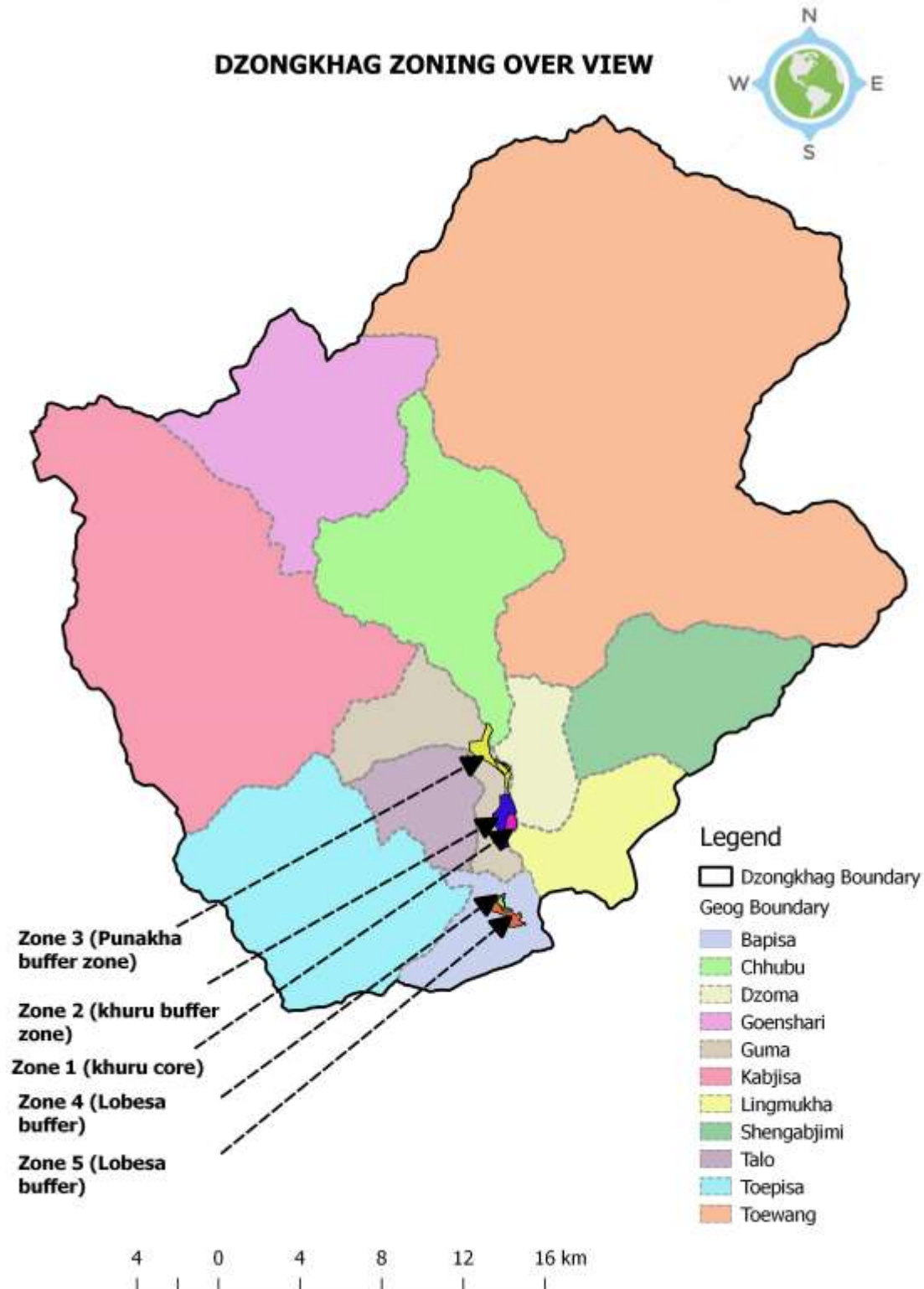


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Zoning Overview





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Identified Core and Buffer Zones

SL no.	Zone	Places included	Total Population	No. of households
1	Khuruthang Core	Khuru throm starting from Nyakhalum to Khuru School	2028	560
2	Khuru Buffer	Gumakha, Bemsisi and Thangu village of Guma-Wolakha Chiwog, Guma Gewog	393	89
3	Punakha Buffer	Changyul, Boebi Gakha, Lower, Logodama, Zhingchey, Tabab Choerten, Lekithang and Lam Drukpa Sangchab Nangsa of Changyul-Tashijong Chiwog, Guma Gewog	2005	520
4	Lobesa Core	Lobesa satellite town starting from Lekhar resort to LNT colony, Barp Gewog	1072	331
5	Lobesa Buffer	Part of Gamakha, Lakhuna, Barigang, Siptokha Chiwog, Yusakha chiwog, Barp Gewog	1442	415

