

Kuwait reports 11 new cases, five recoveries from COVID-19

Thirteen in intensive care; three in critical condition

Updates on COVID 19

Monday 30/03/2020



Two cases related to travel:

Two cases, one case Kuwaiti national related to travel to United Kingdom and one case of resident related to travel to K.S.A.

8 cases who were in contact with confirmed cases:

One case of Kuwaiti national in contact with confirmed case travelled to Switzerland and France and Seven cases of Indian residents in contact with confirmed case.

One case under investigation:

One Indian resident under investigation

KUWAIT MOH
www.moh.gov.kw

وزارة الصحة
Ministry of Health

مكتب الإعلام الصحي
Health Media Office

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti Ministry of Health announced yesterday that 11 people were infected by the novel coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, in the last 24 hours. This brings the country's tally of confirmed virus cases up to 266, the ministry's spokesman Dr Abdullah Al-Sanad said in a daily news briefing. Earlier yesterday, Kuwaiti Minister of Health Sheikh Dr Basel Al-Sabah announced the recovery of five additional people from the novel coronavirus, raising the country's total recoveries to 72. The fresh recoveries include three Kuwaiti women and two female residents, the minister said, adding that necessary lab tests and analyses had shown

the recovery of the five new infections with COVID-19. The already-treated patients will be admitted to a rehabilitation ward before discharging them from hospital within a couple of days' time, the minister added. In addition, 194 virus patients are still receiving necessary treatment, while 13 others are in intensive care units; including three in a critical condition. The spokesman, once again, urged citizens and residents alike to follow the guidelines and instructions of Kuwaiti health authorities and World Health Organization, primarily maintaining social distancing and home quarantine in order to curb the spread of the virus. — KUNA

Firemen begin home delivery of medicine

KUWAIT: Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) said it began Sunday nationwide home deliveries of medicines for patients with chronic diseases, a move conducted in cooperation with Ministry of Health amidst spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The objective of home deliveries is preserving safety and wellbeing of patients, KFSD said in a statement, and to lessen crowds in hospitals thus guaranteeing distancing. The MoH announced yesterday launch of home delivery of medicines through KFSD vehicles. — KUNA



Good vs evil

Curfew Diaries



By Jamie Etheridge

etheridge@kuwaittimes.com

Kuwait's banks have announced that all clients - citizens and expats - would have their installment and credit card payments deferred for six months with no interest, fines or penalties. The announcement sent shockwaves through the expatriate community, many of whom have recently lost their jobs, had their salaries cut or otherwise lost the income that provides for themselves and their families.

Unfortunately, almost immediately, criminals saw the announcement as a potential opportunity to exploit and started calling and sending messages randomly to people asking for banking details, including their PIN codes and other information. Thankfully, the Kuwait Banking Association sent an urgent warning to all clients reminding them that banks will never call clients and ask for such information.

The generosity and communal spirit of Kuwait - especially in times of crisis and hardship - is remarkable. Already people and organizations across the country have volunteered or are engaged with charities to help those in financial difficulties. I've personally seen neighbors offer other neighbors without cars rides to the co-op or pharmacy to help them get groceries and needed medicines.

At the same time, we've seen profiteers hiking prices of basic commodities like onions in order to take advantage of temporary shortages and exploit the circumstances.

I like to think that on balance, the good will win out. That profiteers and criminals may exist and try to exploit the situation, but that enough good people will come together to help those in need, and that it is the working together, the selfless contribution of the many over the selfish exploits of the few that will define this pandemic and our future survival.

Mr Rogers, the famous American children's TV show host, said that during bad times, always look for the helpers. I used to think he meant only the doctors and firemen, the police officers and paramedics, the frontline heroes fighting this pandemic daily. We should look to the helpers - they are role models and worthy of our thanks.

We can also look to ourselves and each other because we are also all capable of helping someone, of doing something positive and uplifting. We can overcome the 'evildoers' by valuing and emulating the good we see in our community, by doing good deeds ourselves.

Youth Authority places resources under 'health' disposal

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Youth (PAY) is placing its resources and capabilities under the disposal of health authorities to help them contain spread of coronavirus, Minister of Information Mohammad Al-Jabri said Sunday. PAY set up a call center to facilitate the mission of the volunteering committee which consists of government and non-government agencies, Jabri, also Minister of State for Youth, said in a statement after chairing a board meeting of PAY. He said the call center classified the volunteers according to their specialties and ages be-



KUWAIT: Minister of Information Mohammad Al-Jabri speaks during a Public Authority for Youth meeting. — KUNA

fore distributing them on appropriate places. PAY, said Jabri, was carrying out awareness campaigns on its social media platforms to urge the public to abide by the regulations of health authorities. PAY Director

General Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi called on importance of compliance with all preventive measures of the government and health ministry to guarantee safety of volunteers. — KUNA

