

## Situation Summary

### Highlights of Current Situation Report

- A total of 3,549 COVID-19 cases including 145 deaths were reported in the last 7 days. Of the 3,549 cases, 10.7% (379/3,549) were imported and 89.3% (3,170/3,549) were locally acquired;
- In total, 3,731 Delta cases (1,904 females) have been detected from 31 March to 9 September 2021, affecting 24 municipality and provinces, involving migrants returning from Thailand and Viet Nam, airline passengers, health care workers and community cases;
- As of 04 October 2021, 10 am ICT, 113,475 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 2,406 deaths have been reported from Cambodia, of which 104,865 have recovered. A total of 19,133 (18.2%) cases were acquired overseas;
- Since January 2020, a total of 1,594,440 individuals have been tested using real-time polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR), with a positivity rate of 5.5%. As of 03 Oct 2021, a total of 2,058,880 tests have been performed using RT-PCR.
- As of 30 Sep 2021 only RT-PCR test results are being reported in the official case numbers.

## Upcoming Events and Priorities

### Surveillance

- MOH with WHO support is conducting weekly transmission stage, situation assessments and analyses to understand the effectiveness of interventions using multisource surveillance at subnational level.
- WHO is supporting MOH to develop subnational guidance on monitoring implementation of and compliance to NPIs as part of calibrating subnational NPIs.
- WHO is providing support on monitoring ICU bed capacity (bed occupancy) at subnational level and strengthening surveillance systems to monitor severity of cases.
- WHO is technically supporting MOH to update the COVID-19 surveillance strategy in preparation for an endemic COVID-19 scenario.
- MOH with technical guidance and support from partners is conducting death investigations in Phnom Penh to strengthen understanding of causes of death, access to care, and investigate underlying transmission in the community.
- MOH and WHO are now working in five border provinces to strengthen Incident Management System (IMS), RRT capacity for investigations and use multisource surveillance to assess the epidemiological situation and implement targeted response, and strengthen safe quarantine.

### Laboratory

- WHO, Institute Pasteur in Cambodia (IPC) and partners are providing technical and coordination support to NIPH, CCDC and COVID-19 laboratories to ensure expanded and sustained testing capacity.
- Laboratory expansion plan continues with 17 active laboratories and a further three planned in the coming months.
- NIPH is strengthening capacity to perform whole genome sequencing, in addition to IPC.
- NIPH has been working with IPC, WHO and partners to develop an External Quality Assurance (EQA) program to ensure quality testing at all COVID-19 laboratories.
- WHO is supporting NIPH to strengthen Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) to detect mutations and monitor Variants of Concern (VoC)/Variants of interest (VoI) by procuring laboratory commodities, with support from WPRO.

- WHO is providing technical advice and guidance to MoH on sampling strategies for SARS-CoV-2 genomic surveillance and has developed a protocol and is working with IPC to finalise.
- WHO is providing technical advice and support to MoH to review and update the SARS-CoV-2 testing strategy.

### **Healthcare delivery and pathways**

- Department of Hospital Services (DHS), Ministry of Health, plans for rolling out onsite coaching on oxygen therapy to cover all provinces by end of this year. The training is in progress, as of now, 7 provinces already received onsite coaching.
- Mentorship to strengthen sub-national level on clinical management, patient pathway, ICU bed capacity & efficiency and infection prevention control with special focus on border provinces is ongoing. 12 provinces received mentorship program. With the current surge of cases in Siem Reap, the national team is being there to support Siem Reap PHD in the response.
- Monitoring of ICU bed capacity (bed occupancy) and strengthening surveillance systems to monitor severity of cases in priorities for WHO support. The indicators and system for data collection is being finalized.
- Virtual meeting between the national team led by Sub-committee for Technical and Treatment and provincial hospitals is ongoing. The forum provides very useful updates on situation at the field, discuss challenges for timely support & action and experience sharing between provinces.
- Working group for development of oxygen preparedness plan led by DHS with joint technical support by development partners such as CHAI and WHO continues to meet from time to time to complete the first draft plan.
- To support MOH's health care response and need, WHO has provided some oxygen equipment, devices and supplies and Dexamethasone in 2020 and 2021. Recently, another WHO procurement has arrived MOH's central medical store (CMS), those include pulse oximeters (fingertips) (5,000), heparin sodium (100 packs of 10) and Enoxaparin (200 packs of 10). The consolidated list of all equipment, devices, supplies and medicines received by CMS has been shared with DHS for distribution to end users.

