

# Booster dose vaccination in Thimphu to resume soon

According to the Ministry of Health (MoH), booster dose vaccination will resume in small cohorts when Thimphu transition to Mega Zone wise movement

**Tshering Pelden**  
from Thimphu

Following the lockdown in Thimphu on February 22, the flu clinics and health centers around Thimphu suspended providing booster doses for the general public.

However, the Ministry of Health (MoH), in a notification issued on Thursday, stated that booster dose vaccination will resume in small cohorts when Thimphu transitions to Mega Zone wise movement.

Meanwhile, the MoH stopped providing booster doses to the residents of

Thimphu Thromde due to an increase in the number of community cases in Thimphu, which prompted another lockdown.

According to the MoH's focal person, while the focus remains on increasing the number of people receiving the booster, the current situation in the country, where an increasing number of Covid cases are detected daily, it makes it difficult to resume the booster at this time and also given that one of the measures is to stop gathering.

"If we continue to deliver the booster within

the zones, then there will undoubtedly be widespread virus transmission because we still don't know who is infected and who is not, following the surge in community cases in the capital," the official said.

Meanwhile, the booster doses were rolled out in December last year for priority groups, which included adults who are 18 years and above residing in high risk areas, those above 65 years, and people with chronic medical conditions.

However, due to the rising case of the Omicron in the country, the MoH decided to provide booster

jabs for all during the lockdown, which was otherwise scheduled later.

According to the focal person of the flu clinic in Thimphu, the main reason for stopping the booster doses in Thimphu was to prevent people from moving as the health ministry is still tracing the primary contacts of cases from the community.

He added, "People have been calling to inquire about the booster dose. While doses are available within the zones during the recent lockdown, it has been suspended until further notice from the health ministry as the

ministry may need time to study the situation in the capital before deciding to resume the booster jabs for the public."

Meanwhile, the MoH has been reminding everyone to get the booster jabs as the vaccine remains the most effective method for protecting against the COVID-19 and terminating the pandemic, and even if a variant like Omicron is more transmissible than the earlier forms.

According to figures maintained by the MoH, 87.2 % of the population over the age of 18 have received the third booster doses so far.

# Bajo-Khuru Secondary National Highway works complete

The upgradation and construction works were done at a cost of Nu 124.685mn



**Yenten Thinley**  
from Thimphu

The works on the 8.6km Bajo-Khuru Road, which is a part of Bhutan -India Development Project and provides direct access between Punakha and Wangduephodrang, have been completed.

It was, meanwhile, at the outset of the 12th

Five Year Plan, a bilateral project was instituted to upgrade the entire length of the road to Secondary National Highway (SNH) standards with funding support from the Government of India.

The proposed outcome of the project was to shorten travel distance between Wangduephodrang and

Punakha, reduce traffic time and vehicle operating costs, facilitate movement of all type of vehicular traffic and to enhance the socio -economic wellbeing of the people of Wangduephodrang and Punakha.

The road upgradation project entailed construction of surface and subsurface

drainages, construction of retaining walls for slope stabilization, creation of cross drainage structure such as hume pipes and culverts, formation cutting, granular sub-base preparation, installation of crash barriers and making markings along the entire length of the road.

"The upgradation and construction works were done at a cost of Nu 124.685mn," states the press release issued yesterday by the Embassy of India in Thimphu.

The new Bajo Khuru Road will reportedly facilitate movement of local and international tourists to religious sites of the region such as Choten Nyingpo, Talo and Nobgang Lhakhang, Goen Tshephu, Dompala Lhakhang, Chimi Lhakhang in Punakha and

Rinchenling, Kunzangling, Gangtey Gompa, Beylangda, Nyizeegang in Wangdue Dzongkhag.

"The upgradation of this road will also reduce incidences of accidents and casualties along the highway," states the press release.

The Embassy of India thanks the Gross National Happiness Commission, Department of Roads, the local administrations of Punakha and Wangduephodrang, project contractors, engineers and workers for their support in making this project a success.

"Government of India is committed to further its development partnership with the Royal Government of Bhutan for the wellbeing and prosperity of the region," states the press release.