



TRANSITION 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's transition phase within the National COVID-19 Recovery Framework. Our approach is based on ensuring compliance to core measures listed under COVID-19 Control Measures and differentiated restrictions for vaccinated and unvaccinated.

Transition Phase

May commence at 70% vaccination coverage.

Minimise serious illness, hospitalisations, and deaths.

Measures that may be implemented:

- Maximise vaccination coverage including boosters;
- Reporting to shift from daily case numbers to weekly averages and focus on serious illness and deaths.
- Phased reopening of workplaces, businesses, and schools with possible ongoing low-level restrictions, adjusted to minimise severe cases.
- Contact tracing and quarantine measures to focus on the prevention of large clusters.
- Differentiated restrictions for vaccinated and unvaccinated residents.
- Establish a Travel Green List with reduced restrictions on inbound and outbound travel for vaccinated individuals.

COVID-19 control measures for the Transition Phase

1. Use of the BruHealth App:

- All premises must register for a BruHealth QR code.



- The owner of premises is to ensure all individuals entering the premises scan their BruHealth app once entering (this includes all employees/staff/volunteers).
- The owner of premises to ensure only individuals with green and yellow BruHealth codes are allowed to enter.

2. Complete vaccination:

- The owner of premises is to ensure all employees/staff/volunteers eligible to be vaccinated(no medical contraindications) are fully vaccinated.

3. Wearing of masks:

- All individuals aged 2 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.
- Masks can be taken off when:
 - In hotel rooms or accommodation with members of the household.
 - In an enclosed individual workspace.
 - During strenuous activity such as sports and recreational activities.
 - Inside your own vehicle and with members of the household.
 - Indoor or outdoor public areas and places without any other individuals.
 - When eating and drinking in a public place without any other individual (other than in a restaurant or food premises).

4. Hand hygiene and cough and sneezing etiquette:

- 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 sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.

5. Physical distancing measures are in place:

- At least 1.5 metres apart between individuals when possible.



6. Ventilation of premises:

- The owner of indoor premises to ensure premises have adequate ventilation.

7. Self-health monitoring:

- Individuals are advised to monitor health daily for symptoms.

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.

Measures for other religious gatherings (churches and temples, etc.)

Capacity measures:

- Places of worship are allowed to be **open daily**.
- Capacity at congregational and other worship services is capped at **50 percent of the full capacity of the place of worship a time**, this is subject to the **COVID-19 control measures** and the safe capacity of the premises. This also includes other in-person religious activities (e.g. religious classes, pastoral services). This cap includes religious and supporting workers.

Worship and other in-person religious activities protocols:

- Congregational and other worship services:
 - **Only fully vaccinated individuals** are allowed to attend.
- Other in-person religious activities (e.g. religious classes, pastoral care) are not permitted.
- **Children under the age of 12 or unvaccinated individuals, even with medical exemptions, are not allowed to attend.**



- COVID-19 control measures are to be strictly followed.
- Places of worship are to only deploy fully vaccinated workers/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**.
- Receptions with food and drinks are allowed but in the form of packed food, and it is strongly recommended that they be consumed at home.

Sanitization 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, door knobs/handles, letterboxes, notice boards, digital displays, touch screen panels and tables and chairs in the common areas.



- Provide hand sanitizers 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.