

Delhi on full lockdown from tomorrow; public transport, shops shut

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A day after he refused to put Delhi on lockdown, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday placed the national capital on full lockdown in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak.

The CM announced that the lockdown will be effective from 6 am on Monday.

The announcement comes as the national capital of Delhi has reported 27 confirmed cases of novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

6 out of 27 cases involve local transmission, says Kejriwal said out of the 27 cases, 21 cases have foreign travel history and six cases involve local transmission.

He said, "If we do not take tough steps against the outbreak right now and if these cases surge to 1,000-1,500, then a lockdown wouldn't be helpful, as evidenced in Italy."

The lockdown will remain enforced till March 31 midnight, Kejriwal said.

Public transport

All public transport suspended in Delhi, barring 25% DTC buses

Under the lockdown, Kejriwal announced that all public transport will be suspended. This includes private buses, taxis, rickshaws, e-rickshaws, and auto rickshaws.

However, he said 25% of the fleet of the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) will continue to ply on roads to allow transport for people providing essential services (e.g. healthcare workers).

Interstate buses, trains, and the Delhi Metro have also been suspended.

Information

Delhi shuts borders; incoming flights banned

Kejriwal announced that all the borders that Delhi shares with its neighboring states will also be closed. Only essential items, such as milk, vegetables, food items, etc., will be allowed across state lines. All incoming flights, domestic or international, have been banned in Delhi.

What's closed

All shops, offices, markets, factories, religious places shut All shops, bazaars, commercial establishments, factories, workshops, offices, godowns, weekly bazaars in Delhi will remain closed.

All construction activities will be halted.

All religious places of any faith will also remain shut.

"I appeal to everyone to stay inside their homes as much as possible," Kejriwal said. "From what we have seen worldwide, the more we stay indoors, the safer we would be."

Exemptions

Who and what is exempted under the lockdown?

All law enforcement and magisterial offices are exempted from the lockdown.

Kejriwal said, "All police work will continue. All healthcare operations will continue. Fire and prison departments will remain operational."

Further, the CM said, ration shops, electrical and water department offices, pay and accounts offices, will remain open.

Municipal services (e.g. cleaning), telecom services, internet services, postal services, will continue.

Other details

Manufacturing, transportation and other process for exempted services will continue

"All e-commerce activities regarding essential goods, such as food, medicine, etc., will continue," Kejriwal said.

He said that for all the exemptions stated, all manufacturing, processing, transportation, distribution, storage, trade, commerce, and logistics processes will continue.

If and when the government is of the view that any other services warrant exemption, the same would be notified.

Enforcement

'Gatherings of five or more persons is prohibited' Under lockdown, if people found roaming in public are questioned, they don't need to produce any documents to prove what business they have outdoors and a verbal declaration of the same would suffice, Kejriwal said. "Gatherings of five or more persons is prohibited," he reiterated.

Kejriwal also warned action against black marketing of masks/sanitizers. Authorities have already conducted 327 raids and booked 437 persons.

Offices

Private employees to continue being paid under lockdown: Kejriwal

Kejriwal said that although private offices will be closed, permanent and contractual employees will be marked 'on duty'. Hence, workplaces will have to continue paying salaries, even under the lockdown.

These regulations, Kejriwal clarified, do not apply to offices of the Central government located in Delhi. He said that orders with respect to the same will be notified by the Centre itself.