



महाराष्ट्र शासन



स्वातंत्र्याचा अमृत महात्म्य

Department of Revenue and Forest, Disaster Management,
Relief and Rehabilitation, Mantralaya, Mumbai- 400 032
No: DMU/2020/CR. 92/DisM-1, Date: 31st March, 2022

ORDER

Ref –

1. The Disaster Management Act, 2005
2. Letter from the Home Secretary to the Chief Secretary dated 22nd March, 2022, numbered D.O. No. 40-3/2020 - DM -I (A)
3. Letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, dated 23rd March, 2022, numbered D.O. No. Z.26015/1/202 – DM Cell

Whereas the State of Maharashtra has been reeling under COVID 19 pandemic over the last two years since March, 2020, and Disaster Management Act, 2005 has been invoked for effective measures be put in place to prevent the transmission of the virus across the State to safeguard the lives of the citizens of the State;

Whereas, in response to the said situation, the State Executive Committee of the State Disaster Management Authority has promulgated various orders issuing guidelines as well as imposing certain restrictions for preventing the transmission of the COVID 19 virus in the State under relevant sections of the Disaster Management Act, 2005;

Whereas, in the letter from the Home Secretary to the Chief Secretary dated 22nd March, 2022, numbered D.O. No. 40-3/2020 - DM -I (A), as referred to Ref- (2), it has been informed that the NDMA has taken a decision that there may not be any further need to invoke the provisions of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 for COVID containment measures and States have been advised to consider appropriately discontinuing issue of orders and guidelines issued under the Disaster Management Act, 2005 for COVID containment measures;

Whereas, in the Letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, dated 23rd March, 2022, numbered D.O. No. Z.26015/1/202 – DM Cell, it has been informed that in view of a sustained and significant

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decline in the number of COVID 19 cases over the last two months, a broad framework based on evidence based decision making on parameters of test positivity and bed occupancy has to be adopted and that the States need to take decisions on withdrawal of restrictions based on factors like emergence of new cases, case positivity, affected population, hospital infrastructure preparedness etc.;

Whereas, currently the cases in the State have effectively reduced and the number of positive cases per day have been reducing over the past few weeks, and positivity as well as bed occupancy parameters as suggested by Government of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare are well within the limits mentioned in the above referred letter, for all the districts and administrative units in State of Maharashtra;

Whereas, due to the reduced number of cases, the load on the health infrastructure has reduced considerably and the currently situation with respect to COVID 19 response is relatively manageable;

Therefore, now in the wake of all of the above, following decisions are promulgated and conveyed to all:

1) All such orders that are currently in force for the imposition of restrictions related to COVID 19 that have been imposed under the Disaster Management Act, 2005 are hereby withdrawn and will no longer be in force from 0000 hrs of 1st April, 2022.

2) All District Disaster Management Authorities are also advised to withdraw all the restrictions imposed for the purposes of containment of Covid-19 pandemic under Disaster Management Act, 2005.

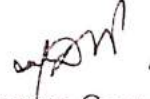
3) All the advisories contained in both the letters referred to above should be scrupulously followed by DDMA's and all officers concerned with management and containment of Covid.

4) All the citizens, establishments and organisations are advised to continue to follow the Covid Appropriate Behavior including wearing of masks, maintaining social distances etc. as the same is the biggest safeguard for health and safety of individuals as well as of society at large.

5) It is specifically directed that all the DDMA's shall remain vigilant about the various dimensions of outbreak of the pandemic like number of fresh cases every day, number of active cases, positivity rates as well as occupancies of various beds in medical institutions and hospitals. In case any trend is discerned that causes alarm or indicate resurgence, SDMA shall be immediately informed so that appropriate action may be initiated to control the resurgence at the very initial stage.

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All DDMA's and officials of the State Government are to continue to take all the steps needed, including IEC activities, for achieving vaccination of all the eligible citizens.



(Aseem Gupta)
Principal Secretary, DM, R&R
&
C.E.O, State Executive Committee

अजय भल्ला, भा.प्र.से.
AJAY BHALLA, IAS



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आज़ादी का
अमृत महोत्सव

गृह सचिव
Home Secretary
भारत सरकार
Government of India
नॉर्थ ब्लॉक/North Block
नई दिल्ली/New Delhi

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

22nd March, 2022

Dear Chief Secretary, .

