

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

ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR

NOTIFICATION

Dated Shillong, the 16th March, 2020.

No.Health.68/2020/31 :-The World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared the recent COVID-19 (Corona virus disease) disease outbreak as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) due to its rapid transmission and spread around the globe.

Recent evaluation of COVID-19 affected countries has shown that delay in enforcing social-distancing restrictions has led to increase in the number of cases and deaths in those countries.

Considering the situation where the numbers of cases have been gradually rising in the country, the Government of Meghalaya, for preventing any possible transmission and outbreak of COVID-19 among the inhabitants/citizens of the State, has come up with the following restrictions and advisories:

1. All educational institutions within the State are to remain closed except for holding examinations from **17/03/2020 to 31/03/2020**.
 - 1a. Social distancing of 1 metre is to be ensured during the seating arrangement for the on-going exams.
 - 1b. Educational institutions should facilitate the learning process through innovative ideas like running online classes (for students of higher education) and assigning projects with special focus on health and hygiene activities that the students could do at homes.
2. Foreigners and travellers coming from the affected countries/States are compulsorily to report to the Deputy Commissioners through toll-free helpline 108.
3. Places of mass gatherings like Cinema Halls, Gymnasiums, major sports events, Swimming pools, Amusement Parks and such other places where many people assemble are to be closed.
4. All exhibitions, conferences, workshops, public meetings, seminars, trainings and any other gatherings which involve large number of people are to be postponed or cancelled. Already planned weddings are to be kept to a limited gathering.
5. All non-essential travel outside and into the State are to be postponed or avoided.
6. Visiting big open and enclosed markets and Tourist places are to be avoided.
7. Social distancing and hand-hygiene and respiratory etiquette are to be maintained in places of work and worship.
8. Notified fairs and festivals are to be postponed or cancelled.
9. Close contact in public transport is to be avoided.

The State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) along with District Disaster Management Authorities is to promote and enhance community participation in self-reporting, maintaining hand-hygiene and respiratory etiquette and ensuring home quarantine of those with travel history to affected places or contact with positive cases.

The Deputy Commissioners are to meet the religious leaders and seek their cooperation to sensitise people on the above advisory and restrictions. The DCs are also to sensitise the public through the Headmen on preparedness measures.

The Deputy Commissioners and Superintendent of Police are to ensure strict compliance of the restrictions and hold regular meetings in order to identify suspected cases arising out of travel from affected countries/States and arrange for quarantine/contact tracing.

(Sd/- M. S. Rao, IAS)

Chief Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya,

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