

# **Emergency Preparedness and Response Action Plan for Covid-19**

**Lhuentse Dzongkhag  
2020**

## **Background**

Coronavirus (COVID- 19) is contagious disease. Its epidemic was originated from Wuhan city, China. It was declared as the Disease of International Concerned on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2019 by World Health Organizer (WHO). This disease has infected people globally including Bhutan with the reporting of first positive case on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020, alerting every Bhutanese to be well prepared to stop spreading such contagious disease

It primarily spreads via respiratory droplets. It can cause non-specific mild symptoms with fever, cough, sore throat, sneezing and may progress to life threatening Pneumonia and organ failure. Neither there is specific treatment for this virus nor a vaccine but it has very simple, effective and affordable prevention methods that every people can practice them.

The Dzongkhag Emergency response plan is designed to provide Dzongkhag Administration with a management tool to facilitate a timely, effective, efficient, and well-coordinated emergency responses to all people of Lhuentse, involving all civil servants, corporate employees, private employees, RBP, Dessups, business entities, and general public.

### **General objective:**

- ✓ Lhuentse Dzongkhag to be free COVID-19 confirmed case

## 1. Dzongkhag profile

Lhuentse is one of the remote and least developed regions in the country. The Dzongkhag has eight Gewogs and the settlement are scattered and are on ragged terrace which always hindrance while catering health services to people. The total population of the district is 13757 and has 3076 households. The access to health coverage of the district is 96.6% (AHS, 2019).

**Table 1: Population of Lhuentse Dzongkga**

Sl. No.	Name of Gewog	Population		Total
		Male	Female	
1	Gangzur Gewog	1570	1692	3262
2	Jarey Gewog	507	578	1085
3	Khoma Gewog	698	739	1437
4	Kurtoe Gewog	392	351	743
5	Metsho Gewog	356	423	779
6	Meanbee Gewog	1009	1085	2094
7	Menji Gewog	623	652	1275
8	Tshenkhar Gewog	1578	1504	3082
<b>Total of Lhuentse</b>		<b>6733</b>	<b>7024</b>	<b>13757</b>

*Source: Annual Household Survey, 2019*

## 2. Resource mapping

### 1. Health

#### 1.1. Facility

1.1. a. Dzongkahg hospital : 1

1.1. b. Primary Health Care (BHUs) : 14

1.2. Health Professionals at Lhuentse hospital : 31 (1 doctor, 10 Nurses, 3 Health Assistants, 3 Lab, 1 Eye technician, 3 dental, 2 Physo, 1 ENT, 2 Traditional Medicine, 1 X-Ray, 1 Nutrition , 1 EMT)

1.3. Health Professionals at BHUs : 28 (26 HAs and 2 Menpas)

1.4. Vehicle : 4 ( 3 ambulances and 1 utility)

## 2. Education

### 2.1. Facility

2.1.a. Schools including ECR : 18 (1 Higher Secondary School, 2 Central Schools, 1 Middle Secondary School, 2 Lower Secondary School, 10 Primary Schools & 2 ECRs)

2.2. Teachers : 212

2.3. Students : 3418 (M-1605 & F-1813)

## 3. Dzongkhag Administration

3.1. Civil servant excluding supporting staff : 76

4. Banking institutions : 3 (BOB, BNB, BDBL)

5. Shops : 175

## 6. Capacity for quarantine

**Table 2: Existing quarantine capacity in schools**

Sl. No.	Name of school	Quarantine capacity	Distance from hospital to quarantine place	Contact No.
1	Lhuentse Higher Secondary School	126	450 Meters	17642483
2	Autsho Centarl School	42	40 Km	17668228
3	Tangmochu Central School	120	25 Km	16446100
4	Khoma Lower Secondary School	18	12 Km	17960855
5	Menji Lower Secondary School	48	27Km	17661236
<b>Total capacity</b>		291		

