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COMMISSIONERATE

Health & Family Welfare Services

No: NVBDLP/EST 7C/COVID-19/2020-21

Date: 14-10-2020

Guidelines

Sub: Guidelines on preventive measures to contain the spread of COVID-19 during festivities.

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1. Preamble

The months of October to December are time for festivities that witness gatherings of large number of people in specified locations for religious worship, fairs, rallies, exhibitions, cultural functions, processions, etc. These events may last a day or a week or more. To prevent the spread of COVID-19 infection, it is important that necessary preventive measures should be followed during such events.

2. Scope

These guidelines outline various generic precautionary measures to be adopted in addition to specific measures to be taken at locations to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Festivity events such as religious worship, fairs, rallies, exhibitions, cultural functions, processions, etc. shall not be allowed in notified containment zones.

Persons above 65 years of age, persons with comorbidities, pregnant women and children below the age of 10 years are advised to stay at home. This applies to the event managers and staff as well.

Deputy Commissioner of the district/Commissioner-BBMP

shall implement additional measures as per their local assessment and in line with activities permitted by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka as per orders issued under Disaster Management Act, 2005 from time to time.

3. Administrative requirements

The festivals, fairs, rallies, exhibitions, cultural functions, processions, and plays/ concerts associated with these festivities are mass events. Hence, the following administrative requirements are advised:

- i. Identify spatial boundaries and prepare a detailed site plan which would facilitate compliance with thermal screening, physical distancing, sanitization, etc.
- ii. In case of events that run for days or weeks, the crowd density doesn't remain the same throughout and usually peaks around certain hours of the day and some previously known auspicious days. Planning for the event should specifically factor this so that crowds are regulated and managed to ensure physical distance and frequent sanitization.
- iii. In case of rallies and immersion processions, the number of people should not exceed the prescribed limit and proper physical distancing and wearing of facemasks shall be ensured. In any case, the number of such rallies and the distance covered by them should be kept within manageable limits.
- iv. Events such as rallies, and processions spread over long 3 distances shall require support of ambulance services.
- v. Events planned to last for many days or weeks such as exhibitions, fairs, puja pandals, or concerts and plays should have adequate measures to ensure a cap on physical numbers. Staggered timings and restricted entry shall be enforced.
- vi. Volunteers should be appropriately stationed to ensure

thermal scanning, physical distancing and wearing of facemasks.

- vii. The guidelines issued for theatre and cinema artists shall apply to stage performers also (<https://mib.gov.in/sites/default/files/SOP%20for%20exhibition%20of%20films.pdf>)
- viii. Adequate supplies of sanitizers, thermal scanners, and physical distancing by markings on the floor shall be ensured.
- ix. Proper facility/identification of space shall be made at the event venue for isolation of suspect cases and immediate referral for medical advice
- x. Close circuit cameras and public announcements shall be arranged to monitor compliance of physical distancing norms, wearing of facemasks, etc. at each venue.
- xi. In case of rallies and processions, route planning, identification of immersion sites, ensuring cap on numbers, physical distancing etc. must be planned beforehand and measures for enforcement shall be outlined.
- xii. The general recommendations for number of persons in open spaces/areas, etc. is 3.25 sqmeters/person. This excludes free space needed for easy movement of people, putting up of barricades, etc.
- xiii. All events shall plan for appropriate medical arrangements
- xiv. with linkages to ambulance services and nearest hospitals to attend to health emergencies.

4. Generic preventive measures

The generic preventive measures that include simple public health measures are to be followed to reduce the risk of COVID-19. These measures need to be observed by all; the event managers, the organizational staff and the public visiting the festivities and are as follows:

- i. Individuals shall maintain a minimum distance of 2 metres/6 feet in public places as far as feasible.
- ii. Compulsory use of face covers/masks shall be enforced.
- iii. Practice frequent hand washing with soap (for at least 40-60 seconds) even when hands are not visibly dirty.