### **Risk communication and community engagement**

- WHO is planning to launch a Facebook campaign on COVID-19 vaccines & breastfeeding, and pregnancy in Cambodia. Campaign will be launched in October 2021.
- WHO has supported a Community Engagement research initiative in Cambodia, whereby enhance application of ICT tools to promote interaction between health care providers and patients is being used. The final results of the research will be out in October 2021.
- WHO with MoH has finalized and shared translated key messages and social media tiles on 'do it all' and 'living with virus' to promote new normal.
- WHO HQ has released new informative videos on whether you can get vaccinated against COVID-19 if you are pregnant, breastfeeding, menstruating or wanting to have a baby. These has been shared with NCHP/MoH and will be available on open platform in coming week. WHO is also working on static tiles with a more condensed version which can be used for social media sites to promote the key messages.
- WHO is closely working with MoH in strengthening community engagement, engaging local influencers, VHSOs, health care workers and local authorities in priority provinces.



## Transmission Assessment

The current multi-source surveillance assessment indicates Phnom Penh, Preah Sihanouk, Kampong Speu, Kandal, Takeo, Kampot, Banteay Meanchey, Battambang, Kampong Cham, Kampong Chhnang, Prey Veng, Preah Vihear, Svay Rieng, Tbong Khmum, Stung Treng, Kampong Thom, Siem Reap and Oddar Meanchey are in stage 2 transmission (localized community transmission), the other 7 provinces (Koh Kong, Kep, Kratie, Pailin, Pursat, Mondulakiri, and Ratanakiri) are in Stage 1 transmission.

### Epi Update COVID-19

#### Tests

**66,481**

NAT Tests past 7 days

**2,058,880**

Cumulative NAT Tests

#### Cases

**3,549**

New cases past 7 days  
(3.1% 7-day)

**113,475**

#### Deaths

**145**

Deaths past 7 days  
(6 % 7-day)

