

Dated the 1st March, 2021

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

**SOP on preventive measures in Hotels and other Hospitality Units
to contain spread of COVID-19
(In supersession of guidelines issued earlier on 04.06.2020)**

1. Background

All hotels and other hospitality units must take suitable measures to restrict any further transmission of COVID-19 while providing accommodation and other tourist services. The SOP aims to minimize all possible physical contacts between Staff and Guests and maintain physical distancing and other preventive and safety measures against COVID-19.

2. Scope

This document outlines various generic precautionary measures to be adopted in addition to specific measures to be ensured in hotels and other hospitality units (*henceforth, 'hotels'*) to prevent spread of COVID-19.

Hotels in containment zones shall remain closed. Only those outside containment zones will be allowed to open up.

3. Generic preventive measures

- (A) Person above 65 years of age, persons with comorbidities, pregnant woman and children below the age of 10 years are advised to take necessary precautions in terms of maintaining physical distancing, wearing mask properly etc. Hotel management to advise accordingly.
- (B) The generic measures include simple public health measures that are to be followed to reduce the risk of COVID-19. These measures need to be observed by all (staff and guests) in these places at all times.

These include:

- i. Physical distancing of at least 6 feet (2 gaj ki doori) to be followed as far as feasible.
- ii. Use of face covers/masks at all times. They must be worn properly to cover nose and mouth. Touching the front portion of mask/face covers to be avoided.
- iii. Practice frequent hand washing with soap (for at least 40-60 seconds) even when hands are not visibly dirty. Use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers (for at least 20 seconds) can be made wherever feasible.
- iv. Respiratory etiquettes to be strictly followed. This involves strict practice of covering one's mouth and nose while coughing/sneezing with a tissue/handkerchief/flexed elbow and disposing off used tissues properly.
- v. Self-monitoring of health by all and reporting any illness at the earliest to state and district helpline.
- vi. Spitting shall be strictly prohibited.
- vii. Installation and use of Aarogya Setu app shall be advised to all.

4. All Hotels shall ensure the following arrangements:

- i. Entrance to have mandatory hand hygiene (sanitizer dispenser) and thermal screening provisions.
- ii. Only asymptomatic staff and guests shall be allowed.
- iii. All staff and guests to be allowed entry only if using face cover/masks. The face cover/masks has to be worn at all times inside the hotel.
- iv. Adequate manpower shall be deployed by hotel management for ensuring physical distancing norms.
- v. All employees who are at higher risk i.e. older employees, pregnant employees and employees who have underlying medical conditions, to take extra precautions. They should preferably not be exposed to any front-line work requiring direct contact with the public.
- vi. Proper crowd management in the hotel as well as in outside premises like parking lots—duly following physical distancing norms shall be ensured by the management/ any out-sourced agencies. Gatherings/congregation should be in accordance with the SOPs of the State/UT concerned.
- vii. Valet parking, if available, shall be operational with operating staff wearing face covers/ masks and gloves as appropriate. A proper disinfection of steering, door handles, keys, etc. of the vehicles should be taken up.
- viii. Preferably separate entry and exits for guests, staff and goods/supplies shall be organized. Maintaining physical distancing of a minimum of 6 feet, when queuing up for entry and inside the hotel as far as feasible. Specific markings may be made with sufficient distance to manage the queue and ensure physical distancing in the premises.
- ix. Number of people in the elevators shall be restricted, duly maintaining physical distancing norms. Use of escalators with one person on alternate steps may be encouraged.
- x. Details of the guest (travel history, medical condition etc.) along with ID and self-declaration form must be provided by the guest at the reception.
- xi. Posters/standees/AV media on preventive measures about COVID-19 to be displayed prominently.
- xii. Hand sanitizers must be kept at the reception for guests to use. Guests to sanitize hands before and after filling relevant forms including A&D register.
- xiii. Hotels must adopt contactless processes like QR code, online forms, digital payments like e-wallet etc. for both check-in and check-out.
- xiv. Luggage should be disinfected before sending the luggage to rooms.
- xv. Guests who are at higher risk i.e. those who are older, pregnant or those who have underlying medical conditions are advised to take extra precautions.
- xvi. Guests should be advised not to visit areas falling within containment zone.
- xvii. Required precautions while handling supplies, inventories and goods in the hotel shall be ensured. Proper queue management and disinfection shall be organized.
- xviii. Appropriate personal protection gears like face covers/masks, gloves and hand sanitizers etc. shall be made available by hotel to the staff as well as the guests.
- xix. Detailed guidelines issued for restaurants shall be followed.

- a. Seating arrangement in the restaurant also to be made in such a way that adequate physical distancing is maintained.
 - b. Disposable menus are advised to be used.
 - c. Instead of cloth napkins, use of good quality disposable paper napkins to be encouraged.
 - d. Contactless mode of ordering and digital mode of payment (using e-wallets) to be encouraged.
 - e. Buffet service should also follow physical distancing norms among guests.
- xxi. Room service or takeaways to be encouraged, instead of dine-in. Food delivery personnel should leave the packet at guest or customer's door and not handed directly to the receiver. The staff for home deliveries shall be screened thermally by the hotel authorities prior to allowing home deliveries.
 - xxii. For room service, communication between guests and in-house staff should be through intercom/ mobile phone and room service (if any) should be provided while maintaining adequate physical distance.
 - xxiii. Gaming Arcades/Children play areas (wherever applicable) shall function in accordance with the SOPs of the State/UT concerned.
 - xxiv. For air-conditioning/ventilation, the guidelines of CPWD shall be followed which mentions that the temperature setting of all air conditioning devices should be in the range of 24-30° C, relative humidity should be in the range of 40-70%, intake of fresh air should be as much as possible and cross ventilation should be adequate.
 - xxv. Effective and frequent sanitation within the premises shall be maintained with particular focus on lavatories, drinking and hand washing stations/areas.
 - xxvi. Cleaning and regular disinfection (using 1% sodium hypochlorite) of frequently touched surfaces (door knobs, elevator buttons, hand rails, benches, washroom fixtures, etc.) to be made mandatory in all guest service area and common areas.
 - xxvii. Proper disposal of face covers / masks / gloves left over by guests and/or staff in covered bins should be ensured.
 - xxviii. Deep cleaning of all washrooms shall be ensured at regular intervals.
 - xxix. Rooms and other service areas shall be sanitized each time a guest leaves.
 - xxx. In the kitchen, the staff should follow physical distancing norms at workplace. Kitchens area must be sanitized at regular intervals.
 - xxxi. In case of a suspect or confirmed case in the premises:
 - a. Place the ill person in a room or area where they are isolated from others.
 - b. Provide a mask/face cover till such time he/she is examined by a doctor.
 - c. Immediately inform the nearest medical facility (hospital/clinic) or call the state or district helpline.
 - d. A risk assessment will be undertaken by the designated public health authority (district RRT/treating physician) and accordingly further action be initiated regarding management of case, his/her contacts and need for disinfection.
 - e. Disinfection of the premises to be taken up if the person is found positive.