Gewog Zones

SL no.	Gewog	Chiwogs	Total Population	Total number of households
1	Guma	Phulingsum, Guma-Wolakha, Changyul tashijong, Lakhu and Dochu-Ritsa	2778	574
2	Talo	Lunakha, Talo, Lapsakha, Nobgang and Dongkokha	2520	336
3	Barp	Sopsokha-Yuwakha, Yusakha, Gamakha-Siptokha, Tsokana and Chasa	4942	265
4	Toepisa	Lemjekha, Menchuna, Gyemkha-Mendrelgang, Renakha- Damkhyi, Boegana	2427	316
5	Toedwang	Tsephu Kakha, Bjibjo-Yusakha, Kewana-Tsachuphu, Tamadamvchu-Thangbi, Dawakha	2455	331
6	Chubu	Yebesa, Jawakha-Sewla, Bali, Bumtakha-Tempakha, Nidupchu	2503	309
7	Lingmukha	Dompala, Lingmukha, Nabchey, Omtakha, Gumakarmo	990	199



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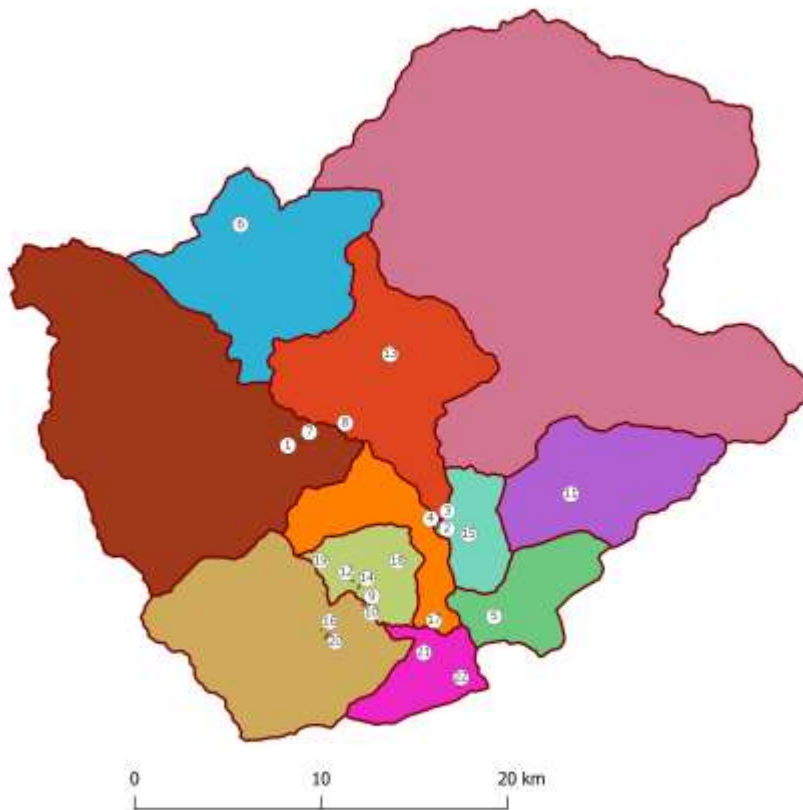


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8	Shengana	Chongzhi-Jarigang, Khubji-Tsosa, Gangkha, Dadong and Thongji	1721	187
9	Dzomi	Bjimthang, Dzomi-Mendagang, Tanak, Kilikha-Lungkha, Gumji-Tsekhaka	2147	345
10	Kabesa	Peltari, Zarbisa, Tongshuna, Choerten Nyingpo-Yusakha, Sirigang-Whokudamchi	3235	447
11	Goenshari	Zheyngosa, Gumgang, Drachukha, Secheyna, Yorbo	995	134

Self-Contained Zones

SELF CONTAINED ZONE IN PUNAKHA DZONGKHAG



CODE	DESCRIP
1	Chorten Nyingpo
2	Phochu Dumra Geondun
3	Lekshed Jungney Shedra
4	Punakha Dzong
5	GoenshoKipiling, Dompola
6	Goentshephu Drupdey
7	kabesa Central School
8	khamsum youley Namgyal
9	Nalandra Drupdey
10	Nalandra Shedra
11	Nepa Goenpa Lobdra
12	Pangkarpo Namgay Cheoling
13	Sewola Shedra
14	Talo Shedra
15	Tashdthingkha Central School
16	Thinleygang Lobdra
17	Wolakha Sangchen Dorji
18	Nobgang Lobdra
19	Pangserpo Drupdey
20	Dechentsemo Central School
21	Dashidhing HSS
22	College of Natural Resourc

Self contained zone	Chhubu	Kabjisa	Toepisa
Dzoma	Lingmukha	Toewang	
Barp	Goenshari	Shengabjimi	
Guma	Talo		



