

# This State relaxes Covid-19 restrictions, allow cinema halls to reopen

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The Assam government has allowed the reopening of cinema halls in the state with 50% capacity according to the revised guidelines issued by the concerned authority. The state government also decided to extend the Covid-19 related restrictions in the state but with some relaxations in reducing the duration of the curfew.

Health Minister of Assam, Keshab Mahanta said the relaxations, which will come into immediate effect and remain imposed till further orders, have been allowed as lesser number of fresh cases are being reported.

"The night curfew will be from 10 PM to 5 AM, instead of the earlier starting time of 9 PM. Business establishments can remain open till 9 PM," he told reporters.

Cinema halls can reopen with 50 per cent capacity but only fully vaccinated audience will be allowed. Theatres can also be performed in permanent auditoriums with 50 per cent capacity, provided both artistes and viewers are fully vaccinated, he said.

As per the new guideline, a maximum of 200 fully vaccinated people can attend meetings and marriage functions inside closed spaces with the deputy commissioner's permission. In some places of worship, 60 people have been permitted, while 40 can enter in some others, he added.

Meanwhile, Assam reported 303 new Covid-19 cases on Friday, 73 less than the previous day, taking the tally to 6,02,466, while three fresh fatalities increased the death toll to 5,876, the National Health Mission (NHM) said.

During the day, recoveries outnumber new positive cases as 356 discharges were registered across the state. The number of people who have been cured of the disease so far is 5,92,242.

Currently, the state has 3,001 active cases, the NHM said in a bulletin. One person each in Darrang, Kamrup and Sivasagar districts lost their lives due to the infection during the day.

The NHM said 1,347 more Covid-19 patients have died till now, but the government's Death Audit Board has not included them in the tally of fatalities caused by coronavirus as they had other ailments too. With detection of 303 patients against testing of 47,515 samples on Friday, Assam has reported a positivity rate of 0.64 per cent for the day, the bulletin said. The state had reported 376 coronavirus positive cases on Thursday against testing of 47,611 samples. Out of the new cases, Kamrup Metropolitan recorded the highest at 70, followed by Jorhat (27), Sonitpur (26) and Kamrup (25). With 6,02,466 total Covid-19 positive cases in Assam, the overall positivity rate stands at 2.55 per cent against the testing of 2,36,10,882 samples so far, the NHM said.

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It said a total of 2,40,95,103 doses of vaccines against Covid-19 have been administered. This includes 1,85,10,986 first doses. It said a total of 80,349 people were vaccinated on Friday, down from 1,10,254 shots on Thursday.