

IT'S A BUSY SEASON AHEAD FOR HEALTH AUTHORITIES

Beginning of new school year, approaching Hajj season

DT News Network
Manama

Health authorities are gearing up for a busy season this month, considering the beginning of the new school year and the approaching Hajj season.

In a recent statement to *DT News*, Health Minister Sadiq Al Shehabi confirmed that the ministry is sparing no effort in preparing for the new school year and Hajj, to maintain the safety of students and pilgrims.

"We have commenced intensified coordination with Education Ministry in this regard, headed by the Minister Dr. Majid Al Nuaimi. We aim at improving the School Healthcare Programme and healthcare services the ministry provides to pupils, so we can

start a healthy new school year," Al Shehabi told *DT News* on the sidelines of the opening ceremony of the Gulf Pharma-Medical Conference.

In a recent meeting with the ministry's Hajj Medical Committee, the Minister ordered the 46 members of the panel to serve pilgrims and ensure their well being, particularly the elderly and those suffering from chronic diseases. The panel is set to leave for Saudi Arabia on Monday, where it will be stationed to serve Bahraini pilgrims throughout the pilgrimage season. It consists of 46 medical staff, including doctors, nurses, pharmacists, health inspectors and medical technicians.

During the meeting, which



Sadiq Al Shehabi

was held on Wednesday, Al Shehabi instructed the committee members to concentrate on raising more awareness among pilgrims. He

also highlighted the importance of protecting pilgrims from infectious diseases and epidemics, particularly the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) and Ebola virus.

Speaking on similar lines, Assistant Undersecretary for Hospital Affairs Dr. Waleed Al Manea said, "Awareness is the first weapon used by health authorities to tackle infectious diseases."

"We are currently promoting the cultures of cleanness, hand washing, avoiding direct contact with patients, recognising symptoms and reporting diseases to authorities. Such methods are being intensively promoted among pilgrims and students," he explained.

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Dr. Al Manea also said, "We should follow the culture of isolation. Parents should prevent their children from attending classes in case they are sick. This way they contribute in the protection of other students and limiting the spread of diseases."

Speaking more about the ministry's preparations for the new school year, Dr. Al Manea

added, "In Bahrain, we have the School Healthcare Programme, which includes all schools in the country. The programme is responsible for organising immunisation campaigns, in addition to implementing screening processes of students of all stages. Screening includes infectious diseases, blood diseases, nutrition and vital medical checkups."

Energy Minister receives MP Jamal Dawood

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Minister of Energy Abdulhussain Mirza received Member of Parliament Jamal Dawood here yesterday as part of his initiative to elicit more information on the needs of citizens.

The minister welcomed Dawood and said he was impressed with the MP's personal follow-up on the needs of citizens and his efforts to raise those issues in the House of Representatives. He said this stemmed from the desire of the leadership to serve the needs of all citizens.

Jamal Dawood MP thanked Dr. Mirza for the warm reception and the hospitality and expressed his readiness to

co-operate with the officials of the ministry in providing better services to citizens. He praised the minister's efforts and all the employees of the energy sector to overcome all

the obstacles to achieve the best services. Electricity and Water Authority Industrial Security Administration Director Walid Abdullah Mohammed also attended the meeting.

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During the meeting

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