

Local

Kuwait curfew: What you need to know

KUWAIT: Kuwait imposed a curfew from 7:00 pm to 5:00 am until the end of Ramadan to help curb an increase in COVID-19 cases. During the curfew hours, pharmacies, medical stores, co-operative societies and supermarkets are allowed to continue operation only through delivery services, while restaurants and cafes are allowed to deliver food from 7:00 pm to 3:00 am every day. Also during the curfew, people are allowed to go to prayers at mosques only by walking, and the government allowed people to practice walking and jogging from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm. The government meanwhile allowed salons and health clubs to reopen during the day but kept restaurants and cafes closed except for drive-through and delivery services. Meanwhile, taxis are allowed to carry only a maximum of two passengers.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry launched a booking service, allowing people to shop from 7:00 pm to 12:00 am during the curfew hours. The service is valid for all co-ops and supermarkets around Kuwait. To book an appointment, a shopper should visit www.moci.shop, enter the required information (civil ID number and serial number, contact number and email address), the reason for appointment (food supply center) and the time and date of the appointment. The shopper would then receive a barcode to show once they reach the shopping center.

Where to obtain a curfew pass?

Citizens and residents that need a pass during the curfew hours to leave their homes can apply for a pass at <https://www.paci.gov.kw/>. The pass is available for those in need of emergency medical treatment, doctor's visits, blood donation, COVID-19 swabs and COVID-19 vaccinations.

Co-op delivery during curfew hours

During curfew hours, co-ops, grocery stores and other markets will be allowed to offer delivery services. Most co-ops will accept orders via delivery. Here is an incomplete list of co-op WhatsApp numbers. Each co-op will be responsible for deciding if and when they provide delivery services and not all may be providing.

Omariya Co-op
WhatsApp 6041-0067

Farwaniya Co-op
WhatsApp 6767-8211

Qairawan Co-op
WhatsApp 9000-3749

Jahra Co-op
WhatsApp 5160-2458

Abdulla Al-Mubarak Co-op
WhatsApp 6066-6338

Nuzha Co-op
WhatsApp 9784-5531

Khaitan Co-op
WhatsApp 6777-9745

Ardhiya Co-op
WhatsApp 6902-0779

Rabiya Co-op
WhatsApp 2438-8316

Wafra Farm Co-op
Tel: 9883-5245 / 5170-0085

Salmiya Co-op
Tel: 22253225

Jabriya Co-op
Tel: 1805-353
WhatsApp 6566-6084

Rawdha & Hawally
WhatsApp 9662-2883

Shaab Co-op
WhatsApp 9090-4455

Wafra Co-op
WhatsApp 5055-0539

Keifan Co-op
WhatsApp 5178-1719

Rehab Co-op
WhatsApp 9222-2358

Mishref Co-op
WhatsApp 5055-9900

Faiha Co-op
Tel: 1861-000
WhatsApp 9098-6000

Rumaithiya Co-op
WhatsApp 6066-0045

Bayan Co-op
WhatsApp 9004-2500

Fahaheel Co-op
WhatsApp 5178-9951

Adan & Qusour Co-op
Tel: 5034-3111 / 6593-3975

Salam Co-op
WhatsApp 9788-7832

Kuwait to penalize non-prescribed Lyrica, Neurontin use after ban

Over 30 inmates infected with COVID-19 but stable: MoI

KUWAIT: Kuwait said consumers of the pain-fighting medicines Lyrica and Neurontin without a prescription from a healthcare professional could face up to five years in jail as a state ban on the non-medical use of two medications entered into effect on Sunday. The move aims to protect the most vulnerable of patients, particularly youngsters who are often an easy target for promoters of these pain drugs, said an interior ministry statement, adding that illegal dealers of the two medicines could face up to 10-year jail term. While the two medications are commonly prescribed for nerve and muscle pain, drug traffickers are capable of circumventing legal constraints to deliberately target young men and women who rely on the use of such drugs, said Mohammad Qabazard, the acting director of the ministry's anti-narcotics department.