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Zones	Sl No	Name of Institution	Population
Khuruthang Core	1	Ugyen Acadamy	533
	2	Khuruthang Ngayub Choling Lobdra	34
Punakha Buffer	4	Punakha Central School	303
Barb Geowg Zone	7	Dashidhing HSS	148
	8	College of Natural Resources	263
	9	Chhimi Lhakhang Lobdra	37
	10	Dorangthang Ugyen Gatsel Anim Dratsang (Latrul)	59
Chhubu Gewog Zone	11	Nidupchu Lobdra	29
	12	Khamsum Youley Namgyal	
	14	Sewola Shedra	80
Goenshari Gewog Zone	15	Nangey Goenpa Lobdra	5
	16	Goentshephu Drupdey	6
Guma Gewog Zone	17	Wolakha Sangchen Dorji Lhuendrup Ani Sherdra including Jachung Karmo nunnery	120
	18	Chokorthangling Drupdey	7
	19	Lekshed Jungney Shedra	87
	20	Punakha Dzong	30
	21	Phochu Dumra Geondun Zhirim Lobdra Tewa	221
Kabisa Gewog Zone	22	Kabesa Central School	37
	23	Kabji Chorten Nyingpo Goenzin Dratsang	65
Shelganga Gewog Zone	24	Nepa Goenpa Lobdra	13
Talo Gewog Zone	25	Talo Shedra	125
	26	Pangkarmo Namgay Cheoling Drupdey	31
	27	Pangserpo Drupdey	16
	28	Nobgang Lobdra	22
Toeb Gewog	29	Dechentsemo Central School	65



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Zone	30	Boedgang Drakarlo Lobdra	22
	31	Thinleygang Lobdra	18
	32	Nalandra Shedra	170
	33	Nalandra Drupdey	15
	34	Yamey Goenpi Drupdey	15
Lingmukha Gewog Zone	35	GoenshoKipiling, Dompola	38
Dzomi Gewog Zone	36	Tashidhingkha Central School	202

Protocol for Lockdown and Unlocking of Zones

- Lockdown will be put in place based on announcements made by the Government/Dzongkhag.
- Unlocking of Towns/Buffer Zones can take place if:
 - There is no positive case of the virus in these Zones and there is low risk of positive cases entering these Zones
 - Zonation process is complete and cards have been distributed in these Zones
 - All required SOPs have been developed and public awareness has been created
 - Monitoring mechanism is in place

After Government announces lifting of Lockdown, Dzongkhag can determine when the Town/Buffer Zones is to be unlocked. Dzongkhag should keep the Government (Regional COVID 19 Task Force) informed when these Zones are unlocked.

- Unlocking of Gewog Zones can take place if:
 - There is no positive case of the virus in these Zones and there is low risk of positive cases entering these Zones
 - Zonation process is complete
 - All required SOPs have been developed and public awareness has been created

After Government announces lifting of Lockdown, Dzongkhag can determine when the Gewog Zones is to be unlocked. Dzongkhag should keep the Government (Regional COVID 19 Task Force) informed when these Zones are unlocked.

Phase 1

Functioning based on zoning and card system

Situation	Movement Restriction
Lockdown Situation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No movement outside of homes is allowed No entry of vehicles from other Dzongkhag unless approved by the Dzongkhag. The Dzongkhag will approve and issue special movement passes (cars and people) for critical services and activities that may be required.
Unlocking of Town Zone and Buffer Zones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People can move outside their homes during their designated movement hours and only in their Zone. No movement shall be allowed from Town Zone to Buffer Zones and Gewog Zones



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Buffer Zone residents could move into designated areas within the Town Zone for shopping only. - No movement from Buffer Zone to Gewog Zone - Every household in Town Zone and Buffer Zone will be given a color-coded card with name of the zone and designated time block for outing/shopping. - Only one person at a time per household can come out using the card. - Movement only for shopping and walks. - The Dzongkhag will approve and issue special movement passes (cars and people) for essential activities and services that are required. - The Dzongkhag will develop SOPs for supply and distribution of goods to various areas in the Dzongkhag
Unlocking of Gewog Zones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - People are allowed to move with less restriction within their Chiwogs as long as it is related to farming and livestock rearing. SOPs for such activities will be developed in consultation with MOAF. - Amongst others, the MOAF SOP will cover the following: - People are restricted from moving from one Chiwog to another Chiwog except for farm work and cattle grazing purpose as per SOP. - If required for farming purposes, movement between Gewogs will be allowed. - People are allowed to do farm works in max of 3-5 in one group. - Adopting the SOP for use of farming machinery. - For non-farming activities maintain social distancing. - No visiting of public places (except health related) like Lhakhangs and public institutions - People are discouraged from visiting neighbor's house at all times. - No rituals and local festivals allowed. - No outdoor games but people can exercise outdoor. - Food collection from forest are allowed only within their own chiwog including firewood collection. - No logging activities shall be allowed. - Dzongkhag to develop SOPs for supply and distribution of goods within Dzongkhag. - Gewogs to identify designated vehicles to transport vegetable surplus to rest of the Dzongkhags. - Drivers to get tested before being allowed to travel to another Dzongkhag and safety protocol to follow. - The Dzongkhag will approve and issue special movement passes (Cars and people) to enable people to carry out essential activities. SOPs will be developed if such movement through risky areas might be required. - No movement pass for the public will be provided in these Zones.



