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Ministry of Health

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திகதி } 15. 12. 2021
Date }

Directions of the Proper Authority for the whole of Sri Lanka Issued as Press Release

Public and work-related activities effective from 16th – 31st December 2021

1. I Director General of Health Services (DGHS) being the Proper Authority for the whole of Sri Lanka, issue the following directions as a Press Release by virtue of the regulation made under the Quarantine and Prevention of Disease Ordinance No. 03 of 1897 published by the Minister of Health by Regulation No. 99 (1) and (2) published in Extraordinary Gazette Notification bearing No. 2253/10 dated 09. 11. 2021.
2. The directions were issued on 30. 11. 2021 bearing No. PA/DDG PHS II/3/COVID/Gen/2020 (sub 6) 4 as a Press Release is hereby further amended save and except as follows: -

Significant control of the COVID-19 epidemic in the country is achieved. However, there is still a risk for escalation in COVID-19 transmission due to cluster formation. Under this situation, the efforts taken in the gradual reopening of the country need to be sustained in the continued practice of DreAM in all situations.

It is important to comply with the directions issued by the Director General of Health Services, subject to quarantine regulations.

Proper adherence to these directions has given more responsibility to the Medical Officers of Health (MOH) in those areas for regulation and monitoring at the ground level. The contribution and active engagement of the relevant Ministries is very important to create the inter-sectoral relationship and awareness needed to support this task successfully.

It is emphasized that contributing to the control of COVID-19 is the responsibility of every citizen as well as every governmental, non-governmental and private institutions.

More attention is to be paid to following activities.

I.

- a) Strongly advocating all on continued practices to prevent spread (Distancing (D), Respiratory etiquette (Re), Aseptic techniques – hand hygiene and disinfecting common and frequently touched surfaces (A), wearing of Mask in public (M) - D Re A M) i.e., the New- Normal.

Therefore, a continuous program is needed to educate the public and communicate risks with wide media coverage in order to adhere to recommended health practices.

- b) Getting 100% coverage of vaccination for the recommended target groups.
- c) Refraining from non-essential travel and restricting movements outside home as far as possible.
- d) Safer transport methods should be used/ provided. Improving the availability of transport facilities that are less crowded.
- ✓ Only seated passengers in public transport.
 - ✓ Public and shared transport should preferably be non-air-conditioned, and windows should be opened.
 - ✓ All passengers should wear a mask properly during travel.
- e) The workplaces can function as usual adhering to the COVID-19 precautionary measures.
- f) Public gatherings, meetings, events are not permitted until further notice unless prior approval is obtained from the Proper Authority for the whole of Sri Lanka except the activities mentioned in the schedule below.
- g) The regulatory and monitoring program informed by Presidential Secretariat according to recommendations from Ministry of Health should be implemented as instructed to ensure compliance with the directions given.

The MOH is to be supported by the local committees including the community police force in supervising the public and work settings.

- h) The MOH, based on local monitoring of disease transmission situation will inform the DGHS for clearance on closure or functioning of public or work settings as per the directions issued by the Ministry of Health.
- i) Considering the controlled nature of the COVID-19 epidemic and the possibility of further escalation of the epidemic, the manner in which public activities are permitted is given in schedule below.

Schedule

#	Activity	Limitations/ Restrictions and allowable capacity of the events/ gatherings/ meetings etc. From 16 th December 2021
1	Persons leaving home	Avoid unnecessary travel out of the home, in order to minimise risk of transmission of COVID-19 to household members and colleagues.
2	Official/ Corporate/ Professional Meetings/ events	Virtual meetings are strongly encouraged. Maximum 50% of the usual capacity of the room/ hall.
3	Private gatherings (indoor/ in-house gatherings)	Maximum 50% of the usual capacity of the hall. Maximum of 10 persons in a private house. Outdoor private gatherings are not permitted.
4	Economic centres	Open for wholesale business, under strict supervision of local authorities and area MOH.
5	Sathi pola/ open markets/ mobile vendors	Allowed under strict supervision of local authorities and area MOH.
6	Restaurant (in-dining)	50% of usual capacity. Outdoor arrangements encouraged If outdoor – 150 persons allowed.
7	Shops, groceries, Pharmacies Supermarkets	50% of capacity at a given time. Number allowed to be displayed.
8	Financial institutes (banks, financing companies, pawning centres)	Open. Should be restricted to 25 persons inside at a given time. Remaining customers to queue outside maintaining physical distance of one meter.
9	Barbers, salons, tailors	Customers by appointment only.
10	Schools	As decided by Ministry of Education.
11	Day Care	Open.
12	Preschools	Open.
13	Higher education centres including Universities	As decided by the University Grants Commission (UGC).
14	Vocational training institutes	75% of capacity at a given time.
15	Courts	To function under the guidance of Judicial Services Commission adhering to health guidelines.
16	Cinema/ Theatres	75% of capacity at a given time.
17	Gymnasiums	Open
18	Sports activities	Allowed. No spectators permitted.
19	Wedding (Open spaces encouraged)	Maximum 50% of usual capacity of the hall.

#	Activity	Limitations/ Restrictions and allowable capacity of the events/ gatherings/ meetings etc. From 16 th December 2021
20	Funeral should be held within 24 hours of releasing the dead body	Maximum 30 persons at a given time.
21	Religious places	Individual worshipping is permitted. Special festivals/occasions/ religious prayers or services should be conducted as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health.
22	Exhibitions and conventions	Permitted with strict adherence to health guidelines. 50% of capacity at a given time. Number allowed to be displayed.
23	Examinations (in physical attendance)	Permitted with strict adherence to health guidelines.
24	Tuition classes	50% of usual capacity only for O/L and A/L classes.
25	Industries	Current operations according to guidelines given.

- j) Legal action should be taken under the existing legal provisions against persons/ institution who does not comply with the directions.
- k) The situation will be reviewed by 31st December 2021 and guidelines will be issued for the period thereafter according to the prevailing situation.

II. All the guidelines, directions, circulars, press releases, instructions, terms, and conditions issued or specified by the Proper Authority for the whole of Sri Lanka up to the 15. 11. 2021 shall be implemented in line with the Regulation published in Extraordinary Gazette Notification bearing No. 2253/10 dated 09. 11. 2021.

III. This direction is issued as a Press Release and published on the official website of the Ministry of Health as per the provisions of the Regulation 99 (3) published in Extraordinary Gazette Notification bearing No. 2253/10 dated 09. 11. 2021.


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Web link for guidelines:

http://www.health.gov.lk/moh_final/english/article_read_more.php?id=938

