Global Governmental Response to COVID-19 in accordance to the World Health Organization guidelines.

Actions taken by the Kingdom of Bahrain to curb the spread of COVID-19 as of June 22, 2021.

The Kingdom of Bahrain

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The UN Compliance Research Group is a global organization which specializes in monitoring the work of the United Nations (UN). Through our professional team of academics, scholars, researchers and students we aim to serve as the world’s leading independent source of information on members’ compliance to UN resolutions and guidelines. Our scope of activity is broad, including assessing the compliance of member states to UN resolutions and plan of actions, adherence to judgments of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines and commitments made at UN pledging conferences. We’re proud to present the international community and global governments with our native research findings on states’ annual compliance with the commitments of the UN and its affiliated agencies. Our goal as world citizens is to foster a global change towards a sustainable future; one which starts with ensuring that the words of delegates are transformed into action and that UN initiatives don’t remain ink on paper. Hence, we offer policy analysis and provide advice on fostering accountability and transparency in UN governance as well as tracing the connection between the UN policy-makers and Non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Yet, we aim to adopt a neutral path and do not engage in advocacy for issues or actions taken by the UN or member states. Acting as such, for the sake of transparency. The UN Compliance Research Group dedicates all its effort to inform the public and scholars about the issues and agenda of the UN and its affiliated agencies.
The International Health Regulations (2005) are legally binding on 196 States Parties, Including all WHO Member States. The IHR aims to keep the world informed about public health risks, through committing all signatories to cooperate together in combating any future “illness or medical condition, irrespective of origin or source, that presents or could present significant harm to humans.” Under IHR, states agreed to strengthen their public health capacities and notify the WHO of any such illness in their populations. The WHO would be the centralized body for all countries facing a health threat, with the power to declare a “public health emergency of international concern,” issue recommendations, and work with countries to tackle a crisis.

Although, with the sudden and rapid spread of COVID-19 in the world, many countries varied in implementing the WHO guidelines and health recommendations. While some countries followed the WHO guidelines, others imposed travel restrictions against the WHO’s recommendations. Some states refused to share their data with the organization. Others banned the export of medical equipment, even in the face of global shortages. The UN Compliance Research group will focus during the current cycle on analyzing the compliance of the WHO member states to the organizations guidelines during the COVID-19 pandemic.
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<th>#1 Workplace and Institutions</th>
<th>#2 Educational Institutions</th>
<th>#3 Public Transportation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Decision makers should consider the following if they decide to open or close schools: Current understanding about COVID-19 transmission and severity in children, the local situation and epidemiology of COVID-19, where the school(s) are located, and the school's setting and ability to maintain COVID-19 prevention and control measures.</td>
<td>Partial closure of workplaces as of early March 2020.</td>
<td>Encourage physical distancing in public places and transportation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommended to promote: Hygiene and environmental cleaning to limit exposure, screening and management of sick students, teachers and other school staff, communication with parents and students, Physical distancing at school, virtual schooling and distance learning.</td>
<td>Hand hygiene: Regular and thorough handwashing, Hand hygiene stations.</td>
<td>Reduce contact between individuals and households.</td>
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<td>Respiratory hygiene: Promote respiratory etiquette, Develop a policy on wearing a mask or a face covering.</td>
<td>Communicate to recommend wearing masks in public.</td>
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<td>Physical distancing: less people, implementing shifts.</td>
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<td>Reduce and manage work-related travels.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Regular environmental cleaning and disinfection.</td>
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<td>Risk communication, training, and education: Provide posters, videos, and electronic message boards.</td>
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<td>Management of people with COVID-19 or their contacts: introduce thermal screening.</td>
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<td>Take more measures when it comes to jobs at medium and high risk.</td>
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### #4 Public Events

- Restriction to host gatherings or events that exceed a large number of individuals. ex) sport games, religious functions, restaurants, etc.
- Planning phase: Liaison with all relevant stakeholders, development of a preparedness and response plan, assessment of capacities and resources.
- Operational phase: Modifications of the event, Risk communication, Surveillance of participants, aimed at detecting and managing individuals developing symptoms during the event.
- Post-event phase: Liaison between event organizers and health authorities.
- Reduce crowding, limit access to, or close public spaces, restaurants, sporting events, sports clubs, entertainment venues, places of worship, or venues with limited ventilation.

### #5 Public Information Campaign

- Communicate risk clearly with information on how to protect oneself and others.
- Simplify messages, encourage sharing of information.
- Engage with communities in decision-making and to strengthen engagement for public health measures.
- Identify local networks and engage communities, businesses, religious leaders, and local influencers.

### #6 Lockdown / Curfew

- Implementation of curfew hours, when necessary to limit gatherings and contact.
- Require citizens to stay in home unless of an emergency, specially in areas with a surge in cases.
- Monitor locations to abide by the curfew hours and movement restrictions, when necessary.
**WHO Guidelines and Recommendations**

### Commitment Features

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#7 Domestic / International Travel</th>
<th>#8 Testing Framework</th>
<th>#9 Contact Tracing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| ❖ Reduction in travel to prevent the spread of COVID-19.  
❖ Limiting international travel when necessary.  
❖ Recommended to adhere to safety measures while travelling.  
❖ Establish effective contingency plans and arrangements for responding a Public Health Emergency. | ❖ Set up testing centers in large venues or in checkpoints.  
❖ Require travellers to self-quarantine after being tested.  
❖ Molecular (e.g. PCR) testing of respiratory tract samples is the recommended method for the identification and laboratory confirmation of COVID-19 cases.  
❖ To inform WHO policy on the use of immunodiagnostic rapid tests for COVID-19.  
❖ Importance of adopting a Find-Test-Trace-Isolate and Treat mechanism. | ❖ Set up relational databases linking lists of contacts to line lists of cases.  
❖ Allow for tailored case investigation forms, contact listing forms, and contact follow-up forms to be set up.  
❖ Self-checking and self-reporting of signs and symptoms by people through mobile phone apps or SMS technology. |
Methodology and Scoring System

- This report draws on the methodology developed by the G8 Research Group, which has been monitoring G7/8 compliance since 1996 (the International Organisations Research Institute at the Higher School of Economics (IORI HSE) joined this multi-year project in 2005, and Bond University participated in 2014). The use of this methodology builds cross-institutional and cross-member consistency and also allows compatibility with compliance assessments of other institutions. The methodology uses a scale from −1 to +1, where +1 indicates full compliance with the stated commitment, −1 indicates a failure to comply or action taken that is directly opposite to the stated instruments or goal of the commitment, and 0 indicates partial compliance or work in progress, such as initiatives that have been launched but are not yet near completion and whose full results can therefore not be assessed. Each member assessed receives a score of −1, 0 or +1 for each commitment. For convenience, the scores in the tables have been converted to percentages, where −1 equals 0 percent and +1 equals 100 percent.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-1</td>
<td>State does not comply with the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005), nor does it comply with any of the World Health Organization's guidelines and recommendations to curb the spread of the Coronavirus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>State complies with the IHR and partially complies with the WHO recommendations on combating the Coronavirus, through implementing policies and actions which adhere to at least two commitments of the WHO guidelines on curbing the pandemic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+1</td>
<td>State fully complies with the IHR and the WHO guidelines on combating the Coronavirus, through implementing policies and actions which adhere to all nine areas of the WHO guidelines on curbing the pandemic.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Kingdom of Bahrain complied with the International Health Regulations (IHR) and fully complied with the World Health Organization’s guidelines and recommendations on curbing the Coronavirus (COVID-19), through implementing complying policies and actions in all nine commitment features. Thus, Bahrain receives a compliance score of +1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>No Compliance</th>
<th>Partial Compliance</th>
<th>Full Compliance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bahrain</td>
<td></td>
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<td>+1</td>
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</table>

* The Kingdom of Bahrain complied with the International Health Regulations (IHR) and fully complied with the World Health Organization’s guidelines and recommendations on curbing the Coronavirus (COVID-19), through implementing complying policies and actions in all nine commitment features. Thus, Bahrain receives a compliance score of +1.
Areas of Focus

- Lockdown / Curfew
- Educational Institutions
- Workplace and Institutions
- Public information awareness campaign
- Contact Tracing
- Economy

- Domestic / International Travel
- Public and Religious Events
- Public Transportation
- Testing Framework
- Health Facilities
- Vaccination
Timeline

**Case #1**
Bahrain confirms its first COVID-19 case for a citizen returning from Iran.

**1st Death**
Bahrain records its first COVID-19 death, and the first in GCC.

**Recovery**
Bahrain announces the first recovery case for a COVID-19 patient.

**Sinopharm**
The third phase of clinical trials of the Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine starts in Bahrain.
King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa receives the COVID-19 vaccine, announcing the launch of the nationwide vaccination campaign.

Bahrain records its highest number of COVID-19 daily deaths (29 Cases).

Bahrain records its highest daily number of new COVID-19 cases (3,274 Cases).
Global Governmental Response to COVID-19 in accordance to WHO guidelines

General Preparedness

- **On 5 February 2020**, The Bahraini Council of Ministers issued a directive on the formation of the National Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus (COVID-19). The first meeting was hosted under the leadership of the Supreme Council of Health's Chairman Sheikh Mohammed Bin Abdullah Al Khalifa.

- **On 11 February 2020**, HRH Crown Prince Salman Bin Hamad ordered the formation of an operations room as part of the national efforts to combat the COVID-19 outbreak.

- **On 14 February 2020**, the operations room members were introduced to the crisis activation manual and trained on its ways of activation.

- **On 18 February 2020**, the operations room announced that it has prepared a national response strategy, in case the virus arrives in Bahrain.


- **On 12 March 2020**, the legislative and executive branches of the state held a joint meeting to coordinate efforts between all concerned authorities in combating the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **On 30 March 2020**, HM King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa issued royal directives to provide free COVID-19 treatment and testing for all citizens, GCC nationals and residents in Bahrain.

- **On 2 April 2020**, the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism Zayed bin Rashid Al Zayani issued a decision to set a maximum price for the sale of medical face masks in order to avoid manipulating their prices during this exceptional period, and to ensure their availability for all the public. The sale price of a surgical mask was set to a maximum of 140 fils/ per piece. The N95 mask price was set to a maximum 1.4 BD/ per mask. The decision is in effect for three months.

- **On 25 February 2021**, the MOH announced extending COVID-19 related restrictions for an additional 3 months.
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Key Training/Workshops

❖ On 7 February 2020, the National Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus conducted a simulation on the spread of the COVID-19 virus in the Crown Prince Center for training and Medical Research, to enhance preparedness and training of health workers.

❖ On 25 April 2020, the Bahraini Supreme Council of Health hosted the International Online Forum against Coronavirus (COVID-19) with the participation of more than 600 specialists, consultants and health workers from around the world. The forum was organized as part of Bahrain’s initiatives to strengthen regional and international cooperation and strengthen ongoing efforts to tackle the virus and exchange experiences between different countries, contributing to the dissemination of successes achieved and reducing the spread of this global pandemic.

