



## Situation Summary

### Highlights of Current Situation Report

- A total of 3,542 COVID-19 cases (6 imported and 3,536 locally acquired), including 34 deaths were reported in the last 7 days.
- Since the beginning of the current outbreak, 10,007 locally acquired cases have been detected in 21 provinces including one new province (Monduliri) in the past week.
- As of 26 April 2021 10 am ICT, 10,555 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including seventy-nine deaths have been reported from Cambodia, of which 3,577 have recovered. 453 (4.3%) cases were acquired overseas with the rest locally acquired. 6,892 patients are currently being hospitalized.
- As of 17 April 2021, Ministry of Health (MOH) began using Antigen Rapid Tests (Ag-RDTs) for mass screening in Phnom Penh
  - At least 6,000 rapid tests performed in the first week in market and factory settings
  - Use of tests being rolled out to the provinces
- Since January 2020, a total of 582,430 individuals have been tested using real-time polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR), with a positivity rate of 1.8%. In total, 798,855 tests have been performed as of 26 April 2021 including 6,242 ILI/SARI sentinel surveillance specimens that have been tested negative for SARS-CoV-2.
- High risk COVID-19 outbreak areas in Phnom Penh now called Red Zones.
- All registered private clinics in Phnom Penh allowed to provide care and treatment for COVID-19 patients.
- On 22 April 2021, MOH approved the use of antigen rapid tests by all registered health care providers across the country.
- On 25 April 2021, inter-provincial travel bans were lifted, except for Phnom Penh and Takhmao city.

## Upcoming Events and Priorities

### Surveillance

- MOH and WHO are finalizing the assessment checklist, recommendations, risk assessment and contact tracing for factories.
- With WHO support, MOH is conducting supportive supervision visits to affected provinces to support response and strengthen the multisource surveillance systems.
- MOH with WHO support is working on developing the contract tracing approach as a system to replicate in all provinces.
- MOH with WHO support is conducting weekly transmission stage assessments using multisource surveillance.
- With the support of WHO, MOH will strengthen provincial capacity for using EOC/IMS and multisource surveillance for risk assessment and decision making.

### Laboratory

- As of 17 April, MOH began using Ag-RDTs for mass screening in Phnom Penh
  - At least 6,000 rapid tests performed in the first week in market and factory settings (approx. 5-10%)
  - Use of tests being rolled out to the provinces
- WHO and Institute Pasteur Cambodia (IPC) is providing technical support to MOH on validation of antigen rapid tests.



- WHO is providing technical support and training on biosafety and PPE use to National Blood Transfusion Center and Poipet laboratory.
- IPC is conducting laboratory testing, serology and sequencing.
- MOH is conducting laboratory testing and infection source investigations. MOH with partner support is coordinating specimen collection, additional testing to support the current outbreak investigations and laboratory data management and analysis.
- MOH is progressing with plans to expand and decentralize laboratory testing capacity for COVID-19 to 13 provincial laboratories and 3 national laboratories.

**Healthcare delivery and pathways**

- All registered private clinics in Phnom Penh allowed to provide care and treatment for COVID-19 patients.
- On 22 April 2021, MOH approved the use of antigen rapid tests by all registered health care providers across the country.
- WHO is supporting MOH to develop a proposal for the GFATM RM grant which includes supply of life-saving supplies including oxygen supply devices and PPE and capacity strengthening on clinical management for COVID19.
- MOH is conducting the readiness check of clinical management for large-scale community transmission.

**Risk communication and community engagement**

- MOH and WHO is disseminating audio messages to provincial health departments. Content includes testing of high-risk groups, quarantine, health monitoring and the 3 Do's and 3 Don'ts
- Materials/messages being developed/disseminated:
  - graphics on antigen testing with messaging on quarantine after negative test and get tested if symptomatic
  - factory risk communication materials, including audio messages
- As part of the NVDP, a vaccine-related communication and community engagement plan is being implemented by MOH with support from WHO, UNICEF and GIZ.

**Non-pharmaceutical interventions**

- The government continuously assesses the adjustment of non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) through a gradual step-wise approach that considers the effectiveness, socio-economic cost, and public acceptability of each measure, while continuing to increase surveillance to inform decision-making.

## Transmission Assessment

Current multi-source surveillance assessment indicates Phnom Penh and Preah Sihanouk is in stage 2 transmission (localized community transmission), the other 20 provinces (Kandal, Prey Veng, Svay Rieng, Koh Kong, Kampong Cham, Kampong Chhang, Kampong Thom, Siem Reap, Battambang, Takeo, Kep, Kampot, Tbong Khmum, Kratie, Pailin, Pursat, Kampong Speu, Preah Vihear, Banteay Meanchey and Mondulakiri) with cases are in Stage 1 transmission and the remaining provinces with no cases are in stage 0.

In Phnom Penh, evidence suggests that infections have not declined. The increasing trend in Phnom Penh is due to outbreaks among factory workers and market vendors. Increasing ILI consultations and decline in OPD visits including fatal cases imply there is likely more transmission than has been detected. Mobility data show that social mixing has reduced, which may lead to reduced infections if continued. In Preah Sihanouk, evidence suggests infections are spreading in the community. The increasing positivity with increasing number of tests suggests increases in numbers of infections. A shift in transmission settings from casinos and entertainment venues to markets that are reflective of the general population. Similar patterns were observed in Phnom Penh 4 weeks ago.

Overall, there are decreases in ILI or SARI cases and no signals from event-based (EBS) through 115 and from indicator-based (CamEWARN) reporting systems. Media reports do suggest challenges to ensure compliance with NPIs particularly movement restrictions.

### Epi Update COVID-19

#### Tests

**51,006**

NAT Tests past 7 days

**798,855**

Cumulative NAT Tests

#### Cases

**3,542**

New cases past 7 days  
(42% 7-day)

**10,555**

Cumulative Cases

#### Deaths

**34**

Deaths past 7 days  
(126% 7-day)

**79**

Cumulative Deaths

**23**

Imported Cases in past 28 days

### Health Service Provision COVID-19

**27**

Hospitals admitting  
COVID-19 patients

**13,782**

Total public hospital  
beds

**37**

Number of hospitals with  
experience in COVID-19 case  
management (includes 10  
repurposed HCF)

## Epidemiology

Figure 1. Epidemic curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases by date of report

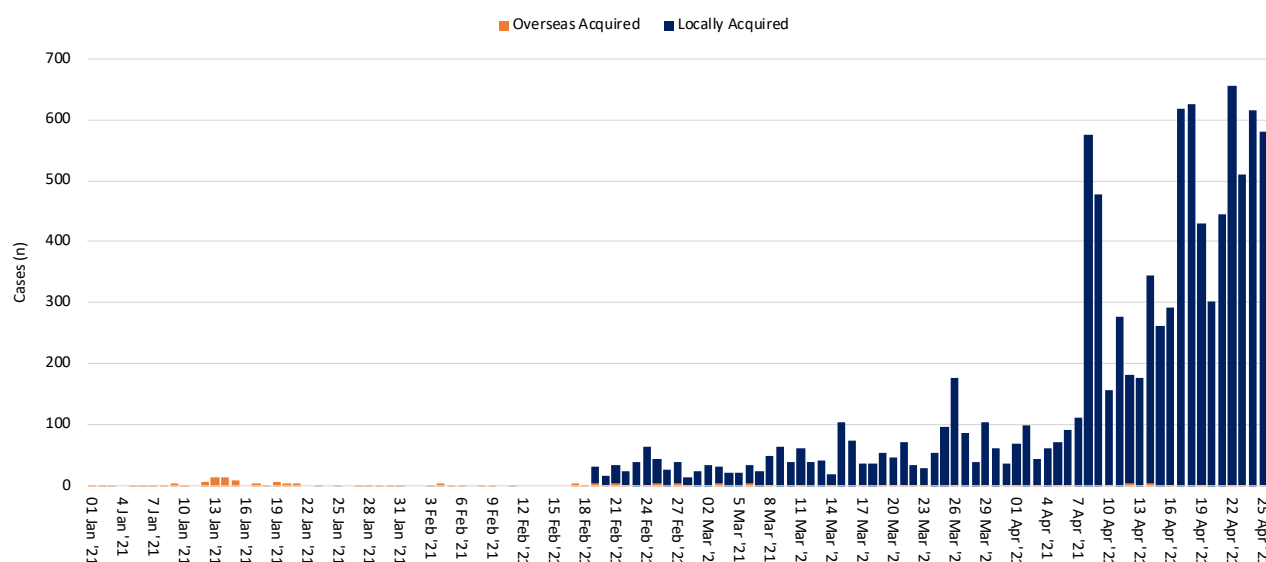
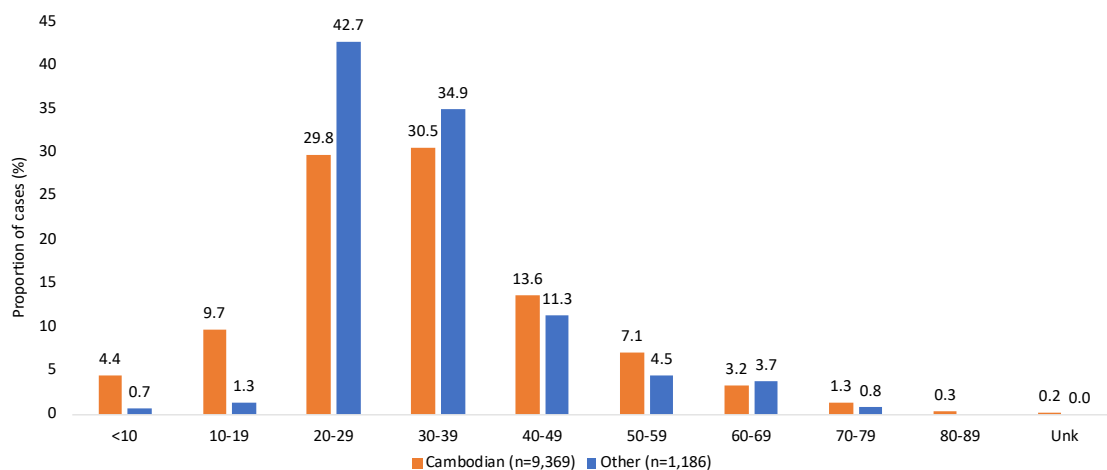


