

## **Gujarat relaxes night curfew timings as Covid-19 cases dip. Details here**

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The Gujarat government on Thursday relaxed the night curfew timings by two hours in light of decreasing Covid-19 cases. The night curfew will now be imposed from 1 am to 5 am rather than 12 am to 6 am. This will come into effect from 30 October.

Currently, night curfew is in force from midnight to 6 am in Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Surat, Vadodara, Jamnagar, Bhavnagar, Gandhinagar and Junagadh cities to prevent the spread of coronavirus infection.

From October 30 to November 30, night-time restrictions will be in force from 1 am to 5 am in these eight cities, a government release said in view of the upcoming Diwali and Chhath Puja festivals..

As per the new guidelines, commercial establishments including APMCs, shops and beauty salons in these eight cities can operate till 12 at night. Restaurants can remain open till 12 at night with 75 per cent occupancy, while home delivery and take-away services too are permitted till midnight, the release stated.

Cinema halls can function with 100 per cent capacity in the entire state. Public gatherings on the occasion of Gujarati New Year should be held by strictly adhering to the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for COVID-19 issued earlier, the government said.

Norms of social distancing and use of masks must be followed, it added. Not more than 400 persons can gather at one place for the new year and Chhath Puja celebrations across the state, the government said.

Meanwhile, Gujarat on Wednesday reported 17 fresh Covid cases, taking the tally of infections to 8,26,481, the state health department said.

A total of 15 patients were discharged during the day, which increased the total number of recoveries in Gujarat to 8,16,220. Gujarat is now left with 173 active cases, it said. The Covid-19 death toll remained unchanged at 10,088 on Wednesday with no new fatality reported.

A total 2.49 lakh people were vaccinated against Covid-19 in the last 24 hours in Gujarat, taking the total number of doses administered so far in the state to 6.95 crore. Valsad reported five new cases, Surat four, Anand and Rajkot three each, and Valsad two.

The Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu reported no new Covid-19 cases or recoveries on Wednesday. Its tally of Covid-19 cases and recoveries stands at 10,653 and 10,643, respectively.

There are presently six active cases in the UT, which has reported four Covid-19 deaths so far.