

Bahrain will decide whether to resume its national sports competitions or cancel them on July 1.

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Fifth COVID-19 death in Bahrain

TD | Manama

The Ministry of Health announced last night the death of a 70-year-old Bahraini national, who was a registered active case of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

The deceased male was suffering from underlying and chronic health problems, the Health Ministry said. He was placed in isolation and received extensive 24-hour treatment from a specialised medical team.

His passing marked the fifth death related to the coronavirus in Bahrain.

The Health Ministry expressed its heartfelt condolences to the individual's family at this difficult time.

The Ministry highlighted that, excluding three cases, all other 341 active COVID-19 cases remain stable, and all patients continue to receive treatment following guidelines provided by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The total tested in the Kingdom has reached 50,320.

Legal steps to be taken against rumour-monger

TD | Manama

The Ministry of Interior announced yesterday that it is taking legal steps against a Bahraini woman for circulating false information about home delivery workers being infected with the coronavirus (COVID-19).

The Ministry stressed to seek information only from official sources and ignore rumours.

Strict penalties have been announced for anybody spreading false reports amidst the current crisis involving COVID-19.



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Interior Minister hails efforts of contact-tracing team

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Airline shutdown to cost Middle East 0.9 million jobs, says IATA Report

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210 fils (includes VAT)



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The National Taskforce for Combatting the Coronavirus (COVID-19) announced yesterday several new measures to mitigate the spread of the disease in Bahrain.

Among them are the introduction of drive-through testing at Bahrain International Convention and Exhibition Centre, the requirement of all citizens and residents to wear face masks when in public, and a two-week extension of certain measures that have already been in place since last month.

These were revealed at a press conference last night at the Crown Prince Centre for Training and Medical Research.

In attendance were Minister of Health Faeqa bint Saeed Al Saleh; Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism Zayed R. Al Zayani; Infectious Diseases Consultant and Microbiologist at Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) Hospital and National Taskforce for Combating COVID-19 member Lt. Col. Dr. Manaf Al Qahtani; and Infectious and Internal Diseases consultant at Salmaniya Medical Complex Dr. Jameela Al Salman.

The announcements followed a remote meeting held earlier yesterday of the Government Executive Committee, chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister.

Health Minister Al Saleh noted that Bahrain will continue to overcome all challenges presented by the virus with the continued support of His Majesty King Hamad Al Khalifa, who directed free COVID-19 treatment for all citizens and residents.

Al Saleh noted that the Kingdom will continue to increase

The decisions of the Government Executive Committee chaired by HRH the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister



"With an observant and united society, the Kingdom of Bahrain will overcome the challenges of COVID-19"

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa

The following decisions were taken, effective from 19h00, Thursday 9 April, to Thursday 23 April:

1. Movie theatres are to remain closed.
2. All commercial sports gymnasiums, fitness studios, swimming pools and recreational activities are to remain closed.
3. The activities of restaurants, tourist facilities and places for serving food and beverages are to remain limited to external orders & delivery services.
4. Shisha cafes are to remain closed, and services offered are to remain limited to takeout & delivery of food and beverages only.
5. Salons are to remain closed.
6. All non-essential medical services provided by private health clinics are to remain suspended.
7. The first hour of grocery store openings is to remain dedicated for the elderly and pregnant women.
8. Public gatherings are to remain limited to 5 individuals or fewer. Individuals are encouraged to stay at home, only going out for necessities.
9. All citizens and residents are required to wear face masks whilst in public.
10. Commercial and industrial businesses providing goods or services directly to customers, are to open and resume work provided the following conditions are met:
 - Employees and visitors are required to wear a face mask
 - The number of employees should be reduced and overcrowding in stores should be prevented to ensure social distancing measures are maintained
 - Stores must ensure continuous sterilization, including external premises, in accordance with guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health
 - Queuing line-ups outside stores must be arranged in accordance to the social distancing measures issued by the Ministry of Health
11. Private Sector enterprises are encouraged to follow the below guidelines:
 - Remote working is to be maintained, if and when possible
 - The number of employees to be limited at any certain location or office and employees should adhere to social distancing measures
 - Number of employees using corporate transportation methods, such as buses, to be reduced



At the Press conference yesterday, from left, were Dr. Al Salman, Minister Al Zayani, Minister Al Saleh and Dr. Al Qahtani

access to COVID-19 testing, and announced the introduction of drive-through testing at Bahrain International Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Industry Minister Al Zayani detailed additional precautionary measures introduced by the Government Executive Committee, which includes obliging citizens

and residents to wear face masks when in public.

Al Zayani said that face masks will be made available in pharmacies and shops, and highlight-

ed that home-made masks must meet the standards outlined on the Ministry's website.

Al Zayani noted that certain measures that were enacted since last month and originally scheduled to continue until tomorrow, April 9, are now to be enforced for two more weeks until April 23.

Among these, are the closure of movie theatres, sports centres, private swimming pools, shisha cafes, salons and tourist locations, and the limitation of restaurant services to delivery and takeout, to name a few.

For his part, Lt. Col. Al Qahtani stressed that requiring citizens and residents to wear face masks in public will help greatly in curbing the spread of COVID-19. He also underscored the impact of contact tracing on reducing the spread of the virus.

Meanwhile, Dr. Al Salman reviewed the health status of active cases.

In light of yesterday's announcements, HRH the Crown Prince stressed that Bahrain's enduring priority remains the health and safety of all in the Kingdom.

HRH the Crown Prince underlined that the National Taskforce is doubling its dedicated efforts to combat COVID-19 – efforts which continue in tandem with an integrated, proactive approach across the Kingdom's government, under the leadership of His Majesty the King.

HRH the Crown Prince highlighted the strength of Bahrain's telecommunications infrastructure, which has allowed for seamless communication and efficiency across all governorates.

HRH the Crown Prince reminded all in the Kingdom of their shared responsibility to contribute towards national efforts to combat the spread of COVID-19.

GCC Interior Ministers hold remote meeting

TD | Manama

The Interior Ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council member countries held their 37th meeting last night through video conferencing, chaired by UAE Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

The meeting was organised to highlight the keenness of GCC leaders to strengthen the Gulf security system, as well as develop its existing institutions, protect the security and stability of the Arabian

Gulf region, and maintain the safety of all GCC citizens and residents.

During the meeting, its participants highlighted the importance of enhancing the cooperation and coordination in police and security work of GCC member countries, to serve their common interests.

The meeting also discussed several issues and topics on its agenda related to joint security, as well as how to enhance the security and police work of GCC states, combat crime and achieve regional security.

Consulate General in Jeddah facilitates citizens' return



The Consulate General of the Kingdom of Bahrain in Jeddah, in cooperation with the relevant authorities, facilitated yesterday the return of Bahraini citizens in Mecca, Medina, Jeddah and Taif in Saudi Arabia through King Fahad Causeway. This was done after taking the necessary health measures prior to their return. Consul General to Jeddah Ebrahim M. Al Meslimani, noted the constant keenness of the Consulate General on taking all the necessary measures and facilities to ensure the safe return of Bahraini citizens in the Western Province of Saudi Arabia. He extended his sincere thanks and gratitude to the relevant authorities in Bahrain and Saudi for their cooperation. Left, a citizen's temperature is checked as part of health measures conducted prior to their return.