

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
HEALTH, MEDICAL & FAMILY (D) WELFARE DEPARTMENT**

Memo No. 2133/D/2020

Dated:09.4.2020

Sub: COVID-19- MaskON Policy - The latest advisory to curb the spread of the Carona Virus - Propagation and implementation of MaskOn Policy at all levels in the state - Regarding

The earlier advisory on "Masks only for the Sick" is being updated to "MaskOn - while stepping outdoors, in closed spaces and while interacting with others". This update is based on the latest learnings from the medical and scientific community. Studies in Japan have shown that MaskOn has slowed the spread of Carona Virus considerably.

2. This revision of advice is based on the learning that a large number of infected people do not show any symptoms - are asymptomatic - but, are still carriers of the infection and can infect others.
3. Covid-19 is a droplet infection that spreads through droplets released while sneezing, coughing and talking. Therefore, MaskOn will prevent the droplets from escaping and potentially infect others and will protect you from inhaling infected droplets.
4. Homemade Cotton double layer reusable Masks are recommended for use as the first line of protection. The MaskOn Policy should be followed by all citizens whenever, they step outside their home or are in closed spaces and while talking to others.
5. The following points may be strictly ensured:

The mask should cover nose, mouth and chin completely. There should be no space between the face and mask. If you are using a home-made cloth mask, ensure that the mask is worn in such a manner that the pleats face downwards

- i. All offices and work places may be encouraged to use Masks by all their employees at all times.
- ii. Mask should be used by all frontline workers while on duty.
- iii. All residents of rural areas should also be encouraged to use masks while at work or in public places
- iv. MaskOn doesn't mean that mask will hang around the neck.
- v. Wash your hands thoroughly before wearing the mask. At the beginning of the day, use only freshly washed and cleaned mask. As soon as the mask becomes damp or humid, switch to another mask and clean the used mask. Never reuse a mask after single use without cleaning it.

(P.T.O)

- vi. The mask should never be reversed and worn. This will increase the chances of contamination
- vii. It is advised that reusable cloth masks be the first choice. Only under unavoidable circumstances, should one resort to disposable masks. If one uses a disposable mask, please change the mask every six hours and dispose it safely in a closed dustbin. Disposable masks should not be reused.
- viii. When removing the mask, do not touch the front or any other surface of the mask, remove it only with strings behind. For string mask, always untie the string below and then the string above
- ix. After removal, immediately clean your hands with 70% alcohol- based hand sanitizer or with soap and water for 40 seconds
- x. Used mask should be dropped into a soap solution or boiling water to which salt has been added, till the mask is washed.
- xi. Cleaning the used cloth mask is as important as using it. It is recommended to thoroughly wash the mask with soap/Dettol/Savlon and warm water and leave it to dry in hot sun for at least 5 hours or boil the cloth mask in hot water for 15 minutes, allow it to dry and use domestic iron to apply heat for 5 minutes. Cleaned masks should be stored in a clean and dry place.
- xii. It must be remembered that MaskOn is not a substitute to other measures of social distancing and hygiene. If a distance of up to 2-meter should maintained from others at all times, wash hands thoroughly and frequently and avoid touching face or eyes.

6. All District Collectors and District Medical and Health Officers are advised to give wide publicity to this policy and ensure its wide spread and meticulous use/practice among all sections of population.

7. A manual on Home-made masks received from GoI is enclosed for reference.

8. It is hoped that state-wide compliance with MaskOn will contribute significantly to the control of the spread of the Carona virus.

A.SANTHI KUMARI
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To

All Collectors & District Magistrates in the State.

All District Medical and Health Officers.

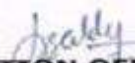
Copy to:

All Spl C.S./PrI. Secy's/Secretary's to Govt. - with a request to disseminate this policy amongst all their stakeholders, including general public.

The PS to Chief Secretary to Govt.

S.C./S.F.

//FORWARDED::BY ORDER//


SECTION OFFICER