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- Use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers (for at least 20 seconds) shall be encouraged wherever feasible.
- iv. Cough 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 in closed bins.
 - v. Self-monitoring of health by all and reporting any illness at the earliest to Apthamitra helpline 14410.
 - vi. Spitting should be strictly prohibited.
 - vii. Installation & use of Arogya Setu App shall be advised to all.

5. All festivity events shall also ensure:

a) Planning of events

- i. A plan should be prepared well in advance about conduct of each activity (religious places, rallies, processions, fairs, cultural shows, Dandiya, Durga pooja, etc.), with all relevant stakeholders including event organizers, business owners, market associations, cultural associations, resident welfare associations, etc.
- ii. Festive events shall be permitted only outside the Containment Zones. Organizers/staff/visitors from Containment Zones shall not be permitted. People residing inside Containment Zones may be encouraged to observe all festivals inside their homes and not move out.
- iii. Keeping in view the physical distancing norms, event sites should have adequate floor area and proper markings at all locations which are likely to be visited by public.
- iv. Adequate manpower shall be deployed/ arranged by the organizers to ensure observance to physical distancing norms and other preventive measures at all times.
- v. Appropriate arrangements for personal protection gears like face covers/masks, face-shields, hand-gloves and

other supplies like hand sanitizers, liquid soap, 1% sodium hypochlorite solution for sanitizing frequently touched surfaces, etc. shall be made available by event organizers/business owners for their staff as per requirements.

- vi. Adequate number of ticket counters shall be planned to facilitate compliance with physical distancing norms. Wherever feasible, online ticketing shall be encouraged.
- vii. Event organizers/business owners may make suitable provisions for contact less payment.
- viii. A simple do's and don'ts advisory shall be distributed/ printed on the ticket/ displayed prominently at each event venue.
- ix. Posters/standees/AV media on preventive measures from COVID-19 must be displayed prominently at the event sites.
- x. All event managers shall orient the stall owners/staff on the Standard Operating Procedures of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in the context of COVID.
- xi. The event sites should have a designated isolation room/ space for isolating any person found symptomatic during events/shows/rallies, till such time that medical help is available. Such symptomatic persons shall be provided immediately with medical mask/N-95 mask and referred to seek medical advice

b) Entry and exit to the event site

- i. Preferably multiple and separate entry and exits for visitors shall be ensured. The structure/space/venue for the event should ensure adequate natural cross-ventilation.
- ii. At the entrances, provision shall be made for hand sanitizers and thermal scanning
- iii. Anyone found symptomatic (fever, cough, sorethroat, running nose, etc.) and those having temperature of $\geq 37.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ ($\geq 99.5^{\circ}\text{F}$) during thermal scanning should be

politely refused entry and advised to seek immediate medical care.

- iv. Only those staff and visitors who are free of symptoms shall be allowed inside the venue.
- v. All staff and visitors to be allowed entry only if wearing face cover/masks. All shall always wear the face cover/mask while in public places.
- vi. Physical distance of a minimum of 2 metres/ 6 feet shall be maintained, when queuing up for entry and inside the venue as far as feasible. Specific marking on the floor shall be done.
- xii. Proper crowd management inside and outside premises like parking lots, waiting areas, stalls, eateries, etc. — duly following physical distancing norms shall be ensured.
- vii. For entry into the religious places, shoes / footwear to be preferably taken off inside own vehicle. If needed they should be kept in separate slots for each individual / family by the persons themselves

c) Movement within the event venue

- I. The number of visitors inside the event venue shall be restricted in accordance with the order issued by Ministry of Home Affairs from time to time. Based on the guidelines for reopening as per orders of Ministry of Home Affairs-GOI dated 30.09.2020 and Chief Secretary-Government of Karnataka dated 01.10.2020, the following norms are to be followed:
 - In closed spaces, a maximum of 50% of the hall capacity shall be allowed, with a ceiling of 200 persons.
 - In open spaces, keeping the size of the ground/space in view and with strict observance of physical distancing of 2 metres/6 feet, shall be restricted to appropriate number of persons
- II. Seating arrangement in the pandals, food courts, shows,

etc. should ensure adequate physical distancing of 2 metres/6 feet. Any shops, stalls, cafeteria etc., outside and within the premises too shall follow physical distancing norms at all times.

