

Decisions of the Government of Nepal dated 2 May 2021 with regard to the prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 in the context of increasing number of infections with new variants in Nepal:

1. With effect from 3 May 2021 midnight, all regular internal flights will be suspended till 14 May 2021.
2. From 6 May 2021 midnight, all international flights will be suspended till 14 May 2021.
3. The existing Air Bubble between Nepal and India will be limited to two flights per week, in complete compliance with health protocols and mandatory quarantine of 10 days in a hotel listed by the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation. A joint team of the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, Nepal Tourism Board and Nepal Police will monitor hotel quarantines and reports daily to the COVID-19 Crisis Management Center (CCMC). If anyone is found to have not observed the health protocols and not stayed in quarantine as required, such persons will be referred to the competent authority for action as per the Infectious Disease Act, 2020 BS. If anyone who is tested PCR positive is allowed to board the aircraft, the concerned airlines will be made responsible to bear the cost of quarantine of the entire passengers of that flight.
4. The Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation will issue flight permission to chartered flights serving domestic and international destinations and to the rescue flights on the condition that health protocols are fully observed.
5. Passengers traveling to/from Nepal in chartered and rescue international flights will be required to present PRC reports containing barcode and photograph.
6. Entry of foreign nationals into Nepal through land border entry points has been suspended. Permitted routes for bilateral trade across the Nepal-India border will remain open in order to facilitate the supply system. Drivers and conductors of the vehicles related to supply system will be allowed to cross the border observing health protocols.

7. For the movement Nepali nationals, only the border points of Pashupatinagar of Ilam; Kakadvitta of Jhapa; Rani of Morang; Bhattamod of Mahottari; Gaur of Rautahat; Birgunj of Parsa; Belahiya of Rupandehi; Krishnanagar of Kapilbastu; Jamunaha of Banke; Gauriphanta of Kailali; Pulghat of Darchula; Jhulaghat of Baitadi and Gaddachauki of Kanchanpur will remain open.
8. The concerned District Administration, in coordination of the Provincial Government, will keep record of incoming Nepalis at the above border crossings, conduct antigen test, arrange nearby isolation facility for those tested positive, and facilitate the travel to destinations for those testing negative. The concerned local levels will be informed of the above in order for them to make arrangements of monitoring the compliance of mandatory 10-day quarantine and institutional quarantine.
9. The federal, provincial and local level may use all types of public building, structure and place as well as other structures including hotel, party palace, factory and warehouse for the prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19;
10. The Ministry of Health and Population will make arrangements for treatment by concluding an agreement with hospitals run by the private sector in case of the need for managing adequate beds.
11. At the request of the Ministry of Health and Population, Nepali missions abroad will procure and deliver to Nepal medicines, health materials and equipment, which are out of stock at home or are required to be urgently procured for the prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 on a priority basis.
12. Considering the pandemic's high risks and the need of oxygen for medical treatment, use and supply of oxygen for other purposes including construction and industrial enterprises will be prohibited. Necessary arrangements will be made to bring back oxygen cylinders in use for other purposes prior to the issuance of this Order, to oxygen industry or district-based hospitals within 3 days. The Ministry of Health and Population may use or cause to be used oxygen in any public, private, cooperative and community hospital, clinic or health centre by ensuring the availability of oxygen through need assessment.

13. All activities related to the National Population Census, 2021 (2078 BS) have been postponed.
14. The above decisions from section one through 13 will be published in the Nepal Gazette (Additional Issue) in the form of the Order as per the Infectious Disease Act, 2020 BS.
15. The following seven Hon'ble Ministers of the Government of Nepal have been designated to coordinate with the Provincial Government and local levels within the Province for the implementing the decisions of the CCMC, monitoring implementation, receiving reports and facilitating problem solving:
 - a) Hon. Dr. Shiva Maya Tumbahamphe, Province 1
 - b) Hon. Mr. Prabhu Sah, Province 2
 - c) Hon. Mr. Parbat Gurung, Bagmati Province
 - d) Hon. Ms. Padma Kumari Aryal, Gandaki Province
 - e) Hon. Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, Lumbini Province
 - f) Hon. Mr. Prem Ale, Karnali Province
 - g) Hon. Mr. Lekhraj Bhatta, Sudur Pashchim Province
16. In case of the lack of internal resources at the local levels, the Government of Nepal and the Provincial Government will provide necessary resources to them for COVID-19 prevention, control, response and treatment.
17. The doctors, health workers, cleaners and security personnel directly involved in identification, diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19 and operation of ambulance, and dead body management will be provided risk allowance of 50 percent of their basis salary for a period of 6 months.
18. For the task of case investigation and contact tracing, health workers will be hired on a contract basis as required, for deputation at hospitals, laboratories, isolation and quarantine facilities, border health desk of federal, provincial and local level bodies, and for a maximum period of one year. These staff will be provided a basic remuneration with an additional amount of 50 percent for the first six months, and with basic remuneration only for the remaining six months. Risk allowance will not be provided to them as per section 17.