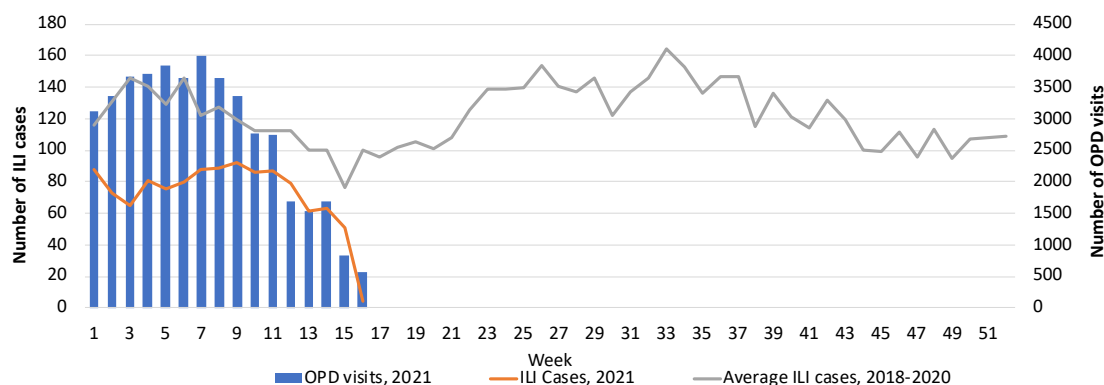
Table 1. Cumulative and new (past 7 days) cases and deaths by age and sex

Age Group	Female		Male		Total
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases
0-9	217(101)	0(0)	204(84)	0(0)	421(185)
10-19	542(192)	0(0)	382(155)	0(0)	924(347)
20-29	1911(593)	1(0)	1380(404)	2(1)	3291(997)
30-39	1835(662)	1(1)	1434(450)	9(3)	3269(1112)
40-49	789(300)	4(2)	616(185)	11(3)	1405(485)
50-59	411(147)	7(4)	303(97)	10(5)	714(244)
60-69	208(80)	10(5)	138(33)	6(3)	346(113)
70-79	71(29)	8(2)	59(16)	5(2)	130(45)
80-89	14(6)	3(3)	12(3)	1(1)	26(9)
90+	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
Unknown	10(0)	0(0)	14(1)	1(0)	29(5)
Total	6,008(2,110)	34(16)	4,542 (1,428)	45(18)	10,555(3,542)

