

GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT

NOTIFICATION

Dated Shillong the 19th March, 2020.

No. Health.68/2020/38 : In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 2, 3 and 4 of **The Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897**, the Governor of Meghalaya is pleased to issue the following regulations regarding outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19).

1. These Regulations may be called **The Meghalaya Epidemic Diseases, COVID-19 Regulations, 2020**.
2. "Epidemic Disease" in these Regulations means COVID-19 (Corona Virus Disease 2019).
3. Authorized persons under this Act are Commissioner & Secretary, Health & Family Welfare at the State Level and District Magistrate, District Medical & Health Officer at the District Level *and the Rangbah Shnongs, Dollois and the Nokmas at the village level****.
4. (i) *All Hospitals (Government & private) should have Flu corners for screening of suspected cases COVID-19 (Corona virus Disease 2019)*.*
(ii) *All private hospitals must inform Government officials [State/District Disease Surveillance Unit] if there are persons suspected to have COVID-19 admitted to the hospital.**
(iii) *Private hospitals in the State are required to identify and set up private wards for isolation and treatment of COVID-19 patients*.*
5. *All Hospitals (Government & private) during screening of such cases shall ascertain the history of travel of the person and record and intimate the Health Department and DC Office** if she/he has travelled to any country or area where COVID-19 has been reported. In addition the history of coming in contact with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 shall be recorded.*
 - i. In case the person has any such history in last 14 days and the person is asymptomatic then the person must be kept in "stay at home" for 14 days from the day of exposure. *If the concerned person doesn't have the facility at home she/he should be brought to the nearest health care facility or the temporary facility set up**.*
 - ii. In case the person has any such history in last 14days and the person is symptomatic as per case definition of COVID-19, the person must be isolated in a hospital *or any other temporary facility*** and will be tested for COVID-19 as per protocol.

*Inserted by the First Amendment

** Inserted by the Second Amendment Regulation

*** Inserted by the Third Amendment Regulation

- iii. Information of all such cases should be given to office of District Medical & Health Officer/District Control Room of the respective District immediately.
6. *No laboratory without authorization will collect and test samples for COVID-19 in the State of Meghalaya***. All such samples will be collected as per guidelines of Government of India and these will be sent to designated laboratory by the Nodal Officer of the designated hospitals of the Department of Health & Family welfare Department, Government of Meghalaya or of the concerned District under intimation to District Surveillance Officer (DSO) of concerned District.
 7. If any person with a history of travel in last 14 days to a country or area from where COVID-19 has been reported, developed symptoms, he must contact the State/District control rooms/108 so that necessary measures if required may be initiated by the Department of Health & Family Welfare.
 8. All persons with a history of travel to a country or area from where COVID- 19 has been reported in last 14days, but who do not have any symptoms of cough fever, difficulty in breathing should isolate themselves at home. Such persons must take precautions to avoid contact with any person including family members for 14 days from the date of arrival from such area.
 9. Authorized persons per section 3 of these Regulations are authorized under this act to admit a person and isolate the person if required in case he/she has a history of visit to an area where COVID-19 is endemic and the concerned person is symptomatic.
 10. If there are sufficient reasons, cause or information to suspect or believe that any persons could be infected with COVID-19 and his continued presence in a premises is hazardous to the public safety, it shall be lawful for a Surveillance personnel to enter any such premises, after giving reasonable opportunity to the owner/occupier, for the purpose of surveillance of instances of fever or cough or respiratory difficulty, enquire into or undertake physical examination, as he/she thinks fit, and such person (s) shall be bound to cooperate and render all possible assistance to facilitate such surveillance, inspection, enquiry and examination.
 11. If consequent to such inquiry, inspection, examination or otherwise, the Surveillance Personnel has reason to believe or suspect that such a person could be infected with COVID-19, the Surveillance Personnel may direct/arrange to put that person(s) in home quarantine or direct/escort that persons(s)an Institutional Quarantine Facility' or an 'Isolation Facility'.
 12. It shall be mandatory for Medical Officers in Government Health Institutions and registered Private Medical Practitioners, including AYUSH practitioners; to notify such person (s) to the concerned District Surveillance Unit, along with duly filled up self declaration forms, who, within their knowledge, are having. Travel History

*Inserted by the First Amendment

** Inserted by the Second,Amendment Regulation

to COVID-19 affected countries or State within the country as per the extant and are having complaints of fever or cough or respiratory difficulty or even without any signs and symptoms of the Epidemic disease.

