



GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

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Karnataka Government Secretariat
Vikasa Soudha
Bengaluru, dated: 20.02.2021

CIRCULAR

**Subject: Special surveillance measures for arrivals from Maharashtra into
Karnataka : Regarding**

**Reference: Proceedings of the 76th meeting of State COVID-19-Technical
Advisory Committee (TAC), Dept. of Health & Family
Welfare, Dated: 17.02.2021.**

With reference to above subject & as per recommendations of the Technical Advisory Committee, the following measures are mandated to be followed:

The number of COVID-19 cases is rising sharply across the entire state of Maharashtra. Mumbai has reported a near-doubling of number of COVID-19 positive cases from around 350 per day to 645 per day within a week. Amravati, Nagpur, Pune, and other cities in Mumbai are also reporting a significant rise in the number of cases. Over 6000 new cases have been detected in Maharashtra in the past 24 hours on 19/2/2021, for the first time in several months. In Pune, test positivity rate has almost doubled in a week, indicating a significant degree of spread in community once again. In Nagpur and Amravati, the rise in new cases has been sharp enough for the local administration to reinforce control measures and defer openings of educational institutions. The number of fresh cases has once again started exceeding the number of recovered patients in Nagpur and Vidarbha districts. In Amravati, the number of fresh cases has times. All this clearly indicates that the second wave of COVID-19 has possibly started in earnest in Maharashtra.

In the context of the above, based on the recent SOP recommended for a similar situation arising out of Kerala, the following recommendations are made for the arrivals from Maharashtra:

1. If there are a cluster of 5 or more cases of COVID -19 in hostels, boarding or residential, educational institutions such places shall be declared as "containment zones "by the local health authorities and special surveillance measures initiated. After 7 days of notifying of the containment zone, the students and staff should be re-tested with RT-PCR.

2. Strict enforcement of COVID-19 precautions like compulsory wearing of face masks, physical distancing, use of hand sanitizers, monitoring for symptomatic in hostels, educational institutions are very important, and heads of institutions shall be made responsible for any lapses in this regard.
3. A negative RT-PCR certificate that is not older than 72 hours shall be compulsory for those arriving by flights/ buses/trains/personal transport.
 - a. The negative RT-PCR report shall be verified at the time of boarding by airlines staffs.
 - b. For those travelling by bus, tickets shall be issued on production of negative RT-PCR report or shall be checked by the bus conductor while boarding of those who have booked ticket online, etc.
 - c. In the trains the TTEs shall check the negative RT-PCR test report.
 - d. A random check of the testing reports from the persons arriving at the tollgates /point of entry shall be made for those coming by personal transport.
4. All those arriving from Maharashtra and checking into hotels, resorts, hostels, home stays, dormitories, etc. shall compulsorily produce a negative RT-PCR certificate that is not older than 72 hours. Owners of the above-mentioned places should ensure that the occupants produce negative RT-PCR certificate.
5. Positive samples (CT cycle less than 20) shall be sent to NIMHANS laboratory for genomic sequencing.

In addition to the above, any potential COVID -19 outbreaks must not recur and affect the existing situation. Therefore, the following public health measures are recommended:

6. Hostels and Colleges:
 - a. Residents should not be allowed to have visitors/relatives without obtaining express permission from the Covid nodal officers. A list of Students travelling to and from Maharashtra from the hostel/college should be maintained by a competent authority. The students shall compulsorily produce RT PCR negative test reports, not older than 72 hours; each time they return from Maharashtra and till the situation improves.
 - b. Strictly no visitors are allowed to enter hostel premises for any purpose. Only urgent/necessary needs for taking things from the room are allowed; students staying in campus / security guards will help do the picking.
 - c. As far as possible, all the students residing in the hostel should stay in separate rooms to maintain adequate physical distance and avoid crowding.
 - d. Any potential for super spreading avenues (such as crowding in dining areas, waiting for halls, reading rooms, indoor playing areas, gymnasium etc.) should be prevented inside the hostel and colleges/schools. The meal timing should be staggered to ensure that there is no crowding in the dining area.