❖ On 4 May 2020, the Crown Prince Center for Training & Medical Research revealed that more than 1,500 doctors, nurses and medical assistance professionals were trained in the center since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak. Training included various intensive workshops, inspired by WHO instructions and the latest guidance for the control and treatment of coronavirus. Workshops focused on the latest treatment protocols for COVID-19 patients, and how to deal with the latest respiratory devices, as well as intensive training courses in respiratory therapy and the treatment of critical cases.

❖ On 8 July 2020, Dr Manaf Al Qahtani, member of the National Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus (COVID-19) led the National COVID-19 Online Training Program provided by the MOH. The program was completed on 21 July.

❖ On 29 July 2020, the MOH, in cooperation with the British Embassy and the British Network for Research and Creativity held a teleconference on genetic studies research related to the novel coronavirus.

General Info - Medical Protocol

❖ On 26 February 2020, Bahrain was among the first countries to begin using Hydroxychloroquine as part of its COVID-19 treatment protocol.

❖ On 22 March 2020, the National Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus (COVID-19) announced that Bahrain is the first state to participate in the WHO Solidarity trail, aimed at expanding research on the first treatment designed for COVID-19.

❖ On 13 April 2020, the Supreme Council of Health Chairman Sheikh Mohammed Bin Abdullah Al Khalifa announced that Bahrain would start clinical trials on the using of convalescent plasma transfusion to treat COVID-19 patients. The clinical trial began with 20 infected cases in the MOH isolation and treatment centres.

❖ As of 19 April 2021, NHRA reported that seven clinical trials related to COVID-19 are currently underway in Bahrain.

❖ On 2 June 2021, NHRA approves the emergency use of Sotrovimab as part of the COVID-19 medical protocol in Bahrain.

❖ On 16 June 2021, NHRA approves the use of REGN-COV2.

*The Kingdom of Bahrain has established a comprehensive COVID-19 national and medical protocols based on the guidelines of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Gulf Health Council (GHC):
Lockdown / Curfew

Global Governmental Response to COVID-19 in accordance to the WHO guidelines.
On 9 March 2020, the MOH shut down a cafe in Sanad area, after it was visited recently by two infected COVID-19 patients. The cafe was disinfected, and all staff and contacts of the patients were sent for examination and isolation.

On 17 March 2020, the Coordination Committee, led by HRH Prince Salman Bin Hamad ordered the closure of all cinemas, theatres, tourist attractions, commercial fitness centres, hair salons, gyms, swimming pools, amusement parks, recreational activities and game centres. Dine-in at all restaurants and cafes was prohibited, with only delivery service permitted. Serving shisha at cafes was also banned. The first hour of grocery store openings was designated to pregnant women and seniors to limit infection.

On 22 March 2020, the National Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus (COVID-19) ordered the closure of all retail stores in the Kingdom between 26 March and 9 April 2020. Retail stores delivery services in addition to supermarkets, grocery stores, hypermarkets, bakeries, cold stores, pharmacies, hospitals, clinics banks, factories, petrol stations, optometrists, and auto repairs were allowed to remain open.

On 7 April 2020, the Coordination Committee, led by HRH Prince Salman Bin Hamad announced extending the closure of all cinemas, restaurants dine-in, shisha cafes, theatres, tourist attractions, all commercial fitness centres, hair salons, gyms, swimming pools, amusement parks, recreational activities and game centres until 23 April 2020.

On 9 April 2020, retail stores were allowed to reopen across the Kingdom, with strict social distancing and precautionary measures.

On 21 April 2020, the Coordination Committee announced extending the closure of all cinemas, restaurants dine-in, shisha cafes, theatres, tourist attractions, all commercial fitness centres, hair salons, gyms, swimming pools, amusement parks, recreational activities and game centres until 7 May 2020. All retail stores were ordered to re-close and shift to electronic and delivery services.

On 7 May 2020, the Coordination Committee allowed retail stores to reopen with social distancing measures and sanitation required.

On 21 May 2020, the Coordination Committee allowed professional athletes to exercise in outdoor spaces and swimming pools while adhering to health requirements. Outdoor cinemas were permitted to open.

On 27 May 2020, hair salons and barbershops were allowed to reopen with pre-booked appointments, social distancing and sanitation required. Non-essential activities at hair and beauty salons remain prohibited.

On 28 July 2020, the Coordination Council announced that restaurants at four and five stars hotels would be allowed to gradually reopen for dine-in, starting with only conducting private events for groups less than 20 people. Outdoor dine-in at all other restaurants and cafes in addition to training centres was set to reopen on 6 September 2020. While in-door dining at restaurants and cafes was set to reopen on 23 September 2020.
On 6 August 2020, outdoor sports fields, fitness centres, gyms and swimming pools were allowed to reopen based on the Coordination Council's decision.

On 17 September 2020, the reopening of indoor dining at restaurants and cafes was postponed until 24 October 2020.

On 24 October 2020, restaurants and cafes were allowed to reopen for indoor dining with a maximum of 30 people at the same. Shisha was allowed to be served only at outdoor premises.

On 3 December 2020, the MOH announced that non-essential activities at beauty and hair salons were allowed to resume, following precautionary measures and health guidelines.

On 27 January 2021, the National Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus, announced the suspension of in-door dining at all restaurants and cafes for a three weeks period.

On 7 February 2021, all in-door gyms, swimming pools and sport halls were ordered to close until February 20th 2021.

On 18 February 2021, the closure of in-door dining at restaurants, in-door gyms, swimming pools and sport halls was extended until March 14th 2021.

On 14 March 2021, the National Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus announced the reopening of indoor dining services at restaurants and cafes (maximum capacity 30 persons), private indoor gyms, fitness centers and swimming pools.

On 6 April 2021, the National National Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus announced that starting from the first day of Eid Al-Fitr that those who are not vaccinated will not be permitted to access the following services: indoor dining at restaurants and cafes, indoor gymnasiums and fitness centers, indoor pools, sport events, spas, indoor cinemas, indoor events and conference halls, indoor leisure, entertainment and children play centers. The following services will only be permitted to those vaccinated or recovered from the virus (recovery proof on BeAware app is necessary).

On 13 May 2021, the ban on the smoking and serving of shisha indoors was lifted.

On 20 May 2021, the National National Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus announced that entry to shopping malls, retail stores, cinemas, salons, government premises, indoor restaurants and cafes will be limited to those above the age of 18 and who have completed 14 days since receiving their second vaccine dose or recovering from infection.
Global Governmental Response to COVID-19 in accordance to WHO guidelines

Lockdown / Curfew

- On 26 May 2021, the National National Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus announced the closure of all commercial activities, malls, stores, gyms, fitness centers, pools, salons spas and cinemas for two weeks, to curb cases surge.
- On 8 June 2021, the National National Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus announced extending the closure of all commercial activities, malls, stores, gyms, fitness centers, pools, salons spas and cinemas until 25 June 2021.
- On 22 June 2021, the National National Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus announced extending the closure of all commercial activities, malls, stores, gyms, fitness centers, pools, salons spas and cinemas until 2 July 2021.

* The Kingdom of Bahrain did not impose a national or partial curfew during the COVID-19 pandemic.
Domestic/International Travel

Points of Entry:
- Bahrain International Airport (BAH)
- King Fahd Causeway
- Khalifa Bin Salman Port, Mina Salman

Global Governmental Response to COVID-19 in accordance to the WHO guidelines.
On 28 January 2020, the first batch of Bahraini students studying in China returned to Manama. All arrivals were required to register their contacts after undergoing a general medical examination and temperature screening upon arrival at Bahrain Int. Airport.

On 12 February 2020, Bahrain banned the entry of all non-resident foreigners who've visited China within 14 days of their arrival to the Kingdom. All other arrivals from China were required to undergo medical examinations upon arrival. Travel of Bahraini citizens to China was suspended until further notice.

On 21 February 2020, Bahrain urged all its citizens to avoid travel to Iran, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore and South Korea due to the COVID-19 outbreak. All foreign visitors who've visited the fore-mentioned countries in the past 14 days were denied entry to Bahrain. Bahraini citizens, residents and GCC citizens arriving from those countries were required to undergo medical examinations upon arrival at the airport.

On 25 February 2020, the Bahrain Civil Aviation Affairs suspended all flight to and from Dubai and Sharjah for 48 hours. Bahraini citizens were strictly prohibited from travelling to Iran per the decision of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. All indirect flights arriving from Iran were suspended. The Chairman of Bahrain Tourism and Exhibition Authority, Eng. Nader Al Moayed announced severe legal punishment on travel offices that do not comply with the travel ban to Iran. Bahraini citizens and residents in countries with large COVID-19 outbreak were advised to contact the hotline (+973 17227555) for assistance.

On 26 February 2020, Bahrain's Civil Aviation Affairs announced that it would limit the number of flights arriving from the region to Bahrain Int. Airport. The suspension of flights to Sharjah and Dubai was further extended for 48 hours. All international tourist ships incoming to Bahrain were banned entry for two weeks. The Ministry of Transportation & Telecommunication checks all ships coming to the Kingdom of Bahrain through the Public Health declaration, which includes the disclosure of the last 10 ports visited by each ship before heading to Bahrain. The declaration must be submitted 72 hours before the arrival of a ship to the territorial waters. International ship crews were prohibited from disembarking while at Khalifa Bin Salman port or private docks in Bahrain until further notice.

On 8 March 2020, the MOH instructed all individuals who've returned from Italy, South Korea, Lebanon or Egypt during the past two weeks to self isolate at an individual room at their house of residence for 14 days. In addition to scheduling an appointment for a COVID-19 test either through the Ministry's website or hotline. The ban on the entry of tourists ships to Bahrain was extended until further notice.

As of 7 March 2020, the King Fahd Causeway linking Bahrain to Saudi Arabia has been closed for non-essential travellers. Cargo, food and commercial trucks were excluded from the decision.

Global Governmental Response to COVID-19 in accordance to WHO guidelines
On 9 March 2020, HRH the Crown Prince issued a decision to terminate the participation of all government employees in any official or training mission outside the Kingdom.

On 10 March 2020, the first batch of citizens stranded in Iran has returned to Bahrain. All passengers were tested upon arrival and sent for isolation, treatment or quarantine.

On 11 March 2020, the MOH Undersecretary Dr Waleed Al Manea announced that the Ministry would implement additional precautionary measures in evacuating citizens from Iran, in light of the high percentage of infected cases recorded among the first batch of arriving passengers.

On 17 March 2020, Bahrain announced that all arriving passengers through all entry points would undergo a COVID-19 test and 14 days of mandatory self-isolation. Bahraini citizens were strongly advised to avoid all non-essential travel abroad the Kingdom.

As of 18 March 2020, Bahrain suspended all visa-on-arrival services except for diplomatic passport holders and flight crew. The number of incoming flight to Bahrain International Airport was reduced until further notice.

On 25 March 2020, the second batch of citizens stranded in Iran has returned to Bahrain. All passengers were tested upon arrival and sent for isolation, treatment or quarantine.

