



**Government of Odisha**  
**Office of Special Relief Commissioner**

No. 7554 /R&DM(DM)  
PT2-RDM-RLF-MISC-0034-2020

Date: 29/12/2021

**ORDER**

Whereas, SARS CoV-2 infection continues to be active in different areas in the State and in some parts of the Country;

Whereas, as per report of MoHFW, GOI, although, the overall COVID-19 cases in the country are continuously declining across the States/UTs, the analysis of data during December, 2021 shows that 8 districts of three States have reported positivity rate more than 10% and 19 districts of 7 States/UTs have reported positivity rate between 5% to 10% in the past two weeks. Thus, COVID-19 is still a public health challenge and a matter of concern.

And Whereas, in view of the initial signs of surge in cases of COVID-19 as well as increased detection of the variant of Concern (VoC) "Omicron" in different parts of the country, MoHFW vide D.O letter no. Z-28015/318/21-EMR dated 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2021 , has issued an advisory to all the States and Union Territories ,prescribing a normative framework for taking evidence based containment measures at district/local level;

And Whereas, within a matter of few days the new COVID variant B.1.1.529 or OMICRON has been the cause of concern for the State. The Government of India has identified fourteen (14) Countries as 'at risk' and mandated home quarantine for all who arrive from those Countries and are COVID Negative in airport screening.

And whereas, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare vide D.O. No. MoHFW/ COVID19/DoC-2021 dated 11<sup>th</sup> December , 2021 has prescribed the following directives;

**It is imperative for all States/UTs to maintain a strict watch on the situation with focussed district level measures for containment of clusters of new positive cases as per Guidelines. In case of any district reporting a surge in cases, or rise in positivity rates, intensive action and local containment as per the containment framework must be initiated.**

**The strategic containment interventions in identified areas with test positivity rate of  $\geq 10$  % or  $>60$ % Bed occupancy on either O2 supported or ICU beds, include night curfews, restricting the intermingling of people,**

**prohibition of congregations (social/ political/ sports/ entertainment/ academic/ cultural/ religious/ festival-related), curtailment of attendees in marriages and funerals/last rites, etc.**

**Testing and surveillance interventions include ramping up testing and active case search, testing of all ILI & SARI cases through Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT) and retesting by RTPCR of symptomatic RAT negative tests. Strict adherence to COVID appropriate behaviour at all places and at all times must also be rigorously enforced and aggressively monitored. Adequate advance information to community highlighting the need for stringent containment actions to achieve community involvement and support are also mandated.**

And whereas, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India (GoI) vide Order No.40-3/2020-DM-I(A) dated 27<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare vide D.O. No. Z-28015/318/21-EMR dated 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2021 have issued guidelines along with National Directives (**Annexure-I & II**) for effective control of COVID-19;

Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India have further directed that:

- (i) The National Directives for COVID-19 Management, as specified in Annexure-II, shall continue to be strictly followed throughout the State.
- (ii) All District Magistrates/ SPs/ Municipal Commissioners/ Police Commissioner, Bhubaneswar-Cuttack shall strictly enforce the above measures. For the enforcement of social distancing, as far as possible the provisions of Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) of 1973 shall be used.
- (iii) Any person violating these measures will be liable to be proceeded against as per the provisions of Section 51 to 60 of the DM Act, besides legal action under Section 188 of the IPC, and other legal provisions ,as applicable.

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare vide D.O. No. Z-28015/318/21-EMR dated 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2021 has also prescribed the following **strategic areas of intervention focusing on containment, test, track, surveillance, clinical management, vaccination and Covid Appropriate Behaviour to be taken up are as follows:**

- A- **Containment:** imposition of night curfew, strict regulation of large gatherings, curtailing numbers in marriages and funerals, restricting numbers in offices, industries, public transport etc. In case of all new clusters of Covid positive cases, prompt notification of "Containment Zones", "Buffer Zones" should be done, strict perimeter control of Containment Zone as per extant guidelines must be ensured. All cluster samples must be sent to INSACOG Labs for Genome Sequencing without delay.
- B- **Testing and surveillance:** testing as per ICMR and MoHFW guidelines, door to door case search, testing of all SAR/ILI and vulnerable/co-morbid people,

ensuring right proportion of RTPCR tests in total tests being conducted daily, contact tracing of all Covid positive person & their timely testing, utilizing the access to "AIR SUVIDHA" Portal by State Surveillance Officers (SSOs) & District Surveillance Officers (DSOs) to monitor the international passengers who have arrived in their States & Districts etc.

- C- **Clinical Management:** increase bed capacity, other logistics like ambulances, mechanism for seamless shifting of patients, availability and operational readiness of oxygen equipments, buffer stock of drugs to be ensured by prompt utilization of Emergency Covid Response Package (ECRP-II) funds released by Central Government & other available resources etc. The existing National Clinical Management Protocol remains unchanged for Omicron.