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Note: Phase one implies to restricted movement when individuals are not allowed to move out of their zones (urban zones and rural Zones)

Phase 2

In line with the government announcement on 31st August 2020, Phase 2 of unlocking will take place, where by individuals need not carry movement pass to come out of their houses.

Three phases of unlocking

In an attempt to make the lockdown more endurable, while also streamlining the processes, many initiatives were introduced over the weeks to ease lockdown. It included allowing individual movement within the zones and gewog, among others.

Learning from experience, this will now be recorded in the lockdown stages, the document of which will be shared with public soon.

The unlocking episode is being considered in three phases, spreading over a total of ten days from September 1-10.

Phase one of unlocking (September 1-3) will allow more relaxation of essential activities, opening of more designated shops and restaurants, while allowing families to walk in super-zones. Further easing will be carried out in phase two (September 4-6), as movement public transport within the dzongkhags will be encouraged.

In the final phase (September 7) of unlocking, private car movements will be allowed. **Starting 5am, September 11**, movement of vehicles beyond the district is allowed but with prior permission from Royal Bhutan Police.

All the easing initiatives should lead to a new normal that is conducive for our society to operate economic and livelihood activities while also ensuring safety of our health.

Further, we will strengthen vigilance along our borders and ensure augmented safety for trading interactions. Special and additional measures will be introduced in the high risk areas to protect the community.

Additional tier of protection to avoid spillage of the disease from high risk to lesser risk communities will be ensured.

1. Movement

- Starting 5am, September 1, 2020, individuals or families will be allowed to come out of their homes. However, for the first three days, they are only allowed to walk or cycle.
- You should practice physical distancing, unless you are assisting an elderly or a child in the family.
- Starting 5am, September 4, only public transports such as buses and taxis will be allowed to carry passengers at 50 percent capacity within the Dzongkhag.
- Starting 5am, September 7, movement of all vehicles will be allowed within the Dzongkhag. However, vehicles should carry only 50 percent of passenger capacity, unless carrying minors and elderlies from the same family.
- Local authorities and taskforces will continue to facilitate transfer of stranded passengers as per the existing practice.
- Starting 5am, September 11, movement of vehicles beyond the district is allowed, but with prior permission from Royal Bhutan Police.



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- Institutions that include RBA, RBP, RBG, IMTRAT and DANTAK will operate in self-containment in the 10 days of unlocking period.

2. Workplaces

- Starting September 7, all offices should open and operate fulltime.
- Until then, management should prepare for offices to operate within the COVID-19 norms. Strict physical distancing at workplaces should be ensured and options to "work from home" or in shifts should be introduced.

3. Business entities

- Additional shops catering to essentials like grocery and pharmaceutical can open. However, shopkeepers must continue to practice the COVID-19 safety protocols. Given the associated risk, the government recommends opening of shops only if necessary.
- Only those eateries and restaurants that have delivery or take-away services can tomorrow. There should not be any sit-in customers at all times.
- All business entities must close by 9pm.

4. Sports

- Only non-contact sports such as badminton and tennis are allowed. However, some sports like swimming, archery and snooker that involve exposure and close contact are disallowed during the unlocking phase.
- Tournament of any kind is disallowed during the unlocking phase.
- Bhutan Olympic Committee will determine the list of sports that are permissible during the phases.

5. Public gathering

- No social events like birthday, wedding, promotions, official dinners and functions will be allowed until further notice.
- Cremation and funeral rites will be limited to close family circles, as authorised by the local authorities.
- No outdoor activities like picnic, hiking, visiting spiritual sites are allowed in this period.

6. Construction

- Construction works will be allowed. However, activities must be limited within the premises, workers must live at site, and their ration and essentials should be provided for.
- Transport of raw materials to worksites will be allowed only after the third day, when movement of vehicles will be permitted.

7. Schools, colleges and institutes



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- All schools, colleges and institutes will remain closed while the government will carefully assess and prepare for the reopening starting tomorrow.
- Health experts will assess the situation after 10 days. For schools, should the situation favour, classes XI and XII will also be opened along with classes X and XII.

