

**GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT**

No.Health.99/2020/Pt.II/14,

Dated Shillong, the 19th June, 2020.

ORDER

In view of the pandemic situation arising out of COVID-19 and the need to ensure safety of health workers drafted for COVID-19 duties and in health care facilities, the guidelines prescribed by the Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Meghalaya and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India will be followed in all health care facilities in the State and by all health care workers performing duties at the forefront.

1. Institutional Mechanism for preventing and responding to Healthcare Associated Infections (HAIs) among HCWs

Hospitals shall activate its Hospital Infection Control Committee (HICC). The HICC in the health facility is responsible for implementing the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) activities and organizing regular trainings on IPC for HCWs.

A Nodal Officer (Infection Control Officer) shall be identified by each hospital to address all matters related to Healthcare Associated Infections (HAIs). With reference to preventing such infection among healthcare workers, he/she will ensure that:

- i. Healthcare workers in different settings of hospitals shall use PPEs appropriate to their risk profile as detailed in the guidelines issued by this Ministry (available at: <https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/GuidelinesonrationaluseofPersonalProtectiveEquipment.pdf>)
 - ii. All healthcare workers have undergone training on Infection Prevention and Control and they are aware of common signs and symptoms, need for self-health monitoring and need for prompt reporting of such symptoms.
 - iii. Provisions have been made for regular (thermal) screening of all hospital staff.
 - iv. All healthcare workers managing COVID-19 cases may be provided with chemo-prophylaxis under medical supervision.
 - v. Provisions have been made for prompt reporting of breach of PPE by the hospital staff and follow-up action.
2. Action for Healthcare Workers
- i. Ensure that all preventive measures like frequent washing of hands/use of alcohol based hand sanitizer, respiratory etiquettes (using tissue/handkerchief while coughing or sneezing), etc. are followed at all times.
 - ii. He/she shall use appropriate PPE at all times while on duty.
 - iii. A buddy system* to be followed to ensure that there is no breach in infection prevention control practices.
 - iv. Any breach in PPE and exposure is immediately informed to the nodal officer/HoD of the department
 - v. HCWs after leaving the patient care units (wards/OPDs/ICUs) at the doctor's duty rooms/hostels/canteen or outside the HCF must follow social distancing and masking to prevent transmission to/acquiring infection from other HCWs who may be positive.
 - vi. Pregnant/lactating mothers and immune - compromised healthcare workers shall inform their medical condition to the hospital authorities for them to get posted only in non-Covid areas

***Buddy system:** Under this approach, two or more-person team is formed amongst the deployed hospital staff who share responsibilities for his/her partner's safety and well-being in the context of

- (i) Appropriately donning and doffing of PPEs
- (ii) Maintaining hand hygiene
- (iii) Taking requisite steps on observing breach of PPEs
- (iv) Check on, monitor, remind each other on correct use of mask, etc.

3. SOP for health work force deployment during COVID-19

3.1 SOP to be followed in case HCW reports exposure/breach of PPE

All the Healthcare workers must report every exposure to COVID-19 to the concerned nodal officer and HoD of the concerned department immediately

The Nodal officer will get the exact details of exposure to ascertain whether the exposure constitutes a high risk or low risk exposure as described below:

- High risk exposure:
 - HCW or other person providing care to a COVID-19 case or lab worker handling respiratory specimens from COVID-19 cases without recommended PPE or with possible breach of PPE
 - Performed aerosol generating procedures without appropriate PPE
 - HCWs without mask, face-shield/goggles:
 - having face to face contact with COVID-19 case within 1 metre for more than 15 minutes
 - having accidental exposure to body fluids
- Low risk exposure:

Contacts who do not meet criteria of high risk exposure

The Nodal Officer/Head of the Department will form a sub-committee to assess the level of exposure and the risk as per assessment format at Annexure I. As per their assessment:

- **High risk contacts** will be quarantined for 14 days, tested as per ICMR testing protocol, actively monitored for development of symptoms and managed as per laid down protocol.
 - If they test positive but remain asymptomatic they will follow protocol for very mild/mild/pre-symptomatic cases as described in para 3.2.1 below.
 - If they test negative and remain asymptomatic, complete 14 day quarantine and return to work.
 - Should symptoms develop, follow the guidance para 3.2.
- **Low risk contacts** shall continue to work. They will self-monitor their health for development of symptoms. In case symptoms develop, the guidance under para 3.2 would be followed.