Ensure stringent enforcement of home isolation as per extant guidelines. This would include among others: customized kit for persons undergoing home isolation, their regular monitoring through call centers as well as home visits etc. This will be a very critical activity in the days of come specially to ensure that persons under home isolation do not spread the virus to others in view of its higher transmissibility.

- D- **Vaccination:** ensure 100% coverage of left out first and second doses eligible beneficiaries in an accelerated manner. Special focus to be given to those districts where the first & second dose coverage is less than the national average. The door-to-door vaccination campaign need to be strengthened.
- E- **Community engagement and Covid Appropriate Behaviour:** Ensure advance engagement and information so that there is no misinformation of 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.

#### **Guidelines at Bhubaneswar/ Jharsuguda Airport:**

- De-boarding should be done ensuring physical distancing.
- Random RTPCR Test may be carried on.
- Thermal screening would be carried out in respect of all the passengers by the health officials present at the airport.
- The passengers found to be symptomatic during screening shall be immediately isolated and taken to medical facility as per health protocol. If tested positive, their contacts shall be identified.

Whereas, the Government of Odisha vide Order No. 6773 dated 30.11.2021, Order No. 7458 dated 24.12.2021 and Order No. 7475 dated 24.12.2021 has imposed restrictions on festivals, festivities for containment of COVID-19 till 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2022.

Now, therefore, with a view to protecting the health of Public and containment of Covid-19 along with normalising the economic activities, the

Government of Odisha in exercise of powers conferred U/s 2 of Epidemic Disease Act, 1897, Disaster Management Act, 2005 and Odisha COVID-19 Regulation, 2020 impose following restrictions/ stipulations **till 5.00 AM of 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2022:**

- **Unlocking:** There shall be graded unlocking throughout the State with effect **from 5.00 AM of 1<sup>st</sup> January , 2022 till 5.00 AM of 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2022.**
- **Night curfew:** **Night Curfew shall be imposed in all urban areas of the State from 10.00 PM to 5.00 AM every day. There shall be no movement of vehicles except for exigencies on production of proper evidence.**
- **Opening of shops/ malls:** During unlock period, all types of shops, malls shall remain open across the State from **5.00 AM to 10.00 PM** every day.

*It shall be the responsibility of the Mall Authorities/ shop owner(s)/ Market Associations to ensure that COVID appropriate behaviour are followed strictly by himself/herself, and the customers. The owner shall make arrangement by deploying his/her staff to prevent crowding by customers inside and outside the shop/ mall. Proper social distancing demarcations in and outside shop shall be displayed by the shop owner and COVID appropriate social distancing shall be ensured by him/her. In case of violation, local authorities can take strict action including criminal action under relevant Acts including Disaster Management Act, 2005. **Such violation shall entail sealing of such shops/ shopping complexes/ malls for a period along with heavy penalty as decided by the Local Authorities.***

- All Social/ Religious gatherings shall remain prohibited.
- Political gatherings should be limited not more than 100 persons with full compliance to COVID protocols.
- Exhibitions/ Trade Fairs/ Expo/ Melas shall remain prohibited. However, official events may be allowed with prior approval of Government.
- No picnic in Parks, Nature Clubs, Beaches and other Picnic Spots shall be allowed.
- No cultural and Dance programmes of any sort shall be organized in Hotels, Parks/Malls/ Convention Centres/ Kalyan Mandaps.
- No Educational Institutions shall organize Excursions/ Picnics till end of January 2022.
- Annual Day Celebration/ Anniversary in the pretext of any reason is prohibited.

**Cultural Activities :** Cultural gatherings/ programmes including melodies, orchestra/ jatra/ opera, dances-classical, folk and other permitted dance forms, cultural competitions, open air theatres/ drama/ nukkad natak/ street plays/ other such performances, etc shall be allowed to open with due compliance to covid protocols. The orders of the Government vide its order No 6540/ R&DM (DM) dated 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 ( **Copy enclosed as Annexure- III** )

- Auditoriums/ assembly halls/ similar facilities shall be allowed to open up to 50% of capacity with due compliance to covid protocols.
- Open Air Theatres/ Jatras /Operas shall be permitted by the local authorities (District Magistrate/SP/ Municipal Commissioner or any other officer

authorized) subject to compliance of COVID-19 safety protocols such as mandatory wearing of face masks, physical distancing, provision of thermal scanning, etc. Keeping the size of the ground/ space in view, appropriate number of persons (**subject to a ceiling of 1000 persons**) will be allowed ensuring maintenance of prescribed physical distancing norm i.e., maintaining a distance of 6 feet from each other and the seating arrangement shall be made accordingly. As far as possible, facility for online booking of tickets may be arranged by the organizers and sufficient number of counters shall be opened to prevent crowding during physical booking of tickets. Facility of advance booking online as well as through counters may also be organized. The organizers shall be responsible for due compliance of these norms/ conditions.

