

Anti-covid nasal spray reaches Bahrain

NHRA gives the nod for a clinical trial to test Enovid nasal spray against COVID-19 in Bahrain

● Enovid is on sale in Israel for \$42

● The spray, SaNOTize says, solution has proved effective against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, and its variants Alpha, Beta, Gamma, in lab tests conducted at Utah State University's Antiviral Research Institute.

● The spray releases a small dose of nitric oxide and is designed to kill viruses in the upper airways.

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Picture for representation

Enovid, the Nitric Oxide Nasal Spray showed to have reduced SARS-CoV-2 viral load in a Phase II trial, has received the approval of Bahrain's National Health Regulatory Authority to hold a Clinical study for it to use as a treatment against the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in Bahrain.

Daily Tribune had reported quoting 'nocamels' that the nasal spray developed by SaNOTize Research and Development Corporation is rolling out the product in Israel and Bahrain.

In Israeli pharmacies, Enovid is going on sale for US\$42, which Dr Gilly Regev, the Israeli-Canadian scientist who co-founded SaNOTize, has said the company is looking to bring down. It is for people 12 years of age and older.

NHRA statement says the authorisation follows a review of the documents and data on Enovid by the Ministry of Health supporting a clinical trial.

The trials will be among volunteers who are already diagnosed with COVID-19, whose

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Earlier this year, Enovid was granted an emergency use authorization as a medical device by Israel's Ministry of Health and began a local production line. It has been approved for people 12 years of age and older.

symptoms are mild.

The approval for the spray will be as a preventive treatment or as a treatment for mild symptoms.

Based on approval, the prod-

uct will be available for purchase from the market without a prescription.

The sprayer developed by the Canada-based company has been certified by NHRA as patented technology.

The nasal spray kills the virus in the upper airways, preventing it from incubating and spreading to the lungs. According to results announced by SaNOTize, early treatment helps reduce the effects of the virus. The study found that patients treated with the spray showed a reduction of around 95% in viral replication in the first 24 hours and more than 99% within 72 hours. There are no recorded side effects.

Enovid was granted an emergency use authorisation as a medical device by Israel's Ministry of Health earlier this year. News Zealand had also given interim approval for the sale of NONS.

Enovid provides a physical and chemical barrier to protect from viruses by releasing a small dose of nitric oxide (NO), a natural nano molecule with proven anti-microbial properties, including against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

Reuters had said NONS had begun its manufacturing in Israel

95%

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under the brand name Enovid in March this year.

Yellow level

Bahrain is currently aiming to inoculate at least 80% of individuals aged 40 and above who have had two doses of Sinopharm vaccine with booster shots.

Till then, the yellow light will be the lowest level the Kingdom will be able to reach on its COVID-19 alert system modelled on the four colour traffic light system.

The Yellow alert level is in play since 1 August 2021.

Once 80% of those eligible had received their booster doses, the Green level will be back.

The interval between the second dose of Sinopharm and a booster shot is one month for eligible individuals aged 40 and above.

Operate with 30% capacity: Taskforce tells Cinemas

Yellow level

When the rolling average percentage of positive cases out of tests carried out is between 2 - 5% for 7 days.

Only the red, orange, and yellow alert levels will be adopted during this phase until at least 80% of individuals aged 40 and above have received a booster shot.

The following activities are for vaccinated and non-vaccinated individuals

- Retail shops
- Entering standalone government centers
- Providing the option to attend education and training institutions
- Holding of private events at home, with no more than 30 attendees

Limited to:

- Vaccinated green shield holders
- Those recovered from COVID-19
- Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by a vaccinated or a recovered person

Shopping malls

- Restaurants and cafes indoor services
- Indoor gyms, sport halls and swimming pools
- Cinemas with up to 30% of the facility's capacity
- Barber shops, salons and spas
- Playgrounds and entertainment centers
- Events and conferences
- Audience attendance at sporting events

The essential sectors that will remain open are:

Hypermarkets, supermarkets, grocery stores, and stores that sell meat products and fresh vegetables, bakeries, fuel and gas stations, private health clinics, with the exception of some health services for which a circular is to be issued by the National Health Regulatory Authority, banks and currency exchange services, administrative offices of institutions and companies, whose activities are not directly customer facing, airport and export distributors, automobile repair and spare parts shops, businesses operating in the processing, construction and maintenance sectors, factories, telecom operators, pharmacies.

● Earlier, yellow level allowed 50% capacity for Cinemas

● No changes in any other Yellow level restrictions

● The decision effective Thursday

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Cinemas in the Kingdom should operate only at 30% of their capacity, said the National Medical Taskforce in a statement.

The new decision, effective Thursday, modifies the activities allowed while in the Yellow level of the COVID-19 alert system modelled on the traffic light system.

As per an earlier decision, the yellow level allows Cinemas to operate with up to 50% of the facility's capacity.

Officials said the thresholds set for each alert level are subject to change depending on

developments.

Entry to cinemas is only for vaccinated green shield holders, those recovered from COVID-19.

Besides, a vaccinated or a recovered person should accompany children under the age of 12.

The new decision, the Taskforce said, is in line with the latest data, with approval from the Government Executive Committee.

The Taskforce also reiterated the importance of adhering to preventive measures to protect public health.

Meanwhile, Civil Service Authority said it is revising the percentage of work-from-home policy across all government entities in the yellow level to 30% from the previous 50%. In the red light, it will be 70% and Orange 50%.

Entry to service centres and government offices is limited to vaccinated and recovered individuals in the red and orange levels. A vaccinated or recovered person should accompany those under the age of 12 years.

Witnesses to testify in BD1.5m money laundering case

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The High Criminal Court summoned prosecution witnesses to testify in a case, which accuses a 37-year-old Bahraini man and an Arab national of laundering BD1.5 million.

Court files say the Bahraini man embezzled the money from 23 others by hoodwinking them into thinking that he owns companies specialised in providing commercial and technological consultations.

Investigators found the suspects were using an account in the name of a company owned by the Arab man in his home country for laundering the amounts collected from the victims.

To avoid suspicion and to transfer the amount, the pair also signed a recruitment agree-

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The defendant came to me and requested me to lend him BD13000, although I didn't know him. He managed to convince me that my father was his friend and he was trustworthy. After three days, I gave him BD3000.

ONE OF THE VICTIMS

ment. Victims, court files say, are all occupying high-ranking positions.

During interrogation, one of

the victims told the court: "The defendant came to me and requested me to borrow BD13000, although I didn't know him. He managed to convince me that my father was his friend and he was trustworthy. After three days, I gave him BD3000."

"After a few days, he came back to me and gave me the BD3000 back, but he offered me to invest the money with great returns. This time I gave him BD84,000. It was a trap," he added.

The suspects, investigators found, followed the same trick with all other victims.

Police found that the man was offering investing services without having a valid license to operate in that capacity in the Kingdom.

The suspects were running the fraudulent scheme from their homes.

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For further enquiries, please call customer service centre on phone number 800 00 808 or visit Manama Branch.

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