



THE ASSAM GAZETTE

অসাধাৰণ

EXTRAORDINARY

প্ৰাপ্ত কৰ্তৃত্বৰ দ্বাৰা প্ৰকাশিত

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No. 140 Dispur, Thursday, 19th March, 2020, 29th Phalguna, 1941 (S. E.)

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR

HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT

NOTIFICATION

The 18th March, 2020

No. HLA 248/2020/6.- In exercise of the powers conferred under section 2, 3 & 4 of the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897, Government of Assam is pleased to frame following Regulations for prevention and containment of Coronavirus Disease-2019 (COVID-19).

1. These regulations may be called 'The Assam COVID-19 Regulations, 2020'.
2. COVID-19 means the Coronavirus Disease caused by Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS CoV 2) as defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) / Government of India.
3. 'Empowered Officer' under Section 2(1) of the Act shall be Principal Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department, Commissioner & Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department, Director of Health Services, Assam, Director of Medical Education, all Divisional Commissioners of Revenue Divisions and all District Magistrates/ Sub Divisional Magistrates and they are empowered to take such measures as are necessary to prevent the outbreak of COVID-19 or the spread thereof within their respective jurisdictions.
4. All hospitals (Government & Private) should have separate corners for screening of suspected cases of COVID-19. No hospital, Government or private, will refuse any screening or treatment facilities to any suspected/confirmed cases of COVID-19.
5. All hospitals (Government & Private) during screening of such cases shall record the history of travel of the person to any country or area where COVID-19 has been reported. In addition, the history of contacts with the suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 is also required to be recorded. Information of all such cases must be given to State Integrated Disease Surveillance Unit and District Magistrate immediately.
 - i. In case the person has any such history of travel to affected areas in last 14 days and he/ she is asymptomatic, he/ she must remain in home quarantine for 14 days from the day of exposure. He/ she must abide by the Home Quarantine Guidelines issued by Ministry of Health & Family

Welfare, Government of India meticulously. Persons who do not observe the Home Quarantine Guidelines shall be quarantined in the quarantine facilities set up by Government.

- ii. Person with travel history and symptoms as per case definition of COVID-19, must be isolated in a hospital as per protocol and he/ she will be tested for COVID-19 as per protocol.

These stipulations of duration & symptoms may undergo changes based on advisories issued by Government of India.

6. No person/ Institution/ organization will use any print or electronic or social media for dissemination of any information regarding COVID- 19 without ascertaining the facts and prior clearance of the Health & Family Welfare Department, or District Magistrate as the case may be. This is necessary to avoid spread of any unauthenticated information and/or rumors regarding COVID-19. If any person / Institution / organization is found indulging in such activity, it will be treated as a punishable offence under these Regulations.
7. Only laboratories authorized to take test samples for COVID-19 will collect the samples as per guidelines of Government of India. Such samples shall be sent to designated laboratories as authorized by Government of Assam / Government of India.
8. Any person with a history of travel in last 14 days to a country or area from where COVID-19 has been reported, must voluntarily report to State Control Room or to the State Surveillance Officer, IDSP #6913347770/1/2/3 or Toll Free number 104 or to such numbers as may be assigned, so that necessary measures may be initiated by Health & Family Welfare Department, and the District Magistrate as the case maybe.
9. It shall be mandatory for Medical Officers in Government Health Institutions and registered Private Medical Practitioners, including AYUSH practitioners to notify such person(s) to the concerned District Surveillance Unit along with duly filled up self-declaration forms, who, within their knowledge are having travel history to COVID-19 affected countries as per the extant guidelines and are having complaints of fever or cough or respiratory difficulty or even without any signs and symptoms of the Epidemic disease.
10. Officers empowered under the Act are authorized to isolate and / or admit a person who develops symptoms simulating that of the COVID 19 infection as per the case definition criteria published by WHO or Government of India from time to time. The empowered officer may initiate action under the section 188 of Indian Penal Code (48 of 1 860) against the person who refuses to comply with such advice of isolation and/or admission.
11. All advisories issued/ to be issued by the Government of India on COVID-19 will ipso-facto be treated as directions under this Act in Assam.
12. In the event of COVID-19 being reported from a defined geographic area such as village, town, ward, colony, settlement, the Collector of the concerned District Magistrate shall be competent to implement following containment measures, but not limited to these, in order to prevent spread of the disease.
 - i. Sealing of the geographical area.
 - ii. Barring entry and exit of population from the containment area.
 - iii. Restricting Vehicular Movement in the area.
 - iv. Closure of schools, offices, cinema halls, swimming pools, gyms, etc. and banning mass congregations, functions as may be deemed necessary.

- v. Initiating active and passive surveillance of COVID-19 cases.
 - vi. Hospital isolation of all suspected cases and their contacts.
 - vii. Designating any Government or Private Building as a quarantine facility.
 - viii. Any other measure as directed by Government of Assam.
13. Staff of all Government Departments and Organisations of the concerned area will be at the disposal of District Magistrate for discharging the duty of containment measures. If required, District Magistrate / Sub Divisional Magistrate may requisition the services of any medical / non medical persons to carry out duties required in connection with combating COVID-19 cases in the state.
14. District Disaster Management Authority headed by District Magistrate is authorized for planning and implementing containment measures for COVID-19 in their respective districts within the framework of instructions issued by State Government from time to time. The District Magistrate may co-opt more officers from different departments for District Disaster Management Authority for this activity under these regulations.
15. **Penalty** : Any person / Institution / organization found violating any provision of these Regulations shall be deemed to have committed an offence punishable under section 188 of Indian Penal Code (45 of 1860). Empowered Officers may penalize any person / institution / organization found violating provisions of these Regulations or any further orders issued by Government under these Regulations.
16. **Protection to person acting under the Act**: No suit or legal proceedings shall lie against any person for anything done or intended to be done in good faith under this Regulation unless proved otherwise.
17. These regulations shall come into force immediately and shall remain valid for a period of one year, or until further orders, whichever is earlier from the date of publication of this Notification.

SAMIR K. SINHA,

Principal Secretary to the Government of Assam,
Health & Family Welfare Department.