General COVID-19 Protocols

1. All individuals should strictly follow COVID-19 preventive protocols (use face mask, maintain physical distance and wash hands with soap frequently).
2. All the households must facilitate hand washing by keeping hand washing facility outside.
3. The self-contained zones will be regulated as per their respective SOPs.
4. Construction works shall be allowed under the following conditions;
 - Only if the laborers reside at the construction site.
 - If the materials are available at site.
 - Procurement of construction materials will not be entertained.
5. No public gatherings are allowed anytime anywhere. However, conducting of rituals for deceased is allowed and is restricted to the family members only.
6. The movement card doesn't imply to those individuals placed under home quarantine.
7. Farming activities are to be allowed.
8. If the farms are located far from their residential area, car movement shall be allowed in accordance with the Car Movement SOP (To be developed by RBP in consultation with essential distribution group)
9. The identified shops should remain open from 9am-5pm but should follow the SOPs for shops.



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Zones and Regulations

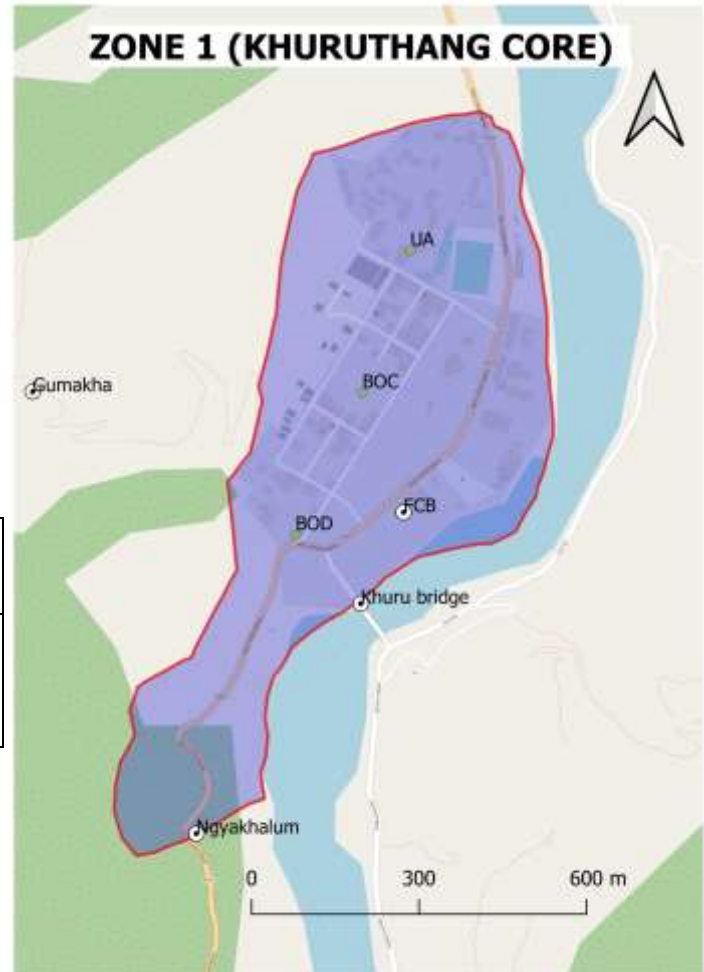
Zone 1: Khuruthang core

1. The residents of core town are bound to stay within the core boundary identified.
2. The core town residents are not allowed to move outside their zone at all.
3. The core town residents are not allowed to come outside on Tuesdays and Saturdays as these days are allocated for the other zones.
4. Movement day allocation for Khuru core residents.

Type of residents	Days allocated for movement in Khuru Core
Core Town residents	Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays

5. Khuru Core Town Residents movement schedule.

1 st Shift	9am - 11am
2 nd Shift	12pm – 2pm
3 rd Shift	3pm – 5pm





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Zone 2: Khuru Buffer

1. The Khuru Buffer residents are allowed to move to Khuru Throm Core with restriction.
2. No movement is allowed outside their zone towards rural periphery.
3. Free movement within the buffer zone during the designated time.
4. Farming activities are to be allowed.
5. Day allocation for Khuru Buffer residents in Khuru Throm Core.

Type of residents	Days allocated for movement in Khuru Core
Khuru buffer residents	Tuesdays and Saturdays

