

Maharashtra issues new Covid rules for all international passengers. Details here

Updated: 28 Aug 2021, 07:13 PM IST

- **Maharashtra has said that the rules are in line with the central government mandate, requiring a Covid negative report before arriving in India.**

All international passengers landing in Maharashtra are required to mandatorily carry a negative RT-PCR report even if they are fully vaccinated, the state government has said.

"All international passengers arriving in Maharashtra, including those from the European countries, Middle Eastern countries and South Africa, will be in line with the above-mentioned guidelines issued by the Union ministry of health and family welfare," read an order issued by Maharashtra chief secretary Sitaram Kunte.

The state has said that the rules are in line with the central government mandate, requiring a Covid negative report before arriving in India.

"Same rule is applicable for international passengers arriving in Maharashtra. Although the passenger has taken two doses of vaccine against Covid-19, the negative report of RT-PCR is mandatory," the statement said.

The order also comes as a relief as earlier, people coming from these nations were required to undergo a mandatory 14-day quarantine.

Covid situation in state

Maharashtra reported 4,654 new coronavirus infections and 170 fresh deaths on Friday, taking the infection tally to 64,47,442 and the toll to 1,36,900.

The official said 3,301 patients were discharged from hospitals across the state in the last 24 hours, taking the cumulative number of recovered cases to 62,55,451.

Maharashtra now has 51,574 active cases. The state has 2,92,733 people in home quarantine and another 2,337 in institutional quarantine.

The state's Covid-19 recovery rate stands at 97.02%, while the fatality rate is 2.12%.

Centre's advice to Maharashtra

Ahead of upcoming festivals in Maharashtra, the Centre has advised the state to consider imposing local restrictions on these festivals and mass gatherings to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

In a letter to the Maharashtra chief secretary, Union health secretary Rajesh Bhushan said even though the trajectory of daily new cases has shown a decline over the last month, there are some

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districts in Maharashtra which are showing early signs of an upsurge in Covid-19 cases and test positivity

Bhushan said the directions were issued under the Disaster Management Act, 2005 by the Home Ministry for focussed containment measures.