- III. Arrangements for safe drinking water, if required, should be made with provision for disposable cups/glasses in the event premises.
- IV. For air-conditioning/ventilation, the guidelines of CPWD shall be followed which emphasize that the (i) temperature setting of all air conditioning devices should be in the range of 24-30°C, (ii) relative humidity should be in the range of 40- 70%, (iii) re-circulation of air to be avoided to the extent possible, (iv) intake of fresh air should be as much as possible and (v) cross ventilation should be adequate. (https://cpwd.gov.in/WriteReadData/other_cir/45567.pdf)
- V. In view of potential threat of spread of infection, as far as feasible recorded devotional music/songs may be played and choir or singing groups should not be allowed.
- VI. In religious places, touching of statues/idols / holy books etc. shall not be allowed
- VII. Community kitchens/langars / “Ann-daan”/Dasoha, etc. at event venue should follow physical distancing norms, personal protective gears (facemasks, face-shields, hand-gloves, etc.) and other COVID-19 precautions while preparing and distributing food.
- VIII. Community kitchen managers and business owners of food outlets to ensure adherence to highest level of personal and environmental hygiene all the time, especially at the time of preparing, serving /eating meals and during disposal.

d) Sanitation and Hygiene

- I. Effective and frequent sanitation within the premises shall be maintained with particular focus on commonly touched



surfaces/areas including lavatories, drinking and hand washing stations/areas.

- II. Cleaning and regular disinfection (using 1% sodium hypochlorite) of frequently touched surfaces (doorknobs, elevator buttons, handrails, que barricades, seats, benches, washroom fixtures, etc.) to be made mandatory in all public utility common areas.
- III. Visitors and staff should be advised to dispose of used face covers / masks in covered bins available at the premises. The waste thus generated may be disposed of in accordance with the hazardous waste disposal guidelines.(available at: https://cpcb.nic.in/uploads/Projects/Bio-Medical-Waste/BMW-GUIDELINES-COVID_1.pdf)

e) SOP to be followed in case of a suspect case or person who develops symptoms during the conduct of the event

- i. Place the ill person in a room or area where they are isolated from others.
- ii. Provide a mask/face cover till such time he/she is examined by a doctor.
- iii. If symptoms deteriorate, inform the nearest medical facility (hospital/clinic) or immediately call 108 or Apathamitra helpline 14410.
- iv. A risk assessment shall 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.
- v. Disinfection of the premises shall be taken up if the person was found positive.
- vi. The staff who had tested positive for COVID-19 shall resume duty after producing a fitness certificate from a treating physician/ medical officer

**REMEMBER THE FIGHT IS AGAINST THE DISEASE AND
NOT THE PERSON
STAY HOME- BE SAFE**

For COVID related queries please contact:

Helpline numbers: 9745697456 & 104

NIMHANS counselling helpline: 080-46110007

Ambulance: 108; **Apthamitra helpline:** 14410

GoK Website on COVID-19: <https://covid19.karnataka.gov.in/>



**Commissioner
Health & Family Welfare Services**

To:

1. Deputy Commissioner, Mysuru.
2. Chief Executive Officer, Mysuru.
3. District Health & Family Welfare Officer, Mysuru.
4. District Surveillance Officer / District Surgeon, Mysuru.

Copy for kind information:

1. Additional Chief Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department for kind information.
2. Mission Director, National Health Mission.
3. Director, Health & Family Welfare Services.
4. Project Director, IDSP, Health & Family Welfare Services.