6. Movement schedule of Khuru Buffer residents to Khuru core.

1 st Shift	9am – 12pm
2 nd Shift	1pm – 4pm

7. Movement of Khuru Buffer within their buffer zone.

1 st shift	9am-12pm
2 nd shift	1pm-4pm





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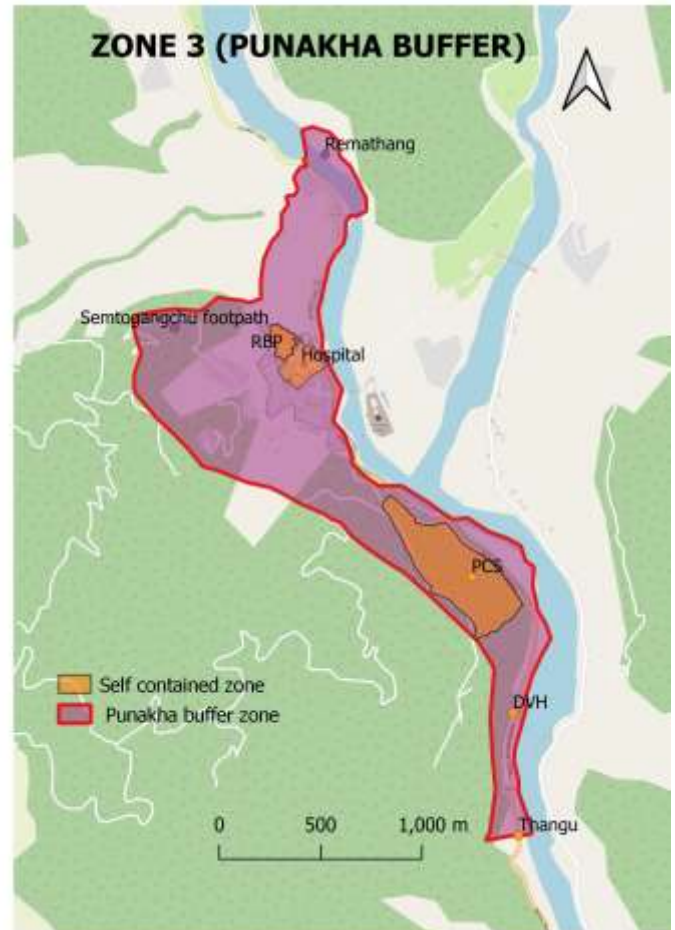
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Zone 3: Punakha Buffer

1. Owing to long walking distance, Punakha buffer residents can have car movements towards Khuru throm core. However, number of people in a car is restricted to two.
2. Damchen car parking is allocated for Punakha buffer residents while coming for shopping on Tuesdays and Saturdays.
3. No movement outside their zone towards rural periphery is allowed.
4. Farming activities are to be allowed.
5. Day allocation for Punakha buffer residents in Khuruthang core.

Type of residents	Days allocated for movement in Khuruthang Core
8. Punakha buffer residents	Tuesdays and Saturdays



6. Movement schedule of Punakha Buffer residents to Khuruthang Core.

1 st Shift	9am - 11am
2 nd Shift	12pm – 2pm
3 rd Shift	3pm – 5pm

7. Movement of Punakha Buffer within their buffer zone.

1 st Shift	9am - 11am
2 nd Shift	12pm – 2pm
3 rd Shift	3pm – 5pm

8. No movement is allowed outside their zone towards rural periphery.
9. Free movement within the buffer zone during the designated time.



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Zone 4: Lobesa Core

1. The residents of core town are bound to stay within the core boundary identified.
2. Lobesa core town residents are not allowed to move to Lobesa Buffer zone any time.
3. The core town residents are not allowed to come outside on Tuesdays and Saturdays as these days are allocated for the buffer zone residents.
4. Day allocation for Lobesa core residents.

Type of residents	Days allocated for movement in Lobesa Core
Lobesa Core residents	Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays

5. Lobesa Core Residents movement schedule.

1 st Shift	9am -11am
2 nd Shift	12pm – 2pm
3 rd Shift	3pm – 5pm





དཔལ་ལྷན་འབྲུག་གཞུང་། སྤྱན་ལ་ཚོང་ལག་བདག་སྐྱོང་།

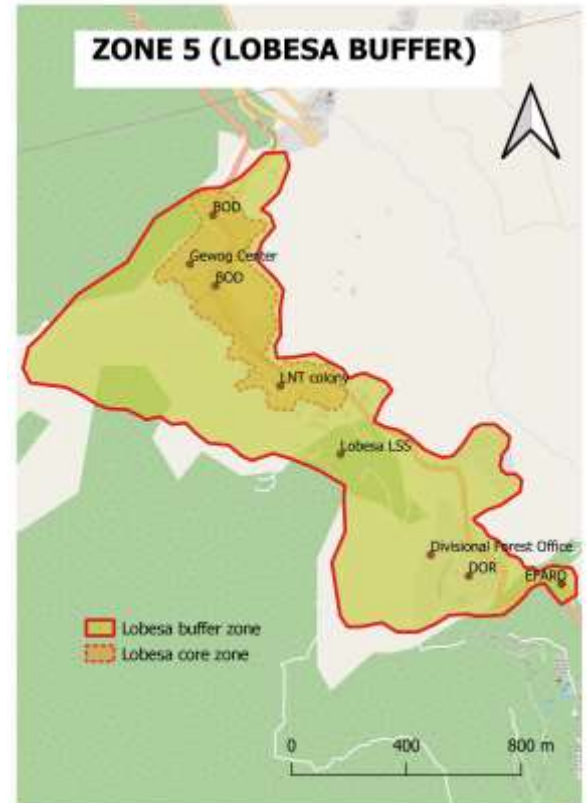
ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN
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PUNAKHA DZONGKHAG



Zone 5: Lobesa Buffer

1. Lobesa buffer residents can have free movement within the buffer zone during the designated time.
2. The residents are not allowed to move to the peripheral rural area.
3. Farming activities are to be allowed.
4. The residents can move to Lobesa Core area on Tuesdays and Saturdays during the designated time.
5. Day allocation for Lobesa Buffer residents to Lobesa core.

