



Government of Odisha
Office of Special Relief Commissioner

No. 5659 /R&DM(DM)
PT2-RDM-RLF-MISC-0034-2020

Date: 30/9/2021

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, it is observed that after unrestricted religious celebrations leading to large congregations, infection rate has loomed in some parts of the Country;

And whereas, with a view to protecting the health of general public and to curb the spread of infection in the State, it is imperative to impose some restrictions upon celebration of puja and festivities;

And whereas, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India (GoI) vide Order No.40-3/2020-DM-I(A) dated 28th September, 2021 and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare vide D.O. No. Z-28015/85/2020-DM Cell dated 21st September, 2021 have issued guidelines along with National Directives (**Annexure-I & II**) for effective control of COVID-19;

And whereas, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare vide D.O. No. Z-28015/85/2020-DM Cell dated 21st September, 2021 has also prescribed the following directives;

*"This is a critical period as there may be a tendency to ignore COVID - safe behaviour during festivals, resulting in large gatherings, events, fairs etc. **It is critical to enforce adherence to guidelines to allow festivities in a cautious, safe and Covid appropriate manner.** Any laxity in implementation of Covid Appropriate Behavior could lead to serious consequences and can result in a surge in cases."*

And whereas, the Government of Odisha vide Revenue & Disaster Management (Disaster Management) Department Order No.4921/R&DM(DM) dated 31st August, 2021 had imposed stipulations/ instructions for graded unlocking until 6:00 AM of 1st October, 2021 (Friday) 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 as notified under order No. 4921/R&DM(DM) dated 31st August, 2021 stand extended **till 5.00 AM of 1st November, 2021 (Monday) with the following additional stipulations/ restrictions:**

- **Unlocking:** There shall be graded unlocking throughout the State with effect from **5.00 AM of 1st October, 2021 (Friday) till 5.00 AM of 1st November, 2021 (Monday)**
- **Night curfew:** Night curfew shall be imposed in all urban areas of the State from **10.00 PM to 5.00 AM every day.**

However, with a view to protecting the health of the public, in Bhubaneswar & Cuttack towns, night curfew shall be imposed from 08.00 PM to 5.00 AM from 11th October, 2021 to 20th October, 2021.

- **Weekend Shutdown:** There shall be no weekend shutdown across the State.
- During unlock period, all types of shops, malls shall remain open across the State from **5.00 AM to 10.00 PM every day.**

However in Bhubaneswar & Cuttack towns, shops, malls shall remain open from 05.00 AM to 08.00 PM from 11th October, 2021 to 20th October, 2021.

- 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 9th August, 2021. **(Annexure-III)**

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.

- **With a view to protecting the health of general public and to curb the spread of infection, sale and use of fire crackers shall remain prohibited during this festive month.**

All other stipulations/ instructions contained in the order No. 4921/R&DM(DM) dated 31st August, 2021 shall remain unaltered.

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.


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 .

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.

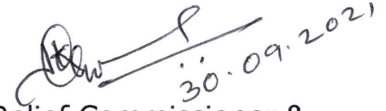
This order shall come into effect from **5.00 AM of 1st October, 2021 (Friday)**.

By orders of the Governor


CHIEF SECRETARY, ODISHA

Memo No. 5660 / R&DM(DM) Date: 30/9/2021

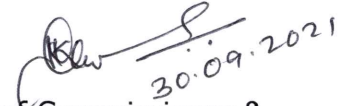
Copy forwarded to the Private Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister/ Private Secretary to all Ministers/ Chief Secretary/ Development Commissioner/ Agriculture Production Commissioner for kind information.

Handwritten signature and date: 30.09.2021

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

Memo No. 5661 / R&DM(DM) Date: 30/9/2021

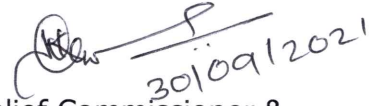
Copy forwarded to the Addl. Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary/ Commissioner-cum-Secretary of all Departments/ Director General of Police/ Director General of Police Fire Services/Police Commissioner, Bhubaneswar-Cuttack/ All RDCs/ All Collectors/ Superintendents of Police/ All Municipal Commissioners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

Handwritten signature and date: 30.09.2021

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

Memo No. 5662 / R&DM(DM) Date: 30/9/2021

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

Handwritten signature and date: 30/09/2021

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



राजेश भूषण, आईएएस
सचिव

RAJESH BHUSHAN, IAS
SECRETARY



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-28015/85/2021-DM Cell
21st September 2021

