



THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA

Ernakulam-682031

Email: d1section.hc-ker@gov.in

Phone: 0484-2562985

Fax: 0484-2562451

No: **DI-3/ 27275/2020**

Dated: 22.04.2021

OFFICIAL MEMORANDUM

Sub.: Resurgence of COVID-19 cases- guidelines issued by the High Court for functioning of Subordinate Courts – reg.

Ref: 1. High Court OM of even number dated 21-12-2020

2. G.O(Rt) No. 378/2021/DMD, dated 21-4-2021

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The High Court had issued advisories/ guidelines for the functioning of the courts in the District Judiciary in the State with effect from 01-01-2021 wherein the following measures had been prescribed to avoid the spread of COVID 19 pandemic.

1. *Crowding shall not be permitted in the court halls or the court premises under any circumstance. The Presiding Officer of every court shall ensure that only a minimum number of persons attend the court at a time. The Courts for regulating the number of persons may reduce the number of cases in the Cause List and give time slots for each case or split the posting of cases into morning and afternoon sessions, taking into account the convenience of the parties and their counsel.*
2. *The Courts shall ensure physical distancing norms inside the courts as well as in the veranda by arranging seats observing social distancing rule and ensure strict compliance of the Directives issued by the Central and State Governments as well as the health department from time to time.*
3. *Presence of parties shall be insisted only if necessary and the party voluntarily coming to court will be allowed entry only if he/she carries a letter issued by his counsel stating that his/her presence in court on that*

day is very essential.

4. A reasonable number of witnesses shall alone be summoned on a particular day. Priority should be given to old cases and cases wherein time bound disposal is prescribed by higher courts. Examination of witnesses through video conferencing can be done wherever possible following the guidelines contained in O M. No.R.10/2020(SS) dated 18-4-20 and relevant rules.

Now, in view of the sudden spike in COVID 19 cases throughout the State, all the courts in the State are once again directed to strictly follow the above instructions so as to ensure that court proceedings do not contribute to the spread of the pandemic. Crowding in the court hall and the court premises is to be strictly avoided. All covid-19 prevention measures like wearing of masks, using hand sanitizers and maintaining social distancing is to be strictly adhered to. Orders being issued by the Government from time to time limiting attendance of employees and declaring holidays shall be followed. Besides examination of witnesses, other court proceedings may also be done through video conferencing, if possible. The judicial officers shall personally oversee the implementation of the above directions.

A copy of the G.O cited above is also communicated for further necessary action.

(By Order)



P. G. Ajithkumar
Registrar (District Judiciary)

To

The District Judges } (they shall communicate the order to
The Chief Judicial Magistrates } all the courts in the district)

Copy to:

The B, C and E Sections, High Court

The ARS, High Court

The IT Section, High Court (for publishing in the website)



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Abstract

Disaster Management Department - Covid 19 - Surge in positive cases - Restrictions for the effective containment of Covid 19 - orders issued.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT (A) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Rt)No.378/2021/DMD Dated,Thiruvananthapuram, 21/04/2021

- Read 1.GO(Rt)No.364/2021/DMD dated 13/04/2021.
2. GO(Rt)No.371/2021/DMD dated 17/04/2021.
3. GO(Rt)No.375/2021/DMD dated 19/04/2021.

ORDER

A steady increase in the number of Covid19 cases is seen reported in the State notwithstanding the present containment efforts. To control the spread of the disease, urgent additional restrictions are necessary without affecting the economic activities that have been resumed after lockdown.

2) Therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred under the Section 24 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, the undersigned, in the capacity of the Chairman, State Executive Committee, hereby issues the following directions/guidelines to contain COVID 19 transmission in the State until further orders.

1. Covid protocols shall be strictly followed in all public places including beaches, parks, railway stations, bus stations, airports, market places etc.
2. The timing of functioning of takeaways from restaurants can be extended by DDMA's to facilitate breaking of fast during Ramzan.
3. All educational institutions (Public/private) including music/art schools,coaching institutions are directed to conduct classes only in the online mode.All Summer vacation camps shall be closed. Hostels are permitted to function strictly adhering Covid protocols.
4. 24th April,2021 (Saturday) will be a holiday for all Government Offices, banks, Public Sector Undertakings and Cooperative institutions.
5. Only essential services and emergency activities (**list appended**) shall be allowed on 24th and 25th April 2021.
6. All Government Offices (except those dealing with emergency and essential services,Covid containment and management activities, field staff of excise and

forest departments) to allow upto 50% staff on rotation basis to Work from Home. Such staff of Government offices without e-office facility shall be deployed for Covid duty as per duty roster prepared by the District Collectors.

7. All private offices/ organizations/institutions/companies shall function with minimal strength as far as possible on work from home basis.
8. No restrictions shall be binding on any staff deputed on Election, Examination or Covid duty .
9. Higher Secondary Examination scheduled on 24th April will be conducted as planned.

(By order of the Governor)

DR. V P JOY

CHIEF SECRETARY

All Additional Chief Secretaries/ Principal Secretaries/ Secretaries

All Heads of Departments including State Police Chief

The Commissioner, Land Revenue

The Commissioner, Disaster Management

All District Collectors

All District Police Chiefs

The Member Secretary, KSDMA, Observatory Hills, Vikas Bhavan P.O, Thiruvananthapuram.

Health Department

Web & New Media, I& PRD

Stock File / Office Copy

Copy to

PS to Chief Minister

PS to all Ministers

Special Secretary to Chief Secretary

PA to Principal Secretary (Revenue & DM)

Forwarded /By order

Section Officer

