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Royal Government of Bhutan
Ministry of Education

Cultivating the Grace of Mind



SECRETARY

MoE/SPCD/ADM(1.1-A)/20222/ 237

Date: 10th March, 2022

Dasho Dzongdags/Thrompons
20 Dzongkhags and 4 Thromdes

Sub: Testing and movement of students after the Board Examinations


The Ministry of Education is pleased to share the detailed protocol for testing and movement of students after the examinations is attached for your reference.

Further, the Dzongkhag and Thromde administrations that the ministry has received instructions from National COVID-19 Taskforce on the following ;

1. Those areas in high risk and lockdown to allow parents to pick up their children upon:
 - i. the approval of movement from respective Dzongkhag/Thromde;
 - ii. COVID-19 test (if required)
 - iii. applying Check Post Management System (CPMS)
2. Those parents or guardians intending to bring their children to Thimphu to be guided by letter no. NC19TF/01/4163, dated 9th March 2022 of Member Secretary, NC19TF (attached).
3. Dzongkhag and Thromde authorities are requested to support the schools in arranging buses for those students who have no private transport arrangements. The cost of the transport arranged through schools will be reimbursed to the Dzongkhag/Thromde administrations.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



(Karma Tshering)

Copy:

1. HE Sherig Lyonpo, Ministry of Education, Thimphu for your information, please.
2. Director General, DSE, Ministry of Education, Thimphu for necessary follow up
3. Office file

Testing and movement plan for schools after the examinations

A. Schools in areas with no community outbreak

- Students and teachers in areas with no local outbreaks will not be tested
- All staff and students can go home without testing

B. Schools in active community outbreak areas

1. Schools in full containment

1.1 Schools in full containment without any positive cases during the exam

- Students and staff who have been in full containment with no positive cases throughout will not be tested.
- However, all symptomatic individuals and any student or staff who had potential exposure before/after entering containment should be tested
- Those residing in the locality can be allowed to go home without testing
- Staff and students who wish to travel from High-risk area to Low-risk area should be tested and allowed to travel (if negative) without having to undergo the 7-day quarantine. However, they must travel directly from the containment without interacting with the community outside the containment and advise home quarantine for one week at the destination. The schools should provide a list of such individuals in advance to the health team for testing.
- If there are one or more positive cases amongst those who were tested as travelers from HRA to LRA, do the following:
 - Isolate positives and manage as per the protocol
 - All other staff and students will be considered as primary contacts - managed as per the primary contact protocol either in the school, facility quarantine or home quarantine, depending on local setting and assessment by District and National Surveillance Team.

1.2 Schools in full containment that had positive cases during the exam

- Test positive cases if they have completed 10 days after the first positive test and decide as per isolation and discharge protocol
- Test all other students and staff at the end of exams and do the following:
 - Isolate positives and manage as per the protocol
 - All other staff and students should be considered as primary contacts - managed as per the primary contact protocol either in the school, facility quarantine or home quarantine, depending on local setting and assessment by District and National Surveillance Team.

2. Schools with walk-in (day scholars) or mixed mode of examination

2.1 Those students in the assumed clean group (not PC, not from red building)

- This group of students will not be tested
- They will be advised to observe themselves for a week, avoid un-necessary travel, avoid gathering and get tested if symptomatic during this period

2.2 Those students in the Primary contact/red cluster/red building group

2.2.1 Students who are PCs or red building in facility quarantine

- All students in facility quarantine should be tested
- If negative - will be allowed to go home but advised one week home quarantine from the day of discharge and tested if they have symptoms during this period
- If positive – manage as per the existing protocol allowing home or in facility isolation based on clinical assessment

2.2.2 Students who are PCs or red buildings attending exams from home

- All students in this group should be tested at the end of exam
- Positive cases will be managed according to the isolation protocol
- Negative cases can be managed at home as per the red building protocol with their family members

2.3 Those students who are positive and in facility isolation

- Test everyone in isolation who have crossed 10 days or more after first positive test
- Those who are less than 10 days in isolation should complete 10 days in isolation before testing
- Follow the testing and discharge criteria

C. Invigilators and other duty officials in isolation and quarantine facilities

- This group of staff should be tested at the end of the exam with the students
- Positive cases will be managed as per the isolation protocol
- Negative staff should be quarantined for a week in the same facility and tested before discharge

D. Test and exit timing

- Sample collection should start from 12th March (after exam) in discussion and proper planning with the local health team
- Schools that require testing should allow exit of staff and individuals only after the test results are available
- Schools should plan booster vaccination at the time of sample collection for testing

AM.



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National Covid-19 Task Force



NC19TF/01/ 4163

9th March 2022

The Incident Commanders

Chukha, Haa, Paro, Wangdue Phodrang, Punakha, Gasa and Thimphu

Sub: Day Visitors from Thimphu

Dear Dasho,

This is to inform that the NC19TF in its 156th meeting has decided to allow day visitors from Thimphu to Chukha, Haa, Paro, Wangdue Phodrang, Punakha and Gasa Dzongkhags with epass and return on the same day without having to undergo Covid test and quarantine.

Therefore, the concerned Incident Commanders are directed to allow the day visitors on verification of the epass.

With best regards,

(Thinlay Wangchuk)
Member Secretary

cc:

1. The Office of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Gyalyong Tshogkhag for kind information.
2. The Chief of Police, Royal Bhutan Police, Thimphu for kind information.
3. The Head 1010 HelpDesk, Thimphu for kind information and necessary action.