On 28 March 2020, stranded Bahraini citizens returning from Iran via Muscat arrived at Manama after being evacuated by the Bahraini authorities. All passengers were tested upon arrival and sent for isolation, treatment or quarantine.

On 23 April 2020, the Ministry of Interior extended the validity of all valid and expired visit visas by three months.

On 28 April 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs undersecretary Sheikha Rana bint Isa Al Khalifa announced that More than 3,800 Bahraini nationals had been evacuated from various countries, including Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait, Oman, Jordan, Egypt, Russian Federation, Turkey, Pakistan and Iran.

On 30 June 2020, the National Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus announced reducing the home quarantine period for incoming travellers to 10 days instead of 14 previously.

On 19 July 2020, the extension of all valid and expired visas was further extended for three months.
As of 21 July 2020, arrivals incoming to Bahrain were required to download and register on the 'BeAware Bahrain' App. Upon arrival at the airport, all passengers were required to undergo a COVID-19 test at their own expense (30 BHD). Passengers were then given a tracing bracelet and required to self-quarantine for ten days. The test result was sent to passengers via SMS. After completing ten days of self-isolation, passengers were required to book an appointment to undergo a second test on their own expense (30BD) in order to exit quarantine. Entry to the Kingdom was limited to citizens, residents, passengers with pre-approved visas and diplomats. Transit passengers through Bahrain Int. Airport were exempt from the following requirements.

On 20 August 2020, the MOH announced that all passengers who undergo the mandatory PCR test upon arrival at Bahrain Int. Airport and test negative will be exempt from the ten-day quarantine period. Arrivals staying in the kingdom for more than ten days will be required to undergo a second PCR test on the 10th day of their arrival. Downloading the 'BeAware Bahrain' app for arrivals remained mandatory.

On 3 September 2020, Bahrain allowed the entry of passengers who are not citizens or residents, including tourists. Tourist visas and visa-on-arrival services resumed.

On 15 September 2020, the King Fahd Causeway with Saudi Arabia reopened for travellers. Arrivals to Bahrain were required to undergo a PCR test on the causeway's Bahraini side at their own expense (60 BD). Arrivals were then required to download the 'BeAware Bahrain' app and self isolate until they're notified through the app that their test result is negative. Travellers who depart Bahrain and return within less than 72 hours of conducting a negative PCR test before departing (certificate available on BeAware app) are exempt from undergoing a second PCR test upon their return.

On 16 September 2020, the Ministry of Interior announced that all arrivals via King Fahd Causeway carrying a negative PCR certificate issued in Saudi Arabia less than 72 hours before arrival, will be exempt from conducting a PCR upon arrival at the Bahraini entry point.

On 17 October 2020, Bahrain re-extended the validity of all valid and expired visas until the 21st of January 2021.

On 23 September 2020, Bahrain Airport Company announced that the baggage of all arrivals to Bahrain is disinfected by specialized teams before being released on the baggage claim belts.

On 10 January 2021, the MOH announced the suspension of PCR services at King Fahd Causeway for travellers arriving to Bahrain. Arrivals to Bahrain via the King Fahd Causeway must carry a negative PCR test certificate issued no more than 72 hours before arrival. All certified PCR tests conducted in GCC states will be valid for entering Bahrain.

On 22 January 2021, the Ministry of Interior announced the end of free and automatic renewal of visit visas.

On 22 February 2021, the MOH announced that all arrivals will be required to undergo an addition PCR test on their 5th day of arrival. The cost of the test was reduced to BHD36.
On 6 April 2021, the National Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus announced that PCR tests for on-arrivals to Bahrain will no longer be required for vaccinated individuals or those who recovered from the virus and hold a vaccination certificate or a recovery proof via the BeAware application.

On 27 April 2021, the National Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus announced that all arrivals from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh over the age of six must provide a negative PCR certificate with a QR code issued less than 48 hours before arrival to Bahrain. This applies to transit passengers.

On 7 May 2021, the National Medical Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus announced that passengers vaccinated in Bahrain, GCC or in a country with mutual recognition won’t be required to provide a PCR test certificate or self-isolate upon arriving at Bahrain. Arrivals vaccinated in Bahrain or the GCC must download the official mobile application for his country of vaccination and carry vaccination certificates issued by the health ministries across the GCC states. Those vaccinated in other countries will have their vaccination certificate (must have a QR code) inspected upon arrival at Bahrain and will then be provide with a vaccination card, proving the acceptance of their status.

On 11 May 2021, Bahrain and the UAE announced the establishment of a safe travel corridor for those who have received the COVID-19 vaccine. Starting from Eid Al Fitr vaccinated travellers between the two counties will not be required to quarantine.

On 19 May 2021, the National Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus announced that all passengers incoming from India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka will be required to undergo 10 days of quarantine upon arriving to Bahrain. All arrivals from these countries must carry a negative PCR test certificate with a QR code, issued less than 48-hours before arrival. Only citizens and residents arriving from the five countries will be permitted entry to Bahrain. Arrivals from these countries will undergo a PCR test upon arrival, in addition to two additional PCR test over the 10-day quarantine period.

On 22 June 2021, the Bahrain Civil Aviation Affairs announced that starting on June 25th all arrivals to Bahrain above the age of six must carry a negative PCR test certificate with a QR code issued less than 48 hours for arrivals from high-risk countries and 48 hours for arrivals from low-risk countries. All arrivals to Bahrain including those vaccinated will be required to perform a PCR test on arrival and a second test on their tenth day (payment through BeAware app or kiosks in the airport). On-arrival visit visas will be limited to eligible nationalities only. All arrivals above the age of six from high-risk countries including those vaccinated and unvaccinated arrivals from all destinations will be required to self-isolate for 10 days upon arrival. The ban on flights to India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Vietnam is extended until further notice.
Global Governmental Response to COVID-19 in accordance to the WHO guidelines.
On 24 February 2020, the Ministries of Health and Education announced the closure of three schools and a pre-school in Sitra (Ibn Al Nafees Primary School, Sitra Primary School for Boys, Sitra Middle School for Girls, Al Qamar KG) for two weeks. As the country’s first infected COVID-19 case worked as a bus driver at those schools.

On 25 February 2020, the MOE and based on directives of HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad, the Chairman of the Coordination Committee, has suspended classes in all public and private schools, kindergartens, universities and educational institutions for two weeks.

On 26 February 2020, The Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs suspended in-person instruction at Islamic Sharia institutes and Quran centres for two weeks.

On 5 March 2020, the Coordination Committee, led by HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad, announced extending the suspension of in-person classes in all public and private schools, kindergartens, universities and educational institutions until 29 March 2020. However, the administrative, academic and educational staff were permitted to return to their campuses starting 8 March 2020.

On 17 March 2020, the Coordination Committee, announced that the suspension of in-person classes in all public and private schools, kindergartens, universities and educational institutions would continue until further notice. The Committee advised the MOE to implement online teaching for students and remote work for the administrative and academic staff whenever possible.

On 25 August 2020, the MOE announced that it had taken the necessary precautionary measures for the safe return of students to schools and universities for the 2020/2021 academic year, in cooperation of the Supreme Council of Health and the Ministry of Health. The Ministry noted that it had published an electronic survey for parents, to determine the appropriate option for their children’s education, in which more than 112,000 parents participated.

Some of the participating parents expressed the desire for their children to regularly receive their education in schools for two days a week, while attending online schooling for the remainder of the week. Classrooms were divided into small groups of only 50% of the number of students per class, taking into account social distancing, and dividing the in-person attendance of students into rotating batches.

Other parents have expressed the desire for their children to learn from home all week, through virtual classes, the portal, YouTube channels, TV classes and other available media.

The return of educational and administrative bodies to public schools was set to occur on 6 September 2020, while students were set to return on 16 September.

Students in private and higher educational institutions and Kindergartens were also set to return to classes in September, under a hybrid system and precautionary measures in place.
On 26 August 2020, The MOE and MOH developed a set of response strategies when a confirmed or suspected COVID-19 case is identified in an educational institution. Response procedures included: communication with the guardian, isolation in a separate designated room, notification of the competent health authorities, identification of contacts, and continuous disinfection and sterilization of all facilities.

As of 1 September 2020, various private and public universities in Bahrain began partial reopening with a hybrid system and social distancing implemented.

On 2 September 2020, Dr Eman Ahmed Haji, the president of the school health department in the MOH announced that the Ministry in cooperation with the MOE has carried out through visual communication technology three training workshops for the public, private and higher education sectors during August to raise awareness on precautionary measures in educational institutions. The workshops included an overview of SARS-CoV-2, ways to prevent and reduce the virus's spread, and the precautionary measures to be followed in educational institutions. The workshops also emphasised the mechanisms and strategies of response to dedicating a suspected or infected COVID-19 case in the educational facilities.

On 5 September 2020, the MOE announced the postponement of the start of the school year for public schools for two weeks to test all teaching staff in public schools for COVID-19. The return of administrative, educational and technical bodies in schools initially scheduled for 6 September, was delayed until 20 September 2020. The return of private schools and universities will resume as scheduled previously.

On 6 September 2020, the MOE published the English version of the back to school health and safety guidelines for schools, universities and all educational institutions, in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 17 September 2020, the Coordination Committee announced the extension of government schools' closure until 11 October 2020. The return of the administrative, educational and technical bodies to public schools campuses was postponed until 4 October 2020. The Ministry of Labour and Social Development announced that public kindergartens wouldn't be permitted to resume operations until 25 October 2020. Private schools and affiliated kindergartens were allowed to continue instruction under the current state.

On 25 October 2020, students' partial return in public schools and private kindergartens has begun. Students whose parents preferred for them to stay at home were provided with an online schooling option.
On 4 November 2020, Dr Waleed Al Manea announced that various private schools where positive cases of COVID-19 were detected, have been ordered to shut for ten days for precaution and disinfection.

On 27 January 2021, the National Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus announced the suspension of in-person instruction in all educational institutions including private and private schools, kindergartens, and universities for a three weeks period starting January 31st. Students in schools of special education in addition to the administrative and academic staff in all educational institutes were exempt from the decision to suspend attendance.

On 18 February 2021, the suspension of in-person attendance in all schools, kindergartens and universities was extended until March 14th 2021. Students at medical universities and schools of special education were exempt for the decision and permitted to attend in-person training/instruction when deemed necessary.

On 14 March 2021, the National Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus announced permitting the attendance of students in all educational institutions. Parents still have the option of sending students for in-person instruction in schools or continuing with online schooling from home.

On 28 March 2021, in-person classes were suspended for 10 days at Deraz Primary School for Boys, Fatima bint Asad Primary school for girls, Al-Rawabi Private school and Ibn Khuldoon National school after detecting a number of COVID-19 cases.

On 5 April 2021, in-person classes were suspended at Mariam bint Omran Primary School for Girls and Al Hekma International School due to a COVID-19 alert.