- For indoor halls the numbers of viewers/ spectators shall not exceed 50% of the seating capacity of the hall.
- Cinema halls, theatres shall be allowed to open with up to 50% of capacity and operate with due compliance to covid protocols.
- In closed places, the number of persons including the invitees shall not exceed 50% of the hall capacity.

*The person having double dose/final vaccination certificate or Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) (-ve)/ RT PCR (-ve) Report obtained within 72 hours prior to the function will be allowed to attend the function in case of Auditoriums/ assembly halls/ similar facilities/ Cinema halls, theatres in halls/ closed places/ marriages and cultural functions to be held in Indoor halls.*

*In case of Government meetings, workshops, conferences etc. COVID-19 safety protocols such as mandatory wearing of face masks, physical distancing, provision of thermal scanning, etc. shall be followed.*

*The organiser of the function will ensure adherence of COVID-19 safety protocols such as wearing of masks, maintaining social distancing of at least six(6) feet between participants and provision of thermal scanning & use of hand wash or sanitizer will be mandatory.*

*However, Permission for such activities shall be accorded by the respective District Magistrates/ SPs/ Municipal Commissioners/ Police Commissioner, Bhubaneswar-Cuttack or other officers authorised by them. Provided that the respective District Collector/SP/ Municipal Commissioner/ Police Commissioner, Bhubaneswar-Cuttack may further restrict the number of persons to be allowed in such functions/ gatherings keeping the local situation in mind in the interest of the health of the people and issue specific order in that regard. In case of violation of COVID-19 safety protocols, Local Authorities can take strict action including criminal action under relevant acts including Disaster Management Act, 2005. **Such violation shall entail closure of functions along with heavy penalty as decided by the local authorities.***

- Marriages, thread Ceremony/ Bratopanayan, funerals, last rites and related gatherings ( with one reception) with approval from local authorities shall be allowed with a ceiling of 250 persons (for the entire event) including hosts, guests, priests and catering and other support staff with adherence to COVID-19 safety protocols subject to the following conditions:

- (i) Under no circumstances, the number of participants shall exceed the ceiling for the entire event.
- (ii) In closed spaces, subject to the above ceilings such number of persons shall be allowed as would be feasible to follow Covid protocols.
- (iii) In open spaces, keeping the size of the ground/ open space in view, appropriate number of persons will be allowed, subject to the above ceilings, so as to ensure maintenance of prescribed physical distancing norm.
- (iv) Marriage processions shall be allowed with due prior written approval from competent authorities subject to the ceiling 50 participants including bridegroom, priest, friends, relatives, guests, members of band party, light & sound systems etc. The number of persons in marriage procession shall count towards the above said ceiling of 250 persons.
- (v) All other conditions/ stipulations for marriage, funeral and last rites related gatherings shall be followed as per the Government guidelines released vide Revenue and Disaster Management (DM) Department letter No. 2321/ R&DM(DM) dt. 30.04.2021.
- (vi) All other conditions/ stipulations for thread ceremony/ bratopanayana and related rituals shall be followed as per the Government guidelines released vide Revenue and Disaster Management (DM) Department letter No.2666 dated 18.05.2021.

*In case of violation of COVID-19 safety protocols during these activities, Local Authorities can take strict action including criminal action under relevant acts including Disaster Management Act, 2005. **Such violation shall entail closure of functions along with heavy penalty as decided by the local authorities.***

- All religious festivals/ festivities/ functions shall be held/ celebrated/ observed as per orders of the Government vide its order No 4534/ R&DM (DM) dated 9<sup>th</sup> August, 2021. **(Annexure-IV)**

*Considering local conditions, District Magistrates/ Municipal Commissioners/ Police Commissioner, Bhubaneswar-Cuttack may impose appropriate restrictions on entry of devotees into churches/ temples/ mosques/ religious places/ places of worship and in the celebrations in churches/ temples/mosques/ religious places/places of worship. Collectors/ Municipal Commissioners may decide the number of persons to attend any such religious ritual/ festival/Puja in their respective jurisdictions with strict adherence to Covid appropriate behaviour and norms.*

*The devotees in these places must ensure Covid-19 safety protocols such as wearing of face masks, physical distancing and hand washing /hand sanitizer. In case of violation of COVID-19 safety protocols, local authorities can take strict action including criminal action under relevant acts including Disaster Management Act, 2005. **Such violation shall entail fines for devotees as decided by the local authorities.***

