

Government of India
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

**Guidelines for domestic travel (flight/train/ship/ bus inter-state travel)
In super session of guidelines issued on 24.05.2020**

1. Background

Union government has not recommended any restrictions on inter-state travel in the context of COVID-19. Further, States were allowed to develop their own protocols with regards to quarantine and isolation as per their assessment. It has come to notice that certain States, however, have imposed negative RT-PCR testing reports as a criterion for point of entry in their states.

Presently, we are seeing a declining trajectory of cases across the country after a peak in reported cases during mid-May as part of the second wave. With a view to facilitate inter-State travel, while observing required precautions, the guidelines for domestic travel (flight/train/ship/bus inter-state travel) are revised so as to have a uniform protocol for domestic travel across the country.

2. Scope

These guidelines are applicable to all States/UTs so as to facilitate inter-state travel. Based on the evolving scenario of COVID-19, including evidence of mutant variant within India or outside, the guidelines may warrant suitable revision to institute appropriate public health measures also.

3. General Advisory to all passengers

People must follow required health protocols, as detailed below, whenever there is a need to travel:

- i. Passengers should self-monitor their health and travel only when they have no symptoms related to COVID-19.
- ii. All passengers shall follow COVID appropriate behavior at all times which includes use of mask/face cover, hand hygiene and physical distancing of six feet (*do gaj ki doori*) as far as feasible. Masks/face covers must be worn properly to cover nose and mouth. Touching the front portion of mask/face covers to be avoided.
- iii. Avoid spitting in public places during travel.
- iv. All passengers shall be advised to download Arogya Setu app on their mobile devices.
- v. If they develop fever during travel, they shall report to cabin crew/TTE/bus conductor as the case may be.
- vi. If they develop symptoms after reaching their final destination, they shall inform the District Surveillance Officer or the State/National Call Center (1075).

4. Advisory to Airports/Railway stations/Ports/Bus Stations

- i. Suitable announcement about COVID-19 and Covid appropriate behaviour shall be made at airports/railway station/ports/bus terminals. Such announcements may include precautionary measures to be followed.
- ii. All passengers shall undergo thermal screening at the point of departure and only asymptomatic passengers are allowed to board the flight/train/ship/bus.
- iii. During boarding, all passengers shall use face covers/mask. They will also follow physical distancing, hand hygiene and respiratory hygiene (such as covering the mouth with elbow while coughing).
- iv. Suitable arrangements for ensuring availability of masks and hand sanitizers shall also be made at the Terminal.
- v. At airports/railway stations/ports/bus terminals required measures to ensure physical distancing shall be taken.
- vi. Proper provisioning for disposal of used masks, face shields, gloves etc. by passengers in covered bins shall be made at the airports/railway stations/ports/bus stations. Their disposal shall be in accordance with the guidelines issued by Central Pollution Control Board (available at: https://cpcb.nic.in/uploads/Projects/Bio-Medical-Waste/BMW-GUIDELINES-COVID_1.pdf)
- vii. Airports/railway stations/ports/bus terminals should be regularly sanitized/disinfected, and availability of soaps and sanitizers shall be ensured.
- viii. Thermal screening at exit points shall be arranged.
- ix. Asymptomatic passengers will be permitted to go with the advice that they shall self-monitor their health for 14 days.
- x. In case, passengers are detected with symptoms, there shall be an isolation room/holding area (with working oxygen facility with trained personnel) at the Terminals where such patients shall be kept and monitored till they are transferred to an appropriate health facility. For such purposes airport/railway station/ports/bus stations authorities shall provide for requisite PPEs, pulse oximeter, thermometer etc. and trained personnel to attend to these patients.

5. Advisory to be adhered by Airlines/Railways/Ship/Bus operators and during travel

- i. Passengers wearing masks/ face covers only shall be allowed to travel. The masks/face covers must be worn properly to cover nose and mouth at all times.
- ii. The airlines/railways/ship/bus operators shall also keep a reserve of masks, face shield, hand-sanitizer etc. for passengers in case of non-availability/such items needs replacement.
- iii. There is no requirement of the usage of body coverall/apron for the passengers.
- iv. The staff manning the airline/railway coach/ship cabins/bus shall at all times wear masks, face shield, gloves and take other suitable precautions.
- v. Suitable announcement about COVID-19 including precautionary measures to be followed shall be made in flights/trains/ship/bus.
- vi. Operators shall make announcement for proper disposal of masks, gloves, face shields etc.
- vii. Passengers should follow hand hygiene and respiratory hygiene (such as covering the mouth with elbow while coughing) at all times.

- viii. Aircraft/trains/ships/buses should be regularly sanitized/disinfected, and availability of soap and water / sanitizers shall be ensured.
- ix. Information on Dos and Don'ts shall be provided along with tickets to the travelers by the agencies concerned.

