

**MAY 01, 2020**

**GUIDELINES ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**Background**

On March 24, 2020 Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) declared "The COVID-19 epidemic" in India which has affected many countries and the World Health Organization has declared it 'Pandemic'. Government of India (GOI) has been taking several proactive, preventive and mitigating measures starting with progressive tightening of international travel, issue of advisories for the members of the public, setting up quarantine facilities, contact tracing of persons infected by the virus and various social distancing measures. Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji appealed on March 19, 2020 a day-long 'Janata curfew' on Sunday, March 22, 2020 and requested people to be prepared to combat the possible outbreak of coronavirus in the country.

On March 24, 2020 MHA had issued an Order bearing No. **40-3/2020-(DM)-I(A)** and Guidelines on lock down measures for 21 days with effect from March 25, 2020 **(that is upto April 15, 2020)** to curtail the spread of Covid-19 under the directives of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) issued under Disaster Management Act, 2005.

On April 15, 2020, MHA had issued a consolidated Guidelines and **extended the lock down measure till May 03, 2020.**

On May 01, 2020 MHA had again issued Guidelines extending the lock down for a further period of **two weeks with effect from May 04, 2020 ( that is upto May 18, 2020)**

MHA also issued new guidelines to regulate different activities in this period, based on the risk profiling of the districts of the country into Red (hotspot), Green and Orange Zones. The guidelines have permitted considerable relaxations in the districts falling in the Green and Orange Zones.

**I. Guideline by MHA**

**A. Risk Profiling of districts in India**

These Guidelines will be applicable based on risk-profiling of the districts in Red, Green and Orange Zones. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) will issue a list of RED, ORANGE and GREEN ZONES on weekly basis or earlier as required. States/ UTs may consider inclusion of additional districts in the various zones depending on its review. However, States/ UTs may not lower the classification of any District that is included in the list of Red Zone (Hotspots) and Orange Zone districts by MoHFW.

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**A.1 RED ZONE/ HOTSPOT DISTRICTS** – Areas where active cases of COVID-19 are at the doubling rate of confirmed cases to the extent of testing and surveillance.

**A.2 ORANGE ZONE**- Districts which are neither defined as Red nor as Green Zones as specified by MHA.

**A.3 GREEN ZONE**- Districts with Zero confirmed cases till date or districts with no confirmed cases in the last 21 days.

### **A.4 CONTAINMENT ZONES IN URBAN AREA**

Containment Zone identification is important for prevention of COVID-19 spreading in India. The boundary of Containment Zones will be a residential colony, *mohalla*, municipal ward, municipal zone, police station area, towns etc., in case of Urban Areas.

### **A.5 CONTAINMENT ZONES IN RURAL AREA**

A village, cluster of villages, Gram Panchayats, group of police stations, blocks etc., will be the boundary of Containment Zone in case of Rural Areas.

Intensive surveillance mechanism as outlined in the Standard Operating Protocol (SOP) issued by MoHFW is to be established within the Containment Zone. The local Authority shall ensure 100% coverage of **Aarogya Setu App** among the residents of Containment Zones.

## **B.Prohibited Activities in all Zones from May 4, 2020 Till May 17, 2020.**

1. All domestic and air travel of passengers, except for medical services, air ambulance and for security purposes or for purposes as permitted by these guidelines.
2. All passenger movement by trains, except for security purposes or for purposes as permitted by these guidelines.
3. Inter-State buses for public transport, except as permitted by MHA.
4. Metro rail services.
5. Inter-State movement of individuals except for medical reasons or for activities as permitted by these guidelines.
6. All schools, colleges, educational/training/coaching institutions etc. However, online/ distance learning shall be permitted.
7. Hospitality Services other than those used for housing health/police/Government officials/ healthcare workers, stranded persons including tourists, and those used for quarantine facilities.
8. All cinema halls, shopping malls, gymnasiums, sports complexes, swimming pools, entertainment parks, theatres, bars and auditoriums, assembly halls and similar places.
9. All social/ political/ sports/ entertainment/ academic/ cultural/ religious functions/ other gatherings.
10. All religious places/ places of worship shall be closed for public. Religious congregations are strictly prohibited.

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## **C.Activities permitted/prohibited/restricted in different Zones**

### **C.1 Activities Permitted in Containment Zone**

1. Stricter perimeter control.
2. Establishment of clear entry or exit points.
3. Movement of persons only for maintaining supply of essential goods or service.
4. Check influx people and transport.
5. Recording of people details moving in or out of the perimeter.

### **C.2 Activities Prohibited in Red Zone**

Apart from the prohibited activities mentioned in point no. B above, the following activities shall also be prohibited in Red Zone:

1. Cycle rickshaws and Auto rickshaws.
2. Taxis and Car aggregators.
3. Intra-district and inter-district plying of buses.
4. Barber shops, Spas, Salons.