3.2 SOP to be followed in case HCW reports symptoms suggestive of COVID-19

3.2.1 If any healthcare worker who is manifesting signs and symptoms suggestive of COVID-19, he/she will be isolated immediately and the following procedure will follow:

- 3.2.1.1 In case of mild/very mild/pre-symptomatic case, he/she will have an option of home isolation, subject to the conditions stipulated in the revised guidelines for home isolation of very mild/pre-symptomatic COVID-19 cases. Such cases would end their home isolation as per timeline provided in the said guidelines.
- 3.2.1.2 In cases where home isolation is not feasible, such mild/very mild/pre-symptomatic cases will be admitted to a COVID Care Center/Corona Care Centre.
- 3.2.1.3 Moderate cases that require oxygen therapy shall be managed at a Dedicated COVID Health Center

3.2.1.4 Severe cases will be managed in a Dedicated COVID Hospital.

For cases admitted COVID Health facilities, their discharge will be governed by guidelines issued by the Department Order No.Health.94/2020/53 dt.8.5.2020.

The protocol for handling COVID-19 suspect and infected cases alongwith categorization of patients issued vide No.Health.99/2020/12 dt.28.3.2020 and No.Health.99/2020/21 dt.6.4.2020.

3.2.2 Those who test negative, will be managed as in non-COVID area as per their clinical diagnosis. Their resuming work will be based on the clinical diagnosis and the medical certification by the treating doctor.

3.2.3 For HCWs (with low risk exposure), who continue to work and develop symptoms:

- And test positive, further management would be based on their clinical presentation and as described in para 3.2 (1) (a)above
- Those who test negative, will return to work subject to medical certification for ailment

3.2.4 Discharge of COVID-19 positive HCWs will be in accordance with the discharge issued by the Department vide Order No.Health.94/2020/53 dt.8.5.2020.

3.3 Regular quarantine of healthcare workers after performing duty in COVID-19 areas

Quarantine of healthcare workers, other than what is stipulated above is not warranted.

Sd/-

(Sampath Kumar, IAS)

Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya,
Health & Family welfare Department


Memo No.No.Health.99/2020/Pt.II/14-A

Dated: Shillong, the 19th June 2020

Copy to:-

1. The Private Secretary to Chief Minister, Meghalaya, Shillong for kind information of Chief Minister.
2. The Private Secretary to Deputy Chief Minister, Meghalaya, Shillong for kind information of Deputy Chief Minister.
3. The Private Secretary to Health Minister, Meghalaya, Shillong for kind information of Health Minister.
4. The Private Secretary to Chief Secretary for kind information of the Chief Secretary.
5. The Commissioners & Secretary, Health & F.W.Department
6. The Secretary, Health & F.W.Department.
7. The Mission Director, National Health Mission, Meghalaya, Shillong.
8. The Director of Health Services (MI)/(Research), Meghalaya, Shillong.
9. The Director of Health Services (MCH & FW), Meghalaya, Shillong with reference to letter No.HSM/IDSP/OUTBREAK/COVID-19/03/Pt.-I/2318 dt.15.6.2020 for information & necessary action. **The above protocol/guidelines may be brought to the notice of all Hospitals.**
10. Director of Information & Public Relation for wide circulation in the Print/Electronic media of the State.
11. The Joint Director of Health Services (MCH & FW) I/c IDSP, Meghalaya, Shillong.

By Orders etc.


(T.G. Momin)
Joint Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya
Health & Family Welfare Department.