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Government of Himachal Pradesh
Department of Health and Family Welfare

No. HFW-A-A(3)1/2020

From

The Chief Secretary to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh

To

All the Administrative Secretaries to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh

All the Deputy Commissioners
Himachal Pradesh

Dated Shimla-2 the 14th March, 2020

Subject: - Instructions in view of COVID-19.

Sir/Madam,

As you must be aware, COVID-19 is a contagious disease which is spreading fast in our country. Till date, there have been 83 cases in India and has resulted in death of 2 cases. There have been reported cases in all the neighboring states like Jammu & Kashmir, Haryana and Punjab. In view of this, for the better enforcement of social distancing measures to prevent community transmission of the virus, it has been advised by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India vide its OM no. Z-21020/14/2020-PH dated 5th March 2020 (copy enclosed) that the mass gathering may be avoided or possibly be postponed till the disease spread is contained. Accordingly, National Health Mission, Himachal Pradesh has issued an OM no. NHMHP-IDSP/1/2020-IDSP-Section-NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION-HP-2254-77 dated 6th March 2020 (copy enclosed) and the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Himachal Pradesh has issued an Office Order postponement of all fairs /festivals /melas /tournaments or other such events which result in congregation or gathering of a large number of people vide Office Order no. HFW-A-A(3)-1/2020 dated 12th March 2020 (copy enclosed). Further the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Himachal Pradesh has issued 'The Himachal Pradesh

Epidemic Disease (COVID-19) Regulations, 2020' vide notification of even number dated 11-03-2020 under the Epidemic Disease Act, 1897 and further amended on 14-03-2020, wherein the State Government and certain Officers have been empowered to issue Order for the surveillance, prevention, control and treatment of the Epidemic Disease (Copy enclosed).

The matter was reviewed by the Council of Minister today and it was felt that since the spread of the COVID-19 occurs through airborne and fomite based transmission and the social distancing is one of the foremost methods to contain the spread of the disease in the community and also since the disease has surfaced in most of our neighboring States, it has been decided that:

1. All educational Institutions/ Schools/ Colleges, Universities. Technical and vocational training institutions, ITI's, Polytechnic, Engineering Colleges, Medical Colleges, Paramedical Training Institutes, Anganwaris, Creches, Pre-nursery School etc. in the public as well as private sector shall remain closed till 31.03.2020. However, the annual and other examinations will take place as per the schedule, with all due precautions as per the advisories issued by the Health Department from time to time. However, the intern, residents and other trainees in a medical colleges will continue to perform the clinical duties.
2. Similarly, teaching and other group activities in the boarding schools shall remain suspended till 31.03.2020. However, if the management decides, the students can keep residing in the hostels with all due precautions.
3. In view of forthcoming Navratras and other Melas following arrangement shall be made:
 - a. Adequate number of surveillance personnel will be deployed by the District Magistrate in and around the temple premises.
 - b. Adequate facilities for hand washing with soap shall be ensured at various locations where devotees gather.
 - c. Adequate IEC material shall be displayed at all locations by the District Administration.

- d. Repeated advisories shall be issued by the District Administration to advise the public to preferably avoid visiting such places unless there are compelling reasons to do so.
 - e. District Administration shall so regulate the entry to the temple premises that no congregation of the devotees takes place at any spot i.e. to regulate effectively the entry and exit.
4. In case of persons including foreign Nationals with a travel history from COVID-19 affected Countries during the last 28 days arriving in the State and staying in any facility i.e. hostel, hotel, guest house, home stay, BNB or even private dwelling, the owner / person incharge of such facility shall be responsible for reporting the detail of such person to the 104 Call Centre or the concerned District Surveillance Officer. The concerned District Magistrate shall be responsible for informing all such facilities and also the public at large.
 5. All the administrative departments and the Deputy Commissioners at their level shall review all possible and potential occasions for such mass gatherings and take all necessary steps as may be required to avert the same and also issue necessary clarifications in regard to above directions in public interest.

You are, therefore, requested to take further necessary action in the matter accordingly.

Yours sincerely,



(R.D. Dhiman)

Additional Chief Secretary (Health) to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh