

Rev (DMC) (C) 20-2/2020-COVID-19
Government of Himachal Pradesh
Revenue Department-Disaster Management Cell

Shimla-171002
Date: 6th August, 2021

ORDER

Himachal Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (HPSDMA) has considered the surge in COVID-19 cases, increasing positivity rate and fatalities in the State from time to time, and in order to break the transmission chain of COVID-19 virus, has imposed certain restrictions in the State of Himachal Pradesh, which was last extended vide advisory dated ~~04.08.2021~~ which is in effect till further orders.

As the "*Shrawan Ashtmi Navratras*" are commencing w.e.f. 9th August, 2021 and will end on 17th August, 2021, during this period, there is a possibility that thousands of pilgrims will assemble at various temples/religious shrines in all the districts which may lead to huge gatherings in the said period.

It is of utmost importance to maintain COVID-19 appropriate behavior at all the temples/religious shrines. In view of the concern regarding the third wave of COVID-19 and the fact that such kind of gatherings in confined spaces may become 'Super Spreader' events and may precipitate COVID-19 cases in various parts of the State and the country.

Therefore, in view of the above facts and circumstances, feedback from various Deputy Commissioner(s), Health Department, and in exercise of the power conferred under Section 22 (2) (h) and Section 24 of the Disaster Management Act 2005, the undersigned in the capacity of the Chairperson, State Executive Committee, hereby issues following directions for implementation in letter and spirit during the "*Shrawan Ashtmi Navratras*".



The Deputy Commissioners in their respective districts shall analyse situations and issue required orders containing any or all of the following restrictions deemed necessary to hold “*Sharavan Ashtmi Navratras*” while ensuring COVID-19 appropriate behaviour.

1. The Mela Officer and Police Mela Officer shall ensure that “**No Mask- No Darshan**” policy is implemented strictly during the said period.
2. Social distancing shall be maintained by sensitizing, educating and legally enforcing the same.
3. Provisions for thermal screening are to be ensured at the entrance of religious places/temples and provisions are also made for hand sanitization/hand-washing.
4. Persons intending to visit various temples/shrines during the aforesaid period shall be allowed to enter the State/District borders only if they possess COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate (both doses) or RT-PCR negative(-ve) report issued not older than 72 hours and from authorized labs.
5. It is to be ensured that at various check points at district/State borders there is no unnecessary gathering and COVID-19 appropriate behaviour along with social distancing is properly maintained, and basic facilities like drinking water, medical facility, shade and sitting spaces are ensured at checking points.
6. Any person producing a fraudulent report shall be penalized under the relevant rules of Law.

Penal Provisions:

Any person violating these measures and not following COVID appropriate behavior will be liable to be proceeded against as per the provision of Section 51-60 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, besides



entailing legal action under Section 188 of the IPC, and other legal provisions as applicable.

This order will come into effect immediately and shall remain in force till 18th August,2021 in all the districts.

**Ram Subhag Singh
Chief Secretary cum Chairman, SEC
Himachal Pradesh.**

To:

1. All the Administrative Secretaries to the GoHP.
2. All the Head of Departments, Himachal Pradesh.
3. All the Divisional Commissioner, Himachal Pradesh.
4. All the Deputy Commissioner, 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. All the Member of HPSDMA
3. All the Member of the HP State Executive Committee.
4. The Principal PS-cum-Special Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister-cum-Chairperson HPSDMA.



**Principal Secretary (Revenue) to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh**