GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

No. RD 158 TNR 2020

Karnataka Government Secretariat,
MS Building,
Bengaluru, Dated:04-07-2021

ADDENDUM-1

In continuation of the order of even number dated 03-07-2021 and in exercise of the powers conferred under the Section 24 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, the Chairman, State Executive Committee, hereby issues an addendum to the guidelines for COVID 19 surveillance, containment and caution, as below, for strict implementation by the Chief Commissioner BBMP, Police Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, Superintendents of Police of the districts, and other Heads of Departments and Authorities.

Modification to **sub clause (vii) of Clause 1** related to functioning of Religious places:

Sub clause (vii) to be read as follows: "***Places of worship (Temples, Mosques, Churches, Gurudwaras, and other religious places) are allowed to open only for Darshan/prayer strictly adhering to COVID 19 appropriate behaviour and SOP issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India, in this regard. No Seva/offering or other activities permitted.***"

(N Manjunatha Prasad, IAS) 4/7/2021
Principal Secretary to Govt., Revenue
Department (DM) and Member Secretary,
State Executive Committee

To:
The Compiler, Karnataka Gazette, Bengaluru

Dated the 1st March, 2021

Government of India
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

SOP on preventive measures to contain spread of COVID-19 in religious places/places of worship (In supersession of guidelines issued earlier dated 04.06.2020)

1. Background

Religious places / places of worship get frequented by large number of people for spiritual solace. To prevent spread of COVID-19 infection, it is important that required social distancing and other preventive measures are followed in such premises.

2. Scope

This document outlines various generic precautionary measures to be adopted in addition to specific measures to be taken at particular places to prevent spread of COVID-19.

Religious places/places of worship for public in containment zones shall remain closed. Only those outside containment zones will be allowed to open up.

3. Generic preventive measures

Person above 65 years of age, persons with comorbidities, pregnant woman and children below the age of 10 years are advised to take necessary precautions in terms of maintaining physical distancing, wearing mask properly etc. Organisations managing the religious institutions to advise accordingly.

The generic preventive measures include simple public health measures that are to be followed to reduce the risk of COVID-19. These measures need to be observed by all (workers and visitors) in these places at all times.

These include:

i. Individuals must maintain a minimum distance of 6 feet (2 gaj ki doori) in public places as far as feasible.
ii. Use of face covers/masks at all times. They must be worn properly to cover nose and mouth. Touching the front portion of mask/face covers to be avoided.
iii. Practice frequent hand washing with soap (for at least 40-60 seconds) even when hands are not visibly dirty. Use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers (for at least 20 seconds) can be made wherever feasible.
iv. Respiratory etiquettes to be strictly followed. This involves strict practice of covering one's mouth and nose while coughing/sneezing with a tissue/handkerchief/flexed elbow and disposing off used tissues properly.
v. Self-monitoring of health by all and reporting any illness at the earliest to state and district helpline.
vi. Spitting should be strictly prohibited.
vii. Installation & use of Aarogya Setu App shall be advised to all.

4. **All religious places shall also ensure:**
   i. Entrance to have mandatory hand hygiene (sanitizer dispenser) and thermal screening provisions.
   ii. Only asymptomatic persons shall be allowed in the premises.
   iii. All persons to be allowed entry only if using face cover/masks.
   iv. Posters/standees on preventive measures about COVID-19 to be displayed prominently. Audio and Video clips to spread awareness on preventive measures for COVID-19 should be regularly played.
   v. Staggering of visitors to be done, if possible.
   vi. Shoes / footwear to be preferably taken off inside own vehicle. If needed they should be kept in separate slots for each individual / family by the persons themselves.
   vii. Proper crowd management in the parking lots and outside the premises– duly following physical distancing norms shall be organized by the management/ any out-sourced agencies.
   viii. Any shops, stalls, cafeteria etc., outside and within the premises shall follow physical distancing norms at all times.
   ix. Specific markings may be made with sufficient distant to manage the queue and ensure social distancing in the premises.
   x. Preferably separate entry and exits for visitors shall be organized
   xi. Maintain physical distancing of a minimum of 6 feet at all times when queuing up for entry.
   xii. People should wash their hand and feet with soap and water before entering the premises.
   xiii. Seating arrangement to be made in such a way that adequate physical distancing is maintained.
   xiv. For air-conditioning/ventilation, the guidelines of CPWD shall be followed which mentions that the temperature setting of all air conditioning devices should be in the range of 24-30° C, relative humidity should be in the range of 40-70%, intake of fresh air should be as much as possible and cross ventilation should be adequate.
   xv. Touching of statues/idols / holy books etc. not to be allowed.
   xvi. Gatherings/congregation should be in accordance with the SOPs of the State/UT concerned.
   xvii. In view of potential threat of spread of infection, as far as feasible recorded devotional music/songs may be played and choir or singing groups should not be allowed.
   xviii. Avoid physical contact while greeting each other.
   xix. Common prayer mats should be avoided and devotees should bring their own prayer mat or piece of cloth which they may take back with them.
   xx. No physical offerings like prasad/distribution or sprinkling of holy water, etc.to be allowed inside the religious place.
   xxi. Community kitchens/langars / "Ann-daan", etc. at religious places should follow physical distancing norms while preparing and distributing food.
   xxii. Effective sanitation within the premises shall be maintained with particular focus on lavatories, hand and foot-washing stations/areas.

xxiii. Frequent cleaning and disinfection to be maintained by the management of the religious place.

xxiv. Proper disposal of face covers / masks / gloves left over by visitors and/or employees in covered bins should be ensured.

xxv. In case of a suspect or confirmed case in the premises:

a. Place the ill person in a room or area where they are isolated from others.
b. Provide a mask/face cover till such time he/she is examined by a doctor.
c. Immediately inform the nearest medical facility (hospital/clinic) or call the State or District helpline.
d. A risk assessment will be undertaken by the designated public health authority (District RRT/treating physician) and accordingly further action be initiated regarding management of case, his/her contacts and need for disinfection.
e. Disinfection of the premises to be taken up if the person is found positive.