**2,406**

Cumulative Cases

**3,152**

Imported cases in the past  
28 days

**379**

Imported cases past 7 days

### Health Service Provision COVID-19

**225**

Hospitals admitting  
COVID-19 patients

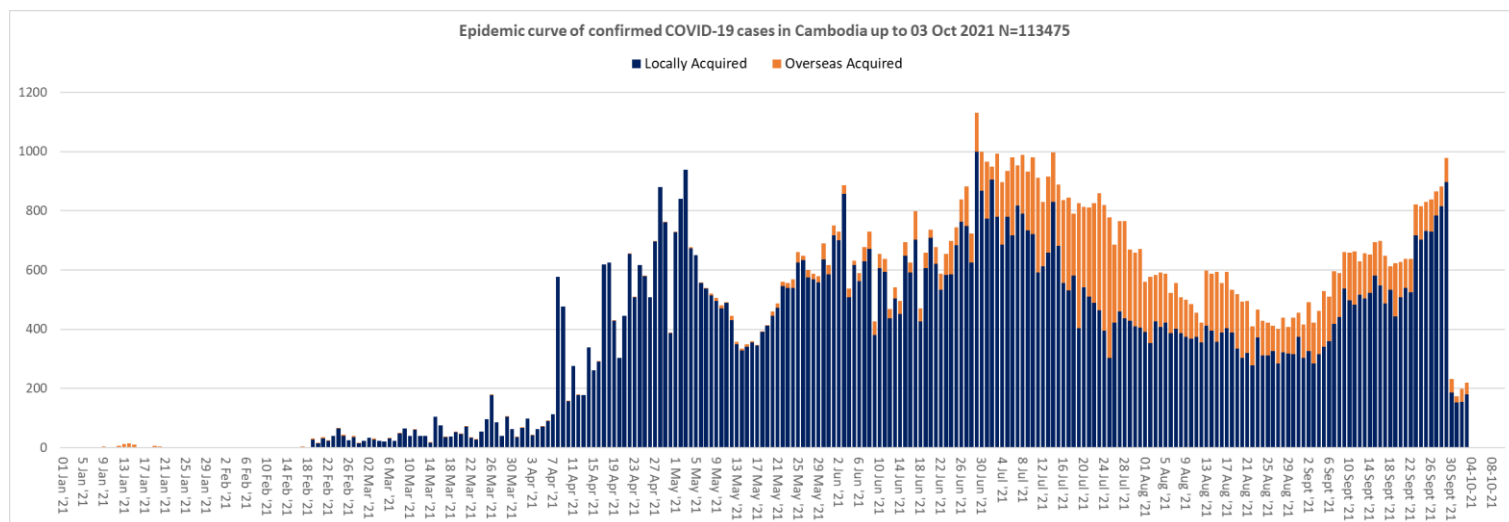
**13,782**

Total public hospital  
beds

**116**

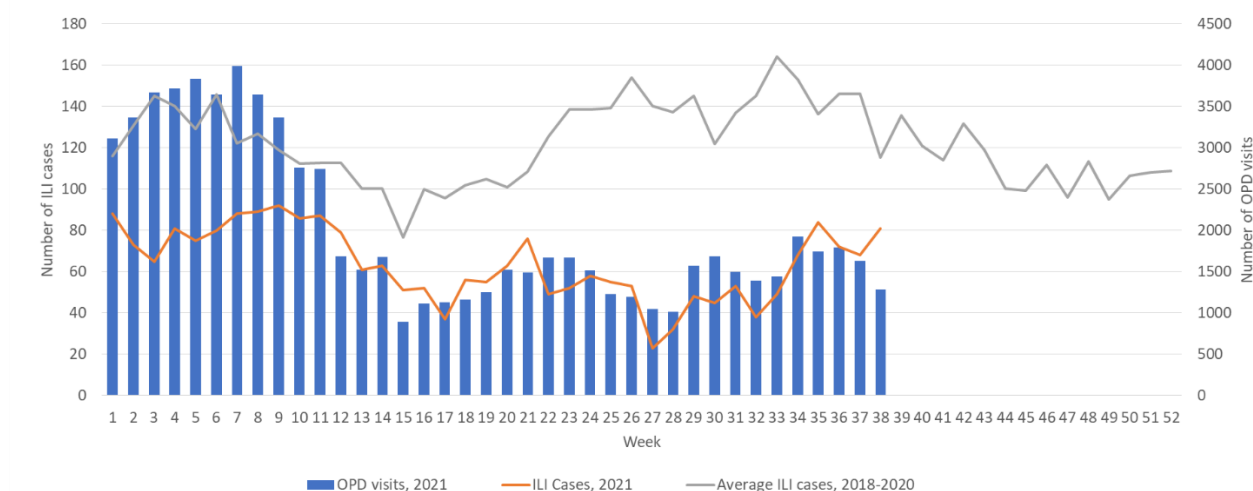
Number of hospitals with  
experience in COVID-19 case  
management (including 9 in  
PP, 27 provincial hospitals  
and 80 District Hospitals)

