



Destination Updates as on 30 April 2021

BHUTAN

Since the lifting of the second nationwide lockdown in late January, Bhutan did not have a community transmission. However, earlier this week, authorities detected a community transmission in the border town of Phuntsholing and the town is now under lockdown. The capital Thimphu also saw several positive cases from frontline workers this week. However, since the frontline workers are in contained zones and facilities, a community transmission has not happened in the capital yet.

The Government successfully executed the first dose of vaccination to all eligible Bhutanese (approximately 495,000 / 63% of the population) in early April. The country expects to deliver the second dose by June-July as per current schedule.

The King's Relief Fund, initiated in March 2020 at the beginning of the pandemic, has been extended until June 2022. This will help support continue to provide income and interest payment support to people who face economic difficulties due to the pandemic. Until now, The King's Relief fund had supplemented the government's fund in fighting the pandemic. However, this time, The King's Relief Fund will finance the cost of the pandemic in its entirety. During this difficult time, this move comes as a great relief for the Bhutanese people.

The Bhutanese borders, however, remain monitored and closed to tourists until further notice.

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