### **C.3 Activities permitted with restrictions in Red Zone**

1. Movement of Individuals and Vehicles, only for permitted activities. **For four wheeler** vehicles maximum 2 passengers besides the vehicle driver and for two wheelers Pillion rider is not allowed.
2. **Industrial Activities in urban areas:** Only Special Economic Zones (SEZs), Export Oriented Units (EOUs), Industrial Estates and Industrial Townships with access control, Manufacturing units of essential goods, including drugs, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, their raw material and intermediates; Production Units which require continuous process and their supply chain; Manufacturing of IT hardware; Jute industry with staggered shifts and social distancing; and Manufacturing units of packaging material are permitted. All Industrial activities are permitted in Rural areas.
3. **Construction Activities in urban areas:** Only in site construction (where workers are available on site and no workers are required to be brought in from outside) and construction of renewable energy projects are permitted. All Construction Activities are permitted in Rural Areas.
4. All **malls, market complexes** and markets shall remain closed in urban areas, i.e. area within the limits of municipal corporations and municipalities. However, shops selling essential goods in markets and market complexes are permitted.  
All Standalone (single), Neighbourhood (colony) shops and shops in residential complexes are permitted to remain open in urban areas, without any distinction of essential and non-essential.  
All shops in rural areas, except in malls, are permitted to remain open without any distinction of essential and non-essential.  
Social distancing (*2 Gaz ki doori*) will be maintained in all cases.

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5. **E-Commerce activities** will be permitted only in respect of essential goods.
6. **Private offices can operate with upto 33% strength** as per requirement, with remaining persons working from home.
7. All **Government offices** shall function with officers of the level of Deputy Secretary and above to the extent of 100% strength. The remaining staff will attend upto 33% as per requirement. However, Defence and Security services, Health and family Welfare, Police, Prisons, Home Guards, Civil Defence, Fire and Emergency Services, Disaster management and related services, NIC, Customs, FCI, NCC, NYK and Municipal services shall function without any restrictions; delivery of public services shall be ensured and necessary staff shall be deployed for such purpose.

### C.4 Activities Prohibited in Orange Zone

Apart from the prohibited activities mentioned in point no. B above, the following activity is also prohibited in Orange Zone

1. Inter-district and Intra-district plying of buses.

### C.5 Activities Restricted in Orange Zone

1. Taxis and Cab aggregators, with 1 driver and 2 passengers only.
2. Inter-district movement of individual and vehicles only for permitted activities. Four wheeler vehicles , maximum 2 passenger besides the driver.

### C.6 Activities Prohibited in Green Zone

1. All Activities are permitted except those activities mentioned in point no. B above.

### C.7 Activities Restricted in Green Zone

1. Buses can operate upto 50% of seating capacity.
2. Bus depot can operate upto 50% of capacity

**All other activities will be permitted activities, which are not specifically prohibited/ permitted with restrictions in various Zones, under these guidelines.**

However, States/ UTs, based on their assessment of the situation, and with the primary objective of keeping the spread of COVID-19 in check, may allow only selected activities from out of the permitted activities, with such restrictions as felt necessary.

## D. Measures for well being and safety of persons

- i. The movement of individuals, for all non-essential activities, shall remain strictly prohibited between 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. Local authorities shall issue orders under appropriate provisions of law, such as prohibitory orders (curfew) under Section 144 of CrPc, for this purpose, and ensure strict compliance.
- ii. In all zones, persons above 65 years of age, persons with co-morbidities, pregnant women, and children below the age of 10 years, shall stay at home, except for meeting essential requirements and for health purposes as per the National Directives.

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- iii. In Containment Zones, Out-Patients Departments (OPDs) and Medical clinics shall not be permitted to operate. However, these may be permitted to operate in Red, Orange and Green Zones with Social distancing norms and other safety precautions

### **E. Other points of the Guidelines:**

1. All States/ UTs shall allow inter-state movement of goods/ cargo, including empty trucks.
2. No State/ UT shall stop the movement of cargo for cross land-border trade under Treaties with neighbouring countries.
3. No separate/ fresh permissions are required from authorities for activities already permitted to operate under the guidelines on Lockdown measures up to May 3, 2020.
4. The following Standard Operating Protocols (SOPs) issued by MHA will continue to operate:
  - a) SOP on transit arrangement for foreign national(s) in India and release of quarantine persons, issued vide Order dated April 02, 2020.
  - b) SOP on movement of stranded labour within States/ UTs, issued vide Order dated April 19, 2020.
  - c) SOP on sign-on and sign-off of Indian seafarers, issued vide Order dated April 21, 2020.
  - d) SOP on movement of stranded migrant workers, pilgrims, tourists, students and other persons, issued vide Order dated April 29, 2020.
  - e) SOP on movement of stranded migrant workers, pilgrims, tourists, students and other persons by train, issued vide Order dated May 01, 2020.  
<https://www.govtempdiary.com/2020/05/mha-order-guidelines-dated-01-05-2020-to-extend-lockdown-period-for-2-weeks/62639>

### **F. Strict enforcement of the Guidelines**

State/ UT Governments shall not dilute these guidelines issued under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, in any manner, and shall strictly enforce the same.

