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இலங்கைச் சட்டத்தரணிகள் சங்கம்  
**BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA**

1<sup>st</sup> August 2021

General Shavendra Silva,  
Chairman of the Covid-19 Task Force,  
Chief of Defence Staff and  
The Commander of the Sri Lanka Army,  
Army Headquarters,  
Colombo 1.

Dr. Asela Gunewardena,  
Director General of Health Services,  
Department of Health Services,  
Colombo 10.

Dear Sirs,

**IMPORTANCE OF ADHERENCE TO HEALTH GUIDELINES WHEN EASING TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS**

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) appreciates the vaccination drive at present and the role of the government, health workers and security forces in battling Covid-19 including the vital role that you are performing in this regard.

Whilst noting that the number of vaccinations per day in the last few days in Sri Lanka are among the highest in the world, the BASL reiterates the need to continuously observe health guidelines and to exercise caution when easing travel and other restrictions.

The BASL is of the view it is of utmost importance for the health authorities to carefully consider the views and the suggestions of independent health experts in order to ensure that the spread of the virus is contained.

The BASL makes these observations in the face of rising numbers of Covid-19 positive cases being reported during the last few days, the continuing number of daily deaths being reported and reports of medical facilities being burdened.

The BASL notes that several medical bodies both in Sri Lanka and overseas have expressed grave concern over the spread of infections especially of the delta variant and the new dangers this variant poses to the life of the community.

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President  
Saliya Pieris PC

Deputy President  
Anura Meddegoda PC

Secretary  
Rajeev Amarasuriya

Treasurer  
Rajindh Perera

Assistant Secretary  
Pasindu Silva

No. 153, Mihindu Mawatha, Colombo 12, Sri Lanka.

Telephone : +94 11 2447134, +94 11 2331697, Fax : +94 11 2448090 E-mail: basl.lawnet@gmail.com Web: www.basl.lk



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Failure to properly wear face masks, the failure to observe the required physical distancing, as well as the failure to properly regulate adherence to health guidelines, pose a serious risk especially to those who are more vulnerable.

The BASL understands the concerns of hardships that lockdowns and travel restrictions bring on the people and on the national economy.

However, health guidelines and safety precautions should be enforced in all activities including public transport and at every public and private gathering, whilst a more stringent testing regime is also implemented.

The BASL is willing to offer its expertise to the government in this regard wherever required.

Thank you,  
Yours faithfully,

**Saliya Pieris, PC**  
**President**  
**Bar Association of Sri Lanka.**

**Rajeev Amarasuriya**  
**Secretary**  
**Bar Association of Sri Lanka.**