

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

ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR

NOTIFICATION

Dated Shillong, the 19th March, 2020.

No. Health.68/2020/38: In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 2, 3 and 4 of the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897, the Governor of Meghalaya is pleased to issue the following regulations regarding outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19).

1. These Regulations may be called The Meghalaya Epidemic Diseases, COVID-19 Regulations, 2020.
2. "Epidemic Disease" in these Regulations means COVID-19 (Corona Virus Disease 2019)
3. Authorized persons under this Act are Commissioner & Secretary, Health & Family Welfare at the State Level and District Magistrate, District Medical & Health Officer at the District Level
4. All Hospitals (Government & Private) should have separate OPD for screening of suspected cases COVID-19 (Corona virus Disease 2019).
5. All Hospitals (Government & Private) during screening of such cases shall record to ascertain history of travel of the person if he/she has travelled to any country or area where COVID-19 has been reported. In addition the history of coming in contact with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 shall be recorded.
 - i. In case the person has any such history in last 14 days and the person is asymptomatic then the person must be kept in "stay at home" for 14 days from the day of exposure .
 - ii. In case the person has any such history in last 14 days and the person is symptomatic as per case definition of COVID-19, the person must be isolated in a hospital and will be tested for COVID-19 as per protocol.
 - iii. Information of all such cases should be given to office of District Medical & Health Officer/District Control Room of the respective District immediately.
6. No Private Laboratory has been authorized to take or test samples for COVID-19 in the State of Meghalaya. All such samples will be collected as per guidelines of the Government of India and these will be sent to designated laboratory by the Nodal Officer of the designated hospitals with prior intimation to the District Surveillance Officer (DSO) of the concerned District.

7. If any person with a history of travel in last 14 days to a country or area from where COVID-19 has been reported, develop symptoms, he must contact the State/District control rooms/108 so that necessary measures if required may be initiated by the Department of Health & Family Welfare.
8. All persons with a history of travel to a country or area from where COVID-19 has been reported in last 14 days, but who do not have any symptoms of cough fever, difficulty in breathing & should isolate themselves at home. Such persons must take precautions to avoid contact with any person including family members for 14 days from the date of arrival from such area.
9. Authorized persons as per Section 3 of these regulations are authorized under this act to admit a person and isolate the person if required in case he/she has a history of visit to an area where COVID-19 is endemic and the concerned person is symptomatic.
10. If there are sufficient reasons, cause or information to suspect or believe that any persons could be infected with COVID-19 and his continued presence in a premise is hazardous to the public safety, it shall be lawful for a Surveillance personnel to enter any such premises, after giving reasonable opportunity to the owner/occupier, for the purpose of surveillance of instances of fever or cough or respiratory difficulty, enquire into or undertake physical examination, as he/she thinks fit, and such person (s) shall be bound to cooperate and render all possible assistance to facilitate such surveillance, inspection, enquiry and examination.
11. If consequent to such inquiry, inspection, examination or otherwise, the Surveillance Personnel has reason to believe or suspect that such a person could be infected with COVID-19, the Surveillance Personnel may direct/arrange to put that person (s) in home quarantine or direct/escort that persons(s) to an 'Institutional Quarantine Facility' or an 'Isolation Facility'.
12. It shall be mandatory for Medical Officers in Government Health Institutions and registered Private Medical Practitioners, including AYUSH practitioners; to notify such person (s) to the concerned District Surveillance Unit, along with duly filled up self declaration forms of those who, within their knowledge have Travel History to COVID-19 affected States/countries irrespective of whether having complaints of fever or cough or respiratory difficulty.
13. If the owner or occupier (s) of any premises or any individual suspected/confirmed with COVID-19, refuses to take measures for prevention or treatment i.e., stay-at-home /Institutional Quarantine/isolation or any such person refuses to co-operate, render assistance to or comply with the directions of the Surveillance Personnel, the concerned District Magistrate having jurisdiction or any person specifically authorized by the District Magistrate in this regard, may pass an appropriate order and may proceed with proceedings under Section 133 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974) or take any other coercive action as deemed necessary and expedient enforcing such cooperation and assistance. In case of a minor, such Order shall be directed to the guardian or any other adult member of the family of the minor.