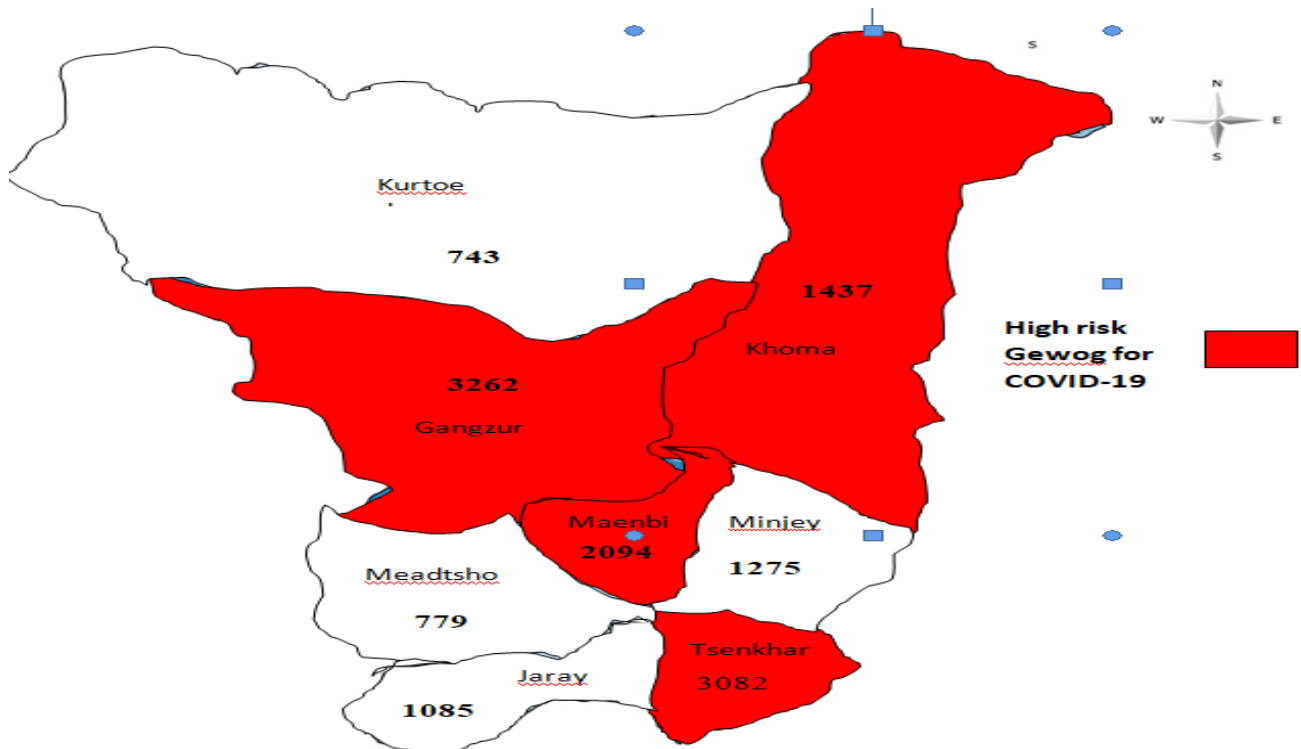
## 7. Others

- 6.1. Govt. vehicle excluding ambulance and police : 19 (6 Nos. in schools, 8 Nos. in Gewogs, 4 Nos. in Dzongkhag & 1 No. in hospital)
- 6.2. Vehicle at regional heads of Lhuentse : 3 (1 Telecom, & 2 BPC)
- 6.3. Rice production (2019) : 3910 MT
- 6.4. Maize production (2019) :4759 MT

## 3. Risk mapping:

With the outbreak of COVID-19 globally, it become very essential to carryout risk assessment as our nation is not rich like other countries in terms of human capacity, technology and financing. Therefore this small assessment will really help while implementing emergency response plan and also utilization of limited resources.

Map 1: Risk mapping of Lhuentse



### Explanation:

*As we analyzed the data of the countries that experienced COVID-19 outbreak, the most of the conformed cases were from cities and towns where there are high densities of residence*

population and foreign visitors. Therefore, we categorized Gnagzur Gewog, Tsenkhar Gewog, Maenbi Gewog and Khoma Gewog at high risk for COVID-19 because of the following reasons.

- Maximum population
- Town and satellite town
- Foreign tourist
- More numbers of elderly people with chronic diseases
- Ole monument
- Pilgrimage sites
- Frequent religious gatherings
- Indian laborers

**Table 3: Elderly people age 60 years and above at Lhuentse**

Sl. No.	Name of Gewog	Name of Health Center	Total Number	
			BHU	Gewog
1	Kurtoed	Dungkar BHU	88	88
2	Tsekhar	Tsenkhar BHU	126	378
		Autsho BHU	105	
		Patpachu BBU	147	
3	Meadtsho	Gortshum BHU	102	102
4	Khoma	Khoma BHU	160	198
		Ganglakhama BHU	38	
5	Gangzur	Lhuentse hospital	85	297
		Ney BHU	71	
		Thimyul BHU	141	
6	Jaray	Ladrong BHU	35	98
		Zangkhar BHU	63	
7	Maenbi	Tangmochu BHU	160	260
		Dangling BHU	100	
8	Menji	Menji BHU	84	84
<b>Total</b>			1505	1505

Source: Annual Household Survey, 2019

#### 4. Mitigation measures: -

- Set up flu clinics
- Set up hand wash facilities in all the 15 health centers
- Developed hospital emergency contingency plan for COVID-19
- Advocacy and awareness program:
  - Schools : 12 Schools

- Health workers & supporting staffs: 96
- Communities: 10 (Dungkar, Jaray, Gangzur, Tangmochu, Autsho, Khoma, Ney, Tshochen, Maetsho & Menji)
- Mass gathering suspended;
- Schools and institutes closed
- Lhuentse hospital emergency response plan activated
- Dzongkhag COVID-19 Incident Command System activated
- Dzongkhag guest house identified as COVID-19 isolation rooms (Capacity to accommodate 5 patients)
  - Identified vehicle on duty is Vehicle hilux No BG-2A-0254 (Leki-17965592)
- Lhuentse Higher Secondary School and Autsho Central School identified as COVID-19 quarantine place (Total capacity 57 patients)
  - Cooks of Lhuentse Higher Secondary School identified to prepare meals for the patients
- Trained 3 RBP personnel on donning and doffing Personal Protective Equipment(PPE)
- Trained 32 Dessups on donning and doffing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Sensitized DT members on COVID-19
- Aggressive advocacy and awareness programs:
  - 6 schools:
    - (Lhuentse HSC, Thimyul LSS. Autsho CS, Tangmochu C S, Khoma LSS & Menji MSS
  - Religious institutions:
    - Takila dratshang

