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Royal Government of Bhutan
Ministry of Education



SECRETARY

— Rethinking Education —

MoE/DAHE/19/2017-2018/

2025

30th May, 2018

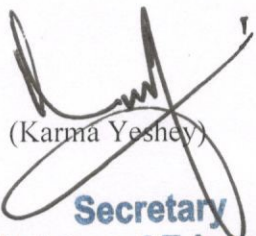
Advisory to Bhutanese Students studying in India on Nipah virus outbreak

The Ministry of Education would like to caution all Bhutanese students studying in India on the outbreak of Nipah Virus in Kerala, India. The Nipah virus, which was first identified in 1999 after an outbreak in Malaysia and Singapore, is thought to be transmitted by bats, pigs or other animals to humans. The virus, which has a mortality rate of up to 70 percent, can cause encephalitis, or inflammation of the brain, as well as severe respiratory symptoms, according to the World Health Organization.

Since there is no treatment and cure to this rare and deadly virus and the infection is fast spreading already claiming 13 lives since its outbreak in Kozhikode District of Kerala, Bhutanese students, particularly in India are advised to take necessary precautionary measures such as avoiding contact with infected people, eating of stale food, eating of meat especially pork and fruits. Should you experience any signs of breathing difficulty, fever, headache and drowsiness, seek immediate medical attention and update us immediately. The BSA Presidents are also requested to provide updates on this to the Department of Adult and Higher Education on a regular basis.

In case of any emergencies, please contact the following officials for help and support:

- Mr. Cheku Dorji, Education Attaché, Royal Bhutanese Embassy, New Delhi, India
Contact No: +91 11 2688 9230 / 9807, Mobile No: +91 95606 83345
Email: chekudorji1967@gmail.com
- Mr. Karma Phuntsho, Dy. Chief Programme Officer, Scholarship & Student Support Division, DAHE, Ministry of Education, Thimphu
Contact No. +975 02 335833 / 332248 / 3346848, Mobile No. 17637163
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(Karma Yeshey)

Secretary
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