



D.O. No. 40-10/2020-DM-1(A)

21<sup>st</sup> May, 2020

Dear Chief Secretary,

As you are aware, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) issued an order on 17.5.2020, extending the lockdown till 31.5.2020. With the extension of the lockdown, new guidelines have been issued, wherein, apart from activities specifically prohibited under the guidelines, all other activities have been permitted, except in containment zones.

2. It has been brought to the notice of this Ministry, through Media reports and others sources, that there are violations, at various places, in the implementation of MHA Guidelines. I would like to emphasise that the MHA Guidelines should be strictly implemented, and all authorities in States/UTs should take necessary steps to ensure the same. Some of the specific points that merit special consideration are mentioned below.

3. Proper delineation of containment zones, and effective implementation of containment measures within these zones, is key to preventing the spread of COVID-19. In this respect, the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) need to be followed, and containment zones properly demarcated.

4. States and UTs can now delineate various zones, and decide on the activities to be prohibited, or allowed with restrictions, in accordance with the MHA guidelines. Further, once the guidelines have been issued by the States and UTs, they should be strictly implemented, and action taken if any deviations are noticed.

5. The need to ensure night curfew, or prohibition of all non-essential activities, between 7 PM and 7 AM is an important element of the MHA guidelines. The night curfew has been mandated with a view to ensure that people observe social distancing, and to contain the risk of spread of infection. Accordingly, local authorities should be asked to issue orders in the entirety of their jurisdiction, under proper provisions of law, for imposition of night curfew. Strict compliance of these orders should be ensured by the local authorities.

6. The National Directives for COVID-19 Management should be followed throughout the country. These stipulations, such as wearing face covers, ensuring social distancing at work, transport and in public places, maintaining hygiene and sanitation etc., are important for containing the spread of COVID-19, and protecting individuals and the community. It is the duty of all District and local authorities to enforce the National Directives.

7. I would request all the Chief Secretaries of States and Administrators of Union Territories to remain vigilant in the fight against COVID-19 and ensure that all measures that have either been mandated by MHA, or laid down by the States and UTs, are scrupulously adhered to at all levels.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

  
21/05/2020  
(Ajay Bhalla)

To

The Chief Secretaries of all States