

Local

Kuwait curfew: What you need to know

KUWAIT: Kuwait imposed a curfew from 7:00 pm to 5:00 am until April 22, 2021 to help curb the sharp increase in COVID-19 cases registered in recent weeks. During the curfew hours, pharmacies, medical stores, co-operative societies and supermarkets are allowed to continue operation only through delivery services, while restaurants and cafes are allowed to deliver food from 7:00 pm to 3:00 am every day. Also during the curfew, people are allowed to go to prayers at mosques only by walking, and the government allowed people to practice walking and jogging from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm. The government meanwhile allowed salons and health clubs to reopen during the day but kept restaurants and cafes closed except for drive-through and delivery services. Meanwhile, taxis are allowed to carry only two passengers.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry launched a booking service, allowing people to shop from 7:00 pm to 12:00 am during the curfew hours. The service is valid for all co-ops and supermarkets around Kuwait. To book an appointment, a shopper should visit www.moci.shop, enter the required information (civil ID number and serial number, contact number and email address), the reason for appointment (food supply center) and the time and date of the appointment. The shopper would then receive a barcode to show once they reach the shopping center.

Where to obtain a curfew pass?

Citizens and residents that need a pass during the curfew hours to leave their homes can apply for a pass at <https://www.paci.gov.kw/>. The pass is available for those in need of emergency medical treatment, doctor's visits, blood donation, COVID-19 swabs and COVID-19 vaccinations.

Co-op delivery during curfew hours

During curfew hours, co-ops, grocery stores and other markets will be allowed to offer delivery services. Most co-ops will accept orders via delivery. Here is an incomplete list of co-op WhatsApp numbers. Each co-op will be responsible for deciding if and when they provide delivery services and not all may be providing.

Omariya Co-op
WhatsApp 6041-0067

Farwaniya Co-op
WhatsApp 6767-8211

Qairawan Co-op
WhatsApp 9000-3749

Jahra Co-op
WhatsApp 5160-2458

Abdulla Al-Mubarak Co-op
WhatsApp 6066-6338

Nuzha Co-op
WhatsApp 9784-5531

Khaitan Co-op
WhatsApp 6777-9745

Ardhiya Co-op
WhatsApp 6902-0779

Rabiya Co-op
WhatsApp 2438-8316

Wafra Farm Co-op
Tel: 9883-5245 / 5170-0085

Salmiya Co-op
Tel: 22253225

Jabriya Co-op
Tel: 1805-353
WhatsApp 6566-6084

Rawdha & Hawally
WhatsApp 9662-2883

Shaab Co-op
WhatsApp 9090-4455

Wafra Co-op
WhatsApp 5055-0539

Keifan Co-op
WhatsApp 5178-1719

Rehab Co-op
WhatsApp 9222-2358

Mishref Co-op
WhatsApp 5055-9900

Faiha Co-op
Tel: 1861-000
WhatsApp 9098-6000

Rumaithiya Co-op
WhatsApp 6066-0045

Bayan Co-op
WhatsApp 9004-2500

Fahaheel Co-op
WhatsApp 5178-9951

Adan & Qusour Co-op
Tel: 5034-3111 / 6593-3975

Salam Co-op
WhatsApp 9788-7832

Students vaccinated ahead of finals; bank, cinema employees inoculated

Kuwait's COVID-19 vaccination drive continues

KUWAIT: Kuwait has vaccinated around 42,000 students and nearly 60 percent of teachers against COVID-19 ahead of the final exams, Al-Jarida Arabic daily reported yesterday. Meanwhile, health authorities also began yesterday vaccinating around 3,000 bank sector employees and 1,000 cinema workers against the virus, Al-Anbaa Arabic daily reported. This follows a similar drive to vaccinate co-op, supermarket and commercial shop workers around the country. The number of people in Kuwait who had received their COVID-19 vaccines has reached around 822,000, or nearly 20 percent of the population, as of Saturday. Health authorities have sped up the vaccination campaign during Ramadan with hope of reaching one million vaccinated people soon.