**Table 4: COVID-19 preparedness plan for different stages**

<b>COVID-19 Stage</b>	<b>Situation</b>	<b>Response</b>
<b>Stage 1: No confirmed cases of COVID-19</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Some degree of panic</li> <li>2. Spreading false news</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop SoPs</li> <li>2. Conduct advocacy and awareness on preventive measures in communities and schools</li> <li>3. Training of health officials</li> <li>4. Preparation of hospital response plan</li> </ol>
<b>Stage 2: Orange</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Panic in the community</li> <li>2. Possible immigration of people from other Dzongkhags</li> <li>3. Partial lockdown</li> <li>4. Decreased foreign visit to Lhuentse</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Activate Incident Command System</li> <li>2. Scale up advocacy</li> <li>3. Closure of all schools</li> <li>4. Prohibit on all public gatherings</li> <li>5. Established isolation and quarantine facilities at Lhuentse Higher Secondary School and Dzongkhag guest house</li> </ol>
<b>Stage 3: Red :</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complete lockdown</li> <li>2. Extreme panic in the community</li> <li>3. Hoarding and price escalation</li> <li>4. Impact on local economy</li> <li>5. Possible disruption of law and order in community</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Risk communication</li> <li>2. Rationing distribution of essential items</li> <li>3. Mobilize volunteers</li> <li>4. Complete lockdown of Lhuentse Dzongkhag</li> <li>5. Open screening services at Autsho entry point</li> </ol>

### **5. Dzongkhaag Task Force (COVID-19)**

In order to efficiently and effectively response to the COVID-19 situation, Lhuentse Dzongkhag Task Force Team was formed on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 under the Chairmanship of Dasho Dzogdag. The Task Force shall be the core decision making body and their decision shall be final and binding. They have authority to supervise and monitor all the activities pertaining to preparedness and response to COVID-19 outbreak in the Dzongkhag.

➤ **Roles and Responsibilities:-**

- a) Plan and coordinate preparedness and response activities in the Dzongkhag.
- b) Develop disease control strategies and ensure strict implementation.
- c) Undertake decisions on preventive and control measures of an epidemic.
- d) Monitor and supervise activities in the field level.



- e) Ensure adequate resource and fund mobilization.
- f) To report and update situation to relevant authorities.
- g) Communicate on risk and preventive measures.
- h) The committee shall meet as and when the Chairperson demands.

**Table 5: Dzongkhag COVID-19 Task Force Members**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Contact No</b>
1	Jambay Wangchuk	Dzongdag (Chairman)	17619345
2	Sangay Dendup	Offtg. Dzongrab (Dzongkhag Election Officer)	17655307
3	Pema Wangdi	OC	17792636
4	Tsheten Wangchuk	Gup, Tsenkhar Gewog	17693212
5	Kunzang Dorji	Gup, Gangzur Gewog	17927337
6	Dr. Tandil Lham	CMO	17574463
7	Tashi Gyeltshen	DT Secretary (Disaster Focal Person)	17781551
8	Ugyen Dorji	DHO	17668718
9	Sonam wangdi	Thromdi Theumi	77224002

## **6. Dzongkhag Incidence Command System**

In line with the Disaster management Act of Bhutan 2013, Lhuentse Dzongkhag has developed a Dzongkhag Disaster Management Contingency Plan in 2019 under which the Dzongkhag Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) was formed. The roles and responsibility of DDMC is to coordinate and manage all Disaster response operations in the Dzongkhag under the direction of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). The established Incident command system (ICS) of Lhuentse shall be activated under the command of Dzongdag (Incident Commander) in the wake of any potential emergency.

However, to ensure timely and effectively operation of COVID- 19 contingency response plan at any given point of time, the Task Force members of COVID-19 in consultation with other relevant agencies modified the Dzongkhag Disaster Incidence Command System that will better suit the demands and challenges of the unique nature of public health emergency on the global epidemic of COVID-19.

Furthermore, the Lhuentse hospital COVID-19 emergency response plan shall be activated by the DHO (Hospital Incident Commander) upon the command of Dasho Dzongdag and then identified health officials shall act as per their delegated job responsibilities.

