Bahrain's Government Executive Committee introduces additional COVID-19 precautionary measures

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Manama, Apr. 7(BNA): His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, today chaired a meeting of the Government Executive Committee, held remotely.

- HRH the Crown Prince stressed that Bahrain's enduring priority remains the health and safety of all citizens and residents within the Kingdom
- In this regard, HRH the Crown Prince underlined that the National Task Force for Combatting the Coronavirus (COVID-19) is doubling its dedicated efforts to combat COVID-19. Efforts which continue in tandem with an integrated, proactive approach across the Kingdom's Government, under the leadership of HM the King.

- · HRH the Crown Prince highlighted the strength of the Kingdom's telecommunications infrastructure, the development of which has allowed for seamless communication and efficiency across all Governorates to be maintained
- · HRH the Crown Prince concluded by reminding all within the Kingdom of their shared responsibility to contribute towards national efforts to combat the spread of COVID-19

Following the consideration of a report submitted by the National Medical Task Force to Combat the Coronavirus, headed by HE Lieutenant-General Dr. Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Supreme Council of Health, the following decisions were taken, effective from 19h00, Thursday 09 April, to Thursday 23 April:

- Movie theatres are to remain closed
- All commercial sports gymnasiums, fitness studios, swimming pools and recreational activities are to remain closed
- The activities of all restaurants, tourist facilities and places for serving food and beverages are to remain limited to external orders and delivery services
- · Shisha Cafes are to remain closed. Services offered by these cafes are to remain limited to takeout and delivery of food and beverages only
- · Salons are to remain closed
- All non-essential medical services provided by private health clinics are to remain suspended.
- The first hour of grocery store openings is to remain dedicated for the elderly and pregnant women
- Public gatherings are to remain limited to 5 individuals or fewer. Individuals are encouraged to stay at home as much as possible, only going out for necessities
- All citizens and residents are required to wear face masks whilst in public

- Commercial and industrial businesses providing goods or services directly to customers, are to open and resume work provided the following conditions are met:
- o Employees and visitors are required to wear a face mask
- o The number of employees in any facility is reduced and overcrowding in stores is actively prevented to ensure sufficient social distancing measures are maintained at all times.
- o Stores must ensure continuous sterilization, including external premises, in accordance to guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health
- o Queuing line-ups outside stores must be arranged in accordance to the social distancing measures issued by the Ministry of Health
- Private Sector enterprises are encouraged to follow the below guidelines:
- o Remote working to be maintained, if and when possible
- o The number of employees to be limited at any certain location, office and employees are instructed to adhere to social distancing measures
- o Employees using corporate transportation methods, such as buses, to be reduced
- The Government's Executive Committee concluded by reiterating the importance for all to follow the guidelines issued aimed at combating the spread of COVID-19, as a united Team Bahrain.