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NOTIFICATION 016/MVC 19 Sept 2021

COVID-19 outbreak prevention, control and response measures in VTE Capital on 19-30 Sept 2021 **Vientiane Capital**



ORDER

- Attn: Head of military, police, divisions and equivalent organizations in Vientiane Capital.
 - District Chiefs and Village Chiefs in Vientiane Capital
 - Employees, government officials, military, police, workers, students, business owners, Lao people, aliens, stateless people and foreigners living in Vientiane Capital.

Subject: COVID-19 preventive, control and response measures in Vientiane Capital on 19-30 September 2021.

- Pursuant to Article 19-20 of the Part IV of the Law on Local Administration No 68/NA dated 14 December 2015 regarding roles, rights and duties of Provincial Governors and Vientiane Capital Mayor;
- Pursuant to the Notification by the Prime Minister's Office No 1187/PMO dated 18 September 2021;
- Based on discussion outcomes of the Vientiane Capital COVID-19 Taskforce on 18 September 2021.

With the rising number of COVID-19 community transmission cases quickly spreading widely to many villages, districts particularly on 18 September 2021 with most of the cases originating from the factory in Nongthaneua Village of Chanthabouly District posing the risk for a new round and wider outbreak in Vientiane Capital that will be difficult to control;

the Vientiane Mayor thus issues the following Order:

- 1. Divisions and equivalent organizations, district and village administrative organizations to widely raise awareness and dissemination via multiple means and mediums to increase in-depth understanding about the danger and strict prevention of COVID-19 among government employees-officials, Lao People, foreigners, stateless people and aliens in Vientiane Capital. At the same time ensuring understanding about the Vientiane Capital's need in announcing implementation of prevention, control, and spread of this virus so as to protect the health and lives of people and everyone in Vientiane Capital.
- 2. Employees, enterprises, international organizations to stop working in offices from 20 to 30 September 2021 except for the military, police, fire fighters, health workers, officials, volunteers working in electricity, water, and community services and

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working to prevent, control, and treat infected cases. Organizations, agencies, divisions, districts, and villages throughout Vientiane Capital to arrange and recommend their employees to work at home or their resident via e-communication and internet such as: telephone, email, social media, and virtual meetings. Arrange to have employees on duty and security guards at offices, organizations to liaise on essential work and avoid damages.

3. People, government employees-officials, enterprises, international organizations, military, policy, workers, students, business owners, aliens, stateless people and foreigners in Vientiane Capital are prohibited to leave their houses or residence to travel within Vientiane Capital except for essential purposes: buy food, medicine, hospital trips, or tend to duties as stipulated in point 14 of this Order and as appointed by their organization.

Those who need to leave their houses for production purpose can do so within the tasked supervision of villages in terms of defining number of people allowed and the area permitted to ensure no risks of outbreak. No fees or service fees should be collected.

Police-military in collaboration with district and village administrative authorities to establish checkpoints and patrols along the roads to strictly prevent unauthorized people to roam around in the 7 districts: Chanthabouly, Sikhottabong, Saysettha, Sikhotabong, Xaythany, Hatxaifong, and Naxaythong Districts. Sangthong and Pak Ngeum District can maintain patrols as usual.

- 4. Prohibit private vehicles and passenger transportation in Vientiane Capital to travel to other provinces or areas with infection or at-risk areas except for those authorized by the Central or Vientiane Capital Taskforce for essential purposes like: goods transportation, and priority projects and operation of the Government. Police-military to establish checkpoints to inspect documentation, collect information and strictly prevent unauthorized individuals from travelling to other provinces.
- 5. Prohibit individuals from provinces with community transmissions to travel into Vientiane Capital. If necessary, the person must quarantine 14 days at a quarantine centre or hotel designated by the Vientiane Capital Taskforce and be responsible for all costs. Those who refuse to quarantine can immediately return to their province of origin. Vientiane residents from other provinces who need to return home can do so, but those travelling from provinces with community transmissions must quarantine 14 days at a quarantine centre or hotel designated by the Vientiane Capital Taskforce and be responsible for all costs. Those who refuses to quarantine centre or hotel designated by the Vientiane can do so, but those travelling from provinces with community transmissions must quarantine 14 days at a quarantine centre or hotel designated by the Vientiane Capital Taskforce and be responsible for all costs. Police-military to establish checkpoints to inspect documentation, collect information and strictly prevent unauthorized individuals from entering Vientiane Capital.
- 6. Strictly prohibit COVID-19 infected individuals or close contacts to conceal or lie about their timeline and avoid receiving treatment or quarantining as instructed by



health officials or Taskforce. If it is found that the individual concealed, lied, or avoided [treatment and quarantine], the person will be fined and face legal actions in accordance to laws and regulations as well as be responsible for all costs and damages.