## Epidemiology



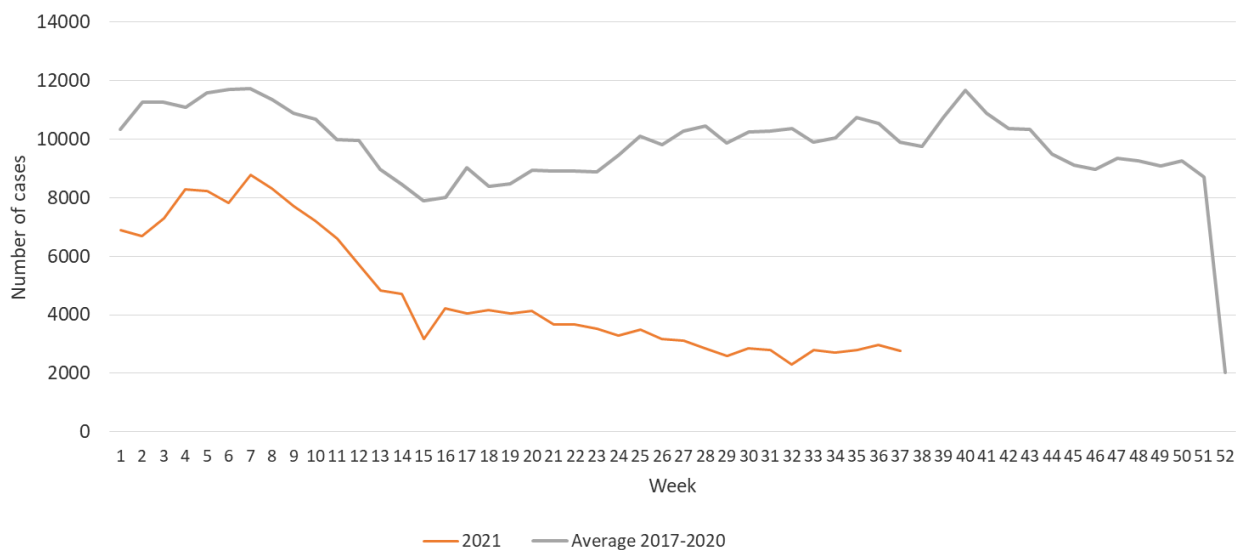
**Figure 1. Epidemic curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases by date of report, 2021\***

\*as of 30 Sep 2021 only RT-PCR test results are being reported in the case numbers



**Figure 2. Number of ILI cases from ILI sentinel sites by week, 2021 and 2018-2020\***

\*Delayed reporting for some sentinel sites in recent weeks



**Figure 3. Number of patients with severe respiratory illness by week, 2021 and 2017-2020**

## Strategic Approach

### National and Provincial Public Health Response

#### Incident Management Systems

- National COVID-19 Committee (CCC), chaired by Samdech Prime Minister
- Standing committee of CCC, Chaired by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Finance
  - ❖ Municipal-Provincial COVID-19 committees, chaired by Municipal-Provincial Governors
  - ❖ Ad Hoc committee on national COVID-19 vaccination
  - ❖ Ad-Hoc committee in charge of COVID-19 vaccine procurement
- Inter-Ministerial Committee, chaired by the Minister of Health, with Secretaries of State
- Sub-committee for Evaluation, Planning, and Strategy, chaired by Secretary of State of the Ministry of Health
- Sub-Committee for Management at Points of Entry and Quarantine, chaired by Director-General of the General Department of Intelligence, Ministry of National Defense
- Sub-Committee for Rapid Response and Investigation into Persons with COVID-19, chaired by Deputy National Police Commissioner, Ministry of Interior
- Technical and Treatment Sub-Committee, chaired by Secretary of State, Ministry of Health
- Sub-Committee for Laboratory Services, chaired by Secretary of State, Ministry of Health
- Sub-Committee for Education, Training and Public Affairs, chaired by Secretary of State, Ministry of Health
- Sub-Committee for Supplies and Finance chaired by Secretary of State, Ministry of Health
- Sub-Committee on Technology and Data chaired by Secretary of State, Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications
- Sub-Committee for Construction and Repair chaired by Deputy Commissioner of National Police, Ministry of Interior
- Sub-Committee for Management and Handling of Bodies of Persons with Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19 chaired by Secretary of State, Ministry of Interior
- 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 a multisource dataset on testing and surveillance.

#### Key Priorities

- WHO have supported MOH to conduct joint field missions to the provinces throughout April-September to support local preparedness and response for COVID-19.

