

## Coronavirus: Reopening of Buddhist Centres – Buddhist Union of Belgium

The Buddhist Union of Belgium welcomes the relaxation of the lockdown measures announced by the government following the decision of the National Security Council of 3 June. From June 8, 2020, the Buddhist centres will be able to open their doors to the public again.

For this first phase of the reopening, the authorities have set a maximum number of 100 people per activity, with a limit of 1 person per 10m<sup>2</sup>. From July, the maximum number increases to 200 people. The organization of the activities must be planned in such a way that large meetings, for example outside the practice area, are avoided.

The participants must keep a distance of 1m50. Wearing masks is strongly recommended at all times when this distance cannot be guaranteed (arrival, departure, transfer within the centre). Ceremonies with physical contact are prohibited. The rooms must be adequately ventilated.

For everyone's safety, disinfectant and paper handkerchiefs should be provided.

The material must be disinfected before and after each ceremony and will not be shared during the ceremony. The participants use their own songbook.

For some practitioners, especially those at risk for their health or advanced age, it is better to wait to visit the Buddhist centres. For this reason, many associations continue to organize online activities. You can consult these activities on their websites and on our agenda.

### INFORMATION FOR THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CENTRES

#### **Preparation of a protocol**

The associations are best placed to draw up a protocol to ensure security that takes into account the specificity of their tradition. The information below can help those in charge in drawing up a protocol for their retreats. Some elements could also be considered to complement the above measures for regular practice.

The protocols with security measures that apply to the different types of activities (regular practice, retreats, ...) are sent to the members and displayed on the premises.

A corona responsible is appointed to monitor compliance with the measures.

For retreats, BUB refers to the protocols of the tourism sector:

<https://www.toerismevlaanderen.be/overzicht-protocollen#protocoltoerisme>

The guidelines below are based on this and may change depending on the evolution of the pandemic and the guidelines of the authorities involved.

Individuals who have shown symptoms of coronavirus infection in the last 2 weeks before the retreat cannot participate.

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The organizer will provide a description of the symptoms associated with the disease. The organizer provides the first aid kit with a thermometer and goggles (or face shield). As soon as someone shows any of these symptoms, they should leave the retreat and contact a doctor. If the corona test is positive, the retreat must be discontinued.

Different housing units can together form a bubble of up to 50 people. This group can participate in activities together. If a retreat is more than 50 people, different bubbles must be formed with all indoor activities taking place at a different place or time.

It is advisable to plan an activity programme that provides adequate rest during the night and after meals.

Digital payment is encouraged.

Carpooling requires safety measures: cleaning and disinfecting the car, washing hands before departure, regular ventilation, wearing a mask (and possibly glasses) and limiting the number of passengers per car.

A procedure is being prepared that guarantees disinfection before and after the exchange of keys and limits direct contact.

The use of a cloakroom is avoided or disinfected regularly.

A circulation procedure should be provided to ensure maximum respect for distance, for example when entering a room in a group.

All rooms are ventilated regularly and for at least 20 minutes a day. Do not use fans that can spread viruses.

Hygienic equipment is available (masks, paper handkerchiefs, disposable gloves, soap, paper hand dryer, ...) as well as trash cans.

After cleaning, disinfection is carried out with disposable gloves on all contact points (flashing lights, cabinet openings, switches, taps, ...) The gloves are discarded after use. In principle, doors that should not be closed for safety reasons remain open.

The meals are prepared with mouth masks and gloves. The participants and those responsible for the service wear masks when serving food. Kitchen utensils are not shared (e.g. before serving) and are washed with warm water and soap.

Those in charge of the retreat should consult the first aid procedure in place during the coronavirus crisis.

Participants should be advised that those who show symptoms of COVID19 in the days following the retreat should notify the person in charge of the retreat.