The Ministry of Health had Sunday confirmed recording 1,127 new coronavirus infections and eight related deaths in the previous 24 hours. The new figures took the total cases up to 256,987 and

deaths to 1,448 respectively, noted the ministry's spokesman Dr Abdullah Al-Sanad. He pointed out that some 1,438 more people had been cured of the virus over the same period, raising the total of those who have overcome the disease to 240,465. He added that the number of people hospitalized with the virus stood at 15,074, with 250 of them in intensive care units as of Sunday. Dr Sanad revealed that some 6,269 swab tests were conducted over the last day, increasing the total to 2,219,893. He renewed calls for the public to abide by health precautions to curb the spread of the virus. The Ministry of Health had announced Saturday that Kuwait registered four new COVID-19 fatalities and 1,388 new infections in the previous 24 hours. Kuwait had announced eight deaths and 1,406 new on Friday, in addition to five deaths and 1,391 cases on Thursday. ICU patients remained at 250 for the second straight day after they had went slightly up from 247 on Friday.



KUWAIT: People queue as they wait their turn to receive a dose of a vaccine against the coronavirus, in front of the makeshift Kuwait Vaccination Center, at the Kuwait International Fairground in Mishref, on Sunday. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Lulu Hypermarket staff vaccinated



KUWAIT: In line with the ongoing vaccination program by Kuwait's Ministry of Health, Lulu Hypermarket employees were vaccinated against COVID-19. The vaccination was conducted by Kuwait's Ministry of Health through the mobile Clinic facilities which was designated at Lulu Hypermarket in Al-Rai.

Lulu Hypermarket Management expressed their

sincere thanks to Sheikh Dr Basel Al-Sabah, Minister of Health, and the frontline workers at the Ministry of Health for their efforts in speeding up the vaccination process, specifically amongst the retailers like Lulu where employees are in direct contact with their customers. They further appreciated all healthcare workers for their efforts and sacrifices to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a responsible retailer, Lulu is committed to make sure the safety of their customers and assure their shopping environment is extremely safe, healthy and hygienic. Lulu Hypermarket is committed to following all health and safety precautionary measures and to ensure that their loyal shoppers get complete value for their money with the best shopping experience.

No remand in opinion cases

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: Freedom of speech in Kuwait got a boost after the issuance of law no. 1/2021 that modifies the law of criminal procedures and trials (no. 17/1960). A new paragraph was added to article 69 of this law, stating that: Remand won't be applied on those practicing their right of expressing their opinion and publishing it in written, verbal, drawing or other formats. This includes publishing in traditional media and social media.

The issue of freedom of speech has been discussed in the media and parliament after many writers and bloggers were imprisoned or arrested for voicing their opinion. Preventive detention was especially criticized, as the arrested bloggers were usually accused of badly affecting diplomatic relations with other countries. On the other hand, people in other countries insult Kuwaitis or Kuwait and are not punished.

According to the explanatory note of the new law, the constitution set freedom of speech as part of the public's rights and duties in chapter three. Law no. 1/2021 was issued based on this constitutional right. This law is also in line with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which Kuwait ratified in 1996.

Preventive detention is one of the measures used by investigators to ensure that the accused won't abscond. Remand is a freedom deprivation penalty, as no conviction has been passed against the accused yet.

Customs prevent drug smuggling

KUWAIT: The General Administration of Customs has prevented smuggling into Kuwait of marijuana and hashish. The Administration, in a statement late Sunday, said they arrested a person after he received a parcel from Canada containing 1.9 kg of marijuana wax. Inspectors informed the Ministry of interior drug control department whose personnel arrested the man after allowing him to get his package, it said. Meanwhile, Custom officials inspected luggage of a passenger who came from Delhi, India, and found 79 pieces of hashish. Both persons were taken into custody for further interrogation.

In other news, a 40-year-old Syrian woman and her 26-year-old son told police that they were surprised by the woman's ex-husband, his son and a third person breaking into their house. The ex-husband stabbed the woman's son with a knife in the neck and left hand, while his son hit him with a baton on his head and took pictures of the house, Al-Anbaa Arabic daily reported yesterday. Police responded, and upon their arrival, the woman told them the suspects stole her personal belongings and official documents, in addition to her SUV.

Separately, Ahmadi prosecutor asked forensics to go to a site in Egaila to collect evidence, and asked detectives to investigate and determine the identity of thieves who entered a transformer and stole several cables. An authorized Kuwaiti Ministry of Electricity and Water worker told Rigga police that the ministry spotted a problem in power delivery, Al-Anbaa reported yesterday.

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