Controlled Phased Lifting of COVID-19 Restrictions in Qatar

June 8th, 2020
With an impactful response taking effect, preparation for lifting restrictions started

Comparison of COVID 19 statistics in Qatar with no-intervention scenario

Perspectives

- Qatar has **performed well** in the crisis so far (low numbers of deaths, sufficient healthcare capacity)
- Crisis response has been **timely, proportionate and effective**
- We have now set **clear conditions** for re-opening of our country
- A **robust, evidence-based plan** for how to reopen in the safest way possible is created
- **Phasing, testing, coherence, and compliance** are key ingredients to ensure the safety of the population

Source: Scientific and Research Reference Group for COVID-19, MOPH
Aims of the plan

01 Enable alignment across Ministries on the national plan but also plans for areas of overlap

02 Enable communication to public/private sector entities and to the public

03 Enable tracking of impact of controlled lifting through KPIs

Levels

National / Cross-Government

Ministry / Entity

The Public
The five key pillars and objectives of the strategy for lifting of restrictions

**Key pillars of a successful strategy**

1. **Phasing** of lifting of restrictions, based on trade-off of health risk with social and economic benefits

2. Close **monitoring** of impact of lifting restrictions, enabled by **testing** and effective **contact tracing**

3. **Clear precautions** and operational plans to keep infection risk at a minimum, e.g. social distancing

4. Political will and **readiness to reintroduce restrictions** if deemed necessary

5. **Covid-19 command arrangements** with clear established processes and data-led decision-making across government entities

**Qatar-specific objectives**

1. **Suppress infections** and associated mortality

2. **Protect the vulnerable** population

3. Operate within **healthcare capacity**

4. Resume treatment of non-COVID patients

**Healthcare**

**Economy**

**Society**

1. **Robust economic recovery**

2. Maintain and manage **financial stability**

1. Ability to fulfil **social obligations** and maintain social **contact**

2. **Restoration of normal life** and activities
Countries are lifting restrictions gradually and cautiously, prioritizing those restrictions that do not pose a major health risk

### Restrictions lifted by week

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>March 3 (Peak)</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
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<th>11</th>
<th>12</th>
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<th>14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nationwide online classes</td>
<td>Shopping malls, nightlife</td>
<td>Religious gatherings</td>
<td>Professional baseball (&quot;ghost games&quot;)</td>
<td>Parks, museums</td>
<td>Businesses</td>
<td>Domestic travel</td>
<td>Schools</td>
<td>Parks, museums, religious gatherings</td>
<td>International travel</td>
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<tr>
<td>KPI based review cycle</td>
<td>Restriction lifting plan</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>April 5 (Peak)</th>
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<th>13</th>
<th>14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-contact businesses</td>
<td>Small social groups &lt;10</td>
<td>Schools for age &lt;10</td>
<td>Regional travel</td>
<td>Business (barbers, eateries, cinemas)</td>
<td>Groups &lt;100</td>
<td>Schools</td>
<td>Domestic travel</td>
<td>Groups &gt;100</td>
<td>All restrictions lifted except border controls (Alert Level 1) (9 Jun)</td>
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<tr>
<td>KPI based review cycle</td>
<td>Restriction lifting plan: Every 3 weeks</td>
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<tr>
<th>April 10 (Peak)</th>
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<th>12</th>
<th>13</th>
<th>14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor workers</td>
<td>Childcare for essential workers</td>
<td>Phased on-site work</td>
<td>Public libraries</td>
<td>Non-essential retail outlets</td>
<td>Phased opening of pre-schools Major urban areas</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>KPI based review cycle</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>27 March (Peak)</th>
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<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
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<th>11</th>
<th>12</th>
<th>13</th>
<th>14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shops of &lt;800 m², car dealerships, book shops</td>
<td>Schools for graduating students</td>
<td>All shops</td>
<td>Museums, galleries, memorials</td>
<td>Restaurants</td>
<td>Kindergarten 50% occupancy rate</td>
<td>Primarily and secondary schools</td>
<td>Hotels, camping sites</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Common strategic aspects of lifting restrictions are to start late, with clearly defined KPIs informing frequent time based review cycles to gradual lift low risk restrictions first, based on country specific priorities

*Lifting of restrictions vary in extent and subject to change*

Source: Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker, Oliver Wyman research
The conditions to be met for restrictions to be lifted: 9 KPIs

1. **Epidemiology**
   - Low levels and continued decline in % of confirmed cases
   - Estimated effective infection reproductive number well below 1

2. **Healthcare capacity**
   - Predicted occupancy rate for acute and ICU beds for Covid-19 below 4 week peak
   - Sufficient capacity for all emergency patients (4 week horizon)
   - Sufficient PPE supplies available in stock at HMC & PHCC for next 4 weeks
   - Low levels of % of healthcare staff tested positive for SARS-CoV-2

3. **Public health**
   - Sufficient capacity to process tests for SARS-CoV-2 on a daily basis
   - Contacts traced and assessed after case confirmation
   - Quarantine and isolation capacity can meet demand (4 week horizon)
## Basic rules... generic precautions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Facts</th>
<th>Precautions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Social Distancing** | Physical distance predominantly determines transmission             | • keep 2 meters minimum distance between people  
• Keep occupancy of public places/venues, work spaces, businesses and shops at 1 person/9-12 m², for restaurants at 1 person/12 m²) |
| **PPE & Hygiene**   | Personal protective equipment (PPE) and hand hygiene can prevent transmission | • masks for all (staff and clients)  
• hand washing and/or hand sanitizers                                                                                   |
| **Early Detection** | Early detection by thermal screening and mandatory staff testing helps reduce disease transmissions | • thermal screening for employees and clients  
• mandatory staff testing as per MOPH guidelines                                                                    |
| **EHTERAZ App**     | Speeding up the process of contact tracing is key to the containment of new outbreaks | • check EHTERAZ App is downloaded  
• check that the status is green to allow entry                                                                         |
| **Vulnerable groups** | Vulnerable groups have higher risk and fatality rates                | • make special considerations for vulnerable groups  
• keep vulnerable groups safe and protected                                                                       |
## Precautions guidance: tailored to each restriction ….. example

