



प्रीति सूदन, आईएएस

सचिव

PREETI SUDAN, IAS
Secretary



सत्यमेव जयते

भारत सरकार
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय
Government of India

Department of Health and Family Welfare
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

DO. No. Z.28015/01/2020-EMR(Pt.)
Dated the 20th March, 2020

Dear Colleague,

This is in continuation to my previous communication to you dated 19.3.2020 with regard to dealing with NCoronavirus/Covid-19.

The Central Government had shared elaborate guidelines on Social Distancing with all States / UTs on 16.03.2020 (copy enclosed). In compliance, while some of the States/UTs issued necessary guidelines in this regard, the measures taken by the States / UTs are not uniform. Expert Group constituted under this Ministry has emphasised on a need for uniform implementation of guidelines on social distancing. It is, therefore, imperative that all the States / UTs take following social distancing measures:

1. Regulate hours and work in government offices to reduce congestion and maintain hygiene.
2. Regulate working hours in all services except for essential services. Industrial establishments to adopt staggered timings and regulation of crowd in market should also be resorted to.
3. Private sector to consider work from home, wherever feasible.
4. Educational institutions, theatres, museums, gyms, examination centres, etc. to be closed.
5. Sporting events, competitions and religious gatherings to be postponed and maintain required social distancing even in smaller gatherings.
6. Plan decrease in frequency of services of metros, railways, buses and airplanes; alternate seating to ensure social distancing; disinfection and crowd control in places like railway stations, metro stations, bus stands, airports, etc.
7. All senior citizens [except for public representatives/government servants/medical professionals] to remain indoors and avoid gatherings, except for medical reasons and need for essential services.
8. All children below 10 years of age to remain at home and avoid going to public parks, picnics and other games requiring large number of participants.
9. All health establishments to avoid non-urgent hospitalization and minimize elective surgeries
10. Motivating citizens, particularly the Youth, to be volunteers to support the Governments' ongoing efforts in management of COVID-19.
11. Regulate prices of masks, sanitizers, medicines, etc. and ensure their availability.
12. Sensitize on appropriate use of masks and good hygienic practices including washing hands with soap.

State / UT Governments have necessary authority under the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897, the Disaster Management Act, 2005 and also under various provisions of Cr. PC and IPC, as has been already conveyed by me vide letter D.O. No. Z.28015/19/2020-EMR; dated 13th March, 2020 (copy enclosed).

All State / UT Governments are requested to implement these directions and if required, they may consider invoking relevant provisions of law, as warranted in larger public interest.

Preeti Sudan
Yours sincerely,
Preeti Sudan
(Preeti Sudan)

To:

1. Chief Secretaries of all States / UTs

Copy to:

1. Principal Secretaries (Health) of all States / UTs
2. All Nodal Officers appointed by the Government of India for COVID-19 Management
3. Secretaries of all Ministries / Departments of the Government of India

Copy for information to:

1. Principal Secretary to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, South Block, New Delhi.
2. Cabinet Secretary, Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi
3. PS to Hon'ble HFM / PS to Hon'ble MoS (AKC)
4. Sr. PPS to Secretary (H) / Sr. PPS to Secretary (DHR)



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Government of India
Department of Health and Family Welfare
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

D.O.No.Z-21020/14/2020-PH
16-3-2020

Dear Colleagues,

This has reference to my previous communications to you with regard to dealing with the nCoronavirus/Covid-19 challenge.

A number of measures have been taken both by Govt of India and by the States to contain Covid-19. These include dissemination of Do's & Don'ts, guidelines on wearing of masks, action on various travel advisories, implementation of protocols on surveillance, prevention of hospital infection, discharge policy, clinical management, etc.

Detailed consultation with public health experts have suggested to focus on social distancing measures as a preventive strategy to prevent and contain transmission of this disease. It was brought out that implementation of social distancing measures would have a major impact in limiting the spread and will also provide us with time to strengthen our response framework.

Accordingly, advisory/guidelines are drawn up for further action. While implementing these measures, it is important to educate the community so as to ensure their cooperation and avoid any panic. It is reiterated that these are preventive measures so as to lessen the impact of COVID-19 in the country and are temporary.