**Figure: 1. Lhuentse Dzongkhag Incidence Command System**

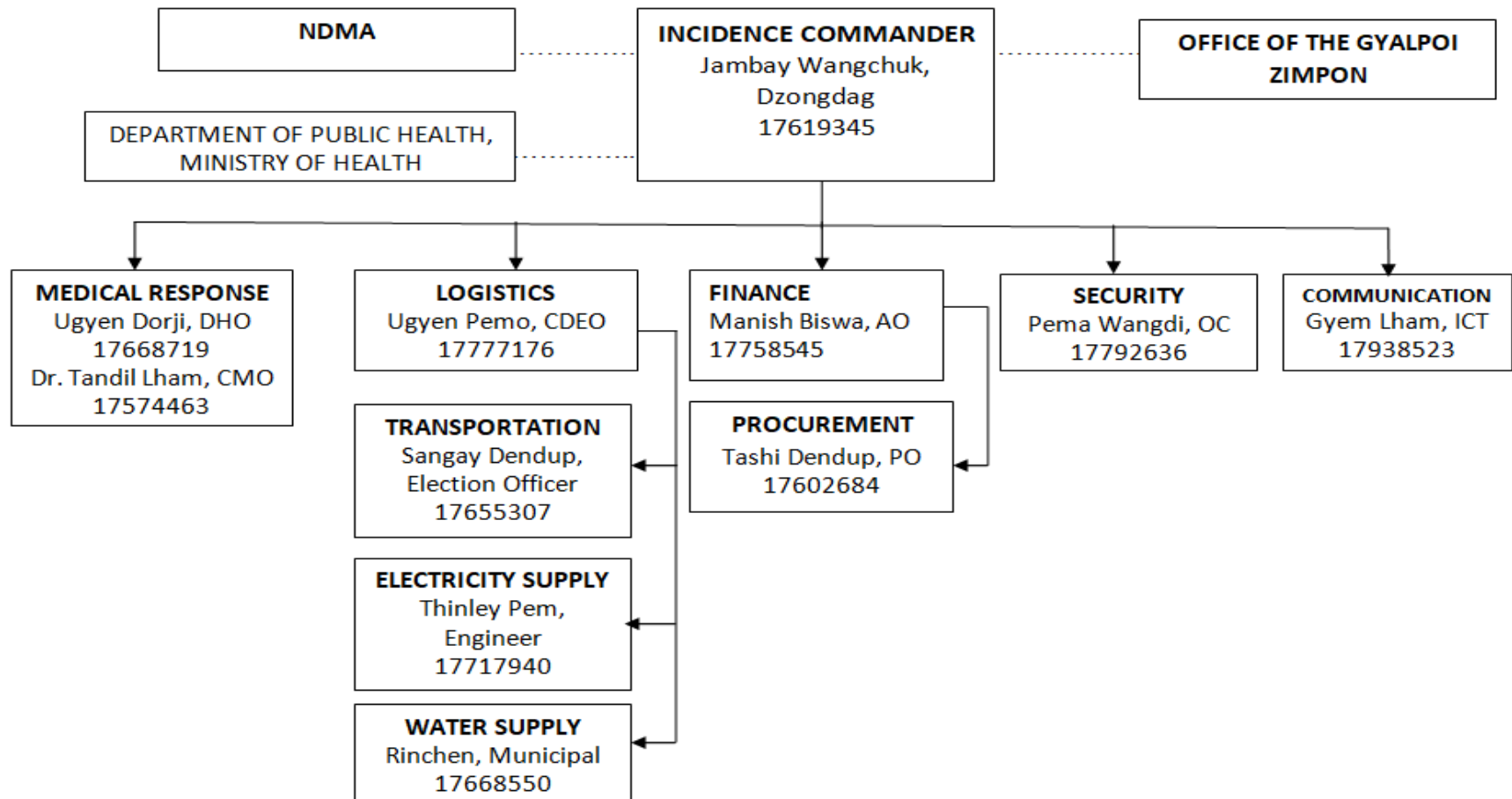