- A survey of clinical management and infection prevention and control training is being implemented by MOH/DHS to support the development of a national curriculum for COVID-19.
- 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.
- The laboratory expansion strategy and molecular diagnostics training plan are being implemented to ensure sustained testing for COVID-19 at the National and Regional level.
- Strengthening local preparedness to prepare for potential localized outbreak and other public health emergencies in the future and minimizing 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. Targeted testing of high-risk populations is 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 center 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.
- *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 a budget of \$62 million for the first year.
  - ❖ On 01 July 2021, Samdech Prime Minister introduced six COVID-19 response strategies that are aimed at preventing the importation of new variants, reducing cases, providing effective and standard treatment, strengthening contact tracing and management, handling of bodies and vaccination.
- **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.
  - ❖ Risk-based approach for the development of targeted communication materials for at-risk groups, including migrants and garment factory workers, markets, prisons, restaurants/pubs, etc.
  - ❖ Community engagement strategy being rolled out to encompass all aspects of surveillance and response for COVID-19, particularly in the event of community transmission.
  - ❖ Close coordination and collaboration with other UN agencies, INGOs, and other stakeholders on RCCE implementation, monitoring, adapting, and reinforcing.
- **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 Point.

## COVID-19 Vaccinations

### As of 4 October 2021:

- **COVID-19 vaccine updated**  
The Royal Government of Cambodia received 35,606,640 doses of COVID-19 vaccines
  - ❖ 28,500,000 (80%) doses procured from China
  - ❖ 4,715,040 (13%) doses donated: People's Republic of China (4,300,000) and the United Kingdom (415,040)
  - ❖ 2,391,600 (7%) doses through COVAX (including dose sharing from Japan and USA)
 Next arrival: 124,800
  - ❖ 124,800 doses of Sinovac through COVAX, expected to arrive early October
 COVID-19 vaccination Roll Out
  1. **COVID-19 vaccination coverage of health care workers and the elderly ≥ 60 years old:**
    - ❖ 42,562 (98%) health care workers were vaccinated with first dose and
    - ❖ 42,556 (98%) health care workers were vaccinated with second dose of COVID-19 vaccine
    - ❖ 1,372,272 (100%) elderly aged ≥ 60 years old were vaccinated with first dose and
    - ❖ 1,289,628 (94%) elderly aged ≥ 60 years old were with second dose of COVID-19 vaccine
  2. **COVID-19 Vaccination roll out for ≥ 18 years:**
    - ❖ 9,913,395 people were vaccinated with first dose of COVID-19 vaccine (99 % of target population ≥ 18 years).



- ❖ 9,497,809 people were vaccinated with second dose of COVID-19 vaccine (95 % of target population  $\geq$  18 years).
- ❖ The proportion of female receiving the first and second dose is 50% among total doses vaccinated.
- ❖ Out of 25 provinces, eighteen (18) provinces reported vaccination coverage with first dose  $\geq$  90%, and seven (7) Provinces reported 50 % to 89%. Fourteen (14) provinces reported vaccination coverage with second dose  $\geq$  90% and eleven (11 ) provinces reported 50 % to 89%

### **3. COVID-19 Vaccination roll out from 12 years to under 18 years :**

- ❖ 1,763,850 children were vaccinated with first dose of COVID-19 vaccine (90 % of target population from 12 to under 18 years old)
- ❖ 1,633,684 children were vaccinated with second dose of COVID-19 vaccine (83 % of target population from 12 to under 18 years)
- ❖ The proportion of female receiving the first is 49 % and second dose is 50% among total doses vaccinated.
- ❖ Out of 25 provinces, sixteen (16) provinces reported vaccination coverage of first dose  $\geq$  90%, and nine (9) Provinces reported 50 % to 89%
- ❖ Seven (7) provinces reported vaccination coverage of second dose  $\geq$  90% and twenty (18) provinces reported 50 % to 89%

### **4. COVID-19 Vaccination roll out from 6 years to under 12 years :**

- ❖ 1,777.139 children were vaccinated with first dose of COVID-19 vaccine (94 % of target population from 6 to under 12 years old)
- ❖ The proportion of female receiving the first dose is 49% among total doses vaccinated.

