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ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN  
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

February 16, 2022

**Press Release**

The National COVID-19 Taskforce informs all that **no** lockdown is being declared in Thimphu for now.

However, a COVID-19 community case was confirmed in the capital today. He had visited the Rinchen Kuenphen flu clinic yesterday, and confirmatory test was carried out. His residential building at Kabesa and the neighbourhood were also screened today, out of which his immediate family members and two of the neighbours tested positive.

While the positive cases have been isolated, the entire cluster is cordoned off from the public.

The man has a travel history to Phuentsholing. He had completed the seven-day quarantine requirement, and as a high-risk group, he was also asked to “self-isolate” for another seven days upon returning home. He visited the flu clinic after showing symptoms on February 15.

A woman, who travelled with him, also tested positive on antigen in Paro. A confirmatory RT-PCR test is underway at the moment. Together, over 69 contacts in Paro and Thimphu have been traced so far and are being closely monitored.

**Important: People who visited Rinchen Kuenphen flu clinic at Changangkha between 11am and 12pm, and Kuzhugchen school vaccination post at Kawang between 9am and 11am on February 15, are requested to “home quarantine” for three days.**

**Individuals who visited the places at specified time and date, and have travelled out of Thimphu are requested to self-isolate at respective destination. Subsequently, they are asked to come for testing on February 18. Please register with 1010 for proper coordination of the testing.**

Despite numerous appeals, our streets throng with people and some are still disregarding the basic COVID-19 protocols like wearing masks. The risks are growing by the hour. As cautioned multiple times, lockdowns are imminent if situation worsens. Everyone is aware that we resort to lockdowns as the final means to break the chain of disease transmission.

No gathering of any sort is allowed across the nation for now and travels are highly discouraged. It is disheartening that despite the caution, almost 10,000 people travelled out of Thimphu since lockdown was lifted on February 13.

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