اللجنة العليا لإدارة الأزمات

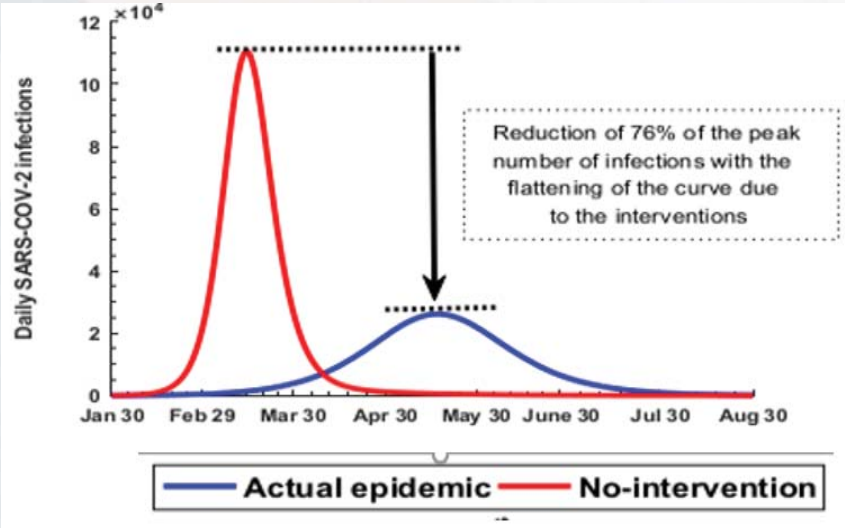
Supreme Committee for Crisis Management

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

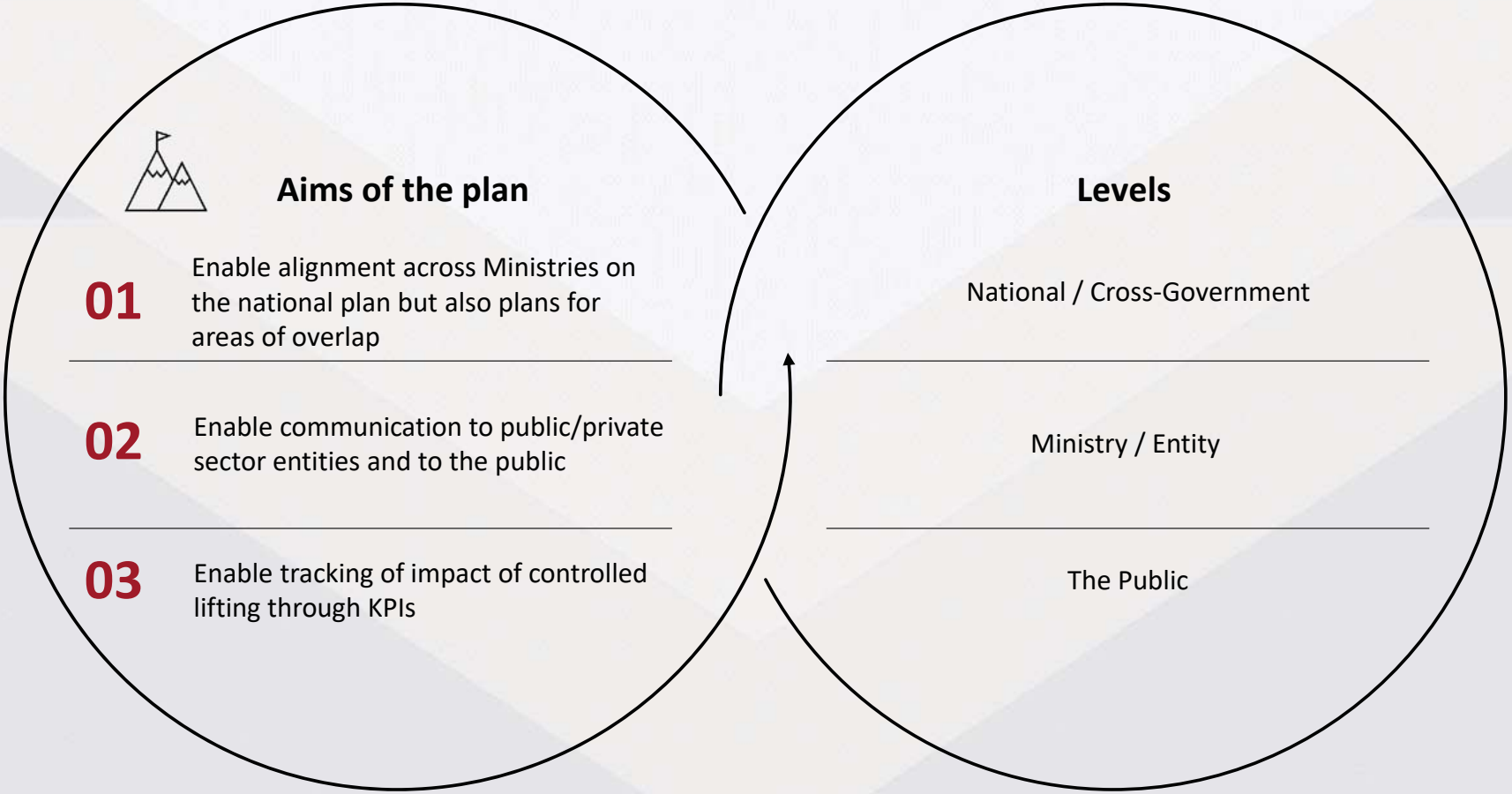


Source: Scientific and Research Reference Group for COVID-19, MOPH

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

Comprehensive Master Plan and Detailed Plans



