



## **Statement by NIHR on the Royal Directives to Vaccinate Bahraini Citizens Residing Abroad Against Covid-19**

The National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) commends the royal directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the King of the Country, regarding the start of work to provide Covid-19 vaccines of all citizens overseas, reflecting His Majesty's paternalistic concern for the health and safety of his citizens in various parts of the world, which came as a continuation of His Majesty's directives at the end of last year to provide a safe antivirus vaccine and make it available free of charge to all citizens and residents in a manner that preserves the health and safety of all.

The NIHR, through its vigorous follow-up, considers that the royal directives are in line with the provisions of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain regarding State's guarantee and care for public health and provision of means of prevention and treatment, as well as the international conventions to which the Kingdom of Bahrain has acceded, especially the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the international instruments concerned with human rights, as the Kingdom has provided free checkups and vaccinations to citizens and residents alike, on a free-of-charge basis, the matter which will result in immunizing the largest segment of the population through receiving the necessary vaccinations to eliminate this virus and return back to normal life.

The NIHR also welcomes reducing the expected time to obtain the vaccine to only one or two days from the date of registration, depending on the type of vaccine chosen, stressing that the percentage of the population qualified to receive the vaccination has exceeded 80% for those who obtained the first dose since the launch of the national vaccination campaign last December, which is an extension of the great efforts made by the National Medical Team to combat the Coronavirus, with direct and precise follow-up by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, since the beginning of the spread of the pandemic until today, within the framework of awareness campaigns for vaccination, and a reflection of the health awareness that characterizes the community as well as everyone's keenness to preserve the health and safety of themselves, their families and their surrounding community.

The NIHR reiterates the importance of concerted national efforts through everyone's commitment to the precautionary measures and guiding instructions issued by the National Medical Team to combat the Coronavirus (Covid-19), while continuing to adhere to the instructions, and urges everyone, especially citizens overseas who have not yet received the vaccine, to follow-up on the latest developments, whether through the website designated by the Ministry of Health for health updates in the Kingdom of Bahrain (<https://healthalert.gov.bh>) or through Conscious Community Application, calling on

everyone to take the initiative to register to receive the vaccination as soon as possible, in addition to registering and obtaining the booster dose by people qualified to obtain it, according to the instructions issued by the National Medical Team, to protect and grant the highest levels of immunity to the entire community and contribute to preventing and limiting the spread of Coronavirus (Covid-19).