**In addition to the above guidelines, following restrictions shall be imposed vide earlier Order No. 7458 dated 24.12.2021 and Order No. 7475 dated 24.12.2021 on 25<sup>th</sup> December, 2021, 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2021 and 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2022 to 2<sup>nd</sup> January, 2022.**

- Christmas celebration shall be limited to Churches with a maximum of 50(fifty) persons joining the mass by strictly following COVID protocols and in terms of specific conditions as imposed by District Magistrates/ Municipal Commissioners/ Local Authorities while permitting such mass if any.
- Zero Night celebration, Welcome to New Year and Christmas Celebration in hotels, clubs, restaurants, parks, convention halls, Kalyan Mandaps, etc. is completely banned across the State.
- No celebration other than marriage (but not receptions and ancillary functions) is allowed across the State.
- Funeral rites are allowed with due COVID-19 protocols.
- There shall be strict vigilance on crowding and gathering during the above occasions.
- No community feast is also allowed.
- No social gathering, rallies, orchestras, dances and other cultural programmes shall be permitted

***Explanation:***

**Subject to other provisions of this order, activities that are not specifically prohibited/ regulated/ restricted/ permitted with restrictions above are allowed subject to adherence to COVID- 19 safety protocols and SOPs/ guidelines issued by appropriate authorities.**

**During the night curfew period all activities shall be banned except the following:**

- i. All commercial establishments including essential items, food and vegetable shops, excluding all medicine/ pharmaceuticals/ medical devices/optical shops etc. shall remain closed.
- ii. However, home delivery of essential goods, food items, including grocery, vegetables, fish, meat, egg and milk are permitted. Further, home delivery of food by restaurants, hotels and aggregators such as Swiggy, Zomato etc. are allowed.
- iii. No restrictions shall apply to COVID testing and vaccination centres and movement of persons/ vehicles for COVID testing and vaccination shall be allowed.
- iv. All Government & Private offices/ establishments dealing with essential services/ utility providers like power, telecommunication, water supply, Police, Municipal Services, Railways/ Airport/ Port services and Security etc. shall remain functional.
- v. Movement of private four and two wheeler, auto rickshaws, cab aggregators such as Ola, Uber etc. are allowed for dropping and picking up passengers to and from airports, railway stations and bus stands.

- vi. There shall be no movement of vehicles except public exigency on production of proper evidence.
- vii. Staff of IT and ITes companies on production of their ID cards
- viii. Early Warning Agencies including IMD
- ix. Disaster Management establishments

*However, during the night curfew, the District Magistrates/ Municipal Commissioners/ Police Commissioner, Bhubaneswar-Cuttack, shall allow/ restrict any such activities as would be necessary in the interest of general health of the public and for prevention of spread of Covid-19 .*

### **General Directives for COVID-19 Management**

The following General Directives for COVID-19 Management shall be strictly followed throughout the State:

- a. Face coverings/ Masks: Wearing of face cover/ mask properly is compulsory in public places; in workplaces; and in public transport.
- b. Physical distancing: Individuals must maintain a minimum distance of 6 feet in public places.
- c. Spitting in public place will be punishable with fine, as prescribed in accordance with laws, rules or regulations.
- d. Same as permitted by the Excise Department, consumption of liquor in public place is prohibited.
- e. Consumption of paan, gutka, tobacco, and similar products in public place is prohibited.
- f. The National Directives for COVID 19 Management is placed at **Annexure-II.**

### **Safety and Protection of vulnerable persons**

The following categories of people are advised against outdoor movement, except for essential and health purposes.

- a. persons above 65 years of age
- b. persons with co-morbidities
- c. pregnant women
- d. children below the age of 10 years

### **Instructions for enforcement of above stipulations:**

- i. All the district magistrates shall strictly enforce the National COVID 19 directives as specified in *Annexure II*. Penalties prescribed shall be levied and collected from all persons and entities violating these directives.
- ii. All industrial and commercial establishments, workplaces, offices etc. shall put in place arrangements for implementation of SOP before starting their functioning.
- iii. Police Commissioner, Collector, ADM, CDM & PHO, DCP, Sub-Collector, Tahasildar, B.D.O, Municipal Commissioner and Executive Officer of Urban Local Bodies are hereby authorized to take all necessary actions for enforcement and implementation of the aforesaid measures. Local police shall render necessary assistance as and when requisitioned by the aforementioned officers.
- iv. Excise enforcement activities shall be permitted.