6. Advisory to States/UTs

- i. There shall be no restrictions on inter-State travel by air, rail, water, or road.
- ii. In case RT-PCR or RAT tests are required prior to entry in a State, as notified by the State govt, the same must be publicized widely to maximize traveller convenience.
- iii. Asymptomatic persons who have been vaccinated with both doses of the COVID 19 vaccine and 15 days have lapsed since the administration of second dose of the vaccine and are in possession of the final vaccination certificate issued through the COWIN portal, such persons may be exempted from mandatory requirement of possessing a negative RTPCR report or RAT test on their entry into the State.
- iv. Passengers who are found symptomatic on arrival shall be subjected to Rapid Antigen Test at the Terminal to aid early identification.
- v. In the event of unusual surge in cases in any State/UT, the States/UTs may institute appropriate public health measures promptly.
- vi. States may implement additional restrictions, based on local requirements.

**No.40-3/2020-DM-I (A)
Government of India
Ministry of Home Affairs**

North Block, New Delhi-110001
Dated 24th May, 2020

ORDER

In continuation of Ministry of Home Affairs' Orders No.40-3/2020-DM-I(A) dated 17th May, 2020, 19th May, 2020 and 20th May, 2020 and in exercise of the powers, conferred under Section 10(2)(l) of the Disaster Management Act, the undersigned, in his capacity as Chairperson, National Executive Committee, hereby issue Standard Operating Protocol (SOP), for ***movement of Indian Nationals stranded outside the country and of specified persons to travel abroad, as Annexed***, in supersession of MHA order of even number dated 5th May, 2020 to Ministries/ Departments of Government of India, State /Union Territory Governments and State /Union Territory Authorities with the directions for its strict implementation.


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Home Secretary

To: (As per list attached)

1. The Secretaries of Ministries /Departments of Government of India.
2. The Chief Secretaries/Administrators of States/Union Territories.

Copy to:

- i) All Members of the National Executive Committee.
- ii) Member Secretary, National Disaster Management Authority.

**Annexure to Ministry of Home Affairs' (MHA) Order No.40-3/2020-DM-I (A)
dated 24th May, 2020**

A. Standard Operating Protocol (SOP) for movement of Indian Nationals stranded outside the country

In order to contain the spread of COVID-19 pandemic, international travel of passengers has been prohibited under MHA's Orders related to lockdown measures. As per information available, many Indian Nationals who had travelled to different countries before the lockdown, on various purposes such as employment, studies/ internships, tourism, business, etc., are stranded abroad. Due to their prolonged stay abroad, they are facing distress and are desirous of returning to India urgently. Apart from the above cases, there are other Indian Nationals who need to visit India in medical emergencies or death of a family member.

2. In order to facilitate the movement of such Indian Nationals, the following SoP is hereby laid down:

- i. Such persons will register themselves with the Indian Missions in the country where they are stranded, along with necessary details as prescribed by MEA.
- ii. They will travel to India by non scheduled commercial flights as allowed by Ministry of Civil Aviation (MOCA); and ships as allowed by Department of Military Affairs (DMA)/ Ministry of Shipping (MOS). Only those crew and staff, who are tested COVID-19 negative, will be allowed to operate these flights/ ships.
- iii. Priority will be given to compelling cases in distress, including migrant workers/ labourers who have been laid off, short term visa holders faced with expiry of visas, persons with medical emergency/ pregnant women/ elderly, those required to return to India due to death of family member, and students.
- iv. The cost of travel, as specified by the carrier, will be borne by such travellers.
- v. Based on the registrations received, MEA will prepare flight/ ship wise database of all such travellers, including details such as name, age, gender, mobile phone number, place of residence, place of final destination; and information on RT-PCR test taken and its result. This data base will be shared by MEA with the respective State/ UT in advance.
- vi. MEA will designate State/ UT wise nodal officers, who will co-ordinate with the nodal officers designated for this purpose by the respective States/ UTs.
- vii. MEA will display with at least two days notice, the schedule (day, place and time of arrival) of the incoming flight/ ship, on their online digital platform.
- viii. All travellers will also be required to give an undertaking that they are making the journey at their own risk.
- ix. Passengers arriving through the land borders will also have to undergo the same protocol as above, and only those who are asymptomatic will be enabled to cross the border into India.


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- x. The Guidelines for international arrivals, including for quarantine arrangements, dated May 24, 2020, issued by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) will be followed. A copy of the Guidelines is enclosed.

B. Standard Operating Protocol (SOP) for movement of persons stranded in India who are desirous to travel abroad

In order to contain the spread of COVID-19 pandemic, international travel of passengers has been prohibited under MHA's Orders related to lockdown measures. As per information available, many persons are stranded in India who desirous to travel abroad urgently for various purposes.

