



COVID-19 (nCorona) Virus Outbreak Control and Prevention State Cell

Health & Family Welfare Department

Government of Kerala

COVID 19 HEALTH ADVISORY STUDENTS APPEARING THE EXAMINATION

No.31/F-2/2020/ Health- 23rd May 2020

The World Health organisation has declared COVID-19 as a pandemic. Kerala has been taking all measures to contain the outbreak through strict surveillance and infection control measures.

The Government has taken decision to conduct the school exams. In order to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID among all the stakeholders involved in this, such as students, parents, relatives, transporting vehicles, drivers, the school management officials, teachers etc the following advisory is issued -

1. List of students coming from Lakshadweep, other states and those in quarantine to be prepared in advance and communicated to the concerned schools and institutions. These students should be allotted separate exam centers or separate class rooms in the examination centre.
2. School authorities should prepare a micro plan including the number of students (state, outside state), number of class rooms, seating arrangements, movement plan of students etc.
3. Two Field level Health Care Officers (one male and one female) (As per the deployment done by DMO) should be posted at the examination centre on the days of examination by the Department of Health Services. The micro plan should be vetted by the health care workers in consultation with the Medical officer of the concerned health institution well in advance of the examination.

