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## Interim Guidelines for Reopening Tourism

### Objective

This document aims to provide Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and guidance on Public Health Measures to combat health hazards posed by revival of tourism in the country during COVID-19 pandemic.

### Rationale

Revival of tourism is an important component of move towards normalcy. Protocols have been designed to minimize the risk of SARS CoV-2 transmission at tourist resorts. These include specific measures to ensure safety and health of tourists and local populations.

### General Measures

- The potential tourists should ensure that they are healthy and physically fit before embarking on the journey
- Mandatory collection of Negative COVID-19 PCR report along with CNICs by Hotels / guest houses management should be ensured before booking of rooms
- Those guests who are vaccinated should be requested to deposit copy of authentic vaccination certificate
- Hotels / Guest houses would not book rooms for people above 50 years of age without vaccination certificates after 1st June 2021
- Hotels / Guest houses would not book rooms for people between over 30 years of age without vaccination certificates after 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021 without vaccination certificates. Booking of rooms can be done by showing negative PCR report (taken within 72 hours) is to be checked till 30 June 2021 to allow boarding
- **Gilgit-Baltistan-bound flights**
  1. Effective 1 July 2021, PIA /domestic airlines would not allow boarding to tourists over 30 years, unless they are in possession of authentic vaccination certificate
  2. Negative Covid PCR test result (taken within 72 hours) is to be checked till 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021 to allow boarding.
  3. Random testing using RAT may be undertaken for inbound tourists at GB airports if deemed appropriate by GB government.



- Exemptions: locals, residents including government officials, their families and government employees visiting GB for official purposes are exempted from aforementioned conditions. However, vaccination of locals and residents including government servants of GB be pursued at priority in line with National Vaccination policy”
- At all entry points to travel areas the local administration will arrange check posts manned by LEA where all travelers have to register and fill up a Health Declaration Form (HDF) (Annex “A”). Filling up of this form is mandatory for all travellers before proceeding further.
- Travelers should ensure adequate supplies of masks and sanitizers before they embark on the trip.

### **Nepal Porters**

High altitude porters from Nepal, being imperative for high altitude mountaineering expeditions may be allowed to enter Pakistan (through exemptions) with stringent protocols, as appended below:’-

- a) Handling by registered tour operators
- b) Compulsory vaccination have to produce authentic **Vaccination Certificate**
- c) Negative R-PCR Report before boarding (maximum 72 hours old)
- d) RAT on arrival
- e) Mandatory quarantine for 10 days (self-paid)
- f) Exclusive arrangements for safe transportation from airport onwards by tour operators

**PTDC** should ensure dissemination of guidelines to all stakeholders. They should also maintain record of all mountaineering expeditions and share with NCOC on weekly basis

**GB Tourism Department /Local Administration** should ensure implementation of SOPs in coordination with all stakeholders including tour operators

## **Preventive Measures for Hotel Administration**

### **General Precautionary Measures**

- Administrations of hotels, motels, guest houses, restaurants & tour operators are advised to disseminate COVID-19 SOPs and ensure their implementation.
- Ensure hotel/resort is always clean and hygienic
- Ensure cleaning of spaces (lobbies, restrooms, hallways, public bathrooms, parking area, hotel entrance, lobby, restaurant and Spas) and shared items (door handles/knobs, elevator buttons, stair bannisters, tabletops remotes, light switches) with disinfectants. Disinfect the surfaces (e.g. tables and chairs) and objects (e.g. telephones, papers, pens) with recommended disinfectant (alcohol or chlorine-based) regularly, e.g 6-8 hourly depending on occupancy.
- Place sanitizers at entrances and exits and in all prominent places. Refill dispensers regularly
- Display posters promoting hand-washing and respiratory etiquette (Annex: B)
- Thermal screening of all the people entering hotels/resorts
- Sanitize vehicles used by the tourists by wiping with disinfectant solution (chlorine-based)
- Encourage social distancing of 6 feet at all times
- Ensure use of face masks
- It is the responsibility of hotel administration to inform the tourists about the local SOPs, precautionary measures and available health-care facilities at nearby hospitals from tourist spots.



- Provinces / Federating Units are directed to formulate mechanism of stringent administrative actions including fines, penalties and closures to ensure compliance of SOPs

### Measures at Entrance and Reception

- Ensure thermal scanning. Devise procedures to deal with guest who may have fever
- Masks to be worn by reception (and other staff) staff at all times. Hand hygiene after every encounter with the guests
- Disinfect the reception area and hotel lobby at regular intervals (6-8 hourly) and ensure adequate ventilation;
- Mark out spaces clearly using measuring instruments to make social distancing of 6 feet easy to follow for the guests at reception, lounging areas and in other areas of the hotel/resort
- Ensure availability and use of face masks by all guests and employees
- One Room should be allotted per person or 2 x adults along with kids

### Accommodation

- Disinfect the space of each room thoroughly after checking- out, along with complete disinfection of furniture and equipment available in the room, in particular a telephone, mini bar and TV with remote control using recommended disinfectant (alcohol- or chlorine-based)
- Change the bedding according to safety standards
- Daily disinfection of bathroom rooms with chlorine-based disinfectants
- Availability of hand sanitizers in all rooms
- Housekeeping staff work must wear gloves and masks while performing their duties and maintain a safe distance from the guests