13. If the owner or occupier(s) of any premises or any individual suspected/confirmed with COVID-19, refuses to take measures for Prevention or treatment i.e., stay-at-home /Institutional Quarantine/isolation or any such person refuses to cooperate with, render assistance to or comply with the directions of the Surveillance Personnel, the concerned District Magistrate having jurisdiction or any person specifically authorized by the District Magistrate in this regard, may pass an appropriate order and may proceed with proceedings under Section 133 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974) or take any other coercive action as deemed necessary and expedient for enforcing such cooperation and assistance. In case of a minor, such Order shall be directed to the guardian or any other adult member of the family of the minor.
14. *All advisories issued/to be issued by the Government of India and the State Government on COVID-19 will ipso facto be treated as directions under the Epidemic Act and Regulations in Meghalaya. #*
15. If cases of COVID-19 are reported from a defined geographic area, the Authorized Person (s) with the approval of State Task Force constituted for containment of COVID-19 shall have the right to implement following containment measures, but not limited to these, in order to prevent spread of the disease,-
 - (i) Sealing of the geographical area
 - (ii) Banning entry and exit of population from the containment area.
 - (iii) Closure of schools, offices and banning public gatherings
 - (iv) Initiating active and passive surveillance of COVID-19 cases.
 - (v) Banning vehicular movement in the area.
 - (vi) Initiating active and passive surveillance of COVID-19 cases
 - (vii) Designating any Government building as containment unit for isolation of the cases.
 - (viii) Requiring all employees of the State Government to be always available on-call for emergency requirement in the interest of the public. Staff of all Government departments will be at disposal of District administration of the concerned area for discharging the duty of containment measures*.
 - (ix) Requisitioning places including community halls and private buildings to set up isolation units and temporary medical facilities*.
 - (x) Requiring the services of all medical and para-medical staff (including students) to be available on any emergency requirement to manage COVID-19. This includes screening patients, taking samples and providing critical care to the patients*.
 - (xi) Any other measure as directed by the Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Meghalaya.

*Inserted by the First Amendment

** Inserted by the Second Amendment Regulation

Inserted by the Fourth Amendment Regulation

16. With the concurrence of Health & Family Welfare Department of Government of Meghalaya, the District Disaster Management Authority headed by District Magistrate is authorized for planning strategy regarding containment measures for COVID-19 in their respective districts. The District Magistrate may co opt more officers from different departments for District Disaster Management Authority for this activity under these regulations.
17. **Usage of Face Cover/Face Masks#:**
Wearing of face mask or face cover is compulsory in all public spaces and workplaces. All residents of the State irrespective of whether with or without a medical condition, except children below two years of age and asthma patients, must use a “homemade protective cover for face and mouth” while venturing outdoors. The Advisories or Guidelines for ‘Use of masks by public’ and the ‘Do’s and Don’ts’ issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India on use of face masks will be applicable and are to be complied with.
18. **Social Distancing (Physical Distancing)#:**
All persons in charge of public places, work places and transport shall ensure social distancing by maintaining at least 6 feet (2 metres) away from others or as per the guidelines issued by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
19. **Spitting and use of smokeless tobacco in Public Places#:**
Use of smokeless tobacco and spitting in public spaces is strictly prohibited In order to curb the spread of COVID-19.
20. **Penalty:** Any person / institution/organization found violating any provision of these regulations shall be deemed to have committed an offence punishable under section 188 of Indian Penal Code (45 of 1860). The Secretary, Health & Family Welfare or District Magistrate may penalize any person/institution/organization if found violating provisions of these regulations or any further orders issued by the Government under these Regulation.
18. Protection to person acting under the Act: No suit or legal proceedings shall lie against any person for anything done or intended to be done in good faith under this Act unless proved otherwise.
19. These Regulations shall come into force immediately and shall remain valid for a period of one year from the date of publication of this Notification.

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