



GUIDELINES ON CONTROL MEASURES AT CONSTRUCTION SITES DURING COVID-19 TRANSITION PHASE

ISSUED BY AUTHORITY FOR BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY (ABCI)

MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT

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This document provides measures under which companies registered under the Authority for Building and Construction Industry, Ministry of Development are allowed to carry out activities during the nation's transition phase starting 19th November 2021 as per our National COVID-19 Rehabilitation Framework. The utilization of Antigen Rapid Test (ART) for early detection of disease and instigating the segregation of vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals to ensure compliance with the core measures listed under the COVID-19 Control measures.

As a proceeding guide, companies may also refer to the Guidelines for Covid-19 Preventive Measures at Construction Sites previously issued by the Ministry of Development for adoption in carrying out work on construction sites particularly as COVID-19 outbreak prevention measures practice.

1. USE OF THE BRUHEALTH APPS.

- a. **Registration of BruHealth:** Bruhealth QR code must be provided and utilized at all project sites including residential dormitories. Companies may register and acquire the QR code from the Ministry of Health website: www.healthinfo.gov.bn.
- b. **BruHealth Code Scanning:** It is the responsibility of the project managers / project supervisors / safety supervisors and/or HSE Coordinators on site in ensuring that all workers and visitors adhere to the requirement of BruHealth scanning prior to entering the work/project premises.

- c. **BruHealth Colour Code:** It is the responsibility of the project managers / project supervisors / safety supervisors and/or HSE Coordinators on site in ensuring that only individuals with BruHealth Colour Code Green or Yellow are allowed into the work/project sites. Identification documents must be checked as confirmation for identity.
- d. **The use of BruHealth is compulsory.** Without the BruHealth app, individuals will not be allowed into the work/project sites.

2. VACCINATION STATUS

- a. Any worker who has not been vaccinated is not allowed to enter project/construction sites and business premises.
- b. Company owners must ensure that all construction workers and company staff eligible for vaccination (no medical contraindications) have completed at least one dose of vaccine and verify that the employee completes the second dose of vaccine at an allocated time as determined by the Ministry of Health.
- c. Relevant Agencies reserve the right to take stern action against any company who fails to follow such instructions, particularly in ensuring that all employees complete their vaccination routine as to permit them to work on the project/construction sites.
- d. This instruction is applicable to all construction workers either from the main contractor or the sub-contracting companies arranged to work on the same construction site.
- e. Only Builders or Construction companies registered with the Ministry of Development are allowed to carry out any construction activities as per Building Control Order 2014 and only construction workers with legal work pass employed under the said construction companies and registered with the Labour Department are allowed to work at any construction site.

- f. For enclosed space project sites such as residential home renovations and extensions; or shop unit renovations, or existing pumping stations, all construction workers and company staff must have completed 2nd dose vaccination. Those who have not completed or only received one dose of vaccine are not allowed.
- g. For open-space sites, workers who have completed at least one dose of vaccine are allowed to work on any construction sites, with condition that there is enough space to accommodate the number of workers on site at any given time while maintaining physical distance of not less than 1.5 metres apart, and the site has a distance of minimum 6.0 metres away from any occupied public spaces or housing or commercial buildings or office buildings.
- h. Any individuals or visitors not associated with the company are also required to provide evidence of completed vaccination routine before being allowed to enter the project/construction site. The company reserves the right to deny access of such individuals / visitors to enter the construction site.
- i. **Attention:**
An individual is considered to have been fully vaccinated if he or she has received a vaccine regimen that is on the WHO Emergency Use List (WHO EUL) or a vaccine approved by the Brunei Darussalam Medicines Control Authority (BDMCA). Vaccination status in the BruHealth book, International Vaccination Certificate or Prophylaxis Book (Yellow Book) of the individual or other acceptable vaccination records may be shown to the premise management as proof of vaccination.

3. **WEARING FACE MASK:**

- a. All visitors to construction sites must wear face masks throughout their stay at the construction site.
- b. Construction workers are required to wear face masks when working in close-space sites, while riding on company/private transportation or while inside compact and crowded environments.
- c. Employees are allowed to take off their face mask when:-

- i. working in open areas, under the sun or where social interactions or individual gaps are set to be not less than 1.5 meters apart so to ensure that workers maintain a physical distance; or
- ii. in an enclosed environment and alone without the presence of any other workers or individuals; or
- iii. While taking refreshments in recess or public areas while observing social distancing of at least 1.5 meters gap between individuals.