Figure 2: Lhuentse hospital Emergency Preparedness Response Plan for COVID-19

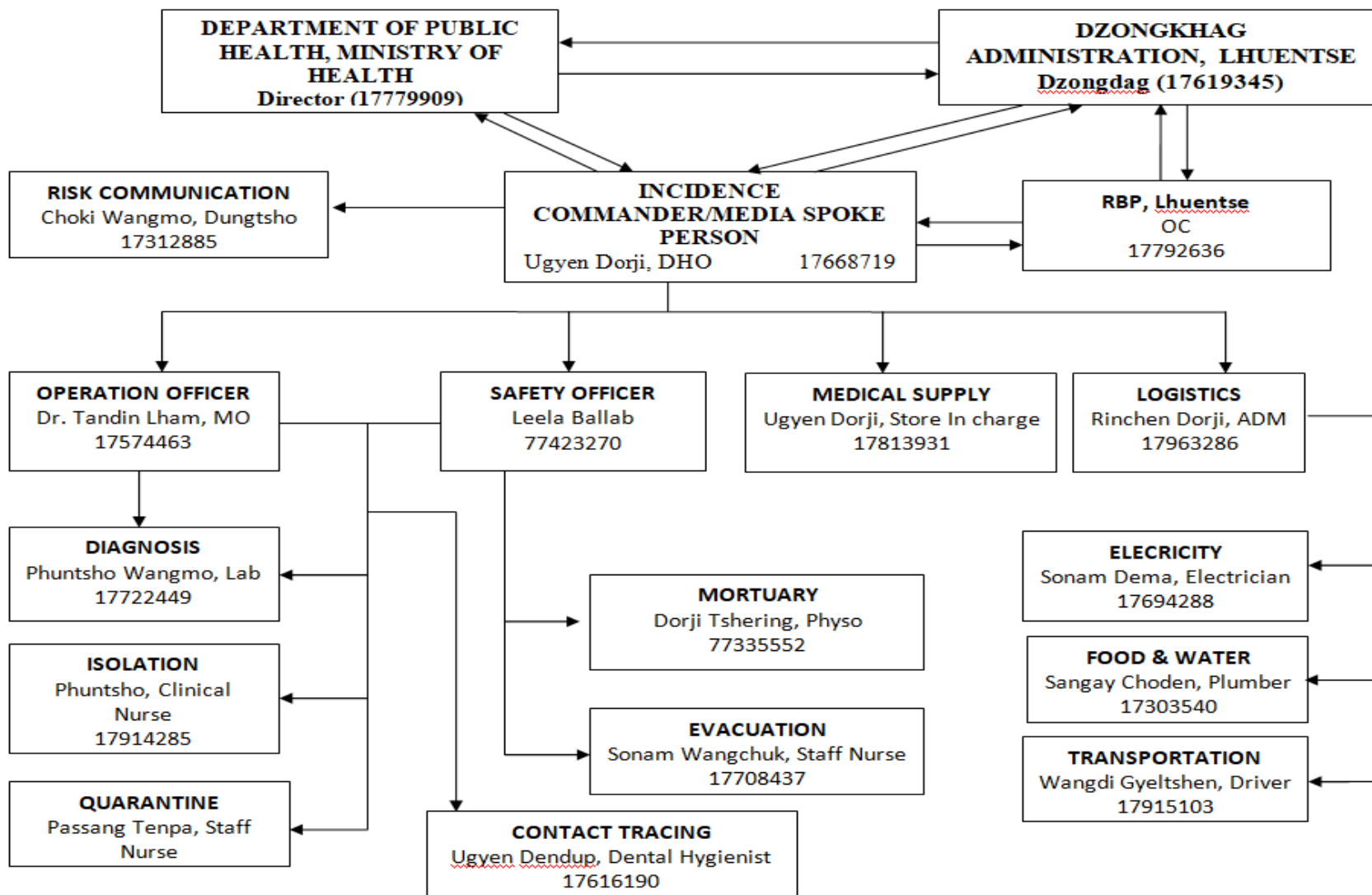
