

5th January 2021

With the announcement of smart unlocking by the Hon'ble Prime Minister through a video conference with the Dzongkhag Task force and subsequent announcement through the national media on 4th January 2021, the Task force of Wangdue Phodrang Dzongkhag met on 5th January 2021 at 9.30 AM and decided on the following mode of smart unlocking under the Dzongkhag.

(As per the National COVID-19 Task Force colour coding, Wangdue Phodrang Dzongkhag falls under Green Zone except for Pelela area which is categorized under Yellow Zone).

1. Movement of people and vehicles within the Dzongkhag from 6th January 2021

- Movement of people beyond the zones, but within the Dzongkhag will be allowed up to 9.00 PM
- Only utility vehicles will be allowed for transportation of essential goods within the Dzongkhag.
- Use of public and private vehicles will be considered by the Dzongkhag C-19TF on case by case basis.
- Unavoidable movement of vehicles out of the Dzongkhag will be allowed by the Dzongkhag C-19TF after conducting antigen test and if the result is negative.
- The Dzongkhag C-19TF may, upon proper assessment of situation will allow to-and-fro movement of vehicles from the Dzongkhag upon intimation to the C-19TF of the destination Dzongkhag.

2. Movement of people in yellow zone

- The Pelela area being categorized as yellow zone under the Dzongkhag will continue to be strictly monitored by the RBP and Desuups on duty.
- Travelers will not be allowed to stop in the area under any circumstances.
- Emergency cases to travel out of Pelela area will need approval from the Dzongkhag C-19TF who in turn will seek advice from the Technical Advisory Group from Ministry of Health and decide accordingly.
- Those wishing to travel in to Pelela area will be discouraged. However, if they wish to go under emergency situation, they will be allowed after proper verification by Dzongkhag C-19TF.



- Non-essential shops in Pelela area will remain closed and no construction works will be allowed till further directives from the Dzongkhag C-19TF.

3. Opening of shops

- Except for entertainment centers (Drayangs, Karaoke, Discotheques, snookers, caroms, video game centers, gyms, movie hall, beauty parlours, salons, and internet cafe) all other shops will be allowed to open with effect from 6th January 2021 starting 9.00 AM to 9.00 PM every day.
- Restaurants and bars will operate only for take-away services. No sit-in services will be allowed.
- All shops will follow COVID-19 norms and have Druk Trace and hand washing facilities. The shopkeepers will have to strictly ensure physical distancing for the customers.

4. Entry of stranded passengers from red zones and mandatory 7 days home quarantine

- Stranded passengers originating from red zones of Thimphu and Paro will be stopped at Kingaling check post (border between Punakha and Wangdue Phodrang Dzongkhags). The police personnel will inform the Assistant Dzongkhag Health Officer, Mr. Rinchen Dorji immediately.
- The ADHO in turn will arrange pick up services from the Kingaling Check post to the respective destination Gewogs, towns and other agencies after ensuring all COVID-19 norms.
- The ADHO will inform the local leaders, Thromdey Ngotshab and heads of destination Gewogs, towns and other agencies to strictly monitor and ensure the one week home quarantine as per the COVID-19 protocol.

5. Opening of essential offices

- Gewog offices, primary sectors of Dzongkhag, offices within the self-contained zones, financial service providers, essential service providers (BPC, Bhutan Telecom, T-cell, Municipal) will be allowed to open with effect from 8th January 2021 by ensuring strict COVID-19 Protocol and with bare minimum staff. However, they will move to their office and home on foot and movement of vehicle will not be allowed.

- Use of public and private vehicles for official purposes will be allowed by the Dzongkhag C-19TF on case by case basis.

6. Conduct of annual lochoe and rimdo

Conduct of annual lochoe and rimdo will be allowed with effect from 6th January 2021 with the following conditions:

- A maximum of four choebts will be allowed
- All the choebts have to be from the same village as the host
- Only family members living together in the same house will be allowed to participate provided no member of that family is under going home quarantine.
- Conduct of lochoe and rimdo where an individual is under going home quarantine will be strictly prohibited.

7. Conduct of rituals and funeral

Conduct of rituals and funerals will be allowed with effect from 6th January 2021 with the following conditions:

- For funerals, maximum of three vehicles and 10 people will be allowed to gather at the cremation site within the Dzongkhag.
- For rituals of 7 days, 14 days, 21 and 49 days, a maximum of two family members of the deceased will be allowed to attend the rituals performed at Dratshang and a maximum of four choebts will be allowed and all the choebts have to be from the same village as the host for rituals performed at the deceased's residence.

8. Construction works

- All construction works in self-contained mode without frequent movement of vehicles and labourers will be allowed to operate and resume with effect from 6th January 2021.
- Transportation of materials not involving passage through yellow zone of Pelela will be allowed on case by case basis by the Dzongkhag C-19TF.
- Operation of stone quarries in self-contained zones will be permitted to operate with effect from 6th January 2021.

- PHPA-I & II will make arrangements for movement of staff and labourers between worksite and residence in buses only.

9. Opening of automobile workshops

- Operation of automobile workshops will be allowed on need basis upon approval by the Dzongkhag C-19TF.

10. Sports

- The Dzongkhag C-19TF will review opening of selected sports facilities after one week depending on review and assessment of situation.

11. Continuation of deployment of Desuups on patrolling

- Patrolling by Desuups in support of RBP in Bajo core town will continue with reduced number to ensure compliance to COVID-19 protocols.

12. Enforcement of COVID-19 protocols

- The Dzongkhag C-19TF through the RBP and Desuups will continue to strictly enforce use of face mask, hand washing, Druk Trace App. and physical distancing. The breach of the COVID-19 protocols shall be dealt with in accordance with the Penal Code of Bhutan.




Dzongdag
Dzongkhag Administration
Wangdue Phodrang