2. In order to facilitate the movement of such persons, the following SoP is hereby laid down:

- i. Such persons will apply to Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) or to any agency designated by MoCA for this purpose, along with necessary details, including the places of departure and arrival, as prescribed by MoCA.
- ii. Only those persons shall be allowed to travel to the destination countries, who are citizens of that country; who hold visa of at least one year duration of that country; and green card or OCI card holder. In cases of medical emergency or death in the family, Indian Nationals holding six month visa can also be allowed.
- iii. The travel from India shall be by on the non-scheduled commercial flights that are allowed by MoCA for bringing back stranded Indian Nationals from abroad.
- iv. Indian seafarers/ crew seeking to accept contracts to serve on vessels abroad, can travel on the non-scheduled commercial flights departing from India under the Vande Bharat Mission or other flights arranged by their employers subject to clearance given by the Ministry of Shipping.
- v. Before the tickets of such persons are confirmed, MoCA will ensure that the destination country allows entry of such persons in that country. The conditions, if any, imposed by the destination country, will have to be fulfilled by the person intending to travel.
- vi. The cost of travel, as specified by the carrier, will be borne by such travellers.
- vii. At the time of boarding the flight, MoCA will ensure that all travellers undergo thermal screening as per health protocol. Only asymptomatic travellers would be allowed to board the flight.
- viii. While on board the flight, required precautions such as wearing of masks, environmental hygiene, respiratory hygiene, hand hygiene etc. are to be observed by airline staff, crew and all passengers.



F. No. Z.28015/19/2020-EMR (Pt.)
Government of India
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated the 24th May, 2020

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Government of India has been taking various measures towards management of COVID 19. As part of graded response various travel related restrictions were put in place and guidelines issued from time to time as per evolving situation. A nationwide lockdown was enforced since 25th March, 2020 and orders were issued under Disaster Management Act. States have been advised to implement stringent measures to break the chain of transmission and contain COVID19.

Certain activities have since been allowed including trains for migrant workers and evacuation of Indians stranded in other countries. Regular train services are also being resumed in phases and limited services of domestic airlines are scheduled to commence from 25th May, 2020.


With a view to harmonize health related instruction during such travel, the guidelines as mentioned in annexures are hereby issued.

States/UTs are requested to implement the aforesaid guidelines. However, they may develop and implement their own protocol as per their assessment of the situation with a view to effectively contain COVID 19.

This is issued with the approval of Competent Authority.

Encl:

- (1) Guidelines for International arrivals
- (2) Guidelines for domestic travel (air/train/inter-state bus travel)


(Dr. P. Ravindran)
Director, EMR
Dte. GHS, MoHFW
Tel: 011-23061302

To

- Chief Secretaries of all States/UTs
- Secretary (Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Shipping, Ministry of Highways and Road Transport)
- Chairman, Land Port Authority of India

Government of India
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Guidelines for international arrivals

- i. Before boarding, all travellers shall give an undertaking that they would undergo mandatory quarantine for 14 days - 7 days paid institutional quarantine at their own cost, followed by 7 days isolation at home with self-monitoring of health.
- ii. Only for exceptional and compelling reasons such as cases of human distress, pregnancy, death in family, serious illness and parent(s) accompanied by children below 10 years, as assessed by the receiving states, home quarantine may be permitted for 14 days. Use of Aarogya Setu app shall be mandatory in such cases.
- iii. Dos and Don'ts shall be provided along with ticket to the travelers by the agencies concerned.
- iv. All passengers shall be advised to download Arogya Setu app on their mobile devices.
- v. At the time of boarding the flight/ ship, only asymptomatic travelers will be allowed to board after thermal screening.
- vi. Passengers arriving through the land borders will also have to undergo the same protocol as above, and only those who are asymptomatic will be enabled to cross the border into India.
- vii. Self-declaration form in duplicate shall be filled by the person in the flight/ship and a copy of the same will be given to Health and Immigration officials present at the airport/ seaport/ landport. The form may also be made available on Aarogya Setu app.
- viii. Suitable precautionary measures such as environmental sanitation and disinfection shall be ensured at the airports as well as within the flights.
- ix. During boarding and at the airports, all possible measures to ensure social distancing to be ensured.
- x. Suitable announcement about COVID-19 including precautionary measures to be followed shall be made at airports/port and in flights/ships and during transit.
- xi. While on board the flight/ ship, required precautions such as wearing of masks, environmental hygiene, respiratory hygiene, hand hygiene etc. are to be observed by airline/ ship staff, crew and all passengers.
- xii. On arrival, thermal screening would be carried out in respect of all the passengers by the Health officials present at the airport/ seaport/ landport.
- xiii. The passengers found to be symptomatic during screening shall be immediately isolated and taken to medical facility as per health protocol.
- xiv. The remaining passengers shall be taken to suitable institutional quarantine facilities, to be arranged by the respective State/ UT Governments.
- xv. These passengers shall be kept under institutional quarantine for a minimum period of 7 days. They shall be tested as per ICMR protocol available at <https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/Revisedtestingguidelines.pdf>
If they test positive, they shall be assessed clinically.
 - a. If they are assessed as mild cases, they will be allowed home isolation or isolated in the Covid Care Centre (both public & private facilities) as appropriate.

- b. Those having moderate or severe symptoms will be admitted to dedicated COVID Health facilities and managed accordingly.

If found negative, they shall be advised to further isolate themselves at home and self-monitor their health for 7 days.

- xvi. In case, any symptoms develop they shall inform the district surveillance officer or the state/national call center (1075).

NOTE: States can also develop their own protocol with regards to quarantine and isolation as per their assessment.