Coronavirus in Kuwait: What we know so far

KUWAIT: Kuwait has so far recorded 266 cases infected with the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). With the exception of thirteen cases in intensive care including three in critical condition, all cases are in stable condition and are recovering in quarantined locations designated by the government for this purpose, while 910 have been discharged from quarantine after exhibiting no symptoms during their 14-day quarantine period, the Ministry of Health confirmed. Meanwhile, 72 people have recovered completely after previously being infected with the virus, the ministry said. There are 194 people receiving treatment as of yesterday, and 1,231 quarantined as of yesterday. Kuwait is taking measures to test Kuwaitis coming from infected areas for potential infection, as it has already tested thousands of people. Meanwhile, Kuwait requires all expatriates who arrived from travel on March 1 and beyond to visit Kuwait International Fairground where the Ministry of Health has set up a center at Hall 6 to test people for possible infection.

Curfew

Kuwait enforced a country-wide curfew as of Sunday from 5:00 pm to 4:00 am until further notice. Earlier, the government decided to close all shopping malls, beauty salons and barber shops as part of its measures to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. The government also allowed restaurants to host a maximum of five people at a time and in case there are lines, the distance must be at least one meter between people.

Operating businesses

The following activities are allowed to operate outside of the curfew period between 5:00 am and 4:00 pm:

- 1- Various types of foodstuff and supplies stores and markets.
- 2- Laundromats.
- 3- Various type of repair shops.

- 4- Automobile repair, maintenance and spare parts.
- 5- Money exchangers.
- 6- Pharmacies.
- 7- Various types of restaurants.
- 8- Optical shops.
- 9- Administrative offices.
- 10- Cooking gas branches.
- 11- Co-ops' family needs branches.
- 12- Feed shops.

Meanwhile, the following industrial and craft activities, which are licensed by the Public Authority for Industry (PAI), are allowed to open:

- 1- Food.
- 2- Petrochemicals.
- 3- Gases.
- 4- Plastic.
- 5- Cardboard and paper.

Precautions

All arrivals to Kuwait from all countries are to be placed under compulsory institutional quarantine for 14 days, during which the person is monitored, and prescribed health procedures are applied, the health ministry said. Kuwait halted all commercial flights until further notice. Authorities also announced a public holiday in the country from March 12 to April 9, with work resuming on April 12, while entities providing vital services will remain open.

State departments have been on high alert to take precautions against the potential spread of the virus. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has taken measures to make sure that facial masks, hand sanitizers and other goods remain accessible to the public. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Education has suspended classes for March at all public and private schools (for both students and teaching staffs): first from March 1 to March 12, and later extended it until March 29, before eventually suspending schools until August for grade 12 and October for other stages. Kuwait suspended issuing entry permits and visas unless those issued through diplomatic missions.

Hotlines

The Ministry of Health has set the following hotlines to receive inquiries about the coronavirus 24/7: 24970967 - 96049698 - 99048619.

The Education Ministry set the following hotlines to receive inquiries on school closures related to the anti-coronavirus measures:

- 24970967 (24/7 hotline)
- 51575591 (Capital Educational Zone)
- 51576117 (Hawally Educational Zone)
- 51576576 (Farwaniya Educational Zone)
- 51577055 (Jahra Educational Zone)
- 51577655 (Ahmadi Educational Zone)
- 51577951 (Mubarak Al-Kabeer Educational Zone)
- 51578171 (Religious Studies Department)
- 51588599 (Private Education Department)
- 51592515 (Services Department)
- 51594544 (Public Relations Department)

Medicine delivery

Kuwait's Ministry of Health (MOH) launched a new medicine delivery service for people in Kuwait, which they can use to order medications to be delivered during curfew hours. The medications will be delivered within 72 hours after the order is submitted. To place an order, patients should send a WhatsApp to the numbers for the hospitals and medical centers as listed below. The patient should include their name, Civil ID number, hospital or clinic file number, mobile phone number and the medicine needed to the following numbers:

- Amiri Hospital: 50880699
- Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital: 50880755
- Farwaniya Hospital: 50880852
- Adan Hospital: 50880908
- Jahra Hospital: 50881066
- Sabah Hospital: 97632660
- Jaber Hospital: 96992079
- Ibn Sina Hospital: 99613948
- Chest Hospital: 99258749
- Razi Hospital: 97633487
- Kuwait Cancer Control Center: 96735242
- Psychiatric Hospital: 97350113
- Physiotherapy Hospital: 99824037
- Maternity Hospital: 98559531
- As'ad Al-Hamad Dermatology Center: 98514508
- Zain Hospital: 97552031
- NBK Hospital: 96931761
- Al-Rashed Allergy Hospital: 94162470
- Infectious Diseases Hospital: 96989164
- Palliative Care Hospital: 94024786
- Sabah Al-Ahmad Urology Center: 90952469
- KFH Addiction Treatment Center: 94169363