

Local

Ministry reassures public as registration for COVID-19 vaccination goes online in Kuwait

Kuwait registers 549 new cases, one death over the weekend

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Ministry of Health (MOH) reiterated the efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccines as the country has opened online registration to the public for vaccination against the deadly virus. The new service, available via a link on the Ministry's website, went operational Thursday, allowing people to register in order to be inoculated at a future date to be determined later.

"As part of preparation for the vaccination campaign, the Ministry developed an operating mechanism and a detailed plan outlining the segments of the public who have priority access to the vaccine," Spokesman of the Ministry of Health said Thursday evening as he announced launching a campaign for online registration for vaccination through the link https://cov19vaccine.moh.gov.kw/SPCMS/CVD_19_Vaccine_Registration.aspx. "Early registration does not necessarily lead to early vaccination or priority; it only provides the ministry with the data that could help identify the prioritized segments of the public and the required quantity and distribution of the vaccine," he explained.

"It can help conduct the vaccination in an easy and orderly way, taking into account of the numbers of citizens and foreign residents, including illegal residents," Dr Sanad further noted. The public vaccination campaign targets everybody and will be conducted in coordination with all competent state bodies, he said, voicing hope that all people will register in the coming few days.

One death

Kuwait had listed 255 new coronavirus infections yesterday, raising total cases to 146,044, while the death toll reached 911 after one fatality was recorded over the previous 24 hours. Meanwhile, total recoveries reached 141,825 with 256 new ones announced yesterday. On Friday, Kuwait announced it registered 294 new cases, zero deaths and 310 recoveries.

The number of patients hospitalized stood at 3,308 yesterday, including 68 in intensive care units, up from 66 the previous day. Health workers conducted 4,824 swab tests in the previous 24 hours, Dr Sanad said yesterday, compared to 6,725 registered the previous day. The total number of swab tests taken since the outbreak of the disease stood at 1,176,983 yesterday.

The rollout of the vaccine in Kuwait remains pending approval by international and local regulators, the health ministry explained in a separate statement after a condition in the application form requiring people to bear responsibility over the personal information they enter



BRISTOL: In this file photo taken on December 8, 2020 a member of staff draws the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine out of a phial at the Southmead Hospital, Bristol. —AFP

raised some public concerns about the vaccine's potential safety. "An attached declaration to complete pre-registration for immunization from the virus on the ministry's official website is not intended to disclaim responsibility for the safety of the vaccine," read a ministry press release.

through means of prevention and the treatment of diseases and pandemics. It noted that some "complications" have resulted from the request leading to a change in the declaration's wording to prevent confusion.

Multi-phased approach

Health Minister Sheikh Dr Basel Al-Sabah had stated on Thursday that Kuwait would start administering shots of a coronavirus vaccine to its population as soon as the job is given the green light by regulatory agencies around the world, hoping that would happen before the end of the year. Kuwait's vaccination campaign would be a multi-phased approach likely to last for a year, starting with "priority groups" first, he explained.

Kuwait has signed deals with drug manufacturers AstraZeneca PLC and Pfizer Inc for the delivery of their respective COVID-19 vaccines, in addition to some nine others to be chosen shortly, he revealed. He cited the International Fairground in Mishref area as the country's designated vaccine center, where an estimated 10,000 people could be given their COVID-19 shots in a single day. A digital certificate would be given to show who has been vaccinated for coronavirus, the minister added, promising a "smooth and seamless" process. —KUNA



Early registration does not give priority

The admission is intended to remove liability in the event the applicant chooses to provide incorrect information about their medical history or to conceal necessary information about their health condition, which may lead to complications as a result, the ministry further explained. The ministry went on to underline its commitment to the role it was entrusted with to maintain public health

News in brief

No plans to resume visas

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: Brig Gen Tawheed Al-Kandari, Director General of Relations and Security Media at the Ministry of Interior, told Kuwait Times that there are no plans or intentions for allowing the issuance of any kind of new visa (family, visit, tourist, etc), even upon arrival, anytime soon. "This issue depends on the pandemic and how it develops. If the situation gets better, then the country will be open again to visitors. But I don't have information this will happen this year," he told Kuwait Times.

Kuwait oil price up

KUWAIT: The price of Kuwaiti oil went up by \$1.37 to \$50.06 per barrel on Friday after being at \$48.69 pb the previous day, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said yesterday. At the global level, the price of the Brent crude went down by 28 cent to \$49.97 pb, the same case with the West Texas Intermediate, which went down by 21 cent to \$46.57 pb. —KUNA

Aid to Lebanon

BEIRUT: Kuwait's Red Crescent Society on Friday continued to send copious amounts of aid meant for thousands of needy families, in addition to Syrian and Palestinian refugees across Lebanon, describing the initiative as a "humanitarian obligation." The aid includes some 1,500 food baskets for needy families still reeling from a devastating port blast that tore through the Lebanese capital in August, said Dr Msaad Al-Enezi, the head of the charity's delegation in the country, adding that around 2,000 blankets were given to them to bring warmth amid the winter chill. Palestinian refugee families received the same number of food supplies as well, while another 1,500 Syrian refugees languishing in northern camps were the beneficiaries of similar aid, said the official. —KUNA

Four Kuwaiti sites nominated for Islamic heritage list



Al-Sadu traditional weaving.



An archive photo showing the ruins of the Sheikh Abdullah Al-Jaber Palace.



Kuwait Towers

RABAT: The Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has announced that four Kuwaiti sites had been inscribed on the tentative list of Islamic heritage sites. The ICESCO Heritage Committee has approved in a special online session held on Friday the nomination of 66 cultural sites: 22 from 12 countries to the final list of the Islamic heritage sites list; and 44 sites from six countries, including four Kuwaiti sites, to

the tentative list of the Islamic heritage sites. The four nominated Kuwaiti sites are: Kuwait Towers, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Jaber Palace, Boubyan Island and Mubarak Al-Kabeer Marine Reserve. The committee also nominated Kuwait's Al-Sadu traditional weaving skills for the list. Furthermore, the committee adopted a Kuwaiti proposal to compile a book on Islamic heritage sites worldwide. —KUNA

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