Type of residents	Days allocated for movement in Lobesa Core
Lobesa Buffer residents	Tuesdays and Saturdays



6. Movement schedule for Lobesa Buffer residents to Lobesa Core.

1 st Shift	9am -11am
2 nd Shift	12pm – 2pm
3 rd Shift	3pm -5pm

7. Movement of Lobesa Buffer residents within their buffer zone.

1 st shift	9am-12pm
2 nd shift	1pm-4pm



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Card Distribution and Enumeration

Collection of the detailed data will be done at the time card distribution.

1. One card will be issued to every household.
2. While distributing cards the distributor, will mark the location (coordinates) of the residents using SW maps.
3. In the “Description” dialogue box of the SW map, the distributor will upload a photo of the receiver (who should be the most active person in the family) with his/her name and CID number and Phone numbers.
4. This data will be mailed to data center where it will be further linked with the plot number and the building location in GIS.
5. The distributor will then collect the following details.

Sl. No. of the card	Name of contact person /activity	Contact No. 1	Contact No. 2	Household population by age group			Total Population
				$0 \geq 10$	$11 \leq 59$	< 60	
1M-001	Karma	#	#	2	4	2	8

Monitoring

1. Monitoring will be done by the Desuups and Policemen under the command of RBP.
2. Overview of monitoring pattern.

SL No.	Zone	Timing	Remarks
1	Core Zones	9am – 5pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Checking of cards as per the schedule.• Restricting entry from buffer zone except for Tuesdays and Saturdays.• Implementing COVID-19 preventive protocols
2	Buffer Zones	9am – 5pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Restricting entry of core residents to Buffer zone.• Restricting buffer residents from



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ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN
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PUNAKHA DZONGKHAG



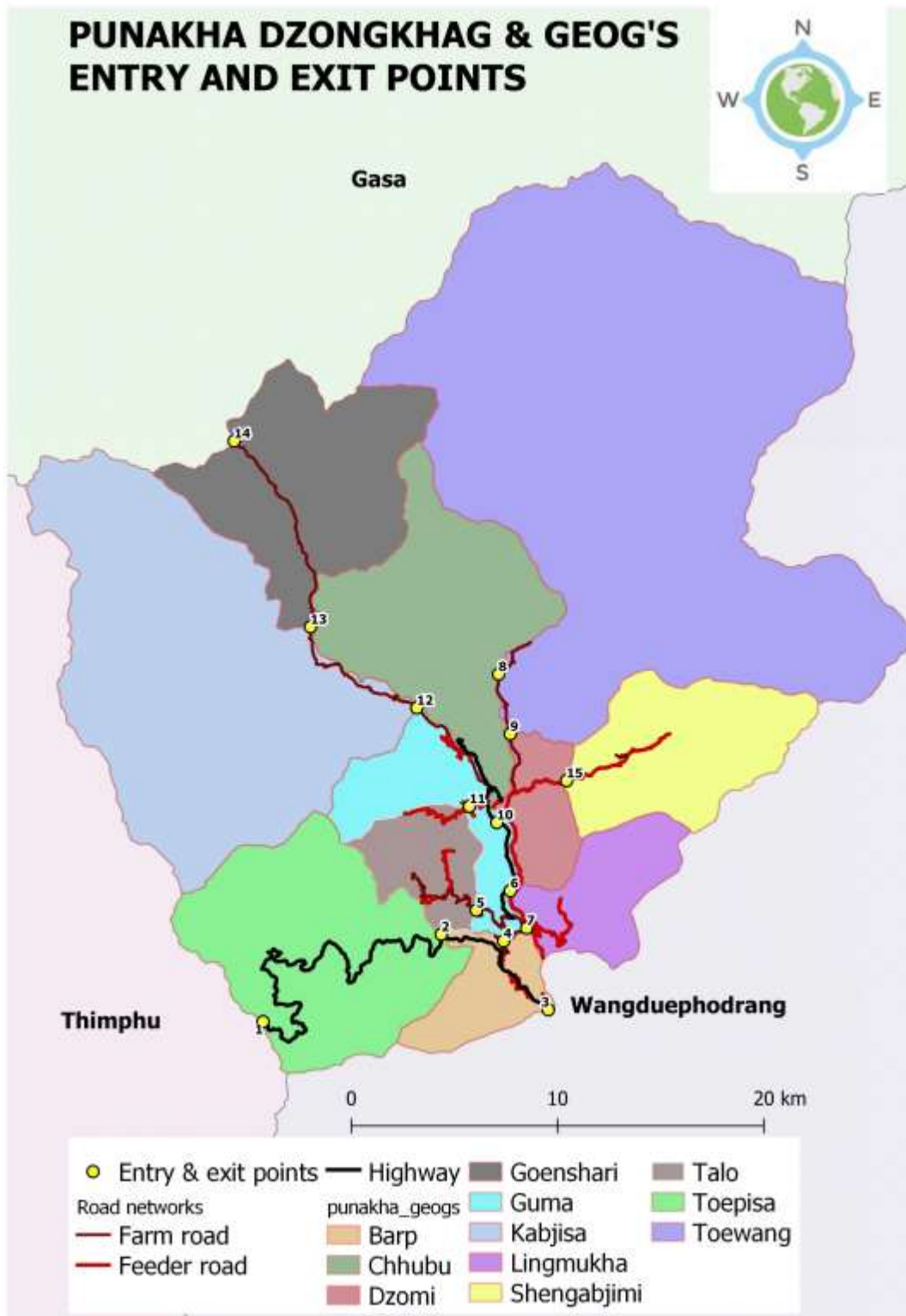
				going to peripheral rural communities. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implementing COVID-19 preventive protocols.
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3. To have proper reference on the demarcated boundaries during field patrolling, the patrolling team will be suggested to use the GPS App (SW map) which will provide geo-spatial information of movement card holder and their movement.
4. The entry and exit points between the Chiwogs, and with other Dzongkhags have been identified based on the existing road network. All the traditional trails need to be identified and mapped later on.