As you are aware, since the 24th March, 2020, on the direction of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Ministry of Home Affairs has been issuing Orders and Guidelines under the Disaster Management Act, (DM Act) 2005, for the containment of COVID-19 in the country. Central Government, in close coordination with the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations (UTs) have taken various proactive measures to deal with the unprecedented global crisis of COVID-19 pandemic.

2. Over the last 24 months, significant capacities have been developed for various aspects of management of the pandemic, such as diagnostics, surveillance, contact tracing, treatment and vaccination, hospital infrastructure and the general public has much higher level of awareness on the COVID appropriate behaviour. States and UTs have also developed their own capacities and systems and implemented their detailed State/UT specific plans for managing the pandemic. Over the last seven weeks or so there has been a steep decline in the number of cases. The total caseload in the country stands at 23,913 only and daily positivity rate has declined to 0.28%. It is also worth mentioning that with the combined efforts, a total of 181.56 Cr vaccine doses have been administered.

3. After taking into consideration the overall improvement in the situation and preparedness of the Government to deal with the pandemic, NDMA has taken a decision that there may not be any further need to invoke the provisions of the DM Act for COVID containment measures. Accordingly, after the expiry of the existing MHA Order No. 40-3/2020-DM-I (A) dated 25th February, 2022, no further Order may be issued by MHA. However, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) advisories on COVID containment measures, including on the use of face mask and hand hygiene, will continue to guide the overall national response to the pandemic.


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4. I would like to mention that in view of the nature of the disease, we still need to remain watchful of the situation. Wherever any surge in the number of cases is observed, the States/UTs may consider taking prompt and proactive action at local level, as advised by MoHFW from time to time.

5. I would, therefore, advise all the States/UTs to consider appropriately discontinuing issue of orders and guidelines under the DM Act, 2005 for COVID containment measures. The States/UTs may continue to follow the SoPs/advisories that have been or are being issued by the MoHFW from time to time for COVID containment measures, vaccination and other related aspects, including observing COVID Appropriate Behaviour.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,


22/03/22
(Ajay Bhalla)

Chief Secretaries of all States
(as per list enclosed)



राजेश भूषण, आईएएस
सचिव

RAJESH BHUSHAN, IAS
SECRETARY



सत्यमेव जयते



Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav

भारत सरकार
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय

Government of India

Department of Health and Family Welfare
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

D.O No.Z.26015/1/202-DMCell

23rd March 2022

Dear Colleagues,

A sustained and significant decline in the number of Covid-19 cases across the country is being observed since last 2 months. From time to time, this Ministry has been advising and guiding the States/UTs regarding recommended strategies for tackling the Covid-19 pandemic through Testing, Surveillance, Containment and Restrictions keeping in view the District as a unit.

2. Taking into account the sustained & steep decline in the Covid-19 cases across the country, the States/UTs have been undertaking various measures to reopen economic and social activities. There is a need to follow a risk assessment-based approach on the opening of economic and social activities without losing the gains made so far in the fight against the pandemic.

3. The States/UTs are advised to continue implementation and monitoring of necessary measures for prompt and effective management of Covid-19 and to ensure effective compliance of various advisories issued by this Ministry. In this context, this Ministry's guidance dated 18th February 2022 regarding recommended strategies for Testing, Surveillance and Containment based restrictions, keeping the District as a unit for decision making, are still valid.

4. There should be continued focus on the five-fold strategy, i.e., Test-Track-Treat-Vaccination and adherence to COVID Appropriate Behaviour. The State enforcement machinery should effectively enforce the norms of COVID Appropriate Behaviour, i.e., wearing of face masks and maintaining safe physical distancing in all public areas/gatherings.

5. **Evidence-Based Decision making:** At the district level there should be constant review of emerging data of new cases based on a **sustained and critical level of testing** to facilitate evidence based decision for restrictions/relaxation. Such decisions should be taken at State/UT level after proper analysis of the local situation, such as the emergence of new cases/clusters, case positivity, population affected, the geographical spread of cases & hospital infrastructure preparedness, keeping the District as a unit.

