



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

No:DMA2/577/2020-DMD

Thiruvananthapuram,

Dated:26/08/2020

CIRCULAR

Sub: Disaster Management Department-Onam Celebrations during Covid-19 Pandemic -Guidelines

Ref: Minutes of the meeting convened by the Hon'ble Chief Minister

With regard to the Onam Celebrations during Covid-19 Pandemic following guidelines are issued for the strict compliance.

1. The District Collectors shall immediately convene a meeting of merchant association / organizations regarding Covid Protocol to be followed in shops during the Onam season. Shops shall remain open from 7.00 A.M to 9.00 P.M till 2nd September in all Non Containment Zones. The number of persons (customers and staff) who can be allowed at a time inside every shop shall be based on the free floor space available in the shop. The maximum number of customers who can be allowed to be inside the shop, at a time, shall be clearly displayed outside the shop. Other customers shall be in a queue outside the shop maintaining social distance. For this the shop owner shall mark lines or circles where the customers can stand / sit. All shall be wearing masks. Hand sanitizer for the customers shall be provided by the shopkeeper in the premises. The enforcement agencies shall ensure compliance.
2. Public Markets may function observing special guidelines with appropriate arrangements:
 - a) Create more number of temporary market places so that overcrowding is avoided and accessibility is increased.
 - b) Entry of persons may be regulated so as to ensure safe distancing.
 - c) Duration of time spent by shoppers may also be regulated depending upon the merchandise and shops in the market (maximum time for which a person may be allowed inside a shop may also be decided upon in discussion with shop owners, to the extent practical).
 - d) Ensure markings are on the ground for safe distancing.
 - e) Monitoring of the activities by security staff and trained volunteers.
 - f) Already existing strategy of silent market should be promoted.

3. Shopping Malls, Textile shops may function observing special guidelines with appropriate arrangements:


- a) Entry of persons may be regulated so as to ensure safe distancing.
- (b) Duration of time spent by shoppers may be regulated depending on the merchandise available and shops in the market (to be decided in consultation with shop owners)
- (c) Ensure markings are on the ground for safe distancing.
- (d) Monitoring of the activities by security staff and trained volunteers.
- (e) Other COVID-19 prevention guidelines are to be promoted.

- 4. All shop owners shall ensure that there is no crowding in the shop. They shall strive to promote cashless transaction.
- 5. Malls, Hyper Markets and such other establishments should encourage home delivery of essential items. They can keep a minimum purchase limit for home delivery.
- 6. Other businesses and establishments such as banks, Insurance and service sectors institutions shall ensure that there is no overcrowding, promote online transactions and function with 50% capacity.
- 7. Festival, Melas and Exhibitions shall be avoided
- 8. The Health Department shall assess the risk of Covid 19 spread, if any, associated with the marketing and use of fresh flowers for 'Onam Pookalam' and issue a specific advisory in this regard.
- 9. People shall avoid non-essential travel as part of Onam Celebrations so as to contain the spread of Covid 19.
- 10. In Hotels and Restaurants, dining following strict social distancing norms shall be allowed. They should close by 9.00 PM. Where lodging is available, the rooms should be thoroughly disinfected before allowing guests to stay. After vacating the room, the room should be again disinfected before allowing the next guest in. The staff should be periodically tested to ascertain their Covid status. The Health Department shall issue a specific SOP for the purpose.
- 11. Flower arrangements in institutions shall be avoided. No flower vendors shall be allowed from outside kerala during the Onam festival period.
- 12. Crowding in the name of 'Ona-Sadhya' shall be avoided.

13. Food Safety Officers of the Commissionerate of Food Safety and Health Inspectors shall conduct regular inspections in all eateries to ensure food safety.
14. No public Onam Celebrations shall be allowed.
15. The above directions shall be communicated to the public by Information and Public Relations Dept in an effective manner through phone messages too, so that there is no confusion among the general public.
16. The general directions issued above (including timings) with respect to Onam Celebrations shall be applicable throughout the State uniformly for ease of enforcement and to avoid confusion. None of the District Disaster Management Authorities and the subordinate enforcement agencies shall vary the above guidelines and timings without the specific consent of the State Authority.
17. These guidelines would pertain to the Non-containment zones. The order covering containment Zones would continue to be in force.

DR. A JAYATHILAK IAS
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY

Forwarded /By order,


Section Officer.

To: The Commissioner, Land Revenue, Thiruvananthapuram
The Commissioner, KSDMA, Thiruvananthapuram
The Director General Of Police, Police HeadQuarters,
Thiruvananthapuram
All District Collectors
The Member Secretary, KSDMA, Thiruvananthapuram
The Director, Urban Affairs, Thiruvananthapuram
The Director, LSG Departments, Thiruvananthapuram
Home Department
Local Self Government Department
Health Department
Food and Civil Supplies Department
Tourism Department
Cultural Affairs Department
The Director, PRD

Copy to:

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- PS to Hon. Minister (H&FW)
- PS to Hon. Minister (Revenue & DM)
- Special Secretary to Chief Secretary
- PA to Principal Secretary, (Revenue & DM)
- CA to Additional Secretary, DMD
- Disaster Management(B) Department

SECRETARY
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY

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