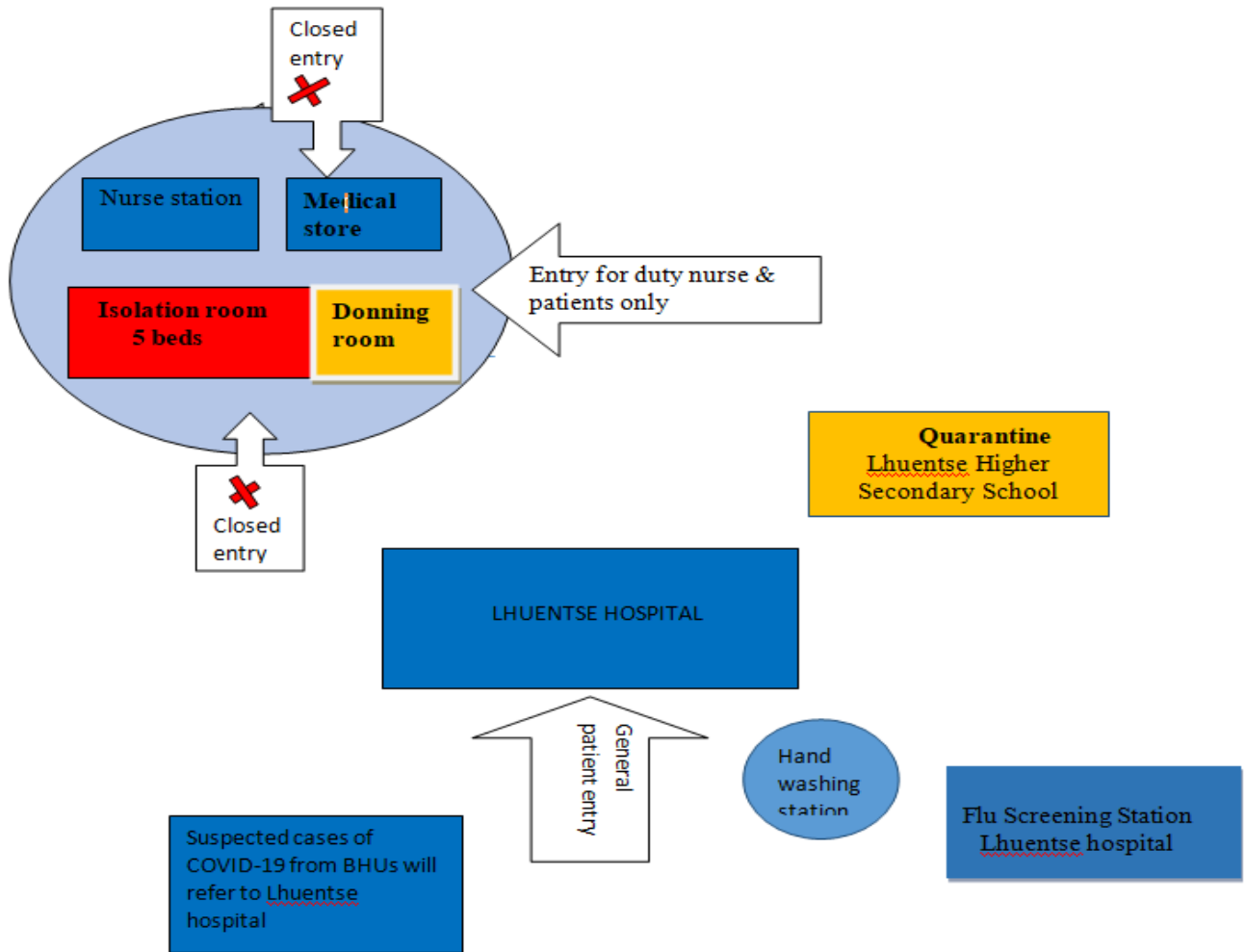
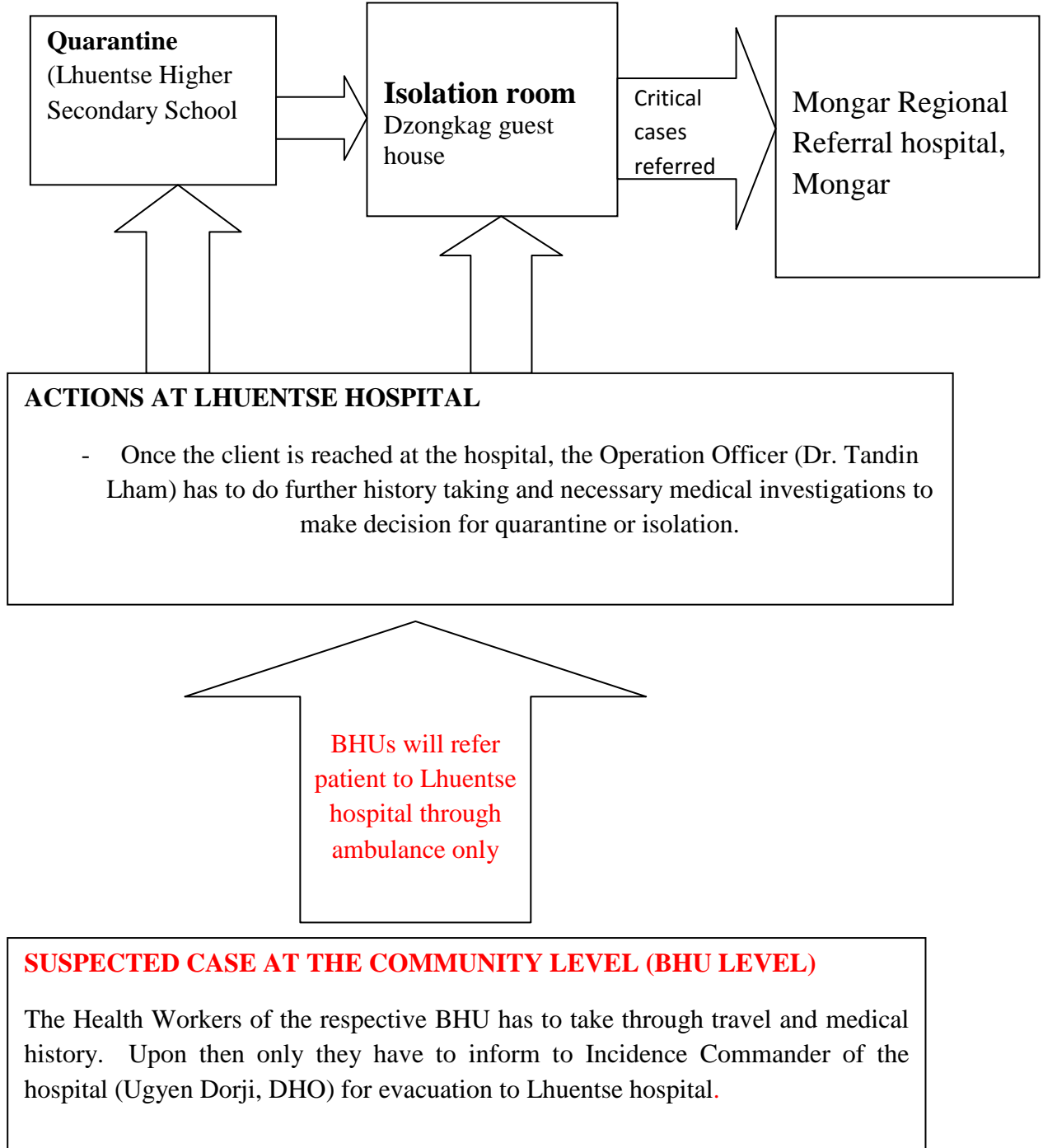


