



UTB Circular Letter Reference Number 10/2021:

THE EARLY ENDEMIC PHASE WILL BEGIN FROM 15 DECEMBER 2021 UNTIL 14 JANUARY 2022

To Staff and Students,

With reference to our previous announcement via email regarding the Transition Phase effective 19th November 2021 (Reopening Campus amid the COVID-19 pandemic), please be informed that the next de-escalation plan is the Early Endemic Phase which will commence on 15 December 2021 until 14 January 2022.

The Media Statement from the Prime Minister's Office regarding the Announcement of the **Updated Guidelines During the Endemic Phase** issued on Sunday, 12 December 2021 is hereby referred. In upholding the titah of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on the announcement of the Endemic Phase under The National COVID-19 Recovery Framework which will commence on **Wednesday, 10 Jamadilawal 1443 corresponding to 15 December 2021**, the Steering Committee for COVID-19 has convened to set the measures or guidelines for the implementation of the Early Endemic Phase which **will be implemented for one (1) month, starting Wednesday, 15 December 2021 until Friday, 14 January 2022**.

In view of this, please take note and adhere to the measures or guidelines for the Early Endemic Phase as follows:

1. Office hours will resume to normal working hours from **7.45 am to 12.15 pm and from 1.30 pm to 4.30 pm**;
2. Staff who have completed their vaccinations are required to undergo ART screening test **every two (2) weeks (on Saturday)** according to the schedule set by the University whereby cost of tests will be borne by the Government;
3. Staff who have not received or completed their vaccinations are **allowed** to work at their respective office provided their work does not involve any direct interaction with the public. However, the staff is required to undergo an ART testing, for which the **validity period of the test result is two (2) days**. The testing costs are as follows:
 - 3.1 The Government **will bear the cost** of ART testing for staff who have received one (1) vaccine dose or are unable to be vaccinated due to medical reasons.
 - 3.2 The Government **will not bear the cost** of ART testing for staff who are unvaccinated by choice or for personal reasons, and the staff are **to bear the cost of the ART testing personally**. The staff is required to undergo an ART test and obtain a negative ART test result certificate through a Ministry of Health's accredited ART Centre, before entering the UTB premises.

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4. The public who wish to visit UTB offices or service counters who **have not** completed their vaccinations are required to show a **negative** ART test result certificate, for which the validity period of each ART test is **two (2) days** submitted via email utb.bcp@utb.edu.bn before entering UTB premises and are subject to UTB Campus Entry Procedures.
5. The University Library services will be opened at the capacity of 75% or not more than 300 persons (whichever is the lesser number). The library operating hours during **semester breaks are from 8.00 am to 12.00 pm**, and **from 8:00 am to 2 pm** during the **new semester from 10 January 2022**.
6. All sports and fitness facilities at the university are allowed to operate at 75% of the premise capacity or not more than 300 persons (whichever is the lesser number).
 - 6.1 Non-contact sports are permitted.
 - 6.2 Contact sports are allowed for skills training only.
 - 6.3 Sporting matches are not permitted.
 - 6.4 Face masks should be worn at all times except when engaging in high-intensity activities.
7. The resumption of outbound and inbound travel for non-essential travel by air transportation will begin on **Saturday, 1 January 2022** with the following conditions:
 - 7.1 For exit-country travel: Citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam who have completed two (2) vaccine doses between 14 days to six (6) months prior to the date of travel, or those who have received a booster dose beforehand, are permitted for outbound travel **without** exit-country approval from the Prime Minister's office.
 - 7.2 Exit travel for citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam **who have not** received their vaccination for health reasons for essential travel out of the country can be considered, by **applying for exit travel approval** from the Prime Minister's Office beforehand.
 - 7.3 All inbound travellers including citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam who wish to enter the country are required to obtain negative ART test results, taken not more than 24 hours prior to departure from the country of origin. This is in addition to the condition of obtaining a negative result for the RT-PCR test conducted not more than 48 hours prior to departure from the country of origin. However, every citizen and resident of Brunei Darussalam who is **unable** to meet this requirement are required to undergo **mandatory self-isolation** at a designated hotel upon return to the country for a **duration determined by the Ministry of Health**.
 - 7.4 Travel Health Insurance covering the COVID-19 pandemic from insurance companies registered in Brunei Darussalam **is required** for every citizen and resident who plans to exit Brunei Darussalam and foreigners who want to enter the country.
 - 7.5 Suspension of outbound and inbound travel via land and seaports is still in place.
8. Semester 2, Academic Session 2021/2022 will begin on **Monday, 10 January 2022**, and detailed information regarding the **Academic Continuity Plan** will be announced shortly.

During the Early Endemic Phase, staff and students are reminded not to be complacent and to continue to adhere to SOPs which include maintaining physical distancing, adhering to venue capacity limits, wearing of face masks, maintaining hygiene, mandatory use of the BruHealth mobile application, UTB QR code scanning, and the mandatory biweekly ART screening.

Your kind attention and cooperation are very much appreciated.

“Together We Protect Our Nation”

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a few short, vertical strokes.

Registrar and Secretary
Universiti Teknologi Brunei

cc: Vice-Chancellor, UTB
Chair, UTB Business Continuity Plan Team

File Reference: UTB/A1/1.2

Date: 08 Jamadilawal 1443H/13 December 2021