



**Government of Odisha
Office of Special Relief Commissioner**

No. 606 / R&DM(DM)
RDM-RLF-MISC-0025-2021

Date: 08/02/21

From
Shri Pravat Ranjan Mohapatra,
OSD-cum-Joint Commissioner, Relief
To
The Joint Secretary to Govt., I & PR Dept.
All Collectors

Sub: **Visit of devotees from the State of Odisha to the State of Uttarakhand for Kumbh Mela festival during COVID- 19 situation**

Sir,

I am directed to enclose herewith a copy of the letter received from Shri Om Prakash, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Uttarakhand addressing to Chief Secretary, Govt. of Odisha on the above mentioned subject for information and necessary action for spreading awareness among the devotees of our State and disseminating the SOPs issued by the Govt. of India (copy attached) to visit the Kumbh Mela festival.

Encl: As Above

Yours faithfully,

Memo No. 607 / R&DM(DM)

Date: 08/02/21

OSD-cum-Joint Commissioner, Relief

Copy forwarded to the Joint Secretary to Govt., Home Dept./ the Joint Secretary to Govt., H & FW Dept. for information and necessary action.

OSD-cum-Joint Commissioner, Relief

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16-02-2021

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08/2/2021

08/2/2021

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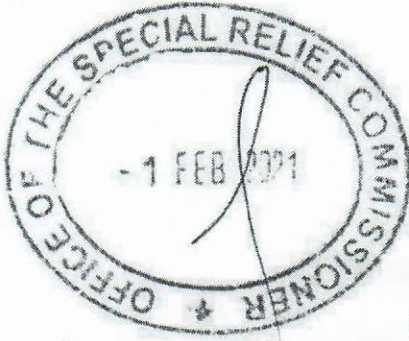


मुख्य सचिव
Chief Secretary

3506/esp
29.1.2021

उत्तराखण्ड शासन
Govt. of Uttarakhand
नेताजी सुभाष चन्द्र बोस भवन
Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Bhawan
सचिवालय
Secretariat
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7488/20
जयपुर



AES, H+FW
SRCBM, OSD/MT

D.O. No.: 959/PS-CS/2021
Dated: 28 January, 2021
Chief Secretary

Dear Sir,

As you are aware, all of us are facing the unprecedented challenge of COVID-19 and making all possible efforts to confront this pandemic. All of us have put in an amazing collective endeavor to contain and manage this pandemic which is being recognized by the whole world. Within this context, the State Government of Uttarakhand is also making its best efforts to organize the Kumbh Mela in Haridwar in Feb. -April 2021.

2. The Government of India has issued a comprehensive Standard Operating Procedure document on Jan. 22nd 2021 for managing the COVID 19 issues in the context of Kumbh Mela [SOP attached at Annexure I]. A sizeable number of devotees from your state are also expected to visit the Kumbh Mela. In this regard as per the SOP outlined by the Government of India, I would most strongly urge you to undertake the following actions at your end so as to ensure that the transmission of this disease is not escalated and mortality and morbidity are minimized :-

- Persons above 65 years of age and children below 10 years of age, persons with comorbidities like diabetes, hypertension, cardiac, pulmonary and kidney ailments, immunocompromised individuals, those suffering from cancer, cerebrovascular disorders, pregnant women, etc. are advised not to visit the Kumbh Mela and should therefore be discouraged to undertake this journey.
- All the visitors/pilgrims must produce a health certificate as per the prescribed format [Annexure II] which is a mandatory requirement for entering the Kumbh Mela Area.
- All the visitors/pilgrims must also produce a Negative RT PCR for COVID 19 test report (not older than 72 hours) at the time of entry to the Mela Area. This will be as per the prescribed format [Annexure III] and is also a mandatory requirement for entering the Kumbh Mela Area.