Figure 3: Lhuentse hospital COVID-19 management route map

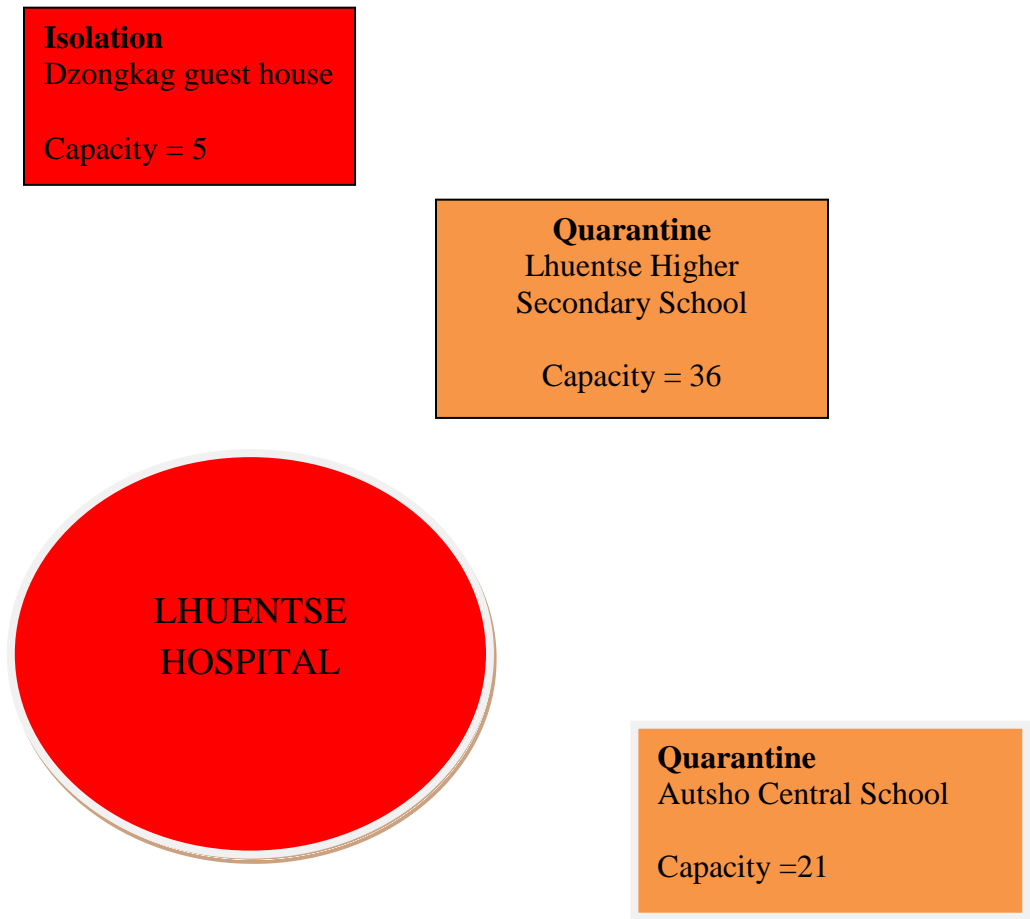


- Actions for reduction of cross infection:**
1. Kept one entry and exit only
  2. Suspected COVID-19 cases identified at flu screening station will directly move to isolation room
  3. Entry for Nurses on duties and COVID-19 isolation patients is from main gate
  4. Established separate facilities for isolation:
    - Nurse station
    - Donning room
    - Doffing

**Figure 4: Evacuation/ Referral plan for COVID-19 for Lhuentse Dzongkhag**



**Figure 5: COVID-19 location for quarantine and isolation**



Lhuentse have identified and established quarantine place at Lhuentse Higher Secondary School girls and boys hostel. It has capacity to accommodate 36 patients. Likewise another quarantine place is Autsho Central School which it can accommodate 21 patients.

For the cost cutting measures the meals for the quarantine and isolation patients will be cooked and provide by Lhuentse Higher Secondary.

1. The cooks identified for preparation of meals are:
  - a) Tshering Phuntsho, Head cook - 77274717
  - b) Tsheten, cook – 16922291
  - c) Thinley Wangchuk, cook – 77238905
  - d) Ugyenmo, cook
2. Identified vehicle on duty is Vehicle hilux No BG-2A-0254 (Leki-17965592)

## 5. Detail for evacuation of expatriates (Indian Laborers)

Currently Lhuentse has around 129 Indian laborers working in construction works. In case the situation goes bad to worst then they might be evacuated to their country.

Detail evacuation plan

1. Gathering point : Lhuentse Higher Secondary School since medical services and security is near by
2. Lunch and refreshment arrangement : Logistic Officer
3. Record keeping and other formalities : Rinchen, Dzongkhag Census Officer (17828016) and OC (17792636)

## 6. Roles and Responsibilities

### 6.1. Incident Commander (Dzongdag)

- IC has overall authority and responsibility for conducting and managing COVID-19 outbreak operations in the Dzongkhag.
- Activate the Incident Command System when necessary.
- Develops and implements transition plan based on outbreak situation.
- Delegates various management tasks by assigning objectives and establish chain of command through the ICS.
- Report to the NDMA on the update of situation.
- Deactivate or declare the end of ICS as necessary.

### 6.2. Media Spokesperson (Dzongdag)

- Communication with the media and situational update on facts.
- Coordinate press conference with the media houses at regular interval.
- Ensure timely communication to public via various media channels on plans and activities being carried out.

### 6.3. Liaison Officer (*Ugyen Dorji DHO*):

- Shall be the primary contact or focal point for other agencies or stakeholders who are assisting the Dzongkhag in the Outbreak incident.
- Shall represent the needs and concerns of all parties involved in the outbreak response.
- Ensure smooth and coordinated transition and response among all stakeholders.

