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**ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN, MINISTRY OF HEALTH**  
**THIMPHU: BHUTAN-11001**



3300443 ལྷན་གྱི་ **MINISTER**

17 August 2020

**Message from Hon'ble Sowai Lyonpo**

Until last week, all the COVID-19 cases in the country beside the first case were from the quarantine and we have done exceptionally well in managing the situation. However, with few cluster cases in Phuntsholing we are now ushered into another phase of response to COVID-19; one that will put enormous demand on the already pressured health system and health workers.

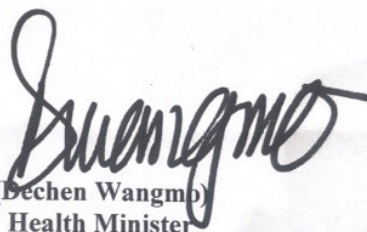
While the country came to a standstill with the announcement of the lockdown on the 11th August 2020, we had to reinforce on tracing, testing and isolating the contacts at the earliest possible. On the other hand, emergency health services, medicine refills, child immunization and institutional delivery across the country were catered uninterrupted. This mountainous task would not have been possible without the love and care of His Majesty the King, the commitment and personal guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister and the hard work of each and every one of you.

The unpredictable nature of COVID-19 is challenging us with no sign of respite as the COVID-19 numbers escalate globally and the hope of a vaccine still at a distance, we have a long and hard battle in front of us. We need to be more vigilant than ever and prepare ourselves for the worst.

As I sit here at my office at the National COVID-19 Taskforce Center based in Lungtenphu, despite the immense challenges that the pandemic has thrown upon us, the ray of inspiration and hope that keeps me going every single day is His Majesty's gracious presence and steadfast leadership at the helm, and the fearless and selfless efforts of my health workers serving in the frontlines.

Without your selfless services and sacrifices for the nation at this uncertain and precarious time, we would not have been able to do what we have done so far. It is now time to complement the ongoing efforts and strengthen our system with vigour and renewed commitment so that at the end of this ordeal we come out as a stronger nation.

**Together we can!**

  
(Bechen Wangmo)  
Health Minister