

COVID-19 Preventive Protocols for Domestic and External Pilgrims for the Hajj Season (June 2022)

Prevention:

- **General Requirements:**

1. All individuals are required to wear masks while performing Hajj in all places (closed and open).
2. This year's pilgrimage will be for those who are less than 65 years of age.
3. It is recommended to postpone Hajj for those who have risk factors for COVID-19 complications.

- **Health Requirements for Domestic Pilgrims:**

1. The pilgrim must be fully immunized with the COVID-19 vaccine, in addition to the first booster dose, if it is due.
2. It is required to have the meningitis vaccination during the past five years, and to provide proof of that.
3. The pilgrim must have the seasonal influenza vaccine.
4. In the event of having symptoms before the beginning of the Hajj season, the pilgrim must get a PCR test for COVID-19, and follow the instructions for the suspects, or the confirmed cases listed below.

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● Health Requirements for External Pilgrims;

1. The pilgrim must be fully immunized with one of COVID-19 vaccines approved by the Ministry of Health (MOH).
2. It is required to submit a negative PCR test result for COVID-19 for a sample taken within (72) hours before departure to the Kingdom.
3. It is required to obtain insurance that includes coverage of treatment costs for infection with the COVID-19 virus for external pilgrims during their stay in the Kingdom.

Reporting and Monitoring:

Regarding reporting and isolation, infected pilgrims are dealt with according to the following:

- The infected pilgrim will be isolated for five days, or according to the health status in the (Tawakkalna) application.
- Close contacts with symptoms will be isolated pending PCR result.
- The public health team evaluates the infected case to identify the period of isolation and the possibility of completing the Hajj or not.
- Healthcare will be provided to them, and unstable cases be transferred and isolated in health facilities according to the COVID-19 treatment guidelines.
- A camp or a residential area will be allocated to isolate the infected pilgrims that meets the requirements of home isolation:

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- Each case will be isolated in a private room with good ventilation, provided that there is a toilet dedicated to it
- Infected individuals who do not show symptoms can be isolated in common rooms if it is difficult to provide private rooms for each infected person.
- The camp or housing should only be designated for infected or suspected cases.
- Hand sanitizers should be put on place, and the area and its surroundings are disinfected periodically.
- A mechanism should be developed for infected pilgrims after their evaluation by the public health team to complete the Hajj rituals as follows:
 - Allocating a means of transport for transporting them in the holy sites, and allocating certain times when they are not permitted to have close contact with the rest of the pilgrims.
 - Assigning observers or supervisors to follow up on them during the isolation period, and during the rest of the rituals, and to ensure that they do not mix with others.
 - Assigning a medical team to follow up their health status and provide care for them.
- Supervisors, observers and all workers in the isolation area should comply with the requirements for the prevention of COVID-19, which include wearing personal protective equipment and others.

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Awareness:

- Intensifying awareness campaigns for domestic and external pilgrims through the permit issuance site, or the Hajj campaign site to adhere to preventive measures, and urging those with chronic diseases to avoid Hajj during this season in order to maintain their health.
- Publishing the awareness-raising contents in prominent places, and it should be written in different languages, and include the following:
 - Ways of the disease spread and prevention.
 - Raising awareness of washing hands, avoiding touching eyes, nose and mouth.
 - Following coughing and sneezing etiquette
 - The importance of wearing a mask.
- The health education team educates the person in charge of each group about the COVID-19 and ways to prevent it.