**Special Powers:** District Magistrates & Collectors/ Police Commissioner of Cuttack-Bhubaneswar Police Commissionerate/ Municipal Commissioners shall scrupulously implement these guidelines and shall take all possible measures to enforce the guidelines. They may impose any additional restrictions as may be felt necessary in the interest of containment of the spread of COVID-19 and to ensure COVID appropriate behaviour are followed by all concerned.

**Penal provisions:**

Any person violating these lockdown measures will be liable to be proceeded against as per the provisions of Section 51 to 60 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, and COVID-19 Regulations 2020, besides legal action under Sec. 188 of the IPC, and other legal provisions as applicable.

In case of any other doubt, the State Government in Revenue & Disaster Management (Disaster Management) Department will issue necessary directions or clarifications.

This order shall come into effect from **5.00 AM of 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2022.**

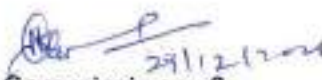
By orders of the Governor



CHIEF SECRETARY, ODISHA

**Memo No. 7555 / R&DM(DM) Date: 29/12/2021**

Copy forwarded to the Private Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister/ Private Secretary to all Ministers/ Chief Secretary/ Development Commissioner/ Agriculture Production Commissioner for kind information.



Special Relief Commissioner &  
Additional Chief Secretary to Govt.  
(Disaster Management)

**Memo No. 7556 / R&DM(DM) Date: 29/12/2021**


Copy forwarded to the Addl. Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary/ Commissioner-cum-Secretary of all Departments/ Director General of Police/ Director General of Police Fire Services/Police Commissioner, Bhubaneswar-Cuttack/ All RDCs/ All Collectors/ Superintendents of Police/ All Municipal Commissioners for kind information and immediate necessary action.



Special Relief Commissioner &  
Additional Chief Secretary to Govt.  
(Disaster Management)

**Memo No. 7557/ R&DM(DM) Date: 29/12/2021**

Copy forwarded to the Joint Secretary (Disaster Management), Ministry of Home Affairs (Disaster Management Division), Government of India for kind information.

  
29.12.2021

Special Relief Commissioner &  
Additional Chief Secretary to Govt.  
(Disaster Management)

Annexure-I



राजेश भूषण, आईएएस  
सचिव

**RAJESH BHUSHAN, IAS**  
SECRETARY



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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.28015/318/21-EMR  
21 December, 2021

*Dear Colleague,*

This is regarding the measures that need to be taken in view of initial signs of surge in cases of Covid-19 as well as increased detection of the Variant of Concern (VoC), 'Omicron' in different parts of the country.

2. In this context kindly recall this Ministry's earlier guidance shared with States/UTs on multiple occasions regarding the recommended strategies for containment and restrictions, keeping the District as a unit.

3. At the district level there should be constant review of emerging data regarding the population affected by COVID-19, geographical spread, hospital infrastructure and its utilization, manpower, notifying Containment Zones, enforcement of perimeter of containment zones etc. This evidence should be the basis for effective decision making at the district level itself. Such a strategy ensures that infection is contained at the local level itself before it spreads to other parts of the state.

4. The main elements of the framework to be used by States and UTs to facilitate decision making at the District Level are as follows:

- i) Test positivity of 10% or more in the last one week
- OR
- ii) Bed occupancy of 40% or more on oxygen supported or ICU beds ✓

In case any one of these parameters are met in any District, district level containment measures and restrictions may be put in place forthwith. Equally important, the restrictions must be strictly enforced.

5. Based on current scientific evidence, the VOC Omicron is at least 3 times more transmissible than the Delta VOC. Besides, the Delta VOC is still present in different parts of the country. Hence, even greater foresight, data analysis, dynamic decision making and strict & prompt containment action is required at the local and district level. The decision making at the State/UT and district level must be very prompt and focussed.

6. The template above provides a normative framework. However, based on the local situation and population characteristics such as density etc., and keeping in mind the higher transmissibility of Omicron, States/UTs can take containment measures and restrictions even before these thresholds are reached.

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:

**A -Containment:** imposition of night curfew, strict regulation of large gatherings, curtailing numbers in marriages and funerals, restricting numbers in offices, industries, public transport etc. In case of all new clusters of Covid positive cases, prompt notification of "Containment Zones", "Buffer Zones" should be done, strict perimeter control of Containment Zone as per extant guidelines must be ensured. All cluster samples must be sent to INSACOG Labs for Genome Sequencing without delay.

**B- Testing and surveillance:** testing as per ICMR and MoHFW guidelines, door to door case search, testing of all SARI/ILI and vulnerable/co-morbid people, ensuring right proportion of RT-PCR tests in total tests being conducted daily, contact tracing of all Covid positive persons & their timely testing, utilizing the access to "AIR SUVIDHA" Portal by State Surveillance Officers (SSOs) & District Surveillance Officers (DSOs) to monitor the international passengers who have arrived in their States & Districts etc.