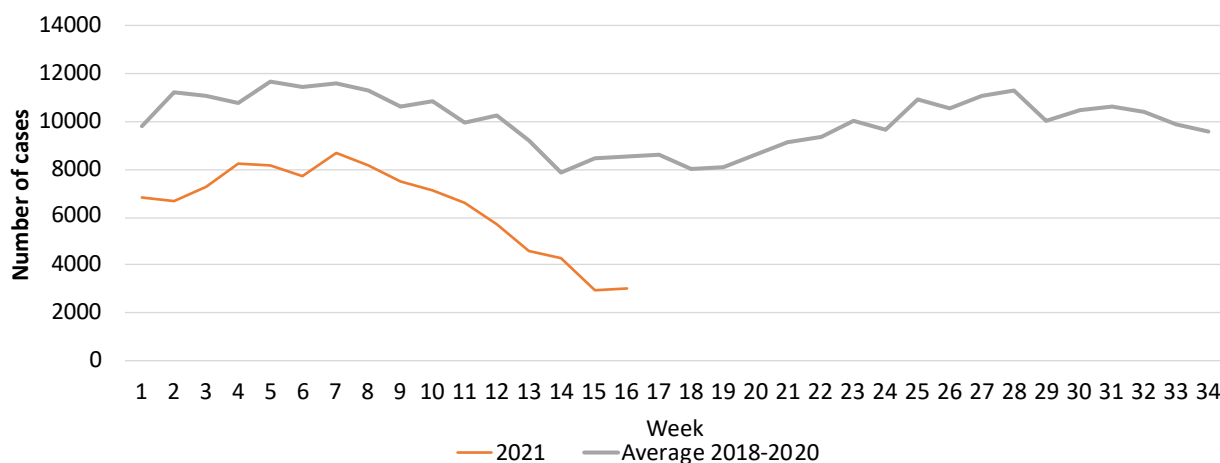
**Figure 2. Proportion of confirmed COVID-19 cases by age group and nationality (n=10,555)**



**Figure 3. Number of ILI cases from ILI sentinel sites (n=7) by week, 2021 and 2018-2020**



**Figure 4. Number of patients with severe respiratory illness by week, 2021 and 2018-2020**



## Strategic Approach

### National and Provincial Public Health Response

#### Incident Management Systems

- Inter-Ministerial Committee, chaired by the Minister of Health, with Secretaries of State
- Sub-committee chaired by Royal Cambodian Army Chief
- National COVID-19 Committee, chaired by Samdech Prime Minister
- Provincial COVID-19 Committees, chaired by Provincial Governors
- Committee on Economic and Financial Policy (CEFP)/ Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) of four Working Groups to address the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19

#### System and Policy Development

- On 5 March 2021, the draft law “Measures to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 and other Dangerous Infectious Diseases” was approved by the National Assembly
- State of Emergency legislation was promulgated into law on 29 April 2020; has not been enacted
- Go. Data Platform used as a surveillance database including laboratory and contact tracing information
- NIPH and CDC databases have been adjusted to allow for multisource dataset on testing and surveillance

#### Key Priorities

- WHO is updating the COVID-19 National Response Strategy for the current outbreak.
- A primary care strategy for COVID-19 is being developed by MOH departments. This document will include suggested roles and responsibilities for health centres in the potential scenario of community transmission, as well as guidance on clinical management and infection, prevention and control
- A survey of clinical management and infection prevention and control training is currently being implemented by MOH/DHS to support the development of a national curriculum for COVID-19
- A number of health system readiness assessments on hospital readiness, ICU capacity, oxygen, staffing, etc. are currently being conducted by MOH/DHS
- National programs are developing specific COVID-19 preparedness and response plans
- Implementing the laboratory expansion strategy and molecular diagnostics training plan to ensure sustained testing for COVID-19 at National and Regional level
- Strengthening facility quarantine to reduce the risk of onward transmission with the development of simple job aids for facility staff
- The MOH guidance on surveillance and contact tracing for COVID-19 has been updated with the inclusion of an updated suspect case definition that incorporates living in an area with community transmission (updated 07 January 2021)
- Development of an implementation plan for use of multisource surveillance at subnational levels for risk assessment and decision making.
- Strengthening local preparedness in case of potential localized outbreak in the future and to minimize disruptions to the delivery of essential health services

### Strategic Approach to COVID-19 Prevention, Detection and Control

- *Testing strategy and contact tracing system in place*

A broad testing strategy is being implemented nationwide, including testing all suspect cases meeting case definition, active surveillance for pneumonia cases in hospitals, testing at POEs at day

1 and day 13 of 14-day quarantine and testing ILI and SARI samples from sentinel sites for COVID-19. Hot-spot surveillance strategies and targeted testing of high-risk populations are also being implemented as necessary.