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

Healthcare

1. **Suppress infections** and associated **mortality**
2. **Protect the vulnerable** population
3. Operate within **healthcare capacity**
4. **Resume treatment of non-COVID** patients

Economy

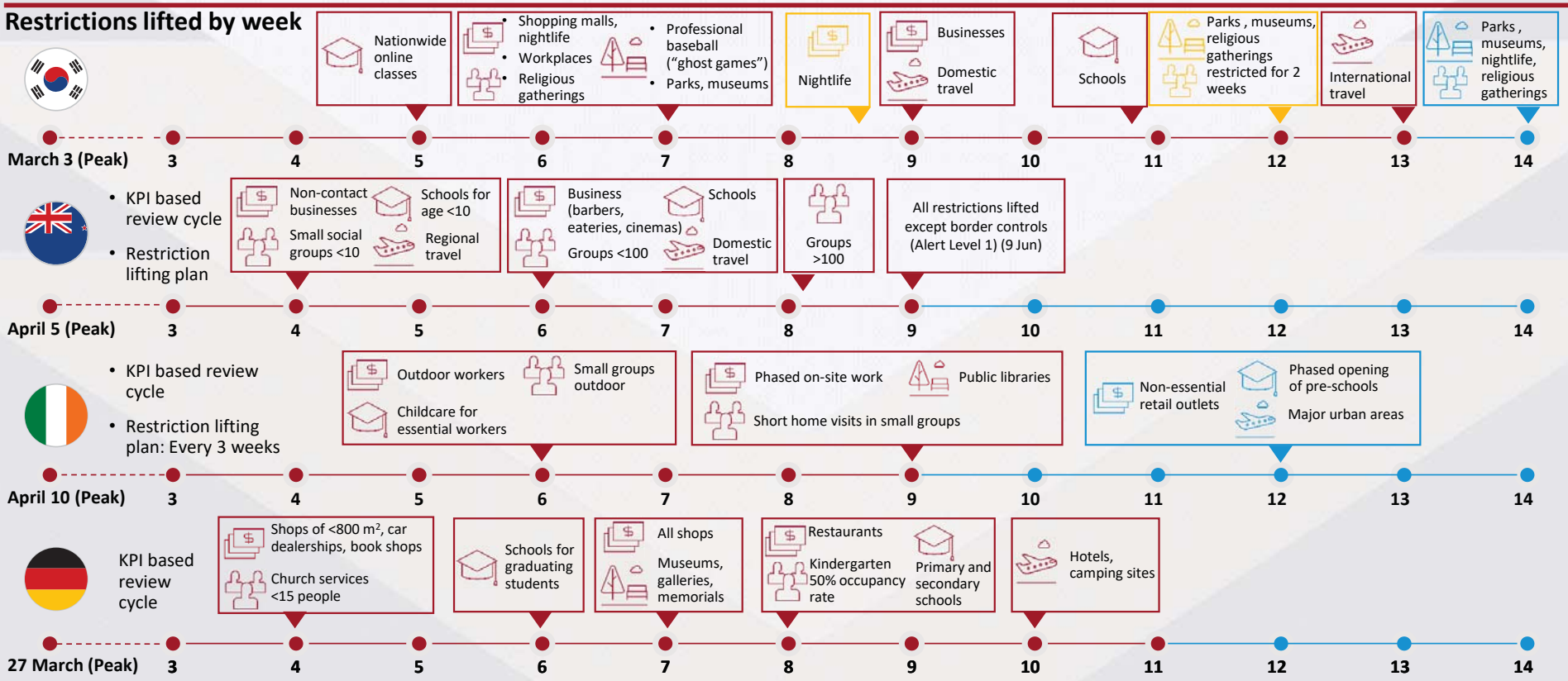
1. **Robust economic recovery**
2. Maintain and manage **financial stability**