**C- Clinical Management:** increase bed capacity, other logistics like ambulances, mechanism for seamless shifting of patients, availability and operational readiness of oxygen equipments, buffer stock of drugs to be ensured by prompt utilization of Emergency Covid Response Package (ECRP-II) funds released by Central Government & other available resources etc. The existing National Clinical Management Protocol remains unchanged for Omicron.

Ensure stringent enforcement of home isolation as per extant guidelines. This would include among others: customized kit for persons undergoing home isolation, their regular monitoring through call centers as well as home visits etc. This will be a very critical activity in the days to come specially to ensure that persons under home isolation do not spread the virus to others in view of its higher transmissibility.

**D- Vaccination:** ensure 100% coverage of left out first and second dose eligible beneficiaries in an accelerated manner. Special focus to be given to those districts where the first & second dose coverage is less than the national average. The door-to-door vaccination campaign need to be strengthened.

**E- Community engagement and Covid Appropriate Behaviour:** Ensure advance engagement and information 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.

8. Kindly activate the War rooms/EOCs and keep analyzing all trends and surges, no matter how small and keep taking proactive action at the district/local level.

Regular reviews with field officers and proactive action in this regard will definitely control the spread of infection and flatten the curve.

*Warm Regards.*

Yours sincerely



(Rajesh Bhushan)

Chief Secretary/Administrator of all States / UTs

**NATIONAL DIRECTIVES FOR COVID-19 MANAGEMENT**

1. **Face covering:** Wearing of face cover is compulsory in public places; in workplaces; and during transport.
2. **Social distancing:** Individuals must maintain a minimum distance of 6 feet (*2 gaz ki doori*) in public places.

Shops will ensure physical distancing among customers.

3. **Spitting in public places** will be punishable with fine, as may be prescribed by the State/ UT local authority in accordance with its laws, rules or regulations.

*Additional directives for Work Places*

4. **Work from home (WfH):** As far as possible the practice of WfH should be followed.
  5. **Staggering of work/ business hours** will be followed in offices, work places, shops, markets and industrial & commercial establishments.
  6. **Screening & hygiene:** Provision for thermal scanning, hand wash or sanitizer will be made at all entry points and of hand wash or sanitizer at exit points and common areas.
  7. **Frequent sanitization** of entire workplace, common facilities and all points which come into human contact e.g. door handles etc., will be ensured, including between shifts.
  8. **Social distancing:** All persons in charge of work places will ensure adequate distance between workers and other staff.
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**Government of Odisha**  
**Office of Special Relief Commissioner**

No. 6540 /R&DM(DM)

Date: 18.11.2021

**ORDER**

Whereas, SARS CoV-2 infection continues to be active in different areas in the State and in some parts of the Country;

And whereas, the Government of Odisha vide Revenue & Disaster Management (Disaster Management) Department order No. 4921/R&DM(DM) dated 31st August, 2021 and Order No.6077/R&DM(DM) dated 31<sup>st</sup> October,2021 had imposed stipulations/ instructions for graded unlocking until 5:00 AM of 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2021 (Monday) and 5:00 AM of 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2021 (Wednesday) respectively for effective control of COVID-19;

Now, therefore, with a view to protecting the health of the public and preventing spread of Covid-19 along with normalising the economic activities, stipulations/ instructions for graded unlocking, **following activities are allowed with effect from 20th November, 2021 :**

- Cultural gatherings/ programmes including melodies, orchestra/ jatra/ opera, dances-classical, folk and other permitted dance forms, cultural competitions, open air theatres/ drama/ nukkad natak/ street plays/ other such performances etc shall be allowed to open with due compliance to covid protocols.
- Auditoriums/ assembly halls/ similar facilities shall be allowed to open with due compliance to covid protocols.

Following COVID-19 safety protocols shall be adhered to:

- (i) Open Air Theatres/ Jatras /Operas shall be permitted by the local authorities (District Magistrate/SP/ Municipal Commissioner or any other officer authorized) subject to compliance of COVID-19 safety protocols such as mandatory wearing of face masks, physical distancing, provision of thermal scanning, etc. Keeping the size of the ground/ space in view, appropriate number of persons (**subject to a ceiling of 2000 persons**) will be allowed ensuring maintenance of prescribed physical distancing norm i.e., maintaining a distance of 6 feet from each other and the seating arrangement shall be made accordingly. As far as possible, facility

for online booking of tickets may be arranged by the organizers and sufficient number of counters shall be opened to prevent crowding during physical booking of tickets. Facility of advance booking online as well as through counters may also be organized. The organizers shall be responsible for due compliance of these norms/ conditions.