I take this opportunity to thank you and your team for the tremendous hard work that you are putting in to keep our country safe.

The advisory is enclosed for further action.

Best regards
Yours sincerely,

P. Sudan
(Preeti Sudan)

Chief Secretaries of all States/UTs

CC to ACS/Pr.Secy.(H)/Secy.(H) of all States/UTs

Encl.: as above

Advisory on Social Distancing Measure in view of spread of COVID-19 disease

Social distancing is a non-pharmaceutical infection prevention and control intervention implemented to avoid/decrease contact between those who are infected with a disease causing pathogen and those who are not, so as to stop or slow down the rate and extent of disease transmission in a community. This eventually leads to decrease in spread, morbidity and mortality due to the disease.

In addition to the proposed interventions, the State/UT Governments may prescribe such other measures as they consider necessary.

All these proposed interventions shall be in force till 31st of March, 2020. They will be reviewed as per the evolving situation.

The following interventions are proposed:

1. Closure of all educational establishments (schools, universities etc), gyms, museums, cultural and social centres, swimming pools and theatres. Students should be advised to stay at home. Online education to be promoted.
2. Possibility of postponing exams may be explored. Ongoing exams to be conducted only after ensuring physical distance of one meter amongst students.
3. Encourage private sector organizations/employers to allow employees to work from home wherever feasible.
4. Meetings, as far as feasible, shall be done through video conferences. Minimize or reschedule meetings involving large number of people unless necessary.
5. Restaurants to ensure handwashing protocol and proper cleanliness of frequently touched surfaces. Ensure physical distancing (minimum 1metre) between tables; encourage open air seating where practical with adequate distancing.
6. Keep already planned weddings to a limited gathering, postpone all non-essential social and cultural gatherings.
7. Local authorities to have a dialogue with organizers of sporting events and competitions involving large gatherings and they may be advised to postpone such events.
8. Local authorities to have a dialogue with opinion leaders and religious leaders to regulate mass gatherings and should ensure no overcrowding/at least one metre distance between people.

9. Local authorities to have meeting with traders associations and other stakeholders to regulate hours, exhibit Do's and Don'ts and take up a communication drive in market places like sabzi mandi, anaj mandi, bus depots, railway stations, post-offices etc., where essential services are provided.
10. All commercial activities must keep a distance of one meter between customers. Measures to reduce peak hour crowding in markets.
11. Non-essential travel should be avoided. Buses, Trains and aeroplanes to maximize social distancing in public transport besides ensuring regular and proper disinfection of surfaces.
12. Hospitals to follow necessary protocol related with COVID-19 management as prescribed and restrict family/friends/children visiting patients in hospitals.
13. Hygiene and physical distancing has to be maintained. Shaking hands and hugging as a matter of greeting to be avoided.
14. Special protective measures for delivery men/ women working in online ordering services.
15. Keep communities informed consistently and constantly.

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare



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Government of India
Department of Health and Family Welfare
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

D.O.No. Z.28015/19/2020-EMR

Dated : 13th March, 2020

Dear Colleague,

Let me place on record my appreciation for the great work done by all the states in limiting the spread of COVID-19. Without your support it would not have been possible. Continued and constant vigil is important.

2. As part of our management efforts, there is a need to impose certain social distancing measures such as quarantine of exposed healthy individuals who could be potential patients or isolation of those with symptoms. Such measures require great degree of persuasive communication. The persons to be quarantined or isolated need to volunteer for such measures in greater interest of the nation.

3. There might however be cases where, in larger community interest we may have to issue instructions to non-cooperative individuals. In this context it is highlighted that legal provisions to support States in their endeavor to manage infectious diseases exist. These include Epidemic Act of 1897, Disaster Management Act and various other provisions under IPC and Criminal Procedure Code etc.

4. As states get empowered under the Epidemic Disease Act and other provisions, in our public narrative and press briefings, we have to make it very clear that there is no epidemic of COVID-19 in the country. All such actions are primarily legal empowerment for the preventive action that requires to be taken.

The same may kindly be noted.

Warm regards,
Yours sincerely,

P. Sudan
(Preeti Sudan)

Chief Secretaries of all States / UTs

Copy to : Addl.CS / Prl.Sec / Secretary (Health) of all States / UTs