4. HAND HYGIENE, COUGH AND SNEEZING ETHICS:

- a. Construction companies need to create awareness among their workers with regards to COVID-19 symptoms, by maintaining personal hygiene and health, practicing frequent hand washing with water and soap or hand sanitizer and adopting good ethics when coughing or sneezing.

5. SOCIAL DISTANCING

- a. Prescribing physical distancing measures of at least 1.5 meters between individuals.
- b. Restrict the movement of drivers and vehicles to unloading area. Please refer to the Guidelines for Covid-19 Preventive Measures at Construction Sites.

6. CLOSED AREA VENTILATION:

- a. Company must ensure that any enclosed area has adequate ventilation to allow employees to be in the space safely.

7. PERSONAL HEALTH MONITORING:

- a. Employers and company owners are responsible for ensuring that each employee reports their health status according to their respective BCPs. They are to ensure that monitoring of workers health status is carried out on daily basis.
- b. Individuals with symptoms are not allowed to attend and enter any project/construction site.
- c. HSE coordinator is to be alerted immediately should there be any health concerns amongst employees returning from work.
- d. Employers and company owners are responsible in ensuring their company staff and employees perform an approved Antigen Rapid Test (ART) once a week as per the instructions issued by the Labor Department, Ministry of Home Affairs.

8. WORKERS CAPACITY AT PROJECT SITES:

- a. Subject to the manpower capacity required for each project as well as the size of the project area. If the work area or space is compact and requires a large workforce, 50% of the workplace capacity regiment should be applied. While for a large space area, work activities can be carried out at the required capacity while observing the COVID-19 Infection Control SOP. By means of capacity includes visitors and staff.
- b. Project/construction sites are required to display acceptable workers/visitors capacity at one time at the entrance/ exit door of the construction compound, or at the information signboard of the construction site office if required.
- c. Manuals/records of cleanliness management practices of construction sites/premises including entry of goods and services, visits by Authorities, other companies and alike must be provided.
- d. Contractor to ensure that the workers' quarters, on or off site, are safe and comply with the Employment Order, 2009 and Building Control (Temporary Buildings) Regulations, 2014. Currently, relevant agencies are in the final stage of drafting the minimum design guideline for workers' dormitories, temporary workers' quarters and non-dormitory accommodation (residential properties).
- e. For development with workers' quarters outside the site, cleanliness and monitoring of workers' movements must be conducted continuously. Egress and entry of workers must be checked and restricted.

9. WORKING HOURS

- a. Working hours are subject to company standards and requirements from time to time. However, consent for critical workers during the period of Ops-Transition must be obtained from the Ministry of Development for the construction industry sector from 10 pm to 4 am.

10. SANITATION AND CLEANLINESS OF SITE AREA AND TEMPORARY DORMITORIES OF WORKERS:

- a. Companies are required to appoint workers to carry out frequent cleaning and sanitation of premises on a daily basis particularly on construction sites such as offices, residential dormitories buildings and structures be it outside or within the work site compound.
- b. Companies are also recommended to disinfect areas that are frequently inhabited by employees / visitors to the project site.
- c. Application of disinfectant liquids on regular basis especially to areas frequently touched physically such as handhelds, knobs/door handles, mailboxes, notice boards, digital displays, touch screen panels, tables and chairs, sleeping areas and so on;
- d. Provide hand disinfection liquids in strategic frequently visited areas;
- e. Making sure that trash cans is always shut at all times and cleaned daily. Trash should be contained properly inside trash bags before disposing it off to trash bins. ;
- f. Immediately clean up any trash spills;
- g. Wash and disinfect all trash bins, bin allocated spaces and trash collection centers if necessary;
- h. Involve a licensed waste disposal contractor for daily waste disposal;
- i. Ensure adequate ventilation in the toilet or use an air purifier, if possible; and
- j. Clean and disinfect all cleaning equipment immediately after use.