Citing the results of a year-long study, he revealed that Lyrica and Neurontin have now been classified as hallucinogens as per health ministry approval, thereby criminalizing the use of the drugs, amid efforts across state bodies to further tighten legal restrictions on patient access. The ministry will "act decisively" against all those who procure these drugs without a proper permit, while health practitioners are urged to be "extremely cautious" when prescribing the two medicines, added the official. Originally developed as a therapy for epilepsy, most prescriptions for pregabalin, better known by the Pfizer brand name Lyrica, are for pain relief.

Prisoners 'stable'

In other news, the interior ministry confirmed that at least 33 prisoners have been diagnosed with the coron-

avirus, but their conditions are stable. The preventive and health measures have been taken in line with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, the interior ministry's security media and public relations department said in a statement. It pointed to continued recovery of those who are infected, stressing that there is no worry about them.

Being keen on the safety of prisoners, medical swabs have been conducted on prisoners that led to the discovery of 33 infected cases, it said. Only one infected case was admitted to Farwaniya hospital. The infected have been separated, in accordance with the instructions of the MoH, the statement said, affirming abidance by all relevant health preventive measures. In addition, the statement referred to continued coordination with the MoH to conduct required periodical tests, based on keenness on the prisoners' safety.

1,316 cases

The Ministry of Health had announced Sunday recording 1,316 new coronavirus infections and nine related deaths in the previous 24 hours. The new figures took the total cases in the country up to 276,586 and deaths to 1,578 respectively, noted the ministry's spokesman Dr Abdullah Al-Sanad. He pointed out that some 1,409 more people had been cured of the virus over the same period, raising the total of those who have overcome the disease to 260,008. He added that the number of people hospitalized with the virus stood at 15,000 as of Sunday, with 208 of them in intensive care units. Dr Sanad revealed that some 8,172 swab tests were conducted over the same period, bringing the total to 2,343,069. He renewed calls for the public to abide by



health precautions to curb the spread of the virus.

Separately, the Ministry of Health denied reports about invalidity of some of the medical tools and materials used by the medics — namely face masks and medical uniforms. The ministry released a statement in which it affirmed keenness on securing valid strategic stockpiles of protective gear for medical cadres. It indicated that the authorities in charge of the medical stockpiles abide by authentic technical and scientific reports from renowned international authorities, namely The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and The United States Food and Drug Administration. — KUNA

Fuel spill contained on Airport Road

KUWAIT: Firemen contained an oil spill after a fuel truck was involved in an accident on Airport Road yesterday morning. Sabhan Fire Station men headed to the scene in response to an emergency call about an accident on Airport Road towards Seventh Ring Road. The firemen were able to stop the leak and prevent fuel from spilling into the sewer. The truck carried 36,000 liters of gasoline, Kuwait Fire Force said.



Kuwait Oil Ministry launches Hackathon 2021 competition

KUWAIT: Kuwait Ministry of Oil announced yesterday that the Organizing Committee for the 2021 Hackathon will start launching the award's activities on May 4-30, with the participation of many applicants from various oil and academic bodies. In a press statement, The Ministry of Oil said the Hackathon is the first of its kind, through which the Ministry aims to create an advanced digital oil program that will be used to implement and follow up all oil operations through artificial intelligence, which helps to learn new digital skills. According to the organizing committee for the event, a date has been set from 1 to 8 June for the final submission and evaluation, while the final results will be on June 10, 2021, noting that registration was open on the Ministry of Oil website during the period from March 28 to April 25.

The Ministry of Oil agreed to define 4 categories to participate in the award, including the academic aspect represented by Kuwait University, the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, and the oil sector represented by the Ministry of Oil, Kuwait Oil Company, Kuwait Gulf Oil Company and the Kuwait National Petroleum Company. The ministry indicated that the target groups in the award are as follows: the first category, which includes students of the relevant governmental and private universities and specialized institutes, the second category, which includes the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation group and its subsidiary companies, and the third category, includes a group of technical specialties in the Ministry of Oil, and the fourth category includes non-employee graduates whose experience reaches five years and less. The prizes will be an internship with Schlumberger, the ministry stated.

The award targets youth energies from academic and oil sectors, with participation of number of bodies, namely Kuwait University, the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, Kuwait Oil Company, Schlumberger Kuwait, as well as the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, the Kuwait Gulf Oil Company, the Kuwait National Petroleum Company, Australian College in Kuwait, American University of the Middle East and the American University in Kuwait. —KUNA



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