As you are aware, the Govt. of India has been issuing Guidelines and Advisories from time to time to the States/UTs to assist their efforts in containing the on-going Covid pandemic. Attention is specifically drawn to the letter issued on 5th January 2021 wherein Union Health Ministry had advised States to keep a “**strict vigil**” and take steps so as to curb spike in Covid cases. On 21st February 2021, 20th April 2021 and 25th April 2021, all States were advised not to lower their guard, enforce Covid Appropriate Behaviour (CAB) and to follow effective surveillance strategies in respect of potential super-spreader events. Vide D.O. No. Z-28015/85/2021-DM Cell dated 25th April 2021, a framework based on district-wise positivity rate and bed occupancy rate was provided to the States wherein the States could initiate local containment measures primarily focused on restricting inter-mingling of people on the basis of this framework. This framework was reiterated by Ministry of Home Affairs vide their Order No.40-3/2020-DM-I(A) dated 29th April 2021. Further, vide D.O no. Z-28015/01/ASH/2021-EMR dated 2nd September 2021, States were advised to ensure prompt action on the framework referred to in earlier letters and to ensure surge surveillance for Variant of Interest (VOI) and Variant of Concern (VOC). Important action points for regular follow up at State/UT level has also been reiterated by Cabinet Secretary’s D.O letter No. 272/2/1/2021-CAB.III dated 20th September 2021 addressed to all Chief Secretaries.

2. Covid-19 still remains a grave and continuing public health challenge in our country. While the country is witnessing a sustained decline in the number of daily cases as well as daily deaths but the 2nd surge of Covid-19 is still not over. Globally also, the surge in cases is being reported across multiple countries. This surge in cases has reinforced the importance of implementation of Covid Appropriate Behaviour (CAB) in addition to vaccination efforts.

3. Amidst the rise in new cases of Covid-19 across the globe and even with the consistent decline in India’s 2nd surge, India has 3.09 lakh active cases and is still reporting daily cases as high as 30,000. Hence, there is a need for a continued focus on **Prompt & Effective Containment Measures** as well as **Acceleration in the Pace and Coverage of Covid Vaccination** to prevent any potential rise in number of cases.

contd..2/-

4. In the coming months, various festivities will follow one after the other till 31st December 2021.

Date	Festival
7 th October – 14 th October	Navratri
15 th October	Dussehra
19 th October	Milad Un-Nabi/Eid-e-Milad
24 th October	Karwa Chauth
4 th November	Diwali
5 th November	Govardhan Puja
6 th November	Bhaiya Dooj
10 th November	Chhath Puja
19 th November	Guru Nanak Jayanti
25 th December	Christmas
31 st December	New Year's Eve

5. This is a critical period as there may be a tendency to ignore COVID-safe behavior during festivals, resulting in large gatherings, events, fairs etc. It is **critical to enforce adherence to guidelines** to allow **festivities in a cautious, safe and Covid appropriate manner**. Any laxity in implementation of Covid Appropriate Behavior could lead to serious consequences and can result in a surge in cases.

6. MoHFW vide its letter dated 25th April 2021 and subsequent advisory issued by MHA on 29th April 2021 had already issued detailed instructions on **Containment Framework** and for putting restrictions to manage the spread of COVID-19 infection. **Districts were directed to undertake stringent containment measures in identified areas** based on test positivity and strain on healthcare system.

Criteria	Threshold
Test positivity	Test positivity of 10% or more in the last one week
OR	
Bed occupancy	Bed occupancy of more than 60% on either oxygen supported or ICU beds

7. However, as a matter of abundant caution, **no mass gatherings** should be allowed in areas identified as containment zones and in districts reporting **more than 5% case positivity**. Gatherings with advance permissions and limited people (as per local context) may be allowed only in districts reporting a positivity rate of 5% or below. These gatherings shall also be monitored and in case of violations of physical distancing and mask usage norms, necessary enforcement and penal actions should be taken.

8. Restrictions and relaxations shall be imposed and monitored based on weekly case positivity or a high bed occupancy (Oxygen and ICU beds) and restrictions if any shall be imposed without any delay and for a **minimum period of 14 days** besides continued focus on the **five-fold strategy** of Test-Track-Treat-Vaccinate and adherence to COVID Appropriate Behaviour.

9. To safely navigate through the festive season without any adverse consequences in the form of infection outbreak, it is important that States **continue to diligently follow the five pillars of COVID-19 Management** i.e. "Test-Track-Treat-Vaccinate and adherence to COVID Appropriate Behavior".

1. Testing:

- To ensure availability of sufficient testing facilities across the states with particular focus on semi-urban and rural areas. For timely detection, Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) shall be made available in rural and remote areas of the State. Testing should be ramped up in areas reporting high number of cases, and/or increasing trend/ high positivity to aid early identification.
- To ensure sufficient RT-PCR machines and RAT kits to enable required level of testing across all districts particularly during the whole festival season and adequate logistics planning accordingly.
- Undertake testing in areas with specific and vulnerable population to aid early detection.

