

EARLY ENDEMIC PHASE GUIDELINES FOR OTHER RELIGIOUS GATHERINGS (E.G. TEMPLES & CHURCHES)

This document provides the measures under which other religious places of worship are permitted to carry out activities during Brunei Darussalam's Early Endemic Phase within the National COVID-19 Recovery Framework.

COVID-19 Control Measures in Endemic Phase

- **Use of the BruHealth App:**
 - a. All premises must register for a BruHealth QR code.
 - b. The owner of the premises is to ensure that all individuals entering the premises scan their Bruhealth app once entering (this includes all employees/staff/volunteers).
 - c. The owner of the premises to ensure that only individuals with green and yellow Bruhealth codes are allowed to enter.
- **Complete Vaccination:**
 - a. The owner of the premises is to ensure that all employees/staff/volunteers who are eligible to be vaccinated (no medical contraindications) are fully vaccinated.
- **Mask wearing:**
 - a. All individuals aged 2 years or older should wear a mask over their nose and mouth in indoor public places, on public transport, in crowded outdoor settings, and for activities with close contact with others who are not fully vaccinated.
 - b. Masks can be taken off when:
 - i. In hotel rooms or accommodation with members of the household;
 - ii. In an enclosed individual workspace;
 - iii. During strenuous activity during sports and recreational activities;
 - iv. Inside own vehicle and with household members;
 - v. Indoor or outdoor public areas and places without any other individuals; and
 - vi. When eating and drinking in a public place without any other individuals (other than in a restaurant or food premises).
- **Hand hygiene and cough and sneezing etiquette:**
 - a. If individuals have been in a public place, or after blowing their nose, coughing, or sneezing, they are advised to wash their hands frequently with soap and water, but if not readily available, use a hand sanitiser that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- **Physical distancing measures are in place:**
 - a. at least 1.5m apart between individuals when possible.
- **Ventilation of premises:**
 - a. The owner of indoor premises to ensure premises have adequate ventilation.
- **Self Health monitoring and ART testing:**
 - a. Individuals are advised to monitor health daily for symptoms.
 - b. It is recommended that vaccinated people do an ART as a matter of routine once every 2 weeks. And test before attending gatherings or visiting others in their home.

Fully vaccinated individuals

An individual is considered to be fully vaccinated if he/ she has received the appropriate regimen of WHO Emergency Use Listing (WHO EUL) vaccines or BDMCA-approved vaccines. Vaccination status in an individual's BruHealth, International Certificate of Vaccination or Prophylaxis book (Yellow Book), or other acceptable vaccination records may be shown to the management of a premise or organiser of the event as proof of vaccination.

Proof of negative ART

This will be required for individuals who are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated to ENTER PUBLIC PREMISES. Proof must be in the form of an ART conducted under observation by the relevant authority or store owner or can be in the form of a certificate issued by an ART certification centre that is registered with the Ministry of Health. These certificates will be issued with a validity period that expires in 2 (two) days.

Measures for Other Religious Gatherings (Temples and Churches, etc.)

Capacity measures

- Places of worship can operate at 75% capacity premises during congregational and other worship services.
- Other in-person religious group activities such as religious classes are allowed at 50% capacity of premises or classroom.

Worship and other in-person religious activities protocol

- Congregational and other worship services and other in-person religious group activities are allowed.
- All individuals above the age of 12-year-old are allowed to attend. However, Individuals who are not fully vaccinated must have proof of negative ART.
- Children under the age of 12 years old are not allowed to be present during congregational and other worship services.
- Use of the BruHealth App is mandatory.
- Places of worship are to only deploy fully vaccinated workers or volunteers for worship services.
- Keep worship services to **as short a duration as possible**. Mingling between worshippers, before, during, or after each worship service should be kept to a minimum.
- All persons present must **wear a face mask at all times**. Face shields are not permitted as substitutes for face masks.

- Singing by worshippers with masks on is permitted.
- Music performances with instruments during the worship service are permitted except for the use of wind instruments.
- There should be **no sharing of prayer and other common items** (e.g. holy books, the passing of offertory baskets, etc.) as this increases the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Worshippers are to bring along their personal prayer items instead, where required.
- Places of worship with reduced air circulation (e.g. enclosed prayer spaces, air-conditioned worship hall) should, where possible, open doors and windows to naturally **ventilate the space after each use**.
- ART is recommended to be done once every fortnight for staff.

Sanitation and Hygiene

- Places of worship must appoint staff to carry out enhanced cleaning and housekeeping both daily and regularly. Disinfect with disinfectant regularly, frequently touched areas such as handrails, lift surfaces and buttons, doorknobs/handles, letterboxes, notice boards, digital displays, touch screen panels, and tables and chairs in the common areas.
- Provide hand sanitisers at high human traffic points.
- Ensure refuse bins are covered at all times and cleared daily. Tie refuse contained in plastic bags properly before disposal at the bin centre.
- Clean up immediately any refuse spillage.
- Wash and disinfect all refuse bins, bin chambers, and bin centres where necessary.
- Engage licensed waste contractors to remove refuse daily.
- Cleaning staff are expected to:
 - Soak cleaning cloths in household bleach at the proper concentration according to manufacturer's instructions and wash the cloth after use or before reuse.
 - Clean and disinfect all cleaning equipment immediately after use.