On 9 April 2021, in-person classes were suspended at Hamad Town Intermediate School for Boys and Muharraq Prime School for Girls until April 18th after a number of COVID-19 cases were detected in the two schools.

On 26 May 2021, the National Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus announced the suspension of in-person instruction in all educational institutions including private and private schools, kindergartens, and universities for two weeks. All graduation ceremonies were postponed by the MOE.

On 8 June 2021, the suspension of in-person attendance in all educational institutions was extended until 25 June 2021.

On 22 June 2021, the suspension of in-person attendance in all educational institutions was extended until 2 July 2021.
Public Events

Religious Events

Kingdom of Bahrain
Global Governmental Response to COVID-19 in accordance to WHO guidelines

Public / Religious Events

❖ On 28 February 2020, the Ministries Health and Interior instructed the public to refrain from hosting public events and mass gatherings.
❖ On 13 March 2020, Bahrain announced the postponement of the 2020 Formula One Grand Prix, scheduled on 20 March.
❖ On 15 March 2020, the Ministry of Youth and Sport Affairs announced the suspension of all indoor and swimming pool sports events. Outdoor events were allowed to continue without the presence of fans at the sports venue.
❖ On 16 March 2020, the Sunni Waqf Directorate issued directives to shorten the duration of collective prayers, limiting the Friday prayer khutbah to 10 minutes max.
❖ On 17 March 2020, the Coordination Committee, led by HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad limited all public and private gatherings to a maximum of 20 people, while urging the public to avoid leaving home for un-essential purposes.
❖ On 19 March 2020, the Sunni Waqf Directorate (SWD) announced the suspension of Friday prayer in all mosques starting 20 March, and until further notice. Mosques were to remain open for all other daily collective prayers. All function halls and ballrooms of the SWD were closed until further notice.
❖ On 22 March 2020, the National Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus (COVID-19) announced that all gatherings of more than five people are prohibited, in addition to gatherings in public beaches and parks. A one-meter distance between individuals was recommended. Violators of the decision could be fined by up to 5,000 Bahraini Dinars and/or up-to three years of imprisonment.
❖ On 23 March 2020, the Sunni Waqf Directorate suspended all collective prayer in mosques until further notice.
❖ On 22 April 2020, the Coordination Committee announced the continuation of social-distancing measures during the holy month of Ramadan. The Committee emphasized that the general public should refrain from attending public iftars, ghahgas, girgaon festivals, collective prayers at mosques and all gatherings during Ramadan. Collective Taraweeh and Eid Prayers outside the household were prohibited.
❖ On 14 August 2020, the Chairman of the Supreme Council of Health requested during his meeting with the Jaafari Waqf Directorate, that gatherings during the Ashura period are limited and that Khutbas are podcasted virtually through live-stream.
❖ On 26 August 2020, the National Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus allowed Ashura activities to be conducted outdoors with social distancing and face masks being mandatory.
On 28 August 2020, the Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs began the gradual reopening of mosques for collective prayers. Mosques were allowed to open for Fajr (morning) prayer as a first stage, with a social distancing of 2 meters required between each worshiper. Worshipers were required to wear face masks at all times and bring their personal praying mat along. Constant sanitation and closure of mosques toilets were also mandatory.

On 8 November 2020, mosques were allowed to reopen for Dhuhr collective prayer.

On 27-29 November 2020, Bahrain hosted the 2020 Formula One Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix, with no tickets offered for public fans. Several first responders, health workers at the frontlines and their families were invited to attend, based on an honorary initiative by HRH Prince Salman Bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

On 4-6 December 2020, Bahrain hosted the Formula 1 Rolex Sakhir Grand Prix, with no public fans' tickets. Several first responders, health workers at the frontlines and their families were invited to attend, based on an honorary initiative by HRH Prince Salman Bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

On 6 December 2020, mosques were allowed to reopen for Asr collective prayer.

On 25 December 2020, On 29 December 2020, the Bahrain Tourist and Exhibition Authority announced the cancellation of the new year fireworks show in Tubli bay, in efforts to limit gatherings due to the coronavirus.

On 29 December 2020, the Bahrain Tourist and Exhibition Authority stressed to all tourist facilities such as hotels, restaurants and other tourist attractions the importance of fully complying with the health regulations and requirements set by the decisions of the Coordination Committee during the new year celebrations. Facilities violating the indoor capacity limit (30 customers max), the required distance between tables, the ban on large gatherings and the wear of face masks will face punishments including closure and a possible fined up to 10,000 BHD. The Supreme Judicial Council announced the allocation of two criminal courts to deal with the cases of violation of the precautionary measures and rules related to the combat of COVID-19. The court handles and resolves cases within 24 hours and operates seven days a week and during the weekend and public holidays.

On 7 February 2021, any social or private gatherings were limited to under 30 participants.

On 11 February 2021, all collective prayers in mosques and prayer rooms were suspended for two weeks.

On 11 March 2021, Mosques were allowed to reopen for all five daily prayers across the Kingdom. Friday prayer remains suspended.
As of 13 April 2021, Mosques across the Kingdom were allowed to reopen for all prayers during ramadan including the five daily prayers, Friday prayer, Taraweeh and Qiyam prayers. Only those who are COVID-19 vaccinated or recovered will be allowed entry to mosques. 14 days will have to had pass for those who’ve completed the required doses of the vaccine. Those who have recovered from the virus will require a proof of recovery through the BeAware Bahrain app. Teams of volunteers will be deployed by the Ministry of Justice and Islamic affairs to check vaccination certificates and recovery proofs at mosque doors.

On 20 May 2021, the National National Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus encouraged the public to limit all gatherings to a maximum of six people.

On 21 May 2021, the Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments Ministry announced that access to mosques during the five daily prayers and Friday prayer will be limited to those who completed 14 days after receiving the second dose of a vaccine or recovering from the virus.

On 26 May 2021, the attendance of all sport events, conferences, public and private gathering were banned until June 10th.

On 2 June 2021, the Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments Ministry announced the closure of seven mosques after discovering cases of COVID-19.

On 8 June 2021, the ban on the attendance of all sport events, conferences, public and private gathering was extended until 25 June 2021.

On 22 June 2021, the ban on the attendance of all sport events, conferences, public and private gathering was extended until 1 July 2021.
Kingdom of Bahrain

Workplace and Institutions

Global Governmental Response to COVID-19 in accordance to the WHO guidelines.
On 26 February 2020, the chairman of the Civil Service Bureau (CSB) Ahmed Al Zayed, instructed that any employee either at the public or private sector whose in quarantine due to COVID-19 infection or contact, should be granted a paid leave without deducting his salary, bounces or leave credit. The CSB also ordered the suspension of the fingerprint attendance system at government workplaces for two weeks. Instead, implementing an ID scan system or paper signature was recommended for monitoring attendance.

On 14 March 2020, the Ministry of Justice announced that it would carry out regular disinfection of all courts, judicial and justice facilities in cooperation with the General Directorate of Civil Defence.

On 17 March 2020, the Coordination Committee announced that all public and private workplace should continue operation, while encouraging remote working whenever possible.

On 21 March 2020, His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa directed the government to provide mothers working in ministries, government agencies and institutions the option to work from home, in order to support mothers in taking care of their children during the closure of schools and pre-schools due to COVID-19. Mothers working in the security and health sectors may be exempt from the decision based on the public interest, which requires their attendance at the workplace.

On 22 March 2020, the Ministry of Labour and Social Development launched a package of electronic services in the labour field, through its website (www.mlsd.gov.bh), according to the Coordination Committee's decision to implement online services whenever possible. The Civil Service Bureau announced the implementation of working from home in ministries, agencies and government institutions as of today. However, the number of employees working from home should not exceed 50% of the workplace’s total number of employees. Employees should be divided into groups which take turns between working in person and working from home every two weeks.

On 5 April 2020, the Civil Service Bureau announced the allowing of up to 70% of the total number of employees in ministries, agencies and government institutions to work from home, until further notice.

On 7 April 2020, the Coordination Committee directed the private sector to implement working from home as much as possible and reduce the number of employees in the workplace departments and premises.
Global Governmental Response to COVID-19 in accordance to WHO guidelines

Workplace and Institutions

- **On 13 April 2020**, the Ministry of Labour and Social Development issued a decision requiring all employers at the private sector to provide protective face masks to their workers and ensure they're worn on the workplace site to reduce the virus transmission between workers.

- Temperature screening of workers at the worksite, isolating and reporting to the MOH any cases with high temperature or COVID-19 symptoms were also mandatory on employers.

- Companies and institutions were instructed to reduce the number of workers in the workplace, particularly in the workers' restrooms, waiting rooms, and transportation vehicles.

- Employers who provide housing to their workers were directed to allocate separate buildings with enough capacity for at least 10% of the total number of employees working under their sponsorship. According to the Department of Public Health guidelines for enterprises employing more than 50 workers, these buildings are to be allocated for the purpose of precautionary isolation.

- **On 14 April 2020**, the Minister of Interior announced the launch of a package of e-services including the electronic ID, residential record, birth certificate and address services. Introducing the new series of e-services contributed to a 310% increase in the proportion of electronic transactions provided by the ministry, which comes as part of the kingdom's efforts to curb the coronavirus. The digital transformation in the MOI services has also included services provided by the General Administration of Traffic, which has begun delivering electronic driving lectures for new drivers.

- **On 7 February 2021**, all government institutions were instructed to permit up to 70 per cent of employees to work from home.

- **On 18 February 2021**, working from home for 70 per cent of employees in the public sector was extended until March 14th 2021.

- **On 26 May 2021**, Bahrain limited attendance at government offices to 70 per cent for two weeks.

- **On 8 June 2021**, limiting the attendance at government office to 70 per cent was extended until 25 June 2021.

- **On 22 June 2021**, limiting the attendance at government office to 70 per cent was extended until 2 July 2021.
Venus has a beautiful name and is the second planet from the Sun. It's terribly hot—even hotter than Mercury—and its atmosphere is extremely poisonous. It's the second-brightest natural object in the night sky after the Moon.

**Introduction**

Public Transportation

Global Governmental Response to COVID-19 in accordance to the WHO guidelines.

Kingdom of Bahrain
Global Governmental Response to COVID-19 in accordance to WHO guidelines

Public Transport

- On 7 April 2020, the Coordination Committee instructed companies of the private sector to reduce the number of workers using the buses they operate for transporting labor. Face Masks and social distancing were mandatory onboard public transport buses.
- On 23 April 2020, the Minister of Transportation & Telecommunication announced that the Ministry, in cooperation with the MOH and the Bahrain Public Transport Company, has converted a number of public transport buses into mobile testing units equipped according to medical standards in order to support the COVID-19 random screening operations in various areas of Bahrain. The operation of the mobile testing buses began operation in Seef area and the Exhibitions Avenue.
- On 24 February 2021, the Bahrain International Airport Company (BIA) announced deploying robots which use ultraviolet technology to disinfect the new Airport terminal. Handrail disinfection system was installed at escalators and travelators in the airport.

