

No green, just yellow, orange and red

National Medical Taskforce moves Bahrain to Yellow alert until all above 40 years of age take a booster dose

● **Booster dose recorded no side effects or adverse events**

● **Interval for receiving booster dose it trimmed to a month**

● **Out of 131,192 who took booster shots, only 71 people contracted the virus**

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The COVID-19 alert levels of Bahrain modelled on the traffic light system will have its green light curtailed, bringing Bahrain to the yellow level until at least 80% of all those above 40 years of age, who have had two doses of the Sinopharm vaccine receive their booster doses.

Bahrain had also cut down the interval between the second dose of Sinopharm and a booster shot to 1 month for individuals aged 40 and above.

Dr Waleed Khalifa Al Manea, the Undersecretary at the Ministry of Health and member of the National Medical Taskforce for Combating Coronavirus, announced these yesterday during a press conference held at the Crown Prince Centre for Training and Medical Research at the Bahrain Defence Force Hospital.

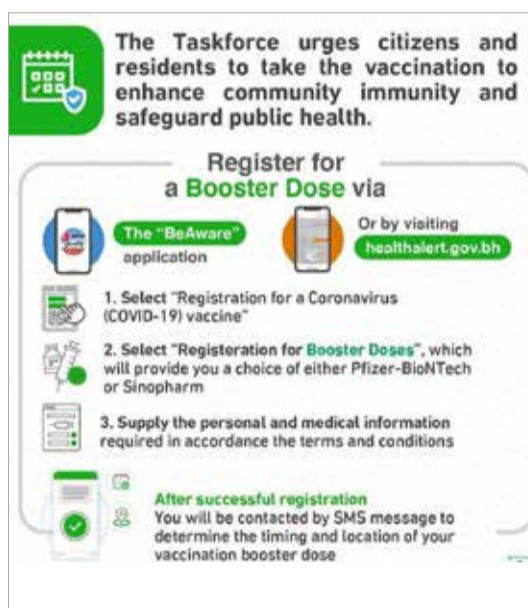
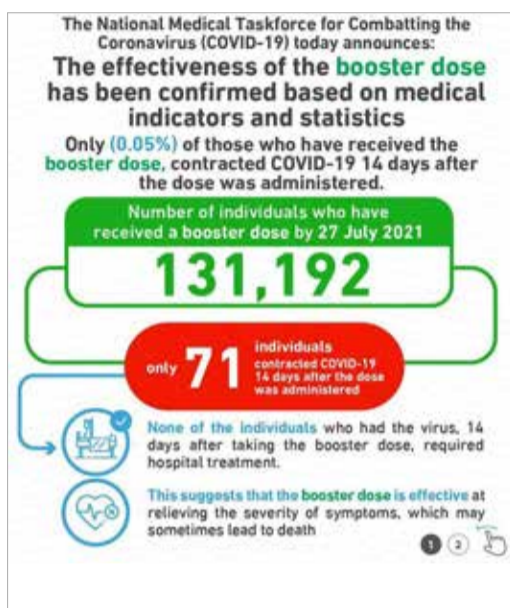
The new system, Dr Al Manea said, comes into effect starting this Sunday.

Meaning, Bahrain will remain at the yellow alert level until the government completely vaccinates 80% of all eligible adults above 40 years of age with a booster dose.

Lt. Col. Dr Manaf Al Qahtani, the Infectious Disease Consult-



Officials during the press conference



131,192 people took booster dose

Booster dose crucial for immunity: Dr Al Qahtani

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The new move accounts for the increasing spread of the mutated Delta variant in countries worldwide, affecting the stability of the vaccination.

"This calls for a booster dose in enhancing immunity and ensuring protections from the repercussions of the virus," said Dr Al Manea.

How is it done?

Dr Al Manea said that the logo on the BeAware Bahrain app would turn yellow for all those eligible to receive booster doses on 31 August 2021.

"On 31 August 2021, the colour of the logo in the app will turn yellow automatically for adults aged 40 years and over, who meet the conditions of the booster dose," said Dr Al Manea.

"This indicates the call to take the booster dose," he said, adding that the logo will turn green again after taking the booster dose. He also called on all aged 40 years and above to register for booster doses through the BeAware Bahrain app or the Ministry of Health website.