2. Track:

- Containment zones shall be clearly delineated as per the guidelines issued by MoHFW based on cluster of cases to contain spread of infection.
- Active case search through formation of special teams in containment zones.
- Effective contact tracing, their testing and monitoring of high risk contacts.

3. Treat:

- Upgradation of health infrastructure based on case trajectory in the district is crucial to avoid case fatality.
- Completion of PSA Plants in hospitals both Government and private on a mission mode including availability of medical gas pipeline (MGPS), and trained manpower.
- Availability of oxygen through oxygen cylinders and concentrators particularly in rural areas.
- Adequate availability of drugs in all COVID dedicated facilities including maintaining buffer stock of drugs.

-:4:-

- Availability of required health infrastructure in rural areas as per the SOP on Covid-19 Containment & Management in Rural, Peri-Urban & Tribal Areas dated 18th June 2021.
- Similarly, upgrading health infrastructure to manage paediatric Covid-19 cases vide Guidelines for Management of Covid-19 in Children.
- Undertaking upskilling/reskilling of medical staff and fields functionaries on latest Clinical Management Protocol and availability of sufficient trained manpower in all COVID dedicated facilities.
- The available funds under Emergency COVID Response Package II shall be promptly leveraged for upgrading the health infrastructure.
- To monitor mutations, if any, States shall send required number of samples as per the SOPs already issued for Whole Genome Sequencing to INSACoG Labs.

4. Vaccination:

- State-wide vaccination of eligible age groups may be accelerated.
- Coverage of eligible second dose beneficiaries shall be prioritized.
- Optimal usage of allocated doses through minimal wastage.

5. Covid Appropriate Behaviour:

- Community engagement is a critical element of sustained COVID-19 management.
- Effective IEC in local language duly utilizing medical professionals and local influencers to promote Covid-safe festivities.
- Need to undertake effective communication with community on elements of COVID-appropriate behavior which includes use of masks/face covers, following physical distancing (2 gaj ki doori) and practicing respiratory & hand hygiene.
- Need for monitoring the adherence to Covid Appropriate Behaviour and guidelines.

10. Necessary directions need to be issued adequately in advance by the State governments for practicing caution during the upcoming festival season.

contd..5/-

11. There should be strict **adherence to limits on gatherings linked with availability of space** to ensure effective physical distancing. Use of volunteers to aid thermal screenings and to enforce use of masks and physical distancing shall be considered. Closed circuit cameras may also be utilized to monitor compliance to physical distancing and use of mask.
12. Guidelines already issued with respect to malls, local markets, and places of worship, as available on MoHFW website dated 1st March 2021 and 30th November 2020 shall be strictly followed at the district level. Any violations of the guidelines shall entail imposition of necessary restrictions to avoid a spread of infection.
13. As an abundant caution, States can continue with night curfews, weekend curfews and other restrictions to highlight that COVID is still not over and to influence adherence to COVID-appropriate behavior.
14. States shall closely **monitor the case trajectories across all districts on a daily basis** to identify any early warning signals and shall ensure imposition of restrictions and adherence to COVID Appropriate Behaviour as a non-pharmaceutical intervention to control the spread of infection. It is important that these guidelines are reiterated and ensured by the State Governments amongst all concerned for effective follow up in a mission mode approach to maintain the gains made so far in COVID-19 management and avoid any resurgence of cases.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-
(Rajesh Bhushan)

To :Chief Secretaries/Administrators of all States/UTs

Copy to : Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/Secretary, Health - All States/UTs

Copy for information to:-

1. Cabinet Secretary, Cabinet Sectt., Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi.
2. Home Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, North Block, New Delhi


(Rajesh Bhushan)

NATIONAL DIRECTIVES FOR COVID-19 MANAGEMENT

1. **Face coverings:** 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. 4534/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:

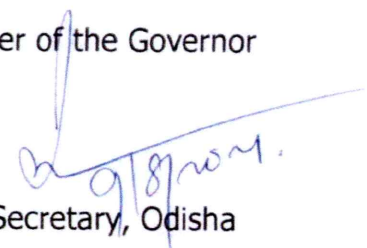
1. For conducting Puja in Puja Pandals/ Mandaps, the organizers shall apply to and obtain necessary permission from the District Magistrate or any other officer authorised by him/ her. For the area under Commissionerate of Police of Cuttack and Bhubaneswar, such permission shall be given by the Commissioner 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 4th 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

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Private Secretary to all Ministers/ Chief Secretary/ Development
Commissioner/ Agriculture Production Commissioner for kind information.

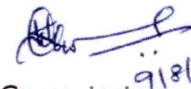

9/8/2021

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. 4537/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)