

**GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA**  
**HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT**

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No. Health. 122/2020/51

Dated Shillong, the 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2020.

From: Smti. M. N. Nampui, IAS.  
Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya,  
Health & Family Welfare Department.

To: The Deputy Commissioner,  
East Khasi Hills, **Shillong** /West Khasi Hills, **Nongstoin**/ South-West Khasi Hills,  
**Mawkyrwat**/ East Jaintia Hills, **Khliehriat**/ West Jaintia Hills, **Jowai**/ Ri-Bhoi  
District, **Nongpoh**/ West Garo Hills, **Tura**/ South-West Garo Hills, **Ampati**/ East  
Garo Hills, **Williamnagar**/ South Garo Hills, **Baghmara** /North Garo Hills,  
**Resubelpara**.

**Subject: Increasing cases of COVID-19 and need for effective implementation of control and safety measures.**

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to convey concern of the Department over the increasing number of COVID-19 cases in the State despite implementation of a number of measures to contain spread of the virus. A total of 400 cases were reported in a span of 13 days from 8<sup>th</sup> July to 21<sup>st</sup> of July. More than 500 cases were reported in a span of 18 days again from 21<sup>st</sup> July to 8<sup>th</sup> of August. Recently cases have spiked up to more than 1000 cases in a span of 17 days from 8<sup>th</sup> August to 25<sup>th</sup> August which is a matter of great concern.

2. From an analysis of the jobs and locations of people who have tested positive, it is felt that one probable reason for spread of the virus is through contact of local people with the transporters of essential commodities from outside to the Markets wherein the recommended health protocols have not been followed during their interactions.

3. While all the Districts were instructed to bring about behavioral change amongst the people to contain spread of the virus, it is felt that the inability to infuse the right spirit amongst the people has been responsible for the spread. Though guidelines have been put in place for ensuring safety in the crowded places like markets and market committee have been authorized to oversee the activities in the markets and ensure that protocols are followed, it is felt that due diligence has not been paid by the regulatory bodies, especially market committees.

In this backdrop, it is kindly requested that while all effective steps need to be taken by all the Districts, the following steps may be taken up in the right earnest:

1. Districts must educate truckers from outside the State and bring out proper regulations for loading and unloading of goods from trucks.
2. Definite locations for trucks carrying essential goods may be identified for easy delivery of goods as well as restrict trucks from entering crowded areas.
3. The master trainers of all Government Departments on Behavior Change Management [BCM] must impart training to other trainers who in turn will educate the community members. Trainings must also be appropriately imparted for the last mile population, that is, drivers, handymen, vendors involved in market activities along with people who live in a congested areas and who do not have independent houses.
4. Districts may involve community volunteers to impart training and education of BCM.
5. Training on BCM must be done in market areas. Districts may notify Market Committees to train casual labors handling commodities in trucks from other States. The Market Committees should undertake line listing of all individuals (daily wage labour) engaged in such activities.
6. The Deputy Labour Commissioners/Assistant Labour Commissioners/Labour Inspectors may be instructed to ensure that migrant workers remain in their

camps and do not interact with the local population. The Labour Officials may undertake tracking and tracing the transmission chain of all labourers in the State.

7. Likewise, other Departments of the Government must be instructed to impart BCM education to its clientele, for example,
- Health - Health Care Workers
  - Social Welfare - Elderly people
  - Transport Deptt - Drivers & Handymen
  - Agriculture/Horticulture -vegetable vendors
  - DC Adm. - Shopkeepers
  - Municipal -workers, sanitation workers, hawkers

This is for favour of your information and necessary action.

Yours faithfully,

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

**Dated Shillong, the 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2020.**

**Memo No. Health. 122/2020/51-A**

Copy to:

1. The PS to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya for kind information of Chief Secretary.
2. Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Health & Family Welfare Department
3. The Mission Director, National Health Mission, Meghalaya, Shillong.
4. The Director of Health Services (MI), Meghalaya, Shillong.

By Orders, etc.,

  
(T.G. Momin)  
Joint Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya,  
Health & Family Welfare Department.