### **G. Penal Provision**

Any person violating these lockdown measures and the National Directives for COVID-19 Management will be liable to be proceeded against as per the provisions of Section 51 to 60 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, besides legal action under Section 188 of IPC, and other legal provisions as applicable.

**H. National Directives for COVID-19 Management as per Annexure 1 of the Guideline dated May 01, 2020**

**H.1 Public Places**

1. Wearing of face cover is compulsory in all public places.
2. All persons in charge of public places and transport shall ensure social distancing as per the guidelines issued by ministry of health and family welfare.
3. No organisation/ manager of public place shall allow gathering of 5 or more persons.
4. Marriages related gatherings shall ensure social distancing, and the maximum number of guests allowed shall not be more than 50.
5. Funeral/ last rites related gatherings shall ensure social distancing and the maximum numbers allowed shall not be more than 20.
6. Spitting in public places shall be punishable with fine, as may be prescribed by the State/ UT local authority.
7. Consumption of liquor, *paan*, *gutka*, tobacco etc. In public places is not allowed.
8. Shops selling liquor, *paan*, *gutka*, tobacco etc. will ensure minimum six feet distance (2 gaz ki doori) from each other and also ensure that not more than 5 persons are present at one time at the shop.

**H.2 Work Places**

1. Wearing of face cover is compulsory in all work places and adequate stock of such face cover shall be made available.
2. All persons in charge of work places shall ensure social distancing as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, both within the work places and in company transport.
3. Social distancing at work places shall be ensured through adequate gaps between shifts, staggering the lunch breaks of staff, etc.
4. Provision for thermal Scanning, hand wash and sanitizer preferably with touch free mechanism will be made at an entry and exit point and in common areas. In addition, sufficient quantities of handwash and sanitizer shall be made available in the work places.
5. Frequent sanitization of entire workplace, common facilities and all points which come into human contact e.g. door, handles etc., shall be ensured, including between shifts..
6. Persons above 65 years of age, person with co-morbidities, pregnant women and children below the age of 10 years shall stay at home, except for meeting essential requirements and for health purposes.
7. Use of *Aarogya Setu* app shall be made mandatory for all employees, both in public and private offices. It shall be the responsibility of the Head of the respective Organizations to ensure 100% coverage of this app among the employees.
8. Large Physical Meeting should be avoided.
9. Hospitals/ Clinics in the nearby areas, which are authorized to treat COVID-19 patients, should be identified and list should be available at work place all the times. Employees showing any symptom of COVID-19 should be immediately sent for check up to such facilities. Quarantine areas should be earmarked for isolating employees showing symptoms till they are safely moved to the medical facilities.
10. Arrangements for transport facilities shall be ensured with social distancing, wherever personal/ public transport is not feasible.
11. Intensive communication and training on good hygiene practices should be ensured.

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**II. Public to take care by taking additional measures**

1. Do's and Don'ts should be displayed prominently in English, Hindi and local language
2. Awareness to be provided to all with medium of mails, announcement and visuals.
3. Masks to be made available for all (workmen and staff) for usage
4. Office wise list of manpower (Names/village/Yrs of working) to be planned and known to Society
5. All persons entering office building must be registered on Aarogya Setu on Bluetooth enabled mobile phone.
6. Entry of visitors is banned. Approval of senior or HR Head will be required in case of any exigency. Visitors is allowed and he / she should declare his/ her travel history of 30 days prior to entry.
7. Lifts shall be cleaned and sanitized every 2 hrs.
8. Hand sanitizers shall be kept in the lift always
9. Use your elbow/arm to open doors of office or lift.
10. Ensure that Lifts are not crowded (not more than 3 including lift operator) and ensure social distancing inside lift
11. Application of disinfectant spray/powders daily at common places ( Lift, lobby, entrance, eating place, drinking water area, service water area ) every four hours or twice a day.
12. Soap solutions / hand sanitizers must be available at entrance of every floor in sufficient quantity
13. Maintain Social Distancing, both within the work place and in company transport.
14. No handshake, Namaste is always better
15. No coughing in hands. Keep tissue , cough or sneeze at the crook of your elbows
16. Special attention be given to wash rooms / toilets by periodical cleaning, swabbing, disinfecting and maintaining dry. Soap solutions / hand sanitizers / paper towels shall be placed and replaced every 8 hours.
17. Medical services for fighting with emergency Covid situation to be made ready and alert at all times.
18. Cover face with mask at all times
19. Practice social distancing atleast 6 ft and in lift of office or home maintain distance
20. Avoid gathering of people in corridors, assembly points, conference halls, parking and other common places
21. Carry a sanitizer and frequently sanitize hands if one touch any surface such as lift buttons, door handles etc
22. Wash hands atleast for 20 seconds
23. No sharing food, water or office stationery.
24. Meal breaks should be staggered to ensure social distancing.
25. No turning pages, counting money, etc., with saliva –wet fingers
26. Employees shall not move to other colleagues' work stations for any work.
27. All discussions / interactions shall be held through intercom and mobile phones
28. Prefer e-meetings and Conference room meetings if required then maintain distance within the room and conduct it with minimum people.
29. All vehicles and machinery entering the premises should be mandatorily disinfected.