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ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN
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PUNAKHA DZONGKHAG





དཔལ་ལྷན་འབྲུག་གཞུང་། སྤྱི་ནང་ཁོང་ཁག་བདག་སྐྱོང་།



ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN
COVID-19 ZONING TASK FORCE
PUNAKHA DZONGKHAG

ID	Point Name	Descriptio
1	Dochula	Thimphu to Punakha Dzongkhag
2	Chagsa	Toep geog to Barp geog
3	Kingaling	Barp geog to wangdue Dzongkhag
4	Toebrongchu	Barp Geog to Guma geog
5	Sewdrangsa	Guma geog to Talo Geog
6	Khuruthang Bridge	Khuru town and Guma geog to Dzomi, Limbukha, Sheyghana, Toewang and Chubu geog
7	Bajo-limbukha Junction	Khuru town to Limbukha geog and wangdue Dzongkhag
9	Khawajara	Dzomi geog to Toewang and Chubu geog
8	Samdingkha Bridge	Toewang to Chubu geog
10	Taba_chorten	Guma geog to Talo geog and Khuru town to Lunsigang village (Guma geog)
11	Semtogangchu	Guma geog to Talo geog
12	Lhakhu	Guma Geog to Kabji geog
13	Rimchu	Kabji geog to Goenshari geog
14	Tashithang	Punakha Dzongkhag to Gasa Dzongkhag
15	Lungkha	Dzomi geog to sheyghana geog

Annexure-I

Essential contact numbers:



དཔལ་ལྷན་འབྲུག་གཞི་རྒྱུ་། སྤྱན་ལོང་ལག་བདག་སྐྱོང་།

ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN
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PUNAKHA DZONGKHAG



Dzongkhag Covid-19 Control Room	1233/ 02584656/ 17757873/ 17683107
Incident Commander	17644023
Druk Gyalpo's Relief Kidu	77637312/ 17604267
Medical Desk	77629145/ 17671522
Law & Order Desk	17643508/ 17631071/ 17403166
Desuung Desk	17609331/ 17119960 / 17806084
Vehicle Movement unit	17631071
Logistics Desk	17609105
Quarantine Unit	17653574/ 17332536/ 77296515
Essential Food Supply & Delivery	17471510/ 17446676/ 17658885/ 17701329
Vegetables supply & Delivery	17615114/ 17437775/ 17660547/ 17877089
Livestock products supply & Delivery	17657993
Water supply & Waste Management	17608980 / 17757873
Transportation Unit	17603257/ 77291322
Finance and Procurement Unit	17656177/ 17455880
Cremation & Religious services	17714979
Zoning & movement card unit	17374294/ 17647080/ 17780303
Punakha Hospital	1240/ 7072/ 17671522/ 77268980/ 17446629
Ambulance service	112/ 77105816
Bhutan Telecom Ltd	17113466
Tashi Info Comm Ltd	77101918
Bhutan Power Corporation Ltd	77990808
DoR	17609331
BOBL	17830547
BNBL	17825636
BDBL	17554245
RICBL	77363914
BIL	17347003
Punab Cable (Punakha & Khuru area)	17618262
Damchen Cable (Talo, Dzomi, Khuru and Chhubu area)	17160302
Tshochay Cable service (Lobesa & Thinleygang area)	17605302
Buddha Cable Service	77204431/ 17519681
Police	113
Fire	110
Traffic	111