Society

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

As of 8 June



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

Concluded | Planned | Reimpose restrictions | Gatherings | Outdoor & sports | Transport | Education | Retail/ business

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

Area	Facts	Precautions
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 m^2 , for restaurants at 1 person/12 m^2)
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

From Master Plan to Detailed Plans

PHASING MASTER PLAN

Plan developed and iterated for phasing of restrictions across all four phases.

✓ Now finalized

INDIVIDUAL RESTRICTION CARDS

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

✓ Now finalized

PEER COUNTRY EXAMPLES PER RESTRICTION

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

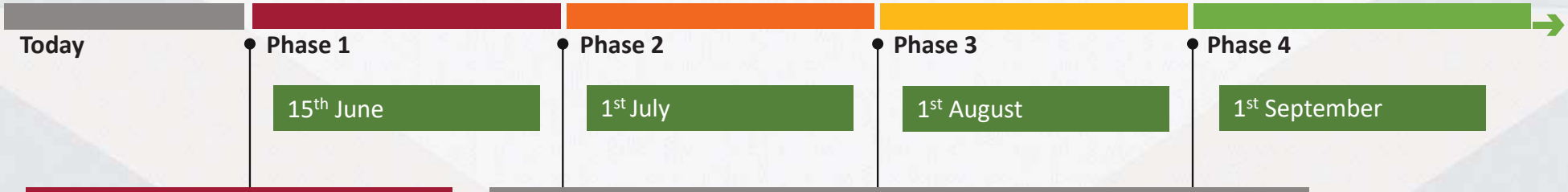
✓ Now finalized

RESTRICTION LEVEL DETAILED PLANS

Detailed plans by each Ministry on how controlled lifting of restrictions will be implemented, incl. post lifting monitoring.