*Bahrain public transportation fully functioned during the COVID-19 pandemic with some social distancing and precautionary measures implemented.
Public Information and Awareness Campaign
On 23 January 2020, the Bahraini MOH began promoting general awareness of the novel coronavirus through its social media platforms, national TV channel, and health facilities.

On 3 February 2020, the MOH released guidelines advising individuals who develop any COVID-19 symptoms to self-quarantine and dedicated the hotline (+973 17288888) for medical assistance. The MOH also devoted a 24/7 hotline (17246769) to answer all public inquiries on the virus.

On 19 February 2020, The MOH launched a multilingual national campaign to combat the COVID-19 virus, through enhancing public awareness and precautionary measures. The wide-ranging campaign was carried out through the national radio, TV, SMS messages, the press, health facilities and labour camps.

On 22 February 2020, the MOH activated the National Ambulance Centre 24/7 emergency hotline (444) to respond to medical emergencies reported by the public. The call centre was equipped with more than 180 staff and volunteer doctors, providing services in Arabic, English and Urdu.

On 24 February 2020, the Sunni Waqf Directorate instructed its staff and imams to urge worshipers to abide with the sanitary measures in Mosques and cemeteries.

On 24 March 2020, the Sunni Waqf Directorate instructed its staff and imams to urge worshipers to abide with the sanitary measures in Mosques and cemeteries.

On 3 March 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs undersecretary Sheikha Rana bint Isa Al Khalifa, hosted in the presence of Dr Manaf Al Qahtani a diplomatic briefing session to present the ambassadors of the different states accredited to Bahrain on the various efforts taken by the Kingdom to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 15 March 2020, The National Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus (COVID-19) announced the opening of volunteering opportunities to support the national campaign to combat the pandemic from the principle of community responsibility and to promote solidarity and cooperation among community members in the Kingdom of Bahrain. Volunteers were invited to apply for opportunities through the National Volunteering Platform (volunteer.gov.bh) where they can commit to medical, administrative and logistical positions.

On 18 March 2020, the MOH emphasized to the public the importance of monitoring the weekly contact tracing updates on the Ministry's website, calling any person who finds that he or any of his relatives or contacts were present at the same location of an existing COVID-19 case to immediately call 444 and follow the instructions of the health authorities.
Global Governmental Response to COVID-19 in accordance to WHO guidelines

Public Information and Awareness Campaign

- **On 21 March 2020**, the Community Service Police at the police directorates of Bahrain's four Governorates, organized awareness campaigns on COVID-19 using several languages. The campaigns aimed at educating citizens and residents on the importance of following health guidelines, avoiding gatherings and adhering to social distancing measures. The MOH has also launched the hashtags #TeamBahrain #UnitedAgainstCOVID19 as part of the national awareness campaign on COVID-19.

- **On 23 March 2020**, the Central Bank of Bahrain has issued a package of preventive measures to reduce the risk of infection that may result from paper currency notes trading by exchange companies. The bank directed exchange companies to expose all currency notes imported from outside Bahrain to Ultraviolet germicidal irradiation or isolate the currency notes for a minimum of 72 hours.

- **On 29 March 2020**, the Civil Defense Agency (CDA) announced that since the beginning of the pandemic in Bahrain, it had completed more than 5,618 disinfection operations across the country. The CDA organized more than 784 lectures and trained 256 employees from different sectors of the state and 457 volunteers to carry out disinfection operations.

- **On 7 April 2020**, the Coordination Committee issued a decision making the wear of face masks mandatory by all in public places.

- **On 9 April 2020**, Bahrain has introduced a 5 BHD on-the-spot fine for not wearing face masks in public places. Those who fail to pay are referred to the Public Prosecution.

- **On 10 April 2020**, the Ministry of Interior announced the launch of a mechanism of action to reduce the high-density of migrant labour in their areas of residence and labour camps, in efforts to counter COVID-19. Labourers living in camps and high-density areas were divided into groups and distributed to several government establishments, such as schools, sports clubs, youth centres, for temporary residence during the pandemic.

- **On 17 April 2020**, Bahrain Radio FM 104.2 began podcasting the latest updates on COVID-19 in Hindi to enhance the public awareness of residents in Bahrain.

- **On 21 April 2020**, the Minister of Labour & Social Development announced that his Ministry had led awareness campaigns in collaboration with the National Taskforce to Combat the Coronavirus (COVID-19), through distributing more than 300,000 multilingual awareness brochures on COVID-19 to a target of 350,000 foreign workers.

- **On 22 April 2020**, The General Directorate of Civil Defence held a series of awareness workshops (remotely) through the YouTube life and Google Meet applications to reach the largest possible society segment. The workshops came in line with the Kingdom's effort to raise public awareness on avoiding gatherings and adhering to social distancing rules.
On 6 May 2020, the MOH launched a chatbot service on WhatsApp which delivers the latest COVID-19 updates to the population in Arabic and English. The service is free of charge and available 24/7.

On 21 May 2020, The General Directorate of Traffic began using drones to run a COVID-19 multi-language awareness campaign that promotes adherence with precautionary measures and social distancing.

On 3 June 2020, the National Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus stressed on the mandatory wearing of face masks outside the house at all times except while driving. Masks are to be worn even during walking exercises but excluding sports that require extreme physical effort such as running, swimming and cycling. In addition to wearing masks when meeting people with chronic diseases or older persons at increased risk within the same family.

On 29 June 2020, the MOH announced that, in collaboration with several mental health volunteers, it has developed an initiative and psychological support programme during the COVID-19 pandemic to include both infected patients and health workers in Bahrain. A psychological support hotline has been provided to allow health workers to communicate with psychological counsellors when needed. The initiative also organizes special field campaigns for front-line workers to provide psychological support through relaxation exercises and occupational combustion prevention, in addition to Tele-psychological counselling.

As for psychological support for community members, the initiative includes disseminating awareness messages about the mental health of different social groups, various guides on how to deal with children in such circumstances and how to deal with 'panic attacks'. In addition to providing psychological discharge training with a hotline for receiving cases and providing appropriate psychological support for them. Psychological support and assistance are also offered to COVID-19 patients in the Ministry's treatment hospitals.

On 3 August 2020, the MOH announced that it had organized a series of training courses and workshops aimed at training health workers and professionals from doctors, nurses, support health services and other specialities working in the Ministry of Health, on infection control and how to prevent the transmission of the coronavirus. In addition to how to deal with existing cases and prevent the further spread of infection.

On 9 September 2020, the National Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus (COVID-19) launched a massive awareness campaign urging the public to avoid all gatherings for the upcoming two weeks, after a recent surge in cases.
On 13 September 2020, the Ministry of Interior announced that it had conducted more than 2,751 awareness campaigns on social distancing and wearing face mask since the beginning of the pandemic. While the Civil Defence Agency has performed over 72,424 disinfection operations for buildings, government institutions, roads and public places. 363 training courses were held on the correct methods of carrying out precautionary disinfection operations in government buildings, facilities and workplaces, which included 2,159 participants from various government agencies, institutions and private companies.

On 17 September 2020, the MOH launched the campaign 'Commit for Bahrain', emphasizing all citizens and residents to adhere to all precautionary measures and avoid all gatherings for the next two weeks and until 1 October, to curb the recent surge in COVID-19 cases.

On 24 September 2020, the MOI increased the on-the-spot fine of not wearing a face mask in public from 5 BHD to 20 BHD. Those who fail to pay are referred to the Public Prosecution.

On 1 October 2020, the MOH announced the extension of the campaign ‘Commit for Bahrain’ for an additional two weeks until the 14th of October, urging the public to avoid all types of gatherings in order to reduce the spread of the virus and control the recent surge in cases.

On 31 October 2020, the MOH launched the website healthalert.gov.bh "In Arabic and English" and to review the most important health emergencies in the Kingdom of Bahrain, where this website is the official platform for health developments in the Kingdom, and aims to keep the public of citizens and residents informed on the most prominent developments concerning the health aspect in the Kingdom.

On 22 December 2020, the MOH launched the national campaign ‘Maintain Caution’ urging the public to continue adhering to precautionary measures following a surge in COVID-19 cases.

On 27 December 2020, The MOH has launched a campaign on social media called "Stop" aimed at curbing the spread of rumors circulating recently on social media platforms, in order to limit any attempts to disrupt the kingdom’s COVID-19 vaccination campaign.

On 9 May 2021, the National Taskforce for Combatting the Coronavirus issued a set of health instructions and guidelines for the reopening of entertainment venues, cinemas, conference halls, spas and massage centers. The guidelines were distributed to the affiliated businesses. The MOH also renewed pleas for the public to take heed during Eid Al Fitr, keep gatherings at limit and comply with precautionary measures.

On 26 May 2021, the MOH launched through its social media platforms a campaign which targets correcting false-information regarding the recent surge in cases.

On 3 June 2021, the MOH launched a new portal for COVID-19 public inquiries on its online website.
Testing Framework

Kingdom of Bahrain
Key Accomplishments

Bahrain passes 1 million COVID-19 PCR tests mark.

20 August 2020

Bahrain reached more than 2 million PCR tests conducted since the beginning of testing in the Kingdom. More than 50% of Bahrain’s population was tested for COVID-19 at least once.

25 November 2020
❖ On 28 January 2020, the MOH received the first batch of diagnostic testing kits needed for COVID-19 laboratory tests.
❖ On 3 February 2020, the MOH began medical screening of passengers arriving through Bahrain International Airport, who showed symptoms of the virus.
❖ On 21 February 2020, the MOH intensified the screening of passengers arriving through Bahrain International Airport.
❖ On 22 February 2020, a tent was constructed at Bahrain International Airport to host the COVID-19 testing of passengers arriving from infected countries.
❖ On 26 February 2020, the MOH announced that it will test all individuals who've returned from Iran during February for the COVID-19. The Ministry urged all those included in the decision to call the hotline (444) to set a PCR appointment and self-isolate at a separate room until the test is conducted and a negative result is issued.
❖ On 28 February 2020, the Ministry of Interior announced that the names and addresses of all 2,292 passengers who've returned from Iran during February were determined, and will be contacted by the MOH to schedule a COVID-19 test, if they haven't already registered voluntarily.
❖ On 29 February 2020, the MOH launched mobile testing units to conduct testing for returnees from Iran.
❖ On 1 March 2020, the MOH launched an electronic registration website to schedule COVID-19 testing for individuals who've returned from Iran in February.
❖ On 3 March 2020, the MOH announced that its mobile testing units have conducted COVID-19 test for 1200 out of the 2,292 returnees from Iran.
❖ On 7 March 2020, the MOH announced that its mobile testing units have conducted COVID-19 test for 2062 out of the 2,292 returnees from Iran.
❖ On 8 March 2020, the MOH announced that completion of testing all 2,292 returnees from Iran.
❖ On 22 March 2020, The Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Centre was transformed into a testing centre for COVID-19. The Center was prepared with a reception and classification halls, three testing halls, rapid treatment section and a pharmacy.
❖ On 26 March 2020, the MOH announced the launch of an online service which allows individuals who've undergone a COVID-19 test, to see their test result through the Ministry's website. Based on their test result, the MOH directs individual's with the necessary instructions moving forward.
❖ On 29 March 2020, the MOH announced that its mobile testing units had begun field visits to various areas in Bahrain to take random samples for COVID-19 from the public. The campaign started by testing the elderly and those most vulnerable to infection, in addition to the staff of hypermarkets, groceries, cold stores, bakeries and pharmacies. Areas covered in the initial phase included Bab Al-Bahrain, Durrat Al-Bahrain and the area near Budaiya road.
On 30 March 2020, viewing the results of a COVID-19 test became available on the 'Be Aware Bahrain' application, in addition to the MOH website.