- 7. Prohibit organization of meetings, gatherings and activities such as: all forms of religious activities, traditional ceremonies, weddings, functions/parties and gatherings at all places. Funerals and related events must strictly comply with COVID-19 preventive and control measures as stipulated in Recommendation by the COVID-19 Taskforce No 4291/TSF dated 15 September 2021 namely: temperature checks, at least 1 metre physical distancing, masking, hand-washing with soap or hand gels.
- 8. Strictly close borders at Pakngeum Dsitrict, Thadeua Border of Hatxayfong District, Nongda border of Sikhottabong District, Khokhae border of Sangthong District. The Lao-Thai Friendship Bridge I must be closed to the general public except for those authorized by the Central COVID-19 Taskforce. Authorised Logistics Company can enter-exit international borders but must strictly comply with procedures and guidelines set out.
- 9. Close karaoke parlours, entertainment venues, casinos, internet cafes, game venues, cinemas, snooker place, massage and spas, barber shops, salons, malls, night markets, food gardens, tourist places, guest house, resorts, bars, bbq restaurants servicing all types of alcoholic beverages as well as stalls along the road like: lottery, food stalls.
- 10. Prohibit outdoor exercise at public spaces: esplanades, Thatluang park, Chao Anouvong park and other places. Close all indoor sport centres such as: gyms, badminton courts, soccer fields, petanque court, boxing ring, golf courts, swimming pools, cockpits, and other contact sports.
- 11. Close garment factories, other factories, and big projects to conduct risk assessment. Consider approving the reopening of concerned factories if deemed and can ensure no risk of COVID-19 outbreak. Closed factories must manage and support their employees and workers during this closure/break period.
- 12. Prohibit stockpiling and increasing price of goods necessary in preventing the outbreak, consumable and non-consumable goods such as masks, hand gels, medicine, medical supplies, rice, food, drinking water, etc. At the same time, collaborate with police in strictly imposing penalty and punitive actions on those in violation.
- 13. Prohibit advertising, disseminating, and sharing false information of all forms and through all means that lead to misunderstanding, panic, and that negatively impact the society. Concerned authorities to strictly monitor and impose punitive actions on those in violation.

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- 14. Permit sale-purchase of consumable and non-consumable goods by ensuring preventive measures during the sale, purchase, and delivery of goods. Essential operations permitted to remain open are: banks, non-bank financial institutions, hospitals, private clinics, pharmacies, rescue teams, posts and telecommunication services, electricity and water supply, fuel stations, and garbage collection services. Service providers must be fully vaccinated and strictly comply with COVID-19 preventive and control measures as set out by the COVID-19 Taskforce.
- 15. The Vientiane Capital and district Taskforce to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency in their roles, rights and duties. Act as the focal point in coordinating with concerned sectors in appropriately, promptly, and timely supervising, monitoring, inspecting, and assessing implementation of preventive and control measures, treatment of infected cases, testing/sample collection, and arranging close contacts to undergo quarantine. At the same time, provide a daily evaluation and report to the Vientiane Capital leadership on implementation of measures set out by the Government and Vientiane Capital to allow timely guidance.
- 16. Vientiane Police-Military to work with district administrative authorities in monitoring and ensuring security and social order, as well as strict implementation of provisions outlined in this Order. Concerned public security officials to impose strict legal actions on those in violation of this Order per law and regulation.
- 17. Measures on violators: Individuals or legal entities in violation of measures set out by Central and Vientiane Capital Taskforce, and this Order will strictly be fined as follows:
 - Individuals: fined 3,000,000 kip/person/time;
 - Legal entities: fined 10,000,000 kip/person/time.

Task the police in collaboration with concerned sectors to monitor and impose measures starting from fines, suspension or closure of operation progressing to legal actions per degree of severity.

- 18. Government employees-officials, enterprise, international organizations, military, police, workers, students, business owners, Lao People, aliens, stateless people and foreigners in Vientiane Capital to enhance their respect and active ownership in strictly following COVID-19 preventive, control and response measures. At the same time, monitor and report on any illegal entries and violations of measures to the Taskforce for timely inspection and solution.
- 19. This Order is effective from 12:00 of 19 September to 24:00 of 30 September 2021. The Vientiane Capital will announce if any changes.

Signed and sealed

Vientiane Capital Mayor

Athsaphangthong Siphandone