

Malaysia implements 21 days quarantine for Bangladesh arrivals

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Dhaka: Travellers from Bangladesh and three other South Asian countries — Nepal, Sri Lanka and Pakistan — will now have to undergo three weeks or 21 days of mandatory quarantine upon arrival in Malaysia, to prevent the spread of variants of concern (VOC).

The country's health ministry increased the quarantine period for arrivals from India to 21 days earlier in May, while for all other countries the quarantine duration remains 14-days, according to reports.

Reports added, the Health Director General Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, in a statement, said, the determination of SOPs for international arrivals was subject to periodic risk assessments.

"It is noted that the extension of this surveillance period is very important to ensure the transmission of Covid-19 infections from abroad does not occur, particularly those involving VOCs and variants of interest, which can spread more rapidly and pose a higher risk of death," he claimed.

All travellers must also undergo an RT-PCR test within three days of their departure, and upon arrival in Malaysia.

For those undergoing a 14-day quarantine, and RT-PCR test will be conducted on the 10th day, and if negative, they will be released upon completion of the full two weeks. For travellers undergoing the 21-day quarantine, this test will be performed on the 18th day.

Arrivals undergoing a 14-day quarantine may have their stays extended by a week if it is deemed necessary by a risk assessment performed at the end of the first two weeks.

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