On 6 April 2020, the MOH announced the expansion of random COVID-19 testings conducted by its mobile units to include labour camps in the areas of Al Hidd, Alba industrial, Al Naim Block 303 in addition to areas nearby various hospitals in Muharraq and the Capital Governorates.

On 9 April 2020, the Minister of Health H.E Faeqa bint Saeed Al Saleh launched a drive-thru COVID-19 testing site at the Bahrain International Exhibition & Convention Centre. The service was available in its first phase only to individuals undergoing home-quarantine. Bookings for a drive-thru test were available through the 'Be Aware Bahrain' application. The Ministry has also conducted an extensive random testing campaign of workers living at Ras Zuwayed labour camps.

On 13 April 2020, the MOH began conducting random COVID-19 tests for several workers at restaurants and retail stores delivery services. Dr Manaf Al Qahtani, member of the National Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus announced that the daily testing capacity in Bahrain has increased by tenfold since the beginning of COVID-19 laboratory tests in the Kingdom. At the beginning of testing in Bahrain, the daily average was approximately 295 tests per day. As a result of continuous efforts to increase the testing capacity, the number of tests conducted in Bahrain on 12 April reached 3,233 tests/per day.

On 15 April 2020, the MOH announced that it had conducted a total of 850 COVID-19 tests today as part of its national random testing campaign. Areas where tests were conducted included Al Hidd, Al Rifaa, A’ali, Sanabis and Al Juffair.

On 17 April 2020, the MOH announced that will continue the random selection of citizens and residents to test for the Coronavirus. In cooperation with the Information & eGovernment Authority (iGA), 20 individuals from each housing block in the Kingdom will be selected on a daily basis, over a period of 12 days. Individuals selected for random testing will be notified through SMS with the time and date of their COVID-19 test, which is conducted at the drive-thru testing site at the Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Centre.

On 7 May 2020, the MOH announced the expansion of random testing to include the areas of Manama, Al-Muharraq, Busaiteen, Budaiya Rd, Al Eker, Nuwaidrat, Ras Zuwayed, Askar, Zallaq, Juffair, Rifaa, Salmabad, Sitra, Jidhafs and Alba Industrial Zone, as well as several other areas throughout the Kingdom. Random testing was set to continue across the Kingdom to curb the spread of the virus. Random screening campaigns across the Kingdom target citizens and residents who do not show symptoms of the virus, and are not clear contacts of an infected case.
Global Governmental Response to COVID-19 in accordance to WHO guidelines

Testing Framework

- **On 22 May 2020**, Dr Manaf Al Qahtani announced that a second PCR test is conducted within 24 hours for cases that display symptoms yet have tested negative in the first PCR test in order to enhance the accuracy of the result of the examination and take appropriate action.

- **On 20 August 2020**, the Minister of Health Faeqa bint Saeed Al Saleh announced that Bahrain had conducted more than 1 million PCR test since the beginning of COVID-19 testing in the Kingdom.

- **On 23 August 2020**, Dr Taghreed Ajoor, chief of the MOH COVID-19 mobile testing units announced that the mobile teams organize random visits daily to seven or eight locations, including health centres, sports clubs and various local markets. The number of tests conducted at each location ranges from 300-400 swab, with a total of 2,000 -2,300 random tests conducted per day across the Kingdom.

- **On 8 September 2020**, the MOH and in collaboration with the MOE began testing all members of the administrative, educational and technical bodies of public schools for COVID-19.

- **On 23 September 2020**, the MOH announced that it had completed the testing of 87% of the administrative, educational and technical bodies in public schools for COVID-19 since 1 September. Dr Jameela Al Salman announced that the Ministry continues to expand the range and numbers of daily tests and random examinations, in order to rapidly treat existing cases, which contributes to their recovery faster, pointing out that the total number of PCR tests conducted in Bahrain reached to date has reached more than 1,355,000 laboratory tests.

- **On 28 September 2020**, the Information & eGovernment Authority announced the launch of electronic PCR test certificates through the 'BeAware Bahrain' app for travellers from Bahrain.

- **On 14 October 2020**, the MOH introduced rapid COVID-19 testing. The service aims in its trial phase to test a target of 20,000 persons, mostly frontline health workers, patients with symptoms, students and academic staff. The nasal swab test can accurately diagnose a patient's infection with COVID-19 within 15 minutes, without the need for a specialized laboratory.

- **On 3 November 2020**, the MOH announced the availability of the COVID-19 rapid antigen test in pharmacies across the country, for a maximum price of 4 BHD. The MOH noted that the PCR test still remains the only officially certified tool for COVID-19 diagnosis in the Kingdom.
❖ On 4 November 2020, Bahrain reached a total of 1,780,000 PCR tests conducted since the beginning of COVID-19 testings.
❖ On 22 November 2020, the Information & eGovernment Authority announced that it had added the option for users of the ‘Be Aware Bahrain’ app to report their COVID-19 rapid antigen test result on the app. Further assistance is then provided by the MOH if required.
❖ On 25 November 2020, the National Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus (COVID-19) announced that Bahrain had conducted more than 2 million PCR tests since the beginning of testing in the Kingdom. Dr Waleed Al Manea announced that more than 50% of Bahrain’s population was tested for COVID-19 at least once.
❖ On 13 January 2021, Bahrain exceeded more than 2,500,000 PCR tests conducted since the beginning of COVID-19 testing in the Kingdom.
❖ On 20 January 2021, Dr Taghreed Ajoor, the MOH mobile testing units officer, announced increasing the daily random testing across the kingdom due to the recent surge in cases. Between 200-500 swabs are conducted at each site of random testing.
❖ On 1 March 2021, Bahrain exceeded more than 3,000,000 PCR tests conducted since the beginning of COVID-19 testing in the Kingdom.
❖ On 30 March 2021, the MOH launched an additional drive-thru testing site at Rashid Equestrian & Horse-racing Club to support the Ministry’s efforts in increasing daily testing capacity.
❖ On 9 April 2021, Bahrain conducted 20,170 PCR tests in 24 hours.
❖ On 8 May 2021, random COVID-19 testing in public areas was put on hold.
❖ On 24 May 2021, the MOH urged all individuals who receive a positive result after conducting a rapid COVID-19 test to head immediately to one of its drive thru PCR testing centers.
❖ On 26 May 2021, the National Committee for Combating the coronavirus announced reducing the cost of rapid COVID-19 testing kits in pharmacies to BHD2.5. Rapid testing is mandatory on all employees in government offices and essential commercial activities which will continue operation during the lockdown period. The MOH will contact all individuals over the age of 50 who test positive for medical advice and checkup.
❖ On 31 May 2021, the MOH began rapid testing for on-duty employees across the Kingdom.
❖ On 9 June 2021, random COVID-19 testing resumed.
Global Governmental Response to COVID-19 in accordance to the WHO guidelines.
On 24 February 2020, Bahrain activated its COVID-19 Contact tracing framework. Once any positive case is confirmed, a comprehensive list of all contacts of the infected patient is generated. The MOH personnel immediately reaches out to those contacts and invite them for a COVID-19 test. A contact who tests positive is isolated for treatment, while those tested negative are placed in quarantine for 14 days, starting from their last day of contact with the infected case. As such, the MOH announced the examination and isolation of all contacts of COVID-19 cases #1 and #2. The contacts tested included (family members, passengers travelling with the cases on the arriving flights, the students who were driven by infected case #1 in addition to their parents). Positive cases who refuse to reveal the list of their contacts may face prosecution and a legal fine between 1,000-10,000 BHD.

On 13 March 2020, the MOH placed an entire labour camp residential facility under precautionary isolation for two weeks, after several residing labourers were in contact with a positive case. Medical and nursing staff were deployed at the isolated facility by the MOH, to monitor and assist the quarantined residents.

On 22 March 2020, the National Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus announced that since the detection of positive cases in the contacts of an existing COVID-19 case on 19 March, all 1,922 contacts had been tested within four days. Only 31 positive cases were detected out of the 1,922 contacts tested, and work is continuing to trace all suspected contacts.

On 30 March 2020, the Information & eGovernment Authority officially released the 'BeAware Bahrain' application on the Apple & Google Play store. The application notifies users when nearby positive COVID-19 cases or locations visited by active cases of the virus, through GPS location data. The app also helps health authorities identify the identity of the contacts of active cases, through tracing their locations and determining the dates and places of their interactions with positive cases. Contacts identified through the app are then immediately requested by the MOH to schedule an appointment for a COVID-19 test. The results of the test can be accessed through the application in addition to the MOH website. Contacts who test negative are required to undergo 14-days of home quarantine, while cases which test positive are sent to isolation and treatment centres. Each individual in Bahrain was obligated to download the 'BeAware Bahrain' application.

On 1 April 2020, the MOH announced that all contacts of active cases who’re completing self-isolation starting 1/4/2020 and beyond must undergo a COVID-19 Exit Test to complete their quarantine period. The Exit Test bookings were available through the 'BeAware Bahrain' app. The test results would be delivered to contacts before the completion of their self-isolation period. Based on the test result, further instructions are delivered to the contact by the MOH personnel.
On 4 April 2020, the Information & eGovernment Authority announced that it has begun distributing the first batch of electronic bracelets to enhance the ability and accuracy of 'BeAware Bahrain' tracing app on monitoring the compliance of individuals undergoing self-isolation to staying at home. The electronic bracelets detect any movement that's 15 meters away from the phone device on which the patient has registered on the 'BeAware Bahrain' app.

On 25 April 2020, the MOH began referring non-infected citizens returning from abroad who were at the mandatory quarantine facilities to continue their quarantine period at home. Individuals were required to download the 'BeAware Bahrain' app and wear a tracking bracelet before continuing the quarantine at home. The MOH noted that it now applies a two week home quarantine on arrivals from abroad and individuals who're in contact with positive cases. While recovered cases are required to quarantine for four weeks.

On 30 June 2020, the National Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus announced reducing the home quarantine period for contacts of active cases to 10 days instead of 14 previously.

On 30 January 2021, Dr Waleed Al Manea announced the MOH will increase the frequency of testing and tracing contacts across the country, following a surge in the number of cases, and the detection of a new strain of COVID-19 in the Kingdom.