### **5. Third dose of COVID-19 Vaccination coverage:**

- ❖ 907,175 (9%) people aged  $\geq$  18 years old, including health care workers, frontline Government officials, people aged 60 years old and older, and immunocompromised persons, were vaccinated with booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine

#### **▪ Vaccine Safety:**

- ❖ 206 AEFI cases were reported from 25 provinces and AEFI reporting rate per 100,000 doses =0.83
  - ❖ AEFI reporting rate per 100,000 doses for Sinovac vaccine = (95 cases) 0.63
  - ❖ AEFI reporting rate per 100,000 doses for Sinopharm vaccine=(78 cases)=1.11
  - ❖ AEFI reporting rate per 100,000 doses for AZ COVISHIELD vaccine= (29 cases)=8.97
  - ❖ AEFI reporting rate per 100,000 doses for J&J vaccine= (3 cases)=0.38
- Conducted field monitoring and supervision of COVID-19 vaccination roll out in vaccination sites along Cambodian border with Thailand (Oddar Meanchey Province) and with Viet Nam (Svay Rieng Province).
  - Conducted Rapid Convenience Assessment (RCA) at villages bordering with Thailand to ensure all target populations are not left behind especially in villages bordering with Thailand, elderly populations, vulnerable populations
    - ❖ 5 villages in Oddar Meanchey Province (two points of entry)
    - ❖ 3 villages in Svay Rieng province (one point of entry)

- Conducted a meeting with management team of Addor Mien Chey and Svay Rieng provincial health departments to discuss on reaching to unreached and mop up strategy of COVID-19 vaccination

## Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPI)

On 3 October, the Royal Government issued a circular instructing concerned ministries-institutions, Capital-provincial administrations to closely monitor the implementation of health, administrative and legal measures for travelers using shared means of transport as well as resorts, restaurants and food stores to strengthen implementation of safe tourism measures and minimum standard operating procedures (SoP). The Government also instructed authorities to proactively provide education and take additional measures where necessary and urged ministries-institutions, the private sector, especially factories-enterprises to test their workers-employees after Pchum Ben.

On 4 October, Minister of Health and Chair of the Inter-Ministerial Committee to Combat COVID-19 urged Capital-provincial governors to dutifully strengthen implementation of the national “Acting Responsibly Together to Stop COVID-19 Transmission” campaign and to promote COVID-19 vaccination among their residents.

On 4 October, Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training encouraged owners or directors of factories-enterprises to test their workers-employees after Pchum Ben and workers-employees having Pchum Ben holiday adhere to 3 do and 3 don't measures, especially mask wearing, regular handwash, physical distancing during their travels using shared means of transport.

On 4 October, Ministry of Tourism instructed owners and staff of tourism services to participate in strengthening implementation of health, administrative and legal measures, especially safety tourism measures and minimum SoP and encouraged owners of tourism service businesses to test their tourism operators after Pchum Ben and regularly monitor their health. Tourism operators having Pchum Ben holiday are required to strictly implement 3 do and 3 don't measures when traveling using shared means of transportation, gatherings with family members and people.

Over the past week,

- Battambang, Kep and Phnom Penh instructed all authorities to implement the Royal Government's circular on strengthening measures against COVID-19 during and after Pchum Ben, encouraging public institutions and the private sector, especially factories to test their civil servants and workers after the holiday as well as calling on the public to exercise extra vigilance and adhere to Ministry of Tourism's safety tourism and other measures;
- Oddar Meanchey, Preah Vihear and Siem Reap nullified all earlier zoning measures. Siem Reap also ended entry health screening at its provincial border checkpoints;
- Kampong Cham, Kandal, Oddar Meanchey, Preah Vihear, Siem Reap and Svay Rieng extended COVID-19 administrative measures, such as ban on high-risk employment, occupation or business activities, gatherings of people, alcohol sales. Banteay Meanchey, Kampong Cham and Siem Reap also extended curfew; and
- Three factories Preah Sihanouk's special economic zone, 3 markets in Siem Reap and Prey Veng were closed, while 3 markets in Oddar Meanchey, Preah Sihanouk and Preah Vihear were reopened

**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	03 May 2021	National	Required		No
School Closure	16 March 2020	15 September 2021	National	Recommended	Yes	No
Workplace Closure	None	None				
Mass Gatherings	3 April 2020	19 June 2021	National	Required	No	No
Stay at Home	Government recommends staying home if possible	None				
Restrictions on Internal Movement (within country)	9 April 2020	29 July 2021	National	Recommended	Yes	No
Restrictions on International Travel	27 March 2020	11 November 2020	National	Required	Yes	No
Others; specify in narrative	None	None	-	-	-	-