



D.O. 40-3/2020-DM-I(A)

30th September 2020

Dear *Chief Secretary,*

Kindly refer to Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)'s Order of even number issued today whereby guidelines for Re-opening of more activities in areas outside the Containment Zones have been issued.

2. In the guidelines, which will come into effect from 1st October, 2020, the process of re-opening of activities has been extended further. Lockdown, however, shall continue to be implemented strictly in the containment zones till 31st October, 2020. Containment Zones shall continue to be demarcated by the District authorities at micro level with strict perimeter control and strict enforcement of containment measures as per guidelines of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MOHFW).

3. As per the practice, the guidelines on Re-opening are based on feedback received from States and UTs, and consultations held with the related Central Ministries and Departments. Under the process of re-opening, following activities, in areas outside the Containment Zones only, have been permitted to open from 15th October 2020:

- Cinemas/ theatres/ multiplexes with upto 50% of their seating capacity, for which, SOP will be issued by Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.
- Entertainment parks and similar places will be permitted to open, for which the SOP will be issued by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW).
- Business to Business (B2B) Exhibitions, for which, SOP will be issued by the Department of Commerce.
- Swimming pools being used for training of sportspersons, for which the standard operating procedure (SOP) will be issued by Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MoYA&S).

4. For re-opening of schools and coaching institutions, State/ UT Governments have been given the flexibility to take a decision after 15th October 2020, in a graded manner. The decision shall be taken in consultation with the respective school/ institution management, based on their assessment of the situation, and subject to certain conditions mentioned in the aforesaid guidelines. Schools, which are allowed to open, will have to mandatorily follow the SOP regarding health and safety precautions to be issued by Education Departments of States/ UTs.

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5. Department of Higher Education (DHE), Ministry of Education may take a decision on the timing of the opening of Colleges/ Higher Education Institutions, in consultation with Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), based on the assessment of the situation. Online/ distance learning shall continue to be the preferred mode of teaching and shall be encouraged. However, Higher Education Institutions only for research scholars (Ph.D) and post-graduate students in science and technology stream requiring laboratory/ experimental works will be permitted to open from 15th October, 2020. For such Centrally Funded Higher Education Institutions, the Head of Institution will take a decision. For all other such Higher Education Institutions e.g. State Universities, Private Universities etc., they may open as per decision to be taken by the respective State/UT Governments.

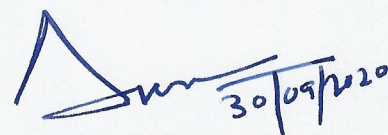
6. Social /academic /sports/ entertainment /cultural/ religious/ political functions and other congregations have already been permitted with a ceiling of 100 persons, outside Containment Zones only. Now State/ UT Governments have been given the flexibility to permit such gatherings beyond the limit of 100 persons, outside Containment Zones, after 15th October 2020, which will be subject certain conditions prescribed in the aforesaid guidelines. State/ UT Governments will issue detailed SOPs, to regulate such gatherings and shall strictly enforce the same.

7. As emphasized in my earlier D.O. letters, I would like to reiterate that States/Union Territories cannot dilute the aforesaid guidelines issued by MHA. State/ UT Governments shall not impose any local lockdown, outside the containment zones, without prior consultation with the Central Government. Further there shall be no restriction on inter-State and intra-State movement of persons and goods including those for cross land-border trade under Treaties with neighbouring countries. No separate permission/ approval/ e-permit will be required for such movements.

8. I would urge you to ensure compliance of the guidelines for Re-opening, and direct all concerned authorities for their strict implementation. Further guidelines issued by MHA and consequent Orders issued by the respective State Governments/ UT Administration should be widely disseminated to the public and to the field functionaries for implementation.

With regards,

Yours sincerely



30/09/2020
(Ajay Bhalla)

Chief Secretaries of all States