(8 pages)

29/1/21
11.42 AM

- d) They should also mandatorily register on Uttarakhand Government portal prior to their visit and shall install and use Aarogya Setu App at all times.
- e) It is desirable that they should be informed / instructed by the respective State Government on COVID Appropriate Behavior prior to the travel.
- f) We also suggest that upon return, the visitors may also be subjected to COVID 19 testing or active monitoring as per the protocols being followed in your State.

3. I request you to widely disseminate the SOPs issued by the Government of India in your state especially highlighting the aforementioned aspects so that the pilgrims/visitors to Kumbh Mela from your state are not put to any inconvenience.

You will also appreciate that this is important for all of us in our fight against COVID as reckless behaviors in such mega events might lead to increase in infections across the country. I, therefore look forward to this support from your good offices in the crucial endeavor and am confident that with concerted efforts we can minimize the risk that the pandemic poses to all our brethren.

Encl: As above

with high records,

Yours Sincerely,

Om Prakash

28.01.21

(Om Prakash)

Shri Suresh Chandra Mohapatra,
Chief Secretary,
Government of Odisha.

Government of India
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

**Standard Operating Procedures on preventive measures to contain spread of
COVID-19 during Kumbh Mela, Haridwar 2021.**

1. Background

Kumbh Mela is not only a religious pilgrimage, but also perhaps the largest mass gathering at one place. It is celebrated four times over a course of 12 years and spans four locations. This year the Kumbh Mela would be held at Haridwar (Uttarakhand). The likely dates for this event are from 27th February 2021 to 30th April 2021. It is expected that about 1 million (10 lakh) people will attend the mela on a regular day and about 5 million (50 lakh) people will attend the mela on auspicious days. There are six auspicious days: Magh Purnima (27th February 2021), Mahashivratri (11th March 2021), Somvati Amavasya (12th April 2021), Baisakhi (14th April 2021), Ram Navmi (21st April 2021), and Chaitra Purnima (27th April 2021). These days are expected to witness large surge of crowds congregating at Har Ki Pauri Ghat, Haridwar, to take holy bath.

2. Scope

Primarily, the Government of Uttarakhand is responsible for instituting measures to prevent spread of COVID-19 during Kumbh Mela and ensure prompt public health response to an outbreak. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare shall support the State with advocacy, training, risk assessment, surveillance and public health response in such an event, if required.

Mass gathering events, such as this, have the potential to facilitate the transmission of the virus and potentially disrupt the gains made by the country in COVID-19 management. This document outlines various generic precautionary measures to be adopted in addition to specific measures to be taken to prevent spread of COVID-19.

The State govt may implement additional measures within their jurisdiction as per their local assessment and in line with activities permitted by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) as per extant MHA orders issued under Disaster Management Act, 2005.

3. Protecting vulnerable population

The high risk group population needs to be protected. The following procedures shall be followed:

- i. The Government of Uttarakhand shall ensure that the Healthcare workers and the other frontline workers engaged during Kumbh Mela medical and public health operations are vaccinated on priority in the ongoing vaccination of this group. Only vaccinated Healthcare and other frontline workers be deputed for Kumbh Mela duties.

5. Mandatory COVID-19 RT-PCR negative test report

The Government of Uttarakhand would widely publicize, as also convey to all other State Governments that devotees with negative RT-PCR test report (test done 72 hours prior to the date of visit) shall only be allowed to enter the Kumbh Mela site. The devotees may carry such test reports either on their mobile phones or in hard copies.

6. Specific administrative measures for preventing spread of COVID-19 during Kumbh Mela

The Kumbh Mela authorities may consider curtailing the total duration of the Kumbh Mela. They shall comply with the administrative requirements as below:

a) Establishing Incident command / coordination system (ICS)

- i. A designated COVID-19 Nodal Officer of appropriate seniority to be responsible for addressing COVID-19 concerns within the Mela Area. He/she will be regularly coordinating with other stakeholders to ensure implementation of this Standard Operating Procedure at operational level.
- ii. The Incident Command System for the Kumbh Mela will have a COVID-19 task force that will respond to all matters related to COVID-19 management.
- iii. The emergency operation center/control room within ICS will have dedicated monitoring desks for COVID-19.