- *Risk communication and community engagement*

A strategy for surveillance using community engagement has been developed and will be piloted for case detection at the health centre level and in the community. The Ministry of Interior is reinforcing the monitoring of quarantine through follow-up and fines for individuals who do not follow guidelines.

A community engagement strategy has been drafted. MOH has developed a Risk Communication and Community Engagement monitoring and supervision plan being implemented from May 2020 to July 2020 for health care personnel and village personnel in 12 provinces.

- *NPIs (recorded in table at end of report)*

## Best Practices / Lessons Learned

### Factors Contributing to Strong Response

- **Strong leadership and coordination**
  - Whole-of-government, whole-of-society response led by the Prime Minister, with public health actions led by Minister of Health
  - National Master Plan for COVID-19 developed with budget of \$62 million for first year
- **Past investments have built a functional public health system**
  - Multisource surveillance for COVID-19, including event-based surveillance (with 115 hotline) and expanded ILI/SARI surveillance
  - Almost 3,000 RRT members across the country conduct case investigation and contact tracing
- **Risk communication and community engagement**
  - Timely messages disseminated through TV, radio and social media, regular press releases, press conferences and media briefings
  - Targeted communication materials developed for at-risk groups, including migrants and garment factory workers
  - Community engagement strategy being rolled out to encompass all aspects of surveillance and response for COVID-19, particularly in the event of community transmission
- **International solidarity and cooperation**
  - Open and transparent health system response in the country
  - Close technical and operational cooperation between UN agencies and other development partners
  - High-level participation in international meetings, including regular coordination between National International Health Regulations (IHR) Focal Points



## COVID-19 Vaccinations

- As of 25 April 2021, a total of 1,295,660 and 732,308 target individuals received first dose and second dose of COVID-19 vaccine respectively.
- As of 25 April 2021, 112 adverse events following immunization (AEFI) cases were reported from 20 provinces and two national hospitals. MOH continues to closely monitor and investigate AEFIs.
- As of 25 April, RGC has been using 3 types of vaccines; BBIBP-CorV (Shinopharm/Beijing-donation from China), COVISHIELD (Serum Institute of India- from COVAX Facility) and CoronaVac (Sinovac- RGC procurement).
- As of 19 April, RGC received 1.3 million doses of vaccine in donation from Government of China, 324, 000 doses of COVAX Facility's supported vaccine and 2 million doses procured bilaterally.

## Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPI)

- On 25 April 2021, inter-provincial travel bans were lifted, except for Phnom Penh and Takhmao city.
- Guidance on "Modifications of lockdown measures for Phnom Penh Capital and Takhmao City" was issued on 17 April.
- On 14 April 2021, the RGC announced the lockdown of Phnom Penh and Takmao from 15 April to 28 April 2021.
- RGC announced the extension of travel bans and closure of all tourism destinations across the country until 28 April.
- On 11 April 2021, the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) issued a Sub-decree on mandatory COVID-19 vaccination for:
  - civil servants and all kinds of armed forces personnel
  - citizens who hold public office and public officials at legislative bodies including other officials in the judiciary
  - individuals based on their professions and infection risks as determined by MOH.
- The government implemented a lockdown of 7 areas in Phnom Penh from 9 April to 23 April 2021.
- The government implemented an inter-provincial travel ban from 7 April to 20 April 2021.
- The Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, Kampong Speu, Pursat, Oddor Meanchey, Banteay Meanchey, and Kratie provincial administrations implemented 8 pm-5 am curfews.
- On the 27 March 2021, the Phnom Penh Capital Administration issued an ordinance to implement mandatory mask-wearing and social distancing in certain places in the capital city, following the issuance of national sub-decree on the same NPIs and the Ministry of Interior's letter to enforce the COVID-19 epidemic management law, sub-decree and Prakas. The places for wearing mask and keeping physical distancing are enterprises, private establishments, restaurants/canteens, guesthouses, hotels, clinics, private hospitals, pharmacies, markets, shops, banks, financial institutions, factories, handicrafts, working offices and business places.
- On 25 March 2021, the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) issued guidance on additional measures for mitigating the impacts of COVID-19 on economic sector and promoting economic growth during and post COVID-19 crisis.