6. **Broad-based framework for relaxation/restrictions:** In order to identify areas where restrictions need to be imposed/continued in districts/areas, the following broad-based framework is provided to aid States UTs:

S. No.	Parameter	Thresholds
1	Test positivity	Test positivity of 10% or more, in the last week
<i>OR</i>		
2	Bed occupancy	Bed occupancy of more than 40% on either oxygen supported or ICU beds

- a) States need to watch the trajectory of cases in particular geographies to ensure that the areas reporting positivity rate above 10% and bed occupancy more than 40% on either oxygen supported or ICU beds should undertake required enforcement, containment, and restriction measures.
- b) As the case trajectory may vary from State to State and there would be variation in the spread of infection within States also, hence there is a need to take decisions with respect to containment and restriction measures primarily at the local/sub-national level by concerned State and District Administration.
- c) Continued focus on community participation for adherence to Covid Appropriate behavior including mask-wearing and physical distancing (2 gaz ki doori), will however be important measures to be undertaken across the country.

7. Some of the **strategic areas of intervention** focusing on Containment, Test, Track, Surveillance, Clinical Management, Vaccination and Covid Appropriate Behaviour to be taken up are as follows:

I. Relaxation in various activities duly following the Covid Appropriate Behaviour

- i. Focus will be on graded relaxation of activities to support the resumption of economic activities.
- ii. Social/sports/entertainment/academic/cultural/religious/festival-related and other gatherings and congregations may be resumed. The decision for allowing these activities shall be taken up by the concerned States duly guided by the principles as enunciated above.
- iii. Offline classes can be resumed in academic institutions without any restrictions. However, the academic institutions may also leverage a hybrid model of imparting education through online and offline modes.
- iv. Marriages and funerals/last rites may be allowed.
- v. All shopping complexes, cinema halls, restaurants & bars, sports complexes, gyms, spas, swimming pools, and religious places may be allowed to operate at full capacity.
- vi. Public transport (railways, metros, buses, cabs) to operate without any capacity restrictions.

- vii. There shall be no restrictions on inter-state and intra-state movement including transportation of essential goods.
- viii. All offices, both government and private, may function without any capacity restrictions.
- ix. All industrial and scientific establishments, both government and private may be allowed.
- x. While allowing all such activities it is imperative that the adherence to COVID appropriate behavior including use of mask & physical distancing shall be followed in all public places.
- xi. The activities as mentioned above are primarily indicative and States/UTs should make a careful analysis of the local situation, areas to be covered, and probability of transmission to decide on the relaxations/restrictions.
- xii. Such decisions by the States/UTs must be linked to the local epidemiological situation of COVID-19, based on a sustained critical level of testing and monitoring of case positivity.

II. Testing and surveillance:

States will continue with the strategy of 'Test-Track-Treat-Vaccinate' and implementation of Covid Appropriate Behavior in managing COVID-19. States to ensure:

- i. Adequate testing as per the testing guidelines.
- ii. Monitoring of Influenza-like illness (ILI) & SARI cases must be taken up in all Health facilities on a regular basis for early warning signals of the spread of infection.
- iii. The surge in cases including clusters of new cases should be monitored.
- iv. Continued focus on genomic sequencing for prescribed samples of international passengers, collection of samples from sentinel sites (identified health facilities) and local clusters of cases, duly following the guidelines laid by MoHFW to capture early warning signals on variants.

III. Clinical Management:

- i. States to ensure **sufficient availability of dedicated Covid health infrastructure** as per the ongoing case trajectory.
- ii. Ensure that **Home Isolation Protocol** is followed for asymptomatic and mild cases and specific monitoring shall be continued for **high-risk cases**.
- iii. **Non-Covid Health Services** shall also be fully operationalized in all health facilities.

IV. Vaccination is an important strategy to prevent disease, reduce hospitalization and case severity. States shall strive towards ensuring **100% vaccination for all the eligible age-groups**. Particular focus shall be given to cover left-out first and eligible second dose beneficiaries. Similarly, administration of Precaution doses and vaccination amongst young adolescents (12 years and above) shall also be taken up for all eligible people. The resumption of services shall be undertaken while promoting 100% vaccination of the eligible staff/employees.

V. Community engagement and Covid Appropriate Behaviour:

Ensure advance engagement and information among the community so that there is no misinformation or panic, transparent communication on hospital and testing infrastructure availability, regular press briefings etc. Participation of community backed by strict enforcement is necessary for ensuring Covid Appropriate Behaviour. **Evidence-based information** shall be regularly made available to the community accordingly.

Yours sincerely



(Rajesh Bhushan)

To: Chief Secretary/ Administrators of all States/UTs