

No. PD-14033/4/2020-PD-VII (Pt.I)(e-339103)

Government of India  
Ministry of Shipping  
(Ports Wing)

Transport Bhawan,  
1, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001

Dated: 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2020

To,

1. Chairperson/Chairmen,  
All Major Ports  
&CMD( KPL).
  
2. Maritime States/UTs

**Subject:-Advisory on Social Distancing Measure in view of spread of COVID-19 disease**

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to say that Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have issued an Advisory on Social Distancing Measure in view of spread of COVID-19 disease on which actions also need to be taken on priority by all the Major/Minor Ports. Social distancing is a non-pharmaceutical infection prevention and control intervention implemented to avoid/decrease contact between those who are infected with a disease-causing pathogen and those who are not, so as to stop or slow down the rate and extent of disease transmission in a community. This eventually leads to decrease in spread, morbidity and mortality due to the disease.

2. In addition to the proposed interventions, the Major/Non-Major Ports may prescribe such other measures as they consider necessary.
  
3. All these proposed interventions shall be in force till 31<sup>st</sup> of March, 2020. They will be reviewed as per the evolving situation. Thus, the following interventions are proposed:
  - i). Closure of all educational establishments (schools, etc), gyms, museums, cultural and social centres, swimming pools and theatres in the vicinity of Port Area. Students should be advised to stay at home. Online education to be promoted.
  
  - ii). Possibility of postponing exams may be explored. Ongoing exams to be conducted only after ensuring physical distance of one meter amongst students in the vicinity of Ports.
  
  - iii). Meetings, as far as feasible, shall be done through video conferences. Minimize or reschedule meetings involving large number of people unless necessary.
  
  - iv). Restaurants/Canteens/Mess to ensure handwashing protocol and proper cleanliness of frequently touched surfaces. Ensure physical distancing (minimum 1metre) between tables; encourage open air seating where practical with adequate distancing.
  
  - v). Postpone all non-essential social and cultural gatherings.

*Shankar Singh*

- vi). Sporting events and competitions involving large gatherings may be postponed.
  - vii). To have meeting with traders' associations and other stakeholders to regulate hours, exhibit Do's and Don'ts and take up a communication drive in the Port Area.
  - viii). All commercial activities must keep a distance of one meter between two persons concerned.
  - ix). Non-essential travel should be avoided.
  - x). Port Hospitals to follow necessary protocol related with COVID-19 management as prescribed and restrict family/friends/children visiting patients in hospitals.
  - xi). Hygiene and physical distancing has to be maintained. Shaking hands and hugging as a matter of greeting to be avoided.
  - xii). Keep communities informed consistently and constantly.
2. All Major Ports/Maritime States are therefore, requested to take urgent necessary action accordingly.

Yours faithfully,

*Shailendra*  
(Shailendra Kureel)

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India

Copy to:

- i. PPS to Secretary
- ii. PS to AS(S)/PS to AS&FA
- iii. PS to JS (P)/ JS(S)/ JS (SM)/ JS (Admin.)/JS (PPP)/ DA (Ports)/Sr. Economic Adviser
- iv. All Directors / Deputy Secretaries