

Crowd, Crowd everywhere, but vanishes as cops arrive



As the Covid-19 rages on, Tribune clicked these pictures from Shaikh Hamad Avenue, Road 231, Manama 302, and Hamad Town Souq.

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Crowds are considered a fertile ground for transmission of the deadly coronavirus pandemic.

Despite this knowledge and the government cautioning people not to let their guard down, people are crowding the streets of Bahrain, also making it hard for authorities to enforce the restrictions.

By extending the nationwide restrictions to another two weeks until June 25, authorities had made it clear that the battle is far from over.

According to the National Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus (COVID-19), all the COVID-19 measure are to stay in place until June 25.

However, people are yet to get the hang of it.

Tribune found people flouting COVID-19 norms in several areas here.

Cops carrying out their rounds on the streets too voiced their concerns.

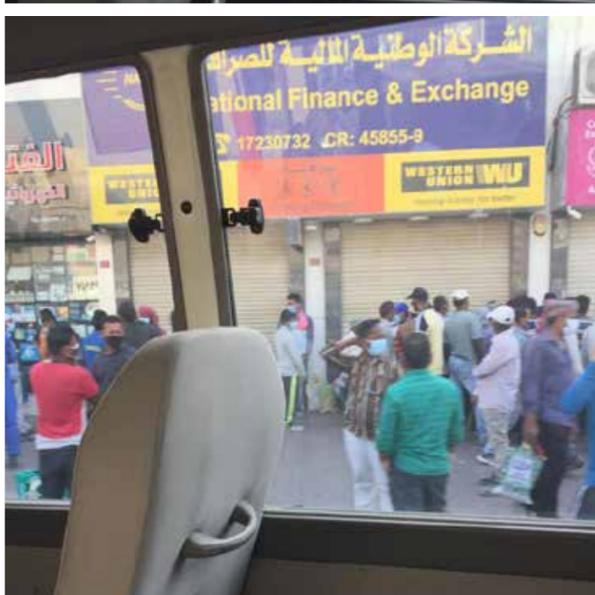
It seems like they are also unsure how to deal with this menace.

“The moment we reach the spot, people vanish into thin air and springs back five to ten minutes after we are gone,” said two officers when our reporter approached them with the pictures of the crowd.

“They keep on coming back, no matter what we do.”

This incident also points fingers at the enormous burden the frontline police officers are bearing, whose activities are much broader and not just limited to enforcing social distancing.

Not to mention the enormous pressure people are putting on



them with their irresponsible behaviours.

Seen here are people grouping in large number, keeping all

social distancing norms at bay, despite knowing that the disease primarily spreads from one person to another through respira-

Booster dose ready: Dr Al Qahtani

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As all this turmoil goes on, the National Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus (COVID-19) had announced starting efforts to administer booster doses to people.

Dr Manaf Al-Qahtani, the Infectious Disease Consultant & Microbiologist at the BDF Hospital and Member of the National Medical Taskforce, said the third dose of vaccines are for high-risk groups, who had completed three months after receiving the second dose.

People over 50 years of age, those who are obese, those suffering from immunodeficiency and those battling in the frontline are eligible to receive the booster dose now.

However, Dr Manaf Al-Qahtani also clarified that all the vaccine types as having their booster doses.

The government, he said, would announce this at a later stage.

He also revealed that the Kingdom is in touch with vaccine companies for making available booster doses.

Refuting reports that Sinopharm vaccines are weak against COVID-19, Dr Al-Qahtani said there is no basis for such allegations.

“Bahrain’s decision to vaccinate those inoculated with Sinopharm is aimed at further en-

hancing immunity, not because the vaccine is ineffective.”

Besides, the World Health Organisation had approved the Sinopharm shot for emergency use. The WHO has also said a Phase III trial had shown that its two doses, administered at an interval of 21 days, had an efficacy of 79% against symptomatic infection, 14 or more days after the second dose.

Tribune reported earlier that Bahrain is allowing peo-

Registration for the booster shot for recipients who have received two doses of Sinopharm

- Citizens and residents at risk:**
 - 3 months after their second dose
 - Individuals at significant risk of complications from a COVID-19 infection are:
 - First responders
 - Individuals over the age of 50
 - Individuals with obesity or with compromised immune systems
- Healthy individuals:**
 - 6 months after their second dose
- Patients recovered in 2020:**
 - 3 months after recovery
- Fully vaccinated patients who have recovered in 2021:**
 - Not eligible for the booster shot

Recipients must have received two doses of Sinopharm

Registration for booster shots is available via the 'BeAware Bahrain' App

ple to register for booster shots through the 'BeAware' mobile app for either the Pfizer or the Sinopharm jabs.

The Pfizer shots, an “mRNA vaccine,” contain a piece of genetic code that trains the immune system to recognise the spiked protein on the virus. On the other hand, the Sinopharm vaccine is an “inactivated” shot made by growing the whole virus in a lab and then killing it.

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Ali bin Sheikh Abdul-Hussain Al-Asfour, the Northern Governor, attends the second dose vaccination campaign at Abdul Rahman Kanoo Social Club for Parents as part of a campaign 'Hand-in-hand to defeat the Corona pandemic'. Out of the 202 members, 44 members took part in the inoculation drive. Ali bin Sheikh Abdul-Hussain Al-Asfour, the Northern Governor, praised the club members for supporting the national campaign to vaccinate citizens, especially the elderly, through mobile units. Billed as the world first service of its kind, Bahrain began delivering and administering coronavirus vaccines at people's homes in January.