### Physical distancing
- Maintain distance of minimum 2m
- Limit on number of individuals gathering in specific spaces
- Guidance on queuing for various services
- Formal separation of teams in workplaces
- Physical barriers between staff and customer where possible

### PPE & hygiene measures
- Frequent hand hygiene for 20-30 sec (water & soap or sanitizer)
- Free sanitizer stations in public places
- Mandatory wearing of masks.
- Follow cough etiquette. Catch coughs/sneezes in tissues and throw away, or use your sleeve/elbow
- Frequent cleaning and disinfection of surfaces

### Movement and activity restrictions
- Restrict movement to high density areas
- Enhanced checks (incl. thermal screening) on passengers from high risk destinations and at entrances to venues
- Introduce appointment system to manage numbers where possible
- Check EHTERAZ is downloaded and status is green
- Limit number of visits to closed spaces

### Protection of Vulnerable Groups
- Ensure safety and well being of vulnerable groups such as elderly (>55), pregnant women and those with chronic health conditions
- Provision of services and healthcare virtually and at home
- Support flexible working by vulnerable populations including digital home-working solutions
Plan developed and iterated for phasing of restrictions across all four phases.
✓ Now finalized

Across each restriction to be lifted, a restriction card developed to provide guidance on gradual phasing and tailored precautions.
✓ Now finalized

Each restriction card is supported by benchmarking of approaches across peer countries, in particular the supporting precautions.
✓ Now finalized

Detailed plans by each Ministry on how controlled lifting of restrictions will be implemented, incl. post lifting monitoring.
✓ Now finalized
Between phases, a stringently defined process of monitor-review-adapt is conducted.

Phasing relies on achieving target KPIs, and passing the minimum time required to move between phases (2 weeks), to move to the subsequent phase.

Any earlier lifting of restrictions would require additional countermeasures and preparedness.
Overarching master plan for gradual lifting of restrictions (1/5)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gatherings</th>
<th>Phase 1</th>
<th>Phase 2</th>
<th>Phase 3</th>
<th>Phase 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gatherings</strong></td>
<td>• Restricted mosques opening</td>
<td>• Restricted mosques opening</td>
<td>• Restricted mosques opening Friday prayers at 54 mosques.</td>
<td>• All gatherings, e.g. weddings halls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Business-related mass gatherings</strong></td>
<td>• Small scale only (≤ 10 people)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• continued mosques opening • And Friday prayers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Entertainment-related mass gatherings, theatres and cinemas with precautions</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Medium scale only (≤ 40 people)</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Business-related mass gatherings: trade shows, conferences, ...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Restricted mosques opening</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Entertainment-related mass gatherings, theatres and cinemas with precautions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Overarching master plan for gradual lifting of restrictions (2/5)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase 1</th>
<th>Phase 2</th>
<th>Phase 3</th>
<th>Phase 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Personal boats</td>
<td>• Boat/Yacht rental for families only of ≤ 10</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Excursion boats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only essential flights out of Doha. Upon return, travelers will go to mandatory hotel quarantine allocated by the government for 2 weeks, paid for by the traveler.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Low risk inbound flights for priority passengers (e.g. returning residents)</td>
<td>Expanding inbound flights as advised by MOPH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Driving Schools</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Metro and Bus: Restricted Service</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Overarching master plan for gradual lifting of restrictions (3/5)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outdoor &amp; Professional sports</th>
<th>Education and Health</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phase 1</td>
<td>Phase 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Restricted parks for outdoor sports</td>
<td>• Parks, Corniche and Beaches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1:1 and 1:5) Professional trainings outdoor only / large open spaces</td>
<td>(&lt;10 people) Professional trainings of small groups - outdoor only / large open spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 40% capacity selected private healthcare facilities at specific capacity • Emergency services continue</td>
<td>60% capacity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Nurseries and childcare facilities</td>
<td>• New academic year commences</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Overarching master plan for gradual lifting of restrictions (4/5)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase 1</th>
<th>Phase 2</th>
<th>Phase 3</th>
<th>Phase 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Partial opening of shops in malls. Shops with minimum area of 300 m² will open, not exceeding 30% mall capacity</td>
<td>• All malls open (restricted hours and capacity)</td>
<td>• All malls open full hours, • Souks &amp; wholesale markets (restricted capacity and hours)</td>
<td>• All malls fully open • All souks &amp; wholesale markets open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Restricted restaurants opening with low capacity</td>
<td>• Restricted restaurants opening with gradual increased capacity</td>
<td>• Continue gradual opening of restaurants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Museums and libraries with restricted hours and capacity</td>
<td>• Museums and libraries fully open to full hours</td>
<td>50% capacity • Health clubs, Gyms and pools • Beauty and Massage Parlors • Barbershops/Hairdressers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50% capacity (including home services)</td>
<td></td>
<td>100% capacity (including home services)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Overarching master plan for gradual lifting of restrictions (5/5)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase 1</th>
<th>Phase 2</th>
<th>Phase 3</th>
<th>Phase 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 20% of employees at workplace with strict health precautions | 50% % of employees at workplace with strict health precautions | Private training center restricted opening | • Private training centers full opening  
• Cleaning and Hospitality Services |
| 80% % of employees at workplace with strict health precautions | 100% % of employees at workplace with strict health precautions | | |