

Rev (DMC) (C) 20-2/2021 – COVID 19 – III
Government of Himachal Pradesh
Revenue Department – Disaster Management Cell

Shimla – 171002

Dated: 12th April, 2021

ORDER

Whereas, Orders dated 21.03.2021, 25.03.2021, 26.03.2021, 03.04.2021 & 06.04.2021 were issued to contain the spread of COVID-19 in the State for compliance with orders and guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India for containment of COVID-19 dated 23.03.2021.

Whereas, after a careful review of the recent spike in COVID-19 cases, it is evident that it still remains a public health risk and caution is necessary for the containment of spread of COVID-19 in the State.

Now therefore, after considering the current situation of the COVID-19 pandemic and the overall circumstances, in exercise of the powers conferred under the Section 24 (e) of the DM Act 2005, the undersigned in the capacity of the Chairman, State Executive Committee (SEC), hereby reiterates the existing instructions along with following additional directives for the effective management of COVID-19.

EXISTING PROVISIONS-

1. The state will continue to observe “No Mask-No Service” policy. People with face cover/mask will only be allowed to board public/private transport and enter any other government or private establishment for availing any service/goods.
2. There shall be ban on the organisation of Melas in the state. All Langars/Bhandaras inside and around temples/place of worships are prohibited. However pilgrims/devotees may be allowed to enter sanctum sanatorium for offering Puja/Darshan with due adherence of SOPs issued in this regard by the department or district administration.
3. In social/ academic/ sports/ entertainment/ cultural/ religious/ political gatherings and other congregations, following provisions are mandatory-
 - In open spaces/grounds, in areas outside the Containment Zones, keeping the size of the ground/space in view, number of persons allowed will be 50% of the capacity subject to maximum of 200 persons and with strict

observance of social distancing, mandatory wearing of face covers/masks, provision of thermal scanning and hand washing or sanitization. This condition of upper limit of 200 persons will not be applicable for the official/administrative functions organized in public interest in open spaces, but criteria of 50% capacity need to be adhered to.

- In closed spaces, in areas outside the Containment Zones, number of persons allowed shall be 50% of the hall capacity subject to maximum of 50. Wearing of face masks, maintaining social distancing, provision of thermal scanning and use of hand wash or sanitizer will be mandatory in all such venues.
- In gatherings where community kitchen or Dhaam/Langars, or professional catering is to be arranged, the managers and catering staff as far as possible, will be required to undergo tests through Rapid Antigen/RT-PCR test kits for COVID-19 with the help of local health officials not earlier than 96 hours before the event. The cooking staff will ensure no cooking without masks, gloves and head cover. There will be prohibition on langars in closed premises and cooking by non-tested staff. The organisers will also ensure adherence to highest level of personal and environmental hygiene all the times, especially at the time of preparing, serving /eating meals and disposal of the waste etc.
- All such gatherings will be organized with the prior permission of the district administration and Local Administration shall keep a close watch on such gatherings and ensure to implement the SOPs especially in relation to social distancing and face cover/wearing of masks. Local Administration while granting permissions to the organizers, may impose additional conditions, as may deem fit, to contain the spread of COVID-19. Department of IT shall develop an application module enabling public to apply for permissions for gatherings with all essential features.
- The details of permissions granted for gatherings shall also be shared with Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) apart from the officer in charge of police stations in the State.
- All the office bearers of the PRIs/ULBs as the case may be, are to ensure that all the SOPs including wearing of mask, social distancing, home isolation, public gathering etc. issued by the State Government are strictly adhered to. They will visit and coordinate with the event organizers prior to

the event that only the permitted number of the persons should attend the event with strict compliance of COVID-19 directives. Any violations of the directives in this regard shall be brought to the notice of the District Administration forthwith.

- Organizers shall be responsible to ensure compliance of these conditions & other SOPs issued, failing which they will be liable to be prosecuted or fine shall be imposed upon them.
4. As per the guidelines of MHA it is very important to follow “TEST-TRACK-TREAT” protocol in letter and spirit. The protocol includes aggressive testing and tracking COVID-19 positive cases, creation of Containment/Micro-containment zones so that timely isolation and medical intervention is provided to the positive cases.
 5. District Administration will take decision on imposing further restrictions/conditions keeping in the view rate of positivity and fatality rate in their respective districts and local areas.

NEW PROVISIONS-

6. All educational institutions schools/colleges/universities/institutions will continue to remain close upto **21.04.2021**. The Heads of the institutions may however require the presence of teaching/non-teaching staff as per the administrative needs of the institutions. All coaching centres and nursing/medical/dental colleges will remain open and ensure observance of the COVID-19 SOPs issued by respective departments. Schools/Institutions having residential facilities need not close their hostel facilities but must observe SOPs issued by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India for COVID-19 appropriate behaviour. The educational institutions that are earmarked as examination centres shall be properly sanitized prior to examinations. All such schools/educational institutions must appoint a compliance officer for this purpose.
7. From **16.04.2021** onwards, all persons intending to visit state for tourism related activities, from COVID-19 high load States like: **Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Karnataka, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Punjab** by road, air and trains are advised to carry negative **RT-PCR test** report for COVID-19 from an ICMR accredited/approved laboratory, issued not earlier than **72 hours**.

8. There shall be ban on organisation of gatherings like **Kirtan/Jagran/Jagrata etc.** inside and around places of religious worship. If such gatherings are to be organized at other places conditions prescribed at serial no. 3 above shall be followed.

All the Departments and Organisations of the Government, District Magistrates, Police Officials and Local Authorities of the State are directed to ensure strict compliance with the directions of the SEC and various SOPs *ibid*.

District Magistrates, Superintendents of Police will take adequate measures to implement these orders with the support of all the PRIs and ULBs in letter and spirit. This Order shall remain in force, in all parts of the State with immediate effect till further orders.

Enclosed- SEC orders as mentioned above.

Approved by

**Chief Secretary cum Chairperson, SEC
Himachal Pradesh.**

To

1. All the Administrative Secretaries to the Government of Himachal Pradesh.
2. All the Head of Departments, Himachal Pradesh.
3. All the Divisional Commissioners, Himachal Pradesh.
4. All the Deputy Commissioners, Himachal Pradesh.
5. The Director I & PR for wider dissemination.

Copy for information to:

1. The Home Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.
2. Principal PS cum Special Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister-cum-Chairperson, SDMA.

**Additional Chief Secretary (Revenue) to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh.**