14. All advisories issued/to be issued by the Government of India or the Government of Meghalaya on COVID-19 will ipso facto be treated as directions under this Act in Meghalaya.

15. If cases of COVID-19 are reported from a defined geographic area, the Authorized Person (s) with the approval of State Task Force constituted for containment of COVID-19 shall have the right to implement following containment measures, but not limited to these, in order to prevent spread of the disease

- (i) Sealing of the geographical area
- (ii) Banning entry and exit of population from the containment area.
- (iii) Closure of schools, offices and banning public gatherings
- (iv) Initiating active and passive surveillance of COVID-19 cases.
- (v) Banning vehicular movement in the area.
- (vi) Initiating active and passive surveillance of COVID-19 cases
- (vii) Designating any Government building as containment unit for isolation of the cases.
- (viii) Staff of all Government departments will be at disposal of District administration of the concerned area for discharging the duty of containment measures.
- (ix) Any other measure as directed by the Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Meghalaya.

16. With the concurrence of Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Meghalaya, the District Disaster Management Authority headed by District Magistrate is authorized for planning strategy regarding containment measures for COVID-19 in their respective districts. The District Magistrate may co opt more Officers from different departments for assisting the District Disaster Management Authority for this activity under these regulations.

17. **Penalty:** Any person / institution/organization found violating any provision of these regulations shall be deemed to have committed an offence punishable under section 188 of Indian Penal Code (45 of 1860). The Secretary, Health & Family Welfare or District Magistrate may penalize any person/institution/organization if found violating provisions of these regulations or any further orders issued by the Government under these Regulation.

18. **Protection to person acting under the Act:** No suit or legal proceedings shall lie against any person for anything done or intended to be done in good faith under this Act unless proved otherwise.

19. These Regulations shall come into force immediately and shall remain valid for a period of one year from the date of publication of this Notification.

(Sd/-M.N.Nampui,IAS)
Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya,
Health & Family Welfare Department.

Memo No. Health.68/2020/38-A,

Dated Shillong, the 19th March, 2020.

Copy to :-

1. The Secretary to the Governor of Meghalaya, Shillong for kind information of Governor
2. The Private Secretary to Chief Minister, Meghalaya, Shillong for kind information of Chief Minister.
3. The Private Secretary to Deputy Chief Minister, Meghalaya, Shillong for kind information of Deputy Chief Minister.
4. The Private Secretary to Health Minister, Meghalaya, Shillong for kind information of Minister.
5. Private Secretaries to all Ministers, Meghalaya, Shillong for kind of Minister.
6. Private Secretary to Chief Secretary for kind information of the Chief Secretary.
7. The Additional Chief Secretaries/ Principal Secretaries/ Commissioners & Secretaries/ Secretaries of all the Department, Government of Meghalaya.
8. Director of Health Services (MI)/(MCH & FW)/(Research), Meghalaya, Shillong.
9. Director of Information & Public Relation for wide circulation in the Print/Electronic media of the State.
10. The Director, Printing & Stationery, Shillong for publication in the Meghalaya Gazette.
11. The Director General of Police, Meghalaya, Shillong
12. All Deputy Commissioners/District Medical & Health Officer, East Khasi Hills, Shillong/ West Khasi Hills, Nongstoin/Ri Bhoi District, Nongpoh / West Jaintia Hills District, Jowai / West Garo Hills District, Tura / East Garo Hills District, Williamnagar / South Garo Hills District, Baghmara/North Garo Hills, Resubelpara/South West Garo Hills, Ampati/East Jaintia Hills, Khliehriat/ South West Khasi Hills, Mawkyrwat.
13. Joint Director of Health Services (MCH & FW) I/c IDSP, Meghalaya, Shillong.
14. All Administrative Department/Heads of Department.

By Orders, etc.


Joint Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya,
Health & Family Welfare Department