✓ Now finalized

KPI informed monitor-review-adapt cycle to move to subsequent phases



KPI targets achieved

- ✓ **All 9 global health KPIs** are within their respective target values

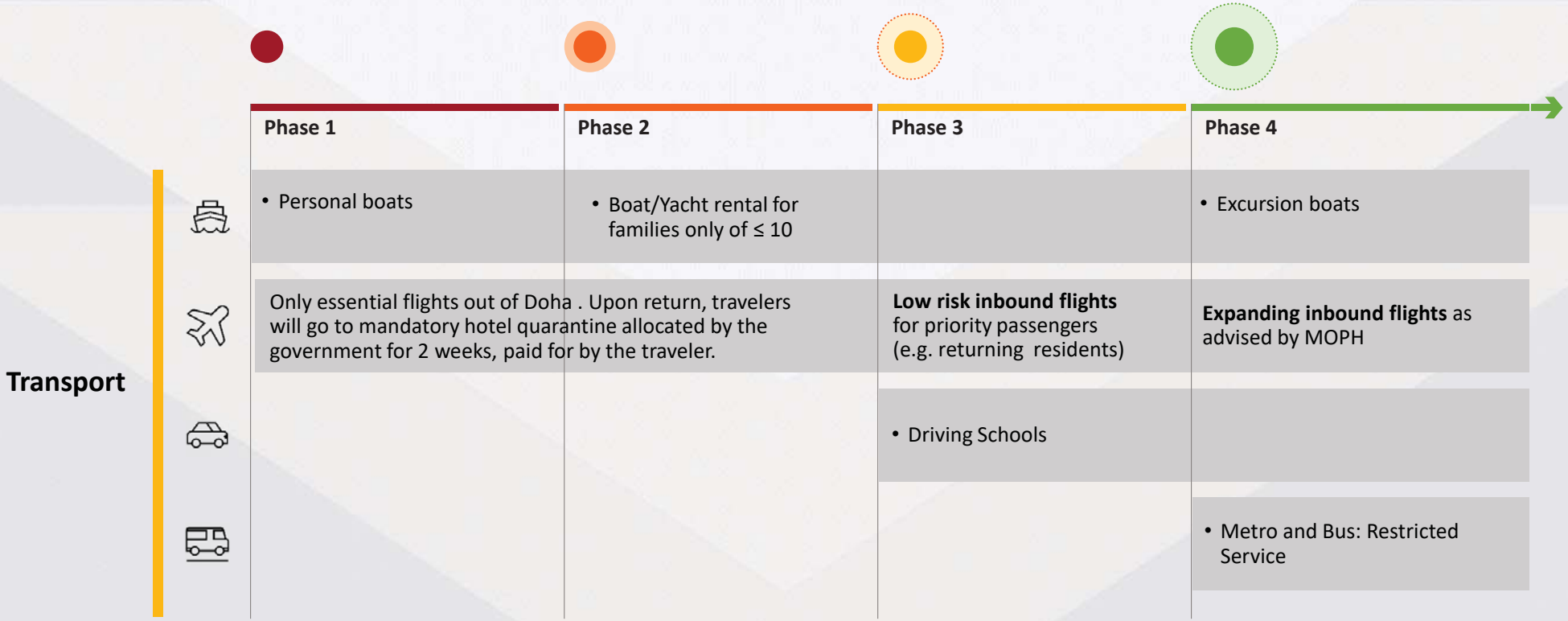
KPI targets achieved and minimum time passed since last phase

- ✓ **All 9 global health KPIs** are within their respective target values
- ✓ **All restriction specific KPIs** (e.g. adherence to social distancing) are achieved
- ✓ **At least 2 weeks have passed** since the last lifting of restrictions (otherwise data would not reflect the latest level of restrictions)

- 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)

Overarching master plan for gradual lifting of restrictions (2/5)



Overarching master plan for gradual lifting of restrictions (3/5)

		Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4
Outdoor & Professional sports		• Restricted parks for outdoor sports	• Parks, Corniche and Beaches	• Playgrounds and skate parks	• Summer camps, summer clubs and summer cultural activities
		(1:1 and 1:5) Professional trainings outdoor only / large open spaces	**(<10 people)** Professional trainings of small groups - outdoor only / large open spaces	**(< 40 people)** • Team trainings • Amateurs sports/Team competitions (**no spectators**)	Sports related mass gatherings: Local and international sports competitions (**with spectators**)
Education and Health		• **40% capacity** selected private healthcare facilities at specific capacity • Emergency services continue	**60% capacity**	**80% capacity**	**100% capacity**
				• Nurseries and childcare facilities	• New academic year commences

Overarching master plan for gradual lifting of restrictions (4/5)

Business and Leisure

Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4
• Partial opening of shops in malls. Shops with minimum area of 300 m^2 will open, not exceeding 30% mall capacity	• All malls open (restricted hours and capacity) • Souks & wholesale markets (restricted capacity and hours)	• All malls open full hours, • Souks & wholesale markets (restricted capacity and hours)	• All malls fully open • All souks & wholesale markets open
	• Restricted restaurants opening with low capacity	• Restricted restaurants opening with gradual increased capacity	• Continue gradual opening of restaurants
	• Museums and libraries with restricted hours and capacity		• Museums and libraries fully open to full hours
		50% capacity • Health clubs, Gyms and pools • Beauty and Massage Parlors • Barbershops/Hairdressers	**100% capacity** (including home services)

Overarching master plan for gradual lifting of restrictions (5/5)

	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4
Business and Leisure			Private training center restricted opening	• Private training centers full opening • Cleaning and Hospitality Services
	20% of employees at workplace with strict health precautions	**50% %** of employees at workplace with strict health precautions	**80% %** of employees at workplace with strict health precautions	**100% %** of employees at workplace with strict health precautions