- Measures for supporting garment-textile, footwear, travel goods, bags and tourism sector: RGC will continue to provide \$ 40 monthly support to each worker in addition to the \$30 which will be provided by enterprise-factory and business owners from April to June 2021;
- Measures for supporting the aviation sector: minimum tax exemption period for civil aviation companies was extended for another three months (April to June 2021);
- Continuation of the cash transfer scheme for poor and vulnerable households for three months.
- On 24 March 2021, the Cambodia National Competitions Committee of Football Federation of Cambodia, issued a letter to Tbong Khmum Provincial Department of Education, Youth and Sport on suspension of two-week-long matches to be held in the province.
- On 23 March 2021, the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training issued measures for response to COVID-19 during Khmer New Year Celebration in 2021.
- On 23 March 2021, the Ministry of Cult and Religion issued a reminder of measures to the public on containment of COVID-19 transmission during the 3-Day Khmer Traditional New Year Celebration Holiday:
  - For pagodas, churches, and mosques, people shall follow the MOH health measures to prevent COVID-19 pandemic by practicing physical distancing;
  - To enforce the measures of the 3-Do's and 3-Don'ts;
  - To avoid any religious ceremonies or any mass gatherings and crowded settings;
- On 24 March 2021, MOH announced the mandatory use of masks in 5 areas/provinces. Phnom Penh Capital, Preah Sihanouk Province, Kandal Province, Prey Veng Province and Siem Reap Province.
- Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts announced the closure of cinemas and museums across the country.
- The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MoEYS) announced on 20 March 2021, the closure of all public and private educational institutions across the country.
- Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training (MOVLT) announced on 20 March 2021, the closure of technical and vocational training educational establishments across the country.
- On 17 March 2021, the Ministry of Cults and Religions temporarily suspended all religious ceremonies and gatherings throughout the country.
- As of 16 March 2021, Koh Thom authority in Kandal province temporarily suspended all kinds of businesses to avoid large-scale community outbreak.
- As of 15 March 2021, five provincial authorities; Svay Rieng, Pailin, Preah Vihear, Kampot, and Otdar Meanchey announced the suspension of weddings, parties, and religious gatherings.
- On 10 March, MoEYS announced the temporal closure of all public and private educational institutions/schools in Prey Veng province starting from 10 March 2021 until further notice.
- On 9 March 2021, Samdech Techo Hun Sen Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia gave a voice-recorded message requesting private companies, where possible to reduce the number of employees and have alternative working arrangements.
- On 9 March, the Kandal Provincial administration announced travel restrictions to Chrey Thom, Kandal Province.
- On 21 February 2021, MOH announced the implementation of a QR Code system "Stop COVID-19" developed by the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications.
- On 20 February 2021, a press release by PM announced the:
  - Closure of the clubhouse and other areas related to the COVID-19 cases

- Encouraged all individuals linked to the 32 cases to come for testing
- Reminded public to practice the three Do's and Don'ts and encouraged non-discrimination against Chinese people
- Due to the 14-day mandatory quarantine, Cambodian workers are urged not to return from Thailand to participate in the Khmer New Year in April
- On 20 February 2021, the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport issued a press release on restrictions on the implementation of health and safety measures at public and private educational establishments in Phnom Penh
  - Gatherings and sporting activities with more than 20 participants are temporarily suspended
  - Staff identified as contacts to strictly follow quarantine measures

**Table 2. NPI implementation and lifting dates**

NPI	Monitoring status					
	Date first implemented	Date last modified	Implementation		Partial lift	Lifted
			Geographical (national or sub-national)	Recommended or Required	Lifted for some area	Lifted for all areas
Wearing Face Masks, Hand Hygiene, Respiratory Etiquette	None	24 March 2021	Subnational	Required		No
School Closure	16 March 2020	20 March 2021	National	Required	No	No
Workplace Closure	None	None				
Mass Gatherings	3 April 2020	29 December 2020	National	Required	No	No
Stay at Home	Government recommends staying home if possible	None				
Restrictions on Internal Movement (within country)	9 April 2020	25 April 2021	Subnational	Recommended	Yes	No
Restrictions on International Travel	27 March 2020	11 November 2020	National	Required	Yes	No
Others; specify in narrative	None	None	-	-	-	-