- (ii) For indoor halls the numbers of viewers/ spectators shall not exceed 50% of the seating capacity of the hall.
- (iii) Cinema halls, theatres shall be allowed to open with up to 50% of capacity and operate with due compliance to covid protocols.
- (iv) In closed places, the number of persons including the invitees shall not exceed 50% of the hall capacity.
- (v) The person having double dose/final vaccination certificate and Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) (-ve)/ RT PCR (-ve) Report obtained within 72 hours prior to the function will be allowed to attend the function.
- (vi) The organiser of the function will ensure adherence of COVID-19 safety protocols such as wearing of masks, maintaining social distancing of at least six(6) feet between participants and provision of thermal scanning & use of hand wash or sanitizer will be mandatory.
- (vii) Persons with symptoms of Influenza Like Infection (ILI) and Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) shall not be allowed to the function.
- (viii) Vulnerable groups of people, such as, persons above 65 years of age, persons with co-morbidities and pregnant women are advised not to attend the function.
- (ix) Chewing of gutka and paan and spitting in the function is strictly prohibited.
- (x) Cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched surfaces(door knobs/handles, hand rails, slides, chairs, tabletops, benches, washroom fixtures, floors/ walls shall be ensured
- (xi) Deep cleaning of all drinking/ hand washing points/ wash rooms, lavatories shall be ensured.
- (xii) The organiser of the function will ensure elaborate arrangement for hand washing with soap and water and also ensure availability of hand sanitizers.

*However, permission for such activities shall be accorded by the respective District Magistrates/ SPs/ Municipal Commissioners/ Police Commissioner, Bhubaneswar-Cuttack or other officers authorised by them. Provided that the respective District Collector/SP/ Municipal Commissioner/ Police Commissioner, Bhubaneswar-Cuttack may further restrict the number of persons to be allowed in such functions/ gatherings keeping the local situation in mind in the interest of the health of the people and issue specific order in that regard.*

Any person violating the measures notified in the above order will be liable to be proceeded against as per the provisions of Section 51 to 60 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, and COVID-19 Regulations 2020, besides legal action under Sec. 188 of the IPC, and other legal provisions as applicable.

In case of any other doubt, the State Government in Revenue & Disaster Management (Disaster Management) Department will issue necessary directions or clarifications.

By orders of the Governor



Special Relief Commissioner &  
Additional Chief Secretary to Govt.  
(Disaster Management)

**Memo No. 6541 / R&DM(DM) Date: 18.11.2021**

Copy forwarded to the Private Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister/ Private Secretary to all Ministers/ Chief Secretary/ Development Commissioner/ Agriculture Production Commissioner for kind information.



Special Relief Commissioner &  
Additional Chief Secretary to Govt.  
(Disaster Management)

**Memo No. 6542 / R&DM(DM) Date: 18.11.2021**

Copy forwarded to the Addl. Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary/ Commissioner-cum-Secretary of all Departments/ Director General of Police/ Director General of Police Fire Services/Police Commissioner, Bhubaneswar-Cuttack/ All RDCs/ All Collectors/ Superintendents of Police/ All Municipal Commissioners for kind information and immediate necessary action.



Special Relief Commissioner &  
Additional Chief Secretary to Govt.  
(Disaster Management)

**Memo No. 6543 / R&DM(DM) Date: 18.11.2021**

Copy forwarded to the Joint Secretary (Disaster Management), Ministry of Home Affairs (Disaster Management Division), Government of India for kind information.



Special Relief Commissioner &  
Additional Chief Secretary to Govt.  
(Disaster Management)





**Government of Odisha**  
**Office of Special Relief Commissioner**

No. 4524/R&DM(DM), Dt. 09.08.2021

**ORDER**

Whereas, the country continues to pass through COVID-19 and resurgence of infection is observed in some States as well as in many neighbouring countries in Asia and elsewhere in the world;

And whereas, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India vide their DO no. AS(H) Misc/2021 dated 24.03.2021 have strongly advised the States to consider imposing local restrictions in public observance of festivals.

And whereas, the State Government vide Order No.4290 /R&DM(DM) dated 31.07.2021 have issued COVID-19 Guidelines prohibiting all social/ cultural/ religious gatherings.

And whereas, the festivals/ Pujas of **Ganesh Puja, Durga Puja, Laxmi Puja, Kali Puja and other similar Puja/ festivals of other religious communities are falling in August, September, October and November of 2021** and people usually congregate & get in touch with each other to celebrate the Festivals/ Pujas during which it is not possible to adhere to COVID appropriate behaviour and such congregations have a potential to cause spread of the virus;

And whereas, it is felt necessary to issue guidelines/ instructions for observance of Puja/ celebration of festivals well in advance so that the general public as well as the Organisers of such Pujas/ Festivals will be suitably prepared;

Now, therefore, in exercise of powers conferred under Section 24(I) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 read with Rule 8(1) of the Odisha Disaster Management Rules, 2010 the following guidelines are issued in the interest of health of the general public and for containment of spread of COVID-19:

It is hereby directed that congregation for celebration of the above festivals/puja and associated religious and cultural congregations shall not be allowed in public throughout the State.

