

Karnataka issues Covid restrictions for New Year celebrations. Details here

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The Karnataka government on Tuesday said that no parties or mass gatherings would be permitted in the state from 30 December to 2 January in view of the Covid-19 scenario and the rising number of cases of the Omicron variant.

We have restricted public celebration of New Year, however, celebrations are permitted in clubs and restaurants with 50% seating capacity without any special event like DJ, Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has said.

He said no parties or events like having Disc Jockeys at clubs and restaurants would be allowed. "The clubs and restaurants will be allowed to have only 50 per cent of the capacity, but there is a ban on organising parties and Disc Jockeys," Bommai said.

Similarly in apartments too, there will be no parties or DJs and residents' associations will have to ensure that the rules are not violated.

These restrictions will come into effect from 30 December and remain in place till 2 January, the Karnataka CM said, adding that full vaccination against Covid-19 is mandatory.

"We had a meeting with experts through video conference regarding the New Year celebrations, keeping in mind the Covid-19 and Omicron related cases," CM Bommai said while speaking to reporters.

On their recommendation, the government decided to prohibit mass gatherings in the city and other public places in the state. "We are banning mass gatherings at open places. This is across the state from December 30 to January 2," Bommai said.

Meanwhile, five more cases of Omicron variant of the novel coronavirus were found in Karnataka taking the total to 19.

According to Karnataka Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar, the five cases were detected on Sunday in Dharwad, Bhadravathi in Shivamogga district, Udupi and Mangaluru.

He said a 54-year old man from Dharwad, a 20-year old woman from Bhadravathi, a 82-year old man and a 73-year old woman from Udupi, and a 19-year old woman from Mangaluru contracted the Omicron variant.

All the infected people have been inoculated with both the doses of Covishield vaccine. Their travel history and contacts with international travellers are being ascertained.

None of them has any Covid-19 symptoms and were healthy, the department said. The person isolated in Bhadravathi was in contact with 218 people and all of them underwent tests. Out of them, 26 have tested positive. Their samples have been sent for further probe, the department added.

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Further, 18 people who were the primary and secondary contacts of the 19-year old student in Mangaluru were found Covid-19 infected.