

Coronavirus Update

Date – 15th January 2021

BHUTAN

The coronavirus case count in Bhutan now stands at 834 cases, with 533 recovered and unfortunate 01 death in first week of January according to latest health ministry figures. The death of a 34-year-old man with pre-existing conditions (chronic liver disease and kidney failure) is being declared the first death due to COVID-19 in Bhutan.

Due to community transmission discovered in Thimphu over December, the number of cases were increasing rapidly. Therefore full national lockdown (*for all 20 districts*) was announced by Government on 23rd December.

In phase 1, Government has reopened its 18 districts on 3rd January after a mass testing in these districts & now only Thimphu and Paro are having complete lockdown.

Thimphu and Paro are undergoing mass testing after which depending upon the results, unlocking will follow phase wise.

As of now Bhutan remains closed for all kind of inbound tourism. As a result of this uncompromising focus on safety, the reopening of tourism is unlikely for few months.

For the latest updates you may visit <u>https://www.gov.bt/covid19/</u>