#### **6.4. Transportation**

- The Dzongkhag MTO (Offtg Dzongrab) as the head of the transportation team will arrange and ensure uninterrupted transportation facilities.
- Take stock inventory of different types of vehicles: heavy, medium and light vehicles along with owners'/drivers' name and contact details in the Dzongkhag;
- Consultation with vehicle owners/drivers and draw a consensus plan deployment anytime;
- Team should ensure all those identified vehicles are in running condition;
- Ensure BOD has adequate fuel reserve
- Device vehicles deployment plan for transportation of resources 24/7 hours
- Maintain log-book for movement of vehicles;

#### **6.5. Procurement**

Dzongkhag Procurement Officer and the team shall ensure uninterrupted supplies of goods and services.

- Take stock of required goods available in FCB and in the market
- Identify vendors or supplier who can supply the items as per requisition anytime
- Ensure timely procurement and delivery of items;
- Liaise with transportation team for pool vehicle to deliver procured goods to required destination;
- Ensure bills are compiled daily.
- Review and report status periodically to the Head of Logistics and Incident Commander;
- Draw SOP and Action Plan; and
- Assignment of roles and responsibilities of the team members

#### **6.6. Medical Response Team:**

The Medical Officer as the head of the Operation Response team shall direct, supervise and monitor the Flu Clinics, Sample Collection, Isolation, Clinical Management & Contract Tracing and Quarantine procedures as per the SOP/contingency plan issued by the Ministry of Health. Furthermore the Medical officer will ensure strict infection control practices for all



health responders.

However, Dzongkhag Health Sector in collaboration with the Medical Response Team will continue advocacy and awareness programs as per instruction of the Incident Commander.

#### **6.7. Logistics (Chief DEO)**

- Identify, set up or arrange incident command facility.
- Provide transport services and additional support for transport of patient food as well as other logistics
- Provide or identify additional infrastructure/location for case management and quarantine of contacts.
- Ensure uninterrupted communication, electricity and water supply for all above facilities coordinate by ICTO/DE. ICTO shall facilitate DHO on communication
- Food and other logistics supplies for the affected and responders and monitor business regulation in coordination with DAO & DLO

#### **6.8. Security (OC)**

- Ensure strict implementation of control measures recommended by the DTF.
- Provide security coverage and crowd control in areas of case isolation and quarantine sites identified.
- Coordinate with Desuups for efficient and sustained security measures.

#### **6.9. Finance**

- Responsible for all outbreak costs and financial considerations.
- Responsible for tracking costs, analyzing cost data, making cost estimates, and recommending cost-saving measures.
- Responsible for financial concerns for managing hiring and establishment of additional quarantine and isolation rooms, equipments and supplies.
- Responsible for fiscal matters involving hiring, purchasing goods and services

#### **6.10. Communication (ICT)**

- Survey and assess the internet connection points/provisions at quarantine and isolation centers
- Liaise with Bhutan Telecom Ltd and Tashi Cell and install required internet connectivity strategically;
- Facilitate multimedia advocacy and awareness programs
- Review and report status periodically to the Head of Logistics and Incident Commander

## **7. Action plan for COVID-19:**

1. The COVID-19 task force members will meet as and when required
2. Risk Communication or aggressive advocacy and awareness program on COVID-19 to general public
  - 2.1.Target:
    - General population (Targetted to cover more than 100% of the households of Lhuentse)
  - 2.2.Methodology:
    - Involve teachers and Health Workers through voluntarism
  - 2.3.Procedures:
    - The task force members will develop simple COVID-19 prevention and other relevant messages that will be used by the teachers while visiting household.
    - The task force members will give TOT to the teachers of few selected schools and then they will be cascading this training to other schools. After the training they will make door to door visit to create awareness on COVID-19 prevention, etc.
3. If there is conformed case within the Dzongkhag or if there is outbreak in other Dzongkhag (s) then set up
  - 3.1.Screening at Autsho entry point for COVID-19:-
    - 3.1. Team Leader – Mr. Kezangla, HA of Autsho BHU-17130187
    - 3.2. Identified Health Workers for the duties:
      - a) Sangay, Gortshum BHU-17287465
      - b) Thinley Penjor, Tsenkhar BHU -17130174,
      - c) Kencho Wangdi, Patpachu BHU-17130180 &
      - d) Tashi Penjor, Autsho BHU- 77943416
  - 3.2. Other officials identified are: -
    - a) 1 RBP
    - b) 13 Dessups from Autsho (Duties will be on shift system)
  - 3.3. Arrangement of resources and set up the screening camp will be done by Mrs. Tsheten Wangchuk, Gup, Tsenkhar Gewog, 17121290
4. COVID-19 screening at Khoma Zampa or Tangmochu junction as and when required ( If there is foreign tourist visiting Khoma village  
Identified health officials
  - Mr. Kezang Rinzin, staff Nurse- 17424358
  - Mrs. Leela Ballap Clinical Nurse- 17957690
5. Review the resources needs in terms of medical goods, finance and human resources (DHO, Medical Officer and AO)