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गृह सचिव
Home Secretary
भारत सरकार
Government of India
North Block,
New Delhi

D.O. No. 40-3/2020-DM-I(A)

25th November, 2020

Dear *Chief Secretary,*

Kindly refer to Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) Order of even number issued today by which guidelines for surveillance, containment and caution have been issued, which will be effective till 31st December, 2020.

2. As you are aware, the country is at a critical juncture in its fight against COVID-19. While the number of active cases is declining steadily for the last 2-3 months, however, some States/ UTs are witnessing a spike in the number of new cases. Further, the situation might aggravate in view of the ongoing festival season and the onset of winter which are favourable for the spread of the virus.

3. It has been observed that there is a general laxity in following the guidelines issued by MHA as well as SOPs on various activities. The provisions of the guidelines issued by MHA and that of SOPs governing various activities, shall be strictly enforced by the authorities concerned, who shall be responsible for their strict adherence.

4. It has further been observed that the guidelines issued by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) on containment measures and surveillance are not being strictly followed. It shall be the responsibility of local district, police and municipal authorities to ensure that the prescribed containment measures are strictly followed. State/ UT Governments shall ensure accountability of the officers concerned in this regard.

5. Covid-19 appropriate behavior is also not being fully adhered to by the people. States/ UTs should take all necessary measures to promote Covid-19 appropriate behavior. For implementing the basic requirement of wearing face mask, States/ UTs should take appropriate administrative measures, including imposition of suitable penalties. It is also necessary to regulate crowds in markets, public transport and various gatherings. MoHFW will be issuing SOPs to regulate crowds in market places and public transport, which shall be strictly enforced by States and UTs.

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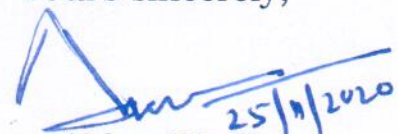
6. Further, various gatherings are allowed upto maximum 50% of the hall capacity subject to a ceiling of 200 persons. Based on the assessment of the situation, State/UT Governments may reduce this ceiling to 100 persons or less in closed places. Moreover, in States/ UTs where the weekly case positivity rate is more than 10%, States/ UTs may consider implementing staggered office timings and other suitable measures in order to reduce the number of employees attending offices.

7. I would like to emphasize that the essence behind the graded re-opening and progressive resumption of activities is to move ahead. However, there is a concomitant need to exercise due care. States/ UTs, based on their assessment of the situation, may impose local restrictions with a view to contain the spread of COVID-19, such as night curfew. However, States/ UTs shall not impose local lockdowns outside the containment zones without prior consultation with the Central Government. Further, there shall be no restriction on inter-State and intra-State movement of persons and goods including those for cross land-border trade under Treaties with neighbouring countries.

8. I would urge you to ensure compliance of the aforesaid guidelines and direct all authorities concerned for its strict implementation. Further, guidelines issued by MHA and consequent Orders issued by the respective State Governments/ UT Administration should be widely disseminated to the public and to the field functionaries for implementation.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,


25/11/2020
(Ajay Bhalla)

Chief Secretaries of All States
(As per Standard List attached)