Yellow level, according to the guidelines released earlier, kicks in when the rolling average percentage of new cases out of the tests carried out is between 2% and 5% for seven days.

However, the alert level could also get changed at the directives of the Taskforce, when it is necessary for ensuring the health and safety of all.

Shed false sense of security: Dr Al Salman

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Dr Jamila Al Salman said the National Medical Team has on top priority the health of citizens and residents when reviewing their decisions and making new recommendations.

Dr Al Salman also stressed the need for taking anabolic steroid dose during the current phase to reduce prevalence rates and protect against the complications of new mutations.

She also warned that reaching the current phase should be related to a victory against the virus.

"We warn against false safety feeling and make sure to adhere strictly to social distancing and call for taking booster dose," he added.

She pointed out that most of the existing

COVID-19 patients who did not take the booster doses required hospitalisation, and the death rate among them was also high due to symptoms that accompany their infection.

Dr Al Salman also warned against listening to rumours and urged to listen only to official sources.

"We are here to ensure the safety and effectiveness of vaccination to preserve the health and safety of all."

She also clarified that there are no side effects or complications recorded among the recipients of booster doses.

"Pain at the injection spot and headache are the possible symptoms, which could be relieved by using pain killers," said Dr Al Salman.

Salman, the Consultant of Infectious and Internal Diseases, were present.

Money laundering: Court rejects Arab man's appeal

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An Arab national has had his jail terms upheld by the Cassation Court in a money laundering case.

A court earlier awarded him a five-year jail term, a BD5,000 fine and ordered the confiscation of BD14.418.226 from him.

The man, however, challenged the verdict in the Cassation Court, Bahrain's highest court.

Case files say the man landed in police custody while attempting a suspicious banking transaction.

He was tipped off to the police by another person, who claimed the Arab national tried to recruit him. Investigators found that the defendant searched for people looking to purchase top-up cards for prepaid mobile phones and sold them top-ups for a discount.

He reportedly was using stolen credit cards for the purpose.

Police said they found evidence against the man from his mobile phone.

Bahraini court orders hefty fines, jail terms in Billion-dollar sanctions-evading scheme

● **Bahraini officials had likened the bank to a Trojan horse operating inside the country**

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Bahrain's High Criminal Court handed down jail terms ranging between 5 to 10 years and fines of BD1 million to each of the defendants in a billion-dollar sanctions-busting scheme that aided Iran.

Total fines slapped in the case for all of the defendants amounts to BD19 million.

The case had in the dock officials of the Central Bank of Iran, the Future Bank in Bahrain and 13 associated Iranian banks.

The court tried all of the suspects in absentia, except for the sixth defendant.

The case, described as Bahrain's biggest money-laundering scam, involved legalising \$1.3 billion.



The court also ordered to confiscate laundered funds which include USD 148,071,818.039, and Euro976,937,627.013, and 53,350,000 Emirati Dirhams, and 235, 093,250,000 Iranian Riyals.

Bahrain's Attorney General

Dr Ali bin Fadhel Al Buainain said in a statement earlier that the unlawful banking practices carried out by the officials of Future Bank and associated Iranian Banks during the 2008-2012 period were uncovered following an intensive investigation.

Bahraini government audit had revealed that the now-defunct Future bank routinely altered financial documents to mask illicit trade between Iran and its foreign partners.

A Washington Post report earlier said that the case uncovered hundreds of bank accounts tied to individuals convicted of crimes, including money laundering, terrorism financing, and phantom loans provided to companies that operated as fronts for Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

Bahraini officials had likened the bank to a Trojan horse operating inside the country, allowing Iran to buy and sell billions of dollars worth of goods in defiance of international sanctions intended to punish Tehran over its nuclear programme and support terrorist groups.

"Bahrain has never faced violations of this magnitude," the kingdom asserted in a written summation to the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague.



Dr Ali bin Fadhel Al Buainain

Al Buainain said the Central Bank of Iran issued instructions to Future Bank for an unapproved alternative transfer system to complete banking operations to conceal the source and movement of funds.

"This benefitted Iranian banks and circumvented international sanctions and restrictions on transactions imposed against Iranian entities."

Future Bank officials, in conjunction with other Iranian bank officials and the Central Bank of Iran, carried out the orders. They received more than \$1.3 billion via an alternative system.