On 26 May 2021, the MOH announced suspending the first COVID-19 test for those who were in contact with a positive case but do not show symptoms of infection. Tracking bracelets will not be distributed anymore to individuals in self-isolation. Contacts of a positive case must quarantine immediately at home for a 10-day period. Those who display symptoms must undergo one PCR test on the tenth day. Contacts over the age of 50 will be reached out by the MOH to schedule a PCR test appointment at the beginning of the quarantine period and on the tenth day. Contacts under the age of 50 can do PCR test at private healthcare centers.
Global Governmental Response to COVID-19 in accordance to the WHO guidelines.
On 8 March 2020, the National Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus announced the preparation of a field hospital in Sitra for returnees from Iran, with a capacity of 5,000 beds.

On 18 March 2020, the MOH announced that patients seeking follow-up medical examinations at Salmaniya Medical Complex would receive distance medical consultation through the telephone. New patients who require a physical examination by a specialist are excluded from the decision. Medical consultations for psychiatry, paediatrics and obstetrics & gynaecology clinics would only occur through the telephone.

On 19 March 2020, the Psychiatric Hospital announced that all medical consultations between patients and psychiatrists would be conducted through the telephone.

On 24 March 2020, the Ministry of Health announced that it would stop issuing the approved licenses for narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors on paper versions. Electronic versions were adopted in replacement. License requests and approvals are to be received through email.

On 25 March 2020, the Chairman of the Supreme Council of Health Sheikh Mohammed Bin Abdullah Al Khalifa announced that the capacity of the isolation and treatment centre of COVID-19 in Bahrain is 1,667 beds. While the capacity of the precautionary quarantine centres is 2,504 beds. Al Khalifa stressed that the quarantine centres are eligible to be converted into isolation and treatment centres if necessary.

On 26 March 2020, the National Health Regulatory Authority announced the suspension of non-essential medical services for two weeks. Suspended services included aesthetic procedures (except hair laser therapies), non-urgent dental services (excluding follow up cases) and alternative therapies.

On 30 March 2020, the National Health Regulatory Authority announced that it has begun to grant permits to hospitals in the private sector to provide health care for COVID-19 cases, those with no symptoms, and who can stay out of the hospital and wish to receive treatment on their own expense in the private sector. Hospitals at the private sector were granted permits to provide special precautionary quarantine services in several hotels for those coming from abroad or contacts for existing cases, who are infected and wish to quarantine at hotels on their own expense.

On 2 April 2020, the Salmaniya Medical Complex (SMC) and as part of the precautionary measures to limit the spread of COVID-19 has launched the delivery service of prescribed medicines to home. Patients can complete the request for their prescribed drugs online. The pharmacy department at SMC then releases medicines after confirming the medications are approved by the medical prescription present in the patient’s electronic file (I-Seha system).
❖ On 8 April 2020, the suspension of non-essential medical services was extended for another two weeks.

❖ On 9 April 2020, the Minister of Health decided to suspend the medical consultation fees for non-Bahraini patients (7 BHD) in public health centres. The MOH also announced the completion of the construction of the field intensive care unit at the Bahrain Defence Force Hospital in a record period of seven days and a capacity of 130 beds. The ICU was temporarily constructed at the hospital's multi-storey car park and equipped with the best medical equipment and technology, and in correspondence to the international standards.

❖ On 12 April 2020, the MOH launched telemedicine service in health centres through video technology consultations. Services provided through video consultations include regular medical consultations and health inquiries, requesting laboratory tests, renewing prescriptions, and reviewing the results of laboratory or radiology analyses. People in-home quarantine could benefit from the service for medical consultations on matters other than COVID-19, which has its separate hotline (444).

❖ On 20 April 2020, engineers at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) and in cooperation with Salmaniya Medical Complex (SMC) have designed the first locally manufactured ventilator for patients who're not in critical condition but in-need of respiratory assistance. Following the regulatory approval, the MOH has placed an order of 100 ventilators under local production at BIC.

❖ On 22 April 2020, the Supreme Council of Health Chairman Sheikh Mohammed Bin Abdullah Al Khalifa launched the field care unit at the International Hospital of Bahrain, which will be dedicated to the treatment of COVID-19 active cases. The suspension of non-essential medical services was extended for another two weeks.

❖ On 23 April 2020, the SMC announced the launch of telemedicine service for physiotherapy, occupational therapy and rehabilitation consultations.

❖ On 29 April 2020, medicine delivery services were extended to include public health centres across the Kingdom. https://www.moh.gov.bh/eServices/HcPharmacy.

❖ On 30 April 2020, the Supreme Council of Health Chairman launched the intensive care unit at the Sitra field hospital. The 2400 square meters ICU was constructed at a record time of 14 days, with a capacity of 152 beds and 152 artificial respirators. The unit is managed by a specialized medical staff consisting of 55 doctors, 250 nurses. The MOH also announced the precedent establishment of a medical laboratory, in the field hospital equipped with the latest equipment and medical technology. The field hospital was equipped with x-ray machines, mobile dialysis devices, and an integrated storage area for all medicines and drugs required by the ICU.

❖ On 8 May 2020, the suspension of non-essential medical services was extended until 21 May 2020.
On 12 May 2020, the Minister of Health announced the increase in the capacity of COVID-19 isolation and treatment centres to 4,257 beds and quarantine centres to 5,489 beds.

On 13 May 2020, the Chief Executive of the National Health Regulatory Authority Dr Mariam Al Jalahma announced that the Authority has begun granting several private hospitals permits to conduct COVID-19 tests, optionally for people who are not infected and do not suffer from any suspected symptoms, and who wish to do so at their own request.

On 21 May 2020, the Coordination Committee announced the resumption of non-essential medical services following health requirements and social distancing rules.

On 23 May 2020, the Supreme Council of Health Chairman launched the field care unit for anti-symptomatic COVID-19 patients at Abdullah bin Ali Kanoo centre in A’ali, with a capacity of 814 beds.

On 26 May 2020, The MOH started using three medical robots in the isolation wards of hospitals and isolation centres. The use of the robots began at the Ibrahim Khalil Kanoo Isolation Center. The first robot can be used in the transport of medicines and food and can, through a thermal camera, measure patients’ body temperature, sending a picture to the control centre. The second robot sterilises the isolation rooms and facilities of the medical centre. The third robot is used to transport medical supplies and is characterised by easy movement and its ability to carry heavyweights.

On 1 July 2020, the MOH Undersecretary Dr Walid Al Manea announced the increase of isolation and treatment centres capacity to 8,357 beds. The capacity of the intensive care units has been doubled to 500 beds. Al Manea confirmed that the medical stock of medicines available in the Kingdom is sufficient for up to a year and a half, after the Ministry received shipments of necessary medical equipment recently. The BDF Military hospital has also begun installing portable isolation chambers, dedicated to isolating patients who arrive at the hospital with suspected COVID-19 symptoms. The chambers include UV light HEPA Filter that kills viruses and bacteria, negative pressure, and a fully equipped ICU bed. Air at the isolation chambers is changed 48 times/ per hour at minimum.

On 2 June 2020, the MOH announced that the option is available for COVID-19 patients wishing to receive treatment in the private medical sector at their own expense or those wishing to undergo precautionary quarantine in 3-star hotels designated by the Ministry.
On 5 June 2020, the MOH has announced raising the capacity of isolation and treatment centres to 7,240 beds, and the capacity of the precautionary quarantine centres to 3,410 beds. The MOH announced the approval of implementing (optional home-self-isolation) for active COVID-19 cases that do not show symptoms under the following requirements:

- A person must not be over 60 years of age.
- The person should not have chronic diseases.
- Do not show symptoms or only shows very mild symptoms, and does not live with immunodeficiency patients at the same home and have the ability to quarantine at an isolated place at home.
- Patients isolating at home will be required to wear a tracking bracelet and download the ‘BeAware Bahrain’ App. All residents at the same house of an isolating active case will be treated as contacts and required to also self-isolate at home for 14 days. The MOH established a medical examination centre to access cases that are eligible for home quarantine and those who need to be admitted to treatment centres. Patients undergoing home quarantine were also provided with an aid package, including masks, sanitisers and some necessary medication they may require.

On 27 August 2020, the Minister of Health launched the new expansion project of the emergency department at Salmaniya Medical Complex. The new expansion increased the SMC capacity to admit emergency patients during the COVID-19 crisis by 100 beds.

On 16 September 2020, the MOH launched a new electronic service which makes it possible to view and print sick leaves registered in all hospitals and health centres, via the Ministry’s website.

On 5 May 2021, the Supreme Council of Health Chairman Sheikh Mohammed Bin Abdullah Al Khalifa launched a new integrated unit for COVID-19 treatment at SMC.

On 27 May 2021, the Minister of Health decided to extend the suspension of the medical consultation fees for non-Bahraini patients (7 BHD) in public health centres until the end of August 2021.

On 1 June 2021, the MOH launched an additional COVID-19 treatment clinic at the Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Center, to boost the country’s treatment capacity amid cases surge. The MOH announced increasing the treatment capacity for moderate and critical cases.

On 21 June 2021, the MOH launched the first COVID-19 monoclonal clinic specialized in implementing the new treatment protocol which includes Sotrovimab use.
Economy

4.3 Billion BHD
Economic stimulus package
On 17 March 2020, the Bahraini government introduced an economic stimulus package worth BHD4.3bn (equivalent to 29.6% of country’s annual GDP) to support businesses, citizens and residents in overcoming the impacts of the pandemic. The economic package committed the government to:

➢ Paying the salaries of all Bahraini private sector employees for three months, through the unemployment fund.
➢ Paying the Electricity and Water Authority (EWA) bills for all businesses and individuals from April-July 2020.
➢ Exempting all businesses and individuals from tourism fees, municipal and industrial land rental fees from April-July 2020.
➢ Exempting all businesses in the tourism industry from tourism levies from April-July 2020.
➢ Doubling the Kingdom’s Liquidity Support Fund to BHD 200 million.
➢ Redirecting Tamkeen programmes to support affected businesses and restructuring all Tamkeen-issued debts.

On 19 March 2020, HM King Hamad bin Isa directed that loan installments is delayed by six month for all Bahraini citizens. The Central Bank of Bahrain's loan facilities were increased to BHD 3.7bn to support debt installment.

On 3 April 2020, the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) announced terminating the monthly work fees and the fees of issuing and renewing work permits for three months, starting April.

On 21 April 2020, The Minister of Commerce announced that the ministry is offering an e-commerce platform (www.mall.bh) which offers businesses in Bahrain the option to display their products and services to consumers online, during the period of retail stores closure. The platform is free of charge.
Global Governmental Response to COVID-19 in accordance to WHO guidelines

Economy

❖ On 29 June 2020, the government announced that it will continue to pay 50% of the salaries of Bahraini employees in the private sector's most affected business for an additional 3 months. The government also announced that it would continue to pay the EWA bills for all for the first residence for all citizens until September 2020. Exempting tourism businesses from levies was extended until September. Rent collection was suspended for manufacturers who export 30% or more of their goods and occupy government industrial land.