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30. Hands and frequently touched surfaces like keyboard, mouse, phone, printer etc. should be sanitized every working hour.
31. Carry office ID at all time when leave from home for office
32. Check your temperature and if high consult doctor
33. Avoid going to other floor of your office building.
34. Avoid frequent going in and out of office premises.
35. Tea and snacks to be distributed in staggered manner at individual locations
36. Avoid air conditioning instead open the windows for ventilation. If required, air conditioning should have ambient air temperature setting of above 25 Degrees Centigrade
37. While reaching office use staircase or if in lift maintain distance.
38. Guest rooms, washrooms and all accessories should be disinfected after every check out and minimum twice a day
39. All dustbins should be emptied, cleaned and disinfected thrice a day.
40. After reaching home, leave shoes outside, keep your bags at the entrance of your home and disinfect them.
41. Wash your hands, worn clothes and masks used and take shower after reaching home.
42. Wash vegetable with white vinegar and water ( 1:4 proportion)

### III. District wise List of Red/ Orange/ Green Zones as on May 1, 2020\*

\* This list will be updated periodically by the concerned Competent Authorities.

<https://punemirror.indiatimes.com/pune/others/complete-list-of-maharashtras-red-zones-orange-zones-and-green-zones-mumbai-pune-raigad-thane-mira-bhayandar-may-1/articleshow/75494482.cms>

Sr. No	District	Zone
1	Mumbai	Red Zone
2	Pune	Red Zone
3	Thane	Red Zone
4	Nashik	Red Zone
5	Palghar	Red Zone
6	Nagpur	Red Zone
7	Solapur	Red Zone
8	Yavatmal	Red Zone
9	Aurangabad	Red Zone
10	Satara	Red Zone
11	Dhule	Red Zone
12	Akola	Red Zone
13	Jalgaon	Red Zone
14	Mumbai-Suburban	Red Zone
15	Raigad	Orange Zone
16	Ahmednagar	Orange Zone

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17	Amravati	Orange Zone
18	Buldhana	Orange Zone
19	Nandurbar	Orange Zone
20	Kolhapur	Orange Zone
21	Hingoli	Orange Zone
22	Ratnagiri	Orange Zone
23	Jalna	Orange Zone
24	Nanded	Orange Zone
25	Chandrapur	Orange Zone
26	Parbhani	Orange Zone
27	Sangli	Orange Zone
28	Latur	Orange Zone
29	Bhandara	Orange Zone
30	Beed	Orange Zone
31	Osmanabad	Green Zone
32	Washim	Green Zone
33	Sindhudurg	Green Zone
34	Gondia	Green Zone
35	Gadchiroli	Green Zone
36	Wardha	Green Zone

### **Conclusion**

States like Maharashtra and Gujarat which have the highest and second-highest cases and deaths, respectively, don't seem to be getting much respite, though Maharashtra health minister Rajesh Tope indicated that any extension of Lockdown 2.0 may be limited to containment zones. Dharavi, the country's largest slum is in Mumbai where 10-15 people stay in one small room and it will be a tough job for the State to control the spread of virus in this slum. According to an AFP report, the nearly 125,000 people are under a lockdown so strict that drones monitor their moves and alert police if they attempt to leave their homes.

Two things are sure to learn and remember

1. **Disinfection and cleaning** of common spaces/ areas as frequently as possible and for attendees to maintain personal hygiene is the best defence against the virus ; and
2. **Discipline** It is well said, 'Every cloud has a silver lining.' But, sometimes the silver lining is in the clouds itself, as they become cleaner. Lockdown seems to follow this trend. For the first time in our life, we have had a taste of the benefits of **Discipline** due to the Lockdown. Hope we can carry forward the same post lockdown too.

It is advisable to stay safe and follow the guidelines as explained in the article above.

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