b) Planning Considerations

The Kumbh Mela Administration shall ensure the following:

- i. Identify spatial boundaries of the Mela Area keeping in view the physical distancing requirements and prepare a detailed site plan which would facilitate compliance with thermal screening, physical distancing, sanitization, etc.
- ii. Multiple and separate entry and exits for devotees shall be ensured. Help desks should be set up and widely publicized with adequate number of staff to ensure that people do not wander around for want of direction.
- iii. Entrances to have mandatory contactless hand hygiene and multiple thermal screening provisions. Anyone found symptomatic during thermal screening should be politely refused entry and advised to seek immediate medical care.
- iv. The crowd density does not remain the same throughout the day and usually peaks around certain hours of the day and on auspicious days (as mentioned above). Planning for the event should specifically factor this so that crowds are regulated and managed to ensure physical distance and frequent sanitization.
- v. Volunteers should be appropriately stationed to ensure thermal scanning, physical distancing and wearing of masks.
- vi. Keeping in view the physical distancing norms, the Kumbh Mela site should have proper markings at all locations which are likely to be visited by devotees.
- vii. Staggering of devotees to be done maintaining physical distancing of a minimum of 6 feet, when queuing up for the holy bath.

during the event. Therefore, the number of testing centers needs to be augmented considerably.

- a. AIIMS, Rishikesh would be the focal point for testing samples of suspect cases. AIIMS, Rishikesh shall also support the State Government for training human resource for laboratory testing.
- b. The Government Doon Medical College/ hospital, Dehradun and Himalayan Institute of Medical Sciences & Himalayan Hospital (under Sri Rama Himalayan University), Jolly Grant, Dehradun will also strengthen its facilities for testing samples.
- c. The Mela Hospital, the seven identified hospitals by the State Government, BHEL Main Hospital and the four identified private hospitals shall also have RT-PCR testing facilities.
- d. In addition to the above arrangements, the State Government would explore putting up mobile testing facilities, including container based RT-PCR mobile labs within the Mela site and/or at temporary hospitals that shall be established.
- e. The ICMR testing protocol shall be followed (available at: https://www.icmr.gov.in/pdf/covid/strategy/Testing_Strategy_v6_04092020.pdf)

iv. Hospital Infrastructure:

The existing bed capacity of government, referral and private hospitals– all combined – is about 2,800 in Haridwar, Rishikesh and Dehradun. This needs to be substantially augmented. The expected surge of the floating population and potential outbreak of Covid or other epidemic prone diseases will overwhelm the existing facilities.

- a. Mega-size temporary hospitals (1000 beds) that would augment bed capacity by at least 2,000 beds shall be established. State Government may contact DRDO for setting up such facilities.
- b. The State Government shall also assess the requirement of PPE kits, consumables, human resources, oxygen and ventilators, and if required, shall procure and store well in advance.

v. Clinical Management

- a. The existing clinical management protocol available at the MoHFW website shall be followed for managing cases COVID-19. These are available at: <https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/UpdatedClinicalManagementProtocolforCOVID19dated03072020.pdf>
- b. A dedicated team of specialists doctors designated by the State Government will remain at call and will liaise with the center of excellence at AIIMS Delhi on a regular basis through VC in case of any clarifications in clinical management.

vi. Infection Prevention and Control

- a. Public utility areas and open spaces shall be sanitized at least twice a day with 1% Sodium Hypochlorite within the Kumbh Mela premises.
- b. Cleaning and regular disinfection (using 1% sodium hypochlorite) of frequently touched surfaces (handrails, que barricades, seats, benches, washroom fixtures, etc.) to be made mandatory in all public utility common areas.
- c. Deep cleansing of the toilets, hand washing and drinking water stations shall be done at least 3-4 times daily.

self-monitoring of health and not to visit the Kumbh Mela if suffering from symptoms of Covid-19. The website/mobile application shall also provide information regarding the provisions mentioned in para 3 (ii-iv) of this SOP.