❖ On 12 July 2020, the LMRA announced exempting businesses in the most affected sectors by COVID-19 from monthly fees and the fees of issuing and renewing work permits for an additional three months. Businesses in all other sectors will be granted a 50% reduction on fees for the same period.

❖ On 28 September 2020, the government announced that it will continue to pay 50% of the salaries of Bahraini employees in the private sector's most affected business until the end of 2020. The government also announced that it would continue to pay the EWA bills for the first residence for all citizens until December 2020. Exempting tourism businesses from levies was extended until December 2020.

❖ On 27 May 2021, the Bahraini Council of Ministers announced deferring loan installments for all individuals and businesses in the Kingdom for an additional six month period.

* According to the Ministry of Finance and National Economy, the economy of the Kingdom of Bahrain Real GDP has declined by an estimate of 5.8% in 2020. The economy contracted by an estimate of 8.9% in the second quarter (Q2) of 2020, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
Vaccination

Global Governmental Response to COVID-19 in accordance to the WHO guidelines.
On 9 August 2020, the Supreme Council of Health Chairman Sheikh Mohammed Bin Abdullah Al Khalifa announced that the Kingdom of Bahrain would participate in the first global clinical trials of the third phase of the Sinopharm potential COVID-19 vaccine (listed under the umbrella of the WHO). As part of the clinical trials, the vaccine will be tested on 6,000 volunteer citizens and residents of the Kingdom.

On 10 August 2020, the vaccine’s clinical trial centre at Bahrain International Exhibition & Convention Centre was inaugurated. The clinical trials for the inactivated Sinopharm vaccine were officially launched in Bahrain.

On 11 August 2020, the MOH opened the registration platform for volunteers wishing to participate in the clinical trials of the Sinopharm vaccine. Volunteering was open for individuals over the age of 18, not previously infected, and in good health and do not suffer from chronic diseases.

On 21 August 2020, the MOH announced that volunteers wishing to participate in the Sinopharm vaccine clinical trial could head directly to the Clinical Trial Center at the Bahrain International Exhibition & Convention Centre for vaccination.

On 7 September 2020, the MOH announced that more than 3,000 volunteers were vaccinated since the start of the Sinopharm vaccine third phase clinical trials in Bahrain.

On 15 September 2020, the National Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus (COVID-19) announced that over 4,000 volunteers have registered for participating at the Sinopharm vaccine phase 3 clinical trials.

On 19 September 2020, the MOH announced that the number of volunteers participating in the Sinopharm phase 3 clinical trials had exceeded 5,000 individuals.

On 20 September 2020, Dr Manaf Al Qahtani, invited athletes in the Kingdom of Bahrain to participate in the clinical trials of the Sinopharm vaccine, for the sake of corporate humanitarian and social responsibility.

On 22 September 2020, the Minister of Health announced the completion of the third phase of the Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine clinical trials in Bahrain. Six thousand volunteers from different nationalities and ethnicities have participated in the clinical trials, within six weeks since the launch of trials in Bahrain. The MOH announced that an additional 1,700 volunteer might participate in the clinical trials of the vaccine.

On 7 October 2020, the MOH announced the completion of vaccinating the additional 1,700 volunteers as part of the Sinopharm vaccine (inactive) clinical trials in the Kingdom. Bahrain reached a target of 7,700 participants as the clinical trials in Bahrain comes to an end.
Global Governmental Response to COVID-19 in accordance to WHO guidelines

Vaccination

- **On 3 November 2020**, the National Health Regulatory Authority announced the emergency approval for using the Sinopharm COVID-19 candidate vaccine for health workers at the frontlines.

- **On 10 November 2020**, Dr Manaf Al Qahtani announced that Bahrain had ordered more than a million doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech, AstraZeneca and Sinopharm SARS-CoV-2 vaccines. Al Qahtani revealed that Bahrain would be one of the world's first countries to receive the vaccines once approved.

- **On 4 December 2020**, Bahrain's National Health Regulatory Authority granted an emergency approval for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. Bahrain became the second country in the world to approve the vaccine after the UK.

- **On 10 December 2020**, the Coordination Committee announced that His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa has directed that the COVID-19 vaccines are provided free of charge for all citizens and residents in Bahrain. A national vaccination plan was developed to distribute vaccines through 27 medical centres across the Kingdom. The plan aims in its first stage to vaccinate those over the age of 18 with a capacity of 5,000 people a day and vaccinating 10,000 persons a day at the following stages.

- **On 13 December 2020**, the MOH invited all those wishing to take the COVID-19 vaccine to register through the website (healthalert.gov.bh). The Ministry has also launched an awareness campaign educating the public on the importance of vaccination. The National Health Regulatory Authority has approved the registration and use of the Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine. Citizens and residents will have a choice between the Sinopharm and Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines when registering online for vaccination.

- **On 16 December 2020**, King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa receives the COVID-19 vaccine, announcing the launch of the vaccination campaign in the Kingdom.

- **As of 25 December 2020**, the COVID-19 vaccination became available at the public health centres within residential areas, pre-online booking for appointments was still required.

- **On 30 December 2020**, the MOH announced that vaccination appointments for those wishing to receive it are currently determined according to the remaining stock of quantities of vaccines that have arrived at the Kingdom so far.

- **On 31 December 2020**, the Supreme Council of Health Chairman Sheikh Mohammed Bin Abdullah Al Khalifa inaugurated the COVID-19 vaccination centre at King Hamad University Hospital. The MOH also announced that registering for the COVID-19 vaccination became available via the ‘BeAware Bahrain’ app. Individuals who received the required doses of the vaccine can then access a vaccination certificate through the app.

- **On 12 January 2021**, the MOH launched mobile medical units to vaccinate elderly, and people with disabilities or movement difficulties in their homes.
On 15 January 2021, the MOH announced that the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine consignment, which was supposed to arrive in Bahrain in January, will not arrive on schedule. The arrival of the consignment will be rescheduled, due to the manufacturing company operational difficulties. The ministry announced that individuals who’ve already received the first dose of the vaccine will still receive their second dose on time, without being impacted by the delay.

On 20 January 2021, Dr Manaf Al Qahtani, member of the National Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus announced that Bahrain had vaccinated 143,596 individuals to date. As such Bahrain stands at a rate of 8.4 per cent in vaccinations per 100 people, ranking it third internationally.


On 28 January 2021, Bahrain received the first batch of the AstraZeneca-Oxford COVID-19 vaccine.

On 10 February 2021, Bahrain authorized the emergency use of the Sputnik-V vaccine. Citizens and residents were given the option to choose any of the four vaccines authorized in the Kingdom, depending on their preference and availability of vaccine doses.

On 17 February 2021, Bahrain launched the digital COVID-19 vaccine passport for all individuals who successfully received the required doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.

On 25 February 2021, The National Health Regulatory Authority approved the emergency use of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine in the Kingdom.

On 2 March 2021, the MOH revealed a plan to vaccinate an additional 300,000 people of the population by the end of the month.

On 13 March 2021, Bahrain received its largest shipment of the Sinopharm vaccine (300,000 doses).

On 14 March 2021, the MOH announced that all senior citizens and residents over the age of 70 may head directly to the vaccination center to receive their dose without a pre-registration or appointment required.

On 21 March 2021, the MOH has transformed Sitra Shopping Mall into a mass COVID-19 vaccination center, in an aim to increase vaccination capacity.

On 9 April 2021, the MOH announced that immediate vaccination appointments are available for the Sputnik-V vaccine. Individuals over the age of 60 wishing to receive the vaccine may head directly to vaccination centers without a pre-booked appointment.

On 24 April 2021, the MOH announced that more than half a million people in Bahrain have received two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine (accounting for 36.45% of population).
On 7 May 2021, the National Medical Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus announced that a COVID-19 booster vaccine dose (third dose) will be offered after six months from a second dose of the Sinopharm vaccine for citizens and residents over the age of 50, frontliners, individuals suffering from obesity, low immunity or other underlying health conditions. The booster dose will be available to all other groups 12 months from the second dose. Registration for the booster doses is available through the Ministry of Health website.

On 8 May 2021, National Medical Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus announced that 70% of the eligible population in Bahrain have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

On 11 May 2021, Bahrain’s National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA) authorized the new single-dose Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use.

On 18 May 2021, the National Medical Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus announced that the registration for a COVID-19 booster vaccine dose is now open.

On 19 May 2021, Bahrain authorized the use of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for young individuals aged 12-17.

On 25 May 2021, Bahrain announced plans to increase its daily number of vaccination doses to 31,000 distributed through 31 centers across the Kingdom.

On 1 June 2021, Bahrain announced that all affiliates and servicemen of the Bahraini National Guard have been vaccinated against COVID-19.

On 3 June 2021, the MOH announced that completion of vaccinating 96 per cent of all individuals who registered for the COVID-19 vaccine. The MOH urged those vaccinated with the Sinopharm vaccine to register for a third booster dose (either a dose of Pfizer-BioNTech or Sinopharm). Russia and Bahrain signed an agreement to locally produce the Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccine in Bahrain for the MENA region.

On 6 June 2021, Bahrain has surpassed one million first doses of COVID-19 vaccination, accounting for 86 per cent of the eligible population.

On 7 June 2021, the MOH announced a set of updates to the national COVID-19 vaccination protocol. Individuals who were infected with the virus in 2020 and would like to receive the vaccine will have the option of receiving either one dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine or two doses of the other vaccines approved in the Kingdom. High risk groups vaccinated with the Sinopharm vaccine can register for a booster dose three month after their second dose. Those who received the Sinopharm vaccine and were previously infected with the virus will not be receiving a booster dose. Fully vaccinated patients who recovered in 2021 are not eligible for a booster dose.

On 9 June 2021, the MOH announced that all necessary steps has been taken to ensure COVID-19 jabs for bahrainis living abroad, through the Kingdom embassies.

On 20 June 2021, Bahrain surpassed two million doses of the COVID-19 vaccines since the start of the national vaccination campaign.
Global Recognitions

❖ The World Health Organization (WHO) commends Bahrain on implementing precautionary measures to combat the spread of COVID-19, specifically the nationwide strategy that has been put into effect and the efforts by the national task force in combating the spread of the virus. Both HM the King and HRH the Crown Prince have been highly praised for their keen follow up of the situation.

❖ Alongside other countries Bahrain began participating in “Solidarity Trial” under the WHO to find the most effective way to combat and treat the virus. Bahrain was recognized by the UN and WHO for its efforts in containing the spread of COVID-19 through their National Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus, nationwide preemptive strategy and following the WHO guidelines.

❖ Director General of the WHO Dr Tedros Adhanom praised Bahrain in supporting the WHO’s role in combating COVID-19, the implementation of resolution WHA 73.1, the solidarity shown in helping other member states. In addition to the implementation of preemptive measures mostly citing the tracking system in use, treatment protocols and honoring frontline workers.
Sources

*All data are based on information from official government sources, the official website of the Ministry of Health for the latest health developments within the Kingdom of Bahrain and Bahrain News Agency (BNA).
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