



LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
PEACE INDEPENDENCE DEMOCRACY UNITY PROSPERITY

Task Force Committee for
Prevention, Control and
Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

No. 2336/TFC
Vientiane Capital, 31 July 2020

Travel Advisory

**For entry and exit of Lao PDR during the implementation of measures to prevent,
control and respond to COVID-19 Pandemic**

- Pursuant to the decision of the Prime Minister No.09/PMO dated 03 February 2020 to establish a Task Force Committee for Prevention, Control and Response to COVID-19 Pandemic;
- Pursuant to the COVID-19 pandemic situation in the region and around worldwide;
- Pursuant to the Notice of the Prime Minister's Office on continuing to implementing measures to prevent, control, contain and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, No. 806/PMO dated 29 July 2020;
- Pursuant to the minutes of the meeting of the Task Force Committee for Prevention, Control and Response to COVID-19 Pandemic's meeting, dated 24 July 2020.

In order to continue implementing preventive measures against the COVID-19 pandemic in Lao PDR, the Task Force Committee for Prevention, Control and Response to COVID-19 Pandemic has the honour to inform that individuals wishing to enter Lao PDR during this period must follow the following steps and procedures:

I. For foreigners:

1. Any individual with essential and urgent needs to enter Lao PDR for their work in any cases must get approval first from the Task Force Committee and must comply with the following procedures:
 - Every individual must have a negative COVID-19 test certification using RT-PCR of no more than 72 hours before departure to the Lao PDR;
 - After arrival, every individual must undergo COVID-19 test using RT-PCR and do a strict 14-day self-quarantine at a venue designated by the Task Force Committee only. Quarantine at other venues apart from the designated ones are not allowed and must strictly follow the preventive measures against COVID-19 infection.

2. For those individuals with essential and urgent need to work in Lao PDR for a short period of no more than 14 days, the Task Force Committee will consider those travelling from the countries with no infection case or with sporadic infection cases (based on the WHO classification) and must follow the following procedures:
 - Must have an invitation letter and letter of guarantee on strict following the preventive measures from the concerned invitee of state or private organization together with detailed schedule of activities in Lao PDR.
 - Every individual must have a negative COVID-19 test certification using RT-PCR of no more than 72 hours before departure to the Lao PDR;
 - After arrival, every individual must undergo COVID-19 test using RT-PCR and quarantine at a venue designated by the Task Force Committee while waiting for the result;
 - In case of the test result is negative, the individual can carry out his/her activities per the authorized plan within the vicinity of the hotel, the company or the identified or authorized venues by the Task Force Committee. Activities outside the authorized areas are not allowed and must strictly follow the preventive measures;
 - The organisation responsible for taking care of the guest must report in detail about the individual or group of individuals who come into contact with the guest to the Task Force Committee at central or local level;
 - Upon completion of their work, they have to return to their home country as scheduled and inform the Task Force Committee.
3. For diplomats, staffs of international organization, and inter-governmental organization that has an agreement with the Government of the Lao PDR that entitled to diplomatic privilege and immunities for their staffs and family members who received authorization to enter Lao PDR from the Task Force Committee shall follow the following procedures:
 - Every individual must have a negative COVID-19 test certification using RT-PCR of no more than 72 hours before departure to the Lao PDR;
 - After arrival, every individual must undergo COVID-19 test using RT-PCR before he/she is allowed to go to his/her residence;
 - In case of the test result is negative, the individual can continue his/her 14-day quarantine at his/her residence or at the venue identified by its respective Embassy/International Organization and must strictly follow the preventive measures against the infection, including daily report of his/her body temperature and any abnormal respiratory symptom to the Task Force Committee by submitting through the Protocol Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
4. For foreign nationals who need to exit the Lao PDR, they need to propose through their respective Embassy and follow the requirements provided by the country of destination. The respective Embassy has to inform the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in writing together with the list of individuals who wish to depart the Lao PDR with details of their passport number, date of departure, exit point, mode of transportation for the latter to provide facilitation.

II. For Lao nationals

1. For Lao nationals who wish to return home, they need to register at the Embassy of Lao PDR or Consulate General at the country of their residence and provide necessary information about the contact person in Lao PDR on the name and phone number, reasons for stranded abroad, approximate date of travelling, mode of transportation, point of entry, place for self-quarantine (hotel or the state quarantine center designated by the Task Force Committee at central and local levels) for the Task Force Committee to consider options to help facilitate their travelling home;
2. For those returning from countries that shared border with Lao PDR or those returning from a country without new infection case or with sporadic infection cases (based on the WHO classification and those individuals that have resided in that country for at least a month and without travelling through the country or region with ongoing outbreak) shall take the following procedures:
 - No requirement for COVID-19 test before departure to the Lao PDR, except for the case that it is required to do so by the airline and the transit countries;
 - After arrival, every individual must undergo COVID-19 test using RT-PCR and quarantine at a venue designated by the Task Force Committee while waiting for the result;
 - In case of the test result is negative, the individual can continue his/her 14-day quarantine at a venue designated by the Task Force Committee or at his/her own house that passed the inspection and certified by the Task Force Committee that it meets the safe requirement and must submit daily report of his/her body temperature and any abnormal respiratory symptom to the Task Force Committee;
3. For those returning from countries with cluster infection or community infection (based on the WHO classification) shall take the following procedures:
 - No requirement for COVID-19 test before departure to the Lao PDR, except for the case that it is required to do so by the airline and the transit countries;
 - After arrival, every individual must undergo COVID-19 test using RT-PCR and continue 14-day quarantine strictly at the venue designated by the Task Force Committee only. Quarantine at other venues is not allowed and must strictly follow the preventive measures.
4. For Lao nationals who have an essential and urgent need to travel abroad, such as to carry out official duty or essential business, continue to study or medical treatment (diseases that can not be treated in Laos) must inform the Task Force Committee of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for authorization and facilitation of their travelling. But they have to follow the laws and rules of the destination country; and upon returning home, they have to undergo COVID-19 test and quarantine as required.

❖ Attention:

- 1) The WHO classification of the infection around the world can be found at <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports/> which will be updated accordingly.

- 2) Advice for documentation and steps required for seeking authorization for an entry and exit of the Lao PDR can be found at the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs <http://www.mofa.gov.la/> and at the website of Task Force Committee <https://www.covid19.gov.la/index.php>.
- 3) For an entry and exit of the nationals of the country that has a specific travel agreement with the Lao PDR, will have a separate travel advisory.
- 4) The cost for self-quarantine shall be born by the concerned individual or company, or the invitee organization.
- 5) For foreigner who after the arrival has been tested positive for COVID-19 will be sent to an isolation room at a designated hospital and get medical treatment as necessary. The individual and the invitee organization shall bear all cost of the medical treatment and incur cost;
- 6) If there is any violation of the 14-day self-quarantine or violation of preventive measures that caused infection to others, the violator and invitee organization shall bear all cost of the medical treatment and incur cost.
- 7) This Travel Advisory entered into force from 01st August 2020 and will remain valid until further notice.

Therefore, it is the honor to notify you, for your kind information and strict implementation of this notice.

Deputy Minister of Health
Deputy Head of Secretariat of the Task Force Committee
Standing Committee Member

Signed and sealed

Associate Prof. Dr. Phouthone Muangpak