- f. Display helpline numbers and also numbers of local health authorities at prominent places.

xi. Advisory to international travelers

- a. In addition to the above SOP, International travelers visiting Kumbh Mela shall follow the travel advisory available on the website of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (<https://www.mohfw.gov.in/>) for international arrivals.
- b. This apart, travelers shall fulfill country specific mandatory requirements, if any, prescribed from time to time.

COMPULSORY HEALTH CERTIFICATE FOR KUMBH MELA HARIDWAR - 2021

Affix cross-
signed
(by Yatri)
recent
photograph

PART A: (TO BE FILLED BY APPLICANT)

1. Name _____ S/o;D/o; W/o _____

Address _____

2. Date of Birth _____ Identification mark: _____ Blood Group: _____

3. DECLARATION: Have you suffered from or have history of any of the following:

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|
| a) Breathlessness | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | b) Diabetes | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| c) Respiratory/ lung ailment | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | d) High Blood pressure | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| e) Blood disorder | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | f) Asthma | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| g) Bleeding tendencies | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | h) Epilepsy | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| i) Heart ailment | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | j) Nervous breakdown | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| k) Joint Pains | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | l) History of stroke/ paralysis | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| m) Are you a smoker | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | n) Are you pregnant: | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
- (applicable to female Yatris)*

o) History of COVID-19 Infection Yes No, if Yes date of COVID-19 Positive Report _____

p) History of Heart Attack; if yes, please specify _____

q) History of sudden death in family members; if yes, please specify _____

r) Any major injury in the past; if yes, please specify _____

s) Any other ailment; if yes, please specify _____

t) History of surgery; if yes, please specify _____

u) Are you undergoing under any medication; if yes, please specify _____

v) Are you allergic to drugs, foods and chemicals; if yes, please specify _____

w) Date of Latest COVID-19 Testing result. Date _____ Positive Negative

4. I hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief, and nothing has been concealed.

Date _____

(Signature/ thumb impression of the Applicant)

PART B: (TO BE FILLED BY AUTHORISED MEDICAL AUTHORITY)

On the basis of information furnished by the applicant, detailed examination and the necessary investigations, it is certified that

Mr/Ms/Mrs _____ is fit to undertake the journey to the KUMBH MELA HARIDWAR 2021.

Details of any specific test conducted before issuing the certificate: _____

Name of the Doctor _____

Designation: _____
Date of issue: _____Signature and seal of Authorized Medical Authority
MCI/ State Medical Council Registration No: _____

SRF & M.D. DSTMA

Annexure - III

Name of the Lab:

01

ICMR ID:

SRF ID:

Test Report

Date and Time of Reporting	
Address of the Referring Facility/Hospital	
SPECIMEN DETAILS	
Date of onset of illness	
Date & Time of Sample Collection	
Date & Time of Receipt of Specimen at Lab	
Date of Sample Testing	
Condition of Specimen Received / Quality on Arrival	
REPORTING DETAILS	
Report ID	

Patient ID	Patient Name	Age	Sex	Specimen Type	Result of SARS-CoV2

Prepared by:

Checked and Approved by

Note: The results relate only to the specimens tested and should be correlated with clinical findings.

Interpretation guidance:-

- A single negative test result, particularly if this is from an upper respiratory tract specimen, does not exclude infection*
- A positive test result is only tentative, and will be reconfirmed by retesting.
- Repeat sampling and testing of lower respiratory specimen is strongly recommended in severe or progressive disease. The repeat specimens may be considered after a gap of 2 – 4 days after the collection of the first specimen for additional testing if required. *
- A positive alternate pathogen does not necessarily rule out either, as little is yet known about the role of co-infections.
- Please note that these results are not to be used for any thesis or presentations or for Publication in any Journal without the prior permission of the Director General, ICMR

Dr. Prakash

(- 21 DM / 28 / 1 / 20)