However, religious rituals in churches/ temples/mosques/places of worship will continue as usual with limited number of persons with strict adherence to Covid protocols.

The citizens are allowed to observe the said Pujas/ festivals in their premises without causing any congregation at any place and maintaining all safety protocols, such as social distancing, wearing masks, proper sanitisation, etc.

**The Puja Committees/ organisers/ in rural and urban areas are allowed to conduct puja in mandaps/ pandals as per the following instructions:**

1. For conducting Puja in Puja Pandals/ Mandaps, the organizers shall apply to and obtain necessary permission from the District Magistrate or any other officer authorised by him/ her. For the area under Commissionerate of Police of Cuttack and Bhubaneswar, such permission shall be given by the Commissioner of Police of Cuttack and Bhubaneswar or any other officer authorised by him/ her.
2. Puja(s) shall be conducted in indoor-like condition only for observance of rituals without public participation, pomp and grandeur.
3. Puja Pandals/ Mandaps shall be covered on three sides. The 4<sup>th</sup> side shall also be covered in a way not to allow any public view of the idols. There shall be no darshan by public/ devotees.
4. The size of idol shall be less than 4 feet.
5. There shall be no use of public address system.
6. At any given point of time, there shall not be more than 7 persons including organisers (Kartas) and priests and support staff present in the Puja Pandal/ Mandap.
7. The persons present at Puja Pandal/ Mandap shall follow all Covid protocols of social distancing, mask use, personal hygiene and sanitation issued by Central/ State Government/ Local Administration in letter and spirit.
8. The organizers and other persons involved in conducting the Puja shall abide by any other condition(s) as imposed by Local Administration/ appropriate authority.

9. There shall be no immersion procession. The idols will be immersed in artificial pond(s) created by the local administration for the purpose.
10. There shall be no religious procession of any kind of any religious community
11. There shall be no musical or any other entertainment programme.
12. **Ganesh puja in educational institutions** is allowed with participation of limited number of students observing COVID appropriate behavior.
13. No community feast associated with any puja/ festival during the period shall be allowed.
14. All the District Magistrates/ Municipal Commissioners/ Commissioner of Police, Bhubaneswar-Cuttack shall strictly enforce the above guidelines.
15. **Penal provisions:** Any person violating these measures will be liable to be proceeded against in accordance with the provisions of Section 51 to 60 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 and Regulations issued there under besides legal action under Section 188 of the IPC and other legal provisions as applicable.

Considering local conditions, Collectors and Municipal Commissioners may impose appropriate restrictions on entry of devotees into churches /temples /mosques/ religious places/ places of worship and in the celebrations in churches/ temples/mosques/ religious places/places of worship. Collectors/ Municipal Commissioners may decide the number of persons to attend any such religious ritual/ festival/Puja in their respective jurisdictions with strict adherence to Covid appropriate behaviour and norms.

Any person found violating this order shall be punished under the provisions of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 and other relevant laws.

By order of the Governor

  
Chief Secretary, Odisha

**Memo No. 4535/R&DM(DM)      Date: 09 08 2021**

Copy forwarded to the Private Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister/  
Private Secretary to all Ministers/ Chief Secretary/ Development  
Commissioner/ Agriculture Production Commissioner for kind information.

  
9/8/2021  
Special Relief Commissioner &  
Additional Chief Secretary to Govt.  
(Disaster Management)

**Memo No. 4536/R&DM(DM)      Date: 09 08 2021**

Copy forwarded to the Addl. Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary/  
Commissioner-cum-Secretary of all Departments/ Director General of Police/  
Director General of Police Fire Services/Police Commissioner, Bhubaneswar-  
Cuttack/ All RDCs/ All Collectors/ All Superintendents of Police/ All Municipal  
Commissioners for kind information and immediate necessary action.

  
9/8/2021  
Special Relief Commissioner &  
Additional Chief Secretary to Govt.  
(Disaster Management)

**Memo No. 4533/R&DM(DM)      Date: 09 08 2021**

Copy forwarded to the Joint Secretary (Disaster Management), Ministry  
of Home Affairs (Disaster Management Division), Government of India for kind  
information.

  
9/8/2021  
Special Relief Commissioner &  
Additional Chief Secretary to Govt.  
(Disaster Management)