### Restaurants

- Open the restaurant and bar daily for a limited time (follow local administration SOPs)
- Deliver meals preferably to the rooms
- Disinfect room service trolleys and waiter trays after service
- Sanitize the cutlery, porcelain and glass each time in accordance with sanitary procedures

### Measures for Tourism Operators

- Daily health check and thermal screening of staff is essential.
- Protect staff wellbeing by ensuring adequate supply of PPEs and hand sanitizers.
- Provide all staff with a copy of these guidelines
- Have provisions in place to record visitor contact details on booking or entry (details of tourists, including CNIC numbers, phone numbers, and home addresses)
- The Tour Operators and Hoteliers must share bookings and visit information of each tourist with concerned district tourism office on the attached format (Annex-B). The manager of the hotel shall be responsible to maintain all record. The AD Tourism will further disseminate it with Directorate/ Secretariat of Tourism and Concerned DC on daily basis



## Foreign Tourists

- Foreign tourists to follow policy on Inbound Passengers regarding test and quarantine; vaccination certificate would be required as mentioned above

## **Preventive Measures at Public Space / Tourist Spots**

- It is mandatory for all tourists to always wear face masks in public places, carry hand sanitizers and use them frequently
- Drivers ferrying people to tourist spots are required to wear masks and perform frequent hand hygiene
- Prior to entry to a tourist spot, thermal screening of each visitor is to be carried out
- Anyone found with an elevated body temperature should be subject to further examination and if needed could be placed in quarantine, according to the SOPs
- Restaurants in tourist areas are advised to comply with guidelines issued by NCOC for dining-in / out as part of general NPIs
- Dispersed camping may be allowed with stringent monitoring mechanisms
- Tour operators, tour guides, hotels, guest houses & restaurant staff, porters etc. must be vaccinated according to National Vaccination Policy
- Direct link of all tourist spots with nearest health facility must be formalized by local administrations
- Random sampling / sentinel testing using RAT of tourists by GB at entry points or designated spots and tourist areas
- NTCB / PTDC to carryout regular liaison with all stakeholders to render input for “Review of Guidelines on Tourism” by NCOC with a view to ensure implementation of COVID SOPs

*Note: The above recommendations are being regularly reviewed by the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination and will be updated based on the international recommendations and best practices.*

*The Ministry acknowledges the contribution of Dr. Saira Kanwal and HSA/ HPSIU/ NIH team to compile these guidelines.*



## References

1. Operational considerations for COVID-19 management in the accommodation sector WHO (31 March 2020)
2. <https://www.newsweekpakistan.com/khyber-pakhtunkhwa-issues-guidelines-to-resume-tourism/>
3. [http://www.tourism.gov.pk/publications/strat\\_covid.pdf](http://www.tourism.gov.pk/publications/strat_covid.pdf)

**For more information, please contact:**

HSA/ HPSIU/ NIH, PM National Health Complex, Islamabad

<http://covid.gov.pk/>

<http://nhsrc.gov.pk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/NHSRCOfficial>

<http://www.hsa.edu.pk/>

<https://twitter.com/nhsrcofficial>

<https://www.nih.org.pk/>

<https://www.youtube.com/NHSRC-PK>



**Annex-A**

**HEALTH DECLARATION FORM  
(Questionnaire for travelers)**

**DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION**

Name:	
Contact number:	
Nationality:	
Passport or ID Card Number:	
Age:	Gender:
Home Address:	

**TRAVEL HISTORY**

Recent travel history (with in last 14 days)	
Trip plan: Areas intended to be visited	
Address of Hotel/Place of stay	
Date of return:	

**HEALTH STATUS**

Any medical history (Diabetes, blood pressure, heart problem etc.)		
Do you have any of the symptom:		
<input type="checkbox"/> High Temperature	<input type="checkbox"/> Cough	<input type="checkbox"/> Sneezing
<input type="checkbox"/> Shortness of breath	<input type="checkbox"/> any other	specify:

Corona test result if carried out in last 7 days:

Date:

Signature\_\_\_\_\_



## Annex-B

### Daily Health Check

#### DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Name:	
Contact number:	
Nationality:	
Passport or ID Card Number:	
Age:	Gender:
Home Address:	
Emergency Contact:	

#### DAILY UPDATE

DATE	SYMPTOMS					Areas visited	Signature
	Temperature	Cough (dry)	Flu like symptoms	Difficulty in breathing	others		

Note: Hotel administration will ensure checking of temperature with thermo-gun. Traveler will fill rest of the form and this form will be retained by the Hotel to be submitted to local administration at checkout of traveler.



## Annex-C

# COVER YOUR COUGH

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze  
OR
- Cover your mouth and nose using your upper sleeve, not your hands, when you cough or sneeze
- Put the used tissue in a waste basket
- Wash your hands with soap and water  
OR
- Clean them with an alcohol-based hand rub if soap and water are not available

If you're visiting a hospital or personal care home when you have a cough or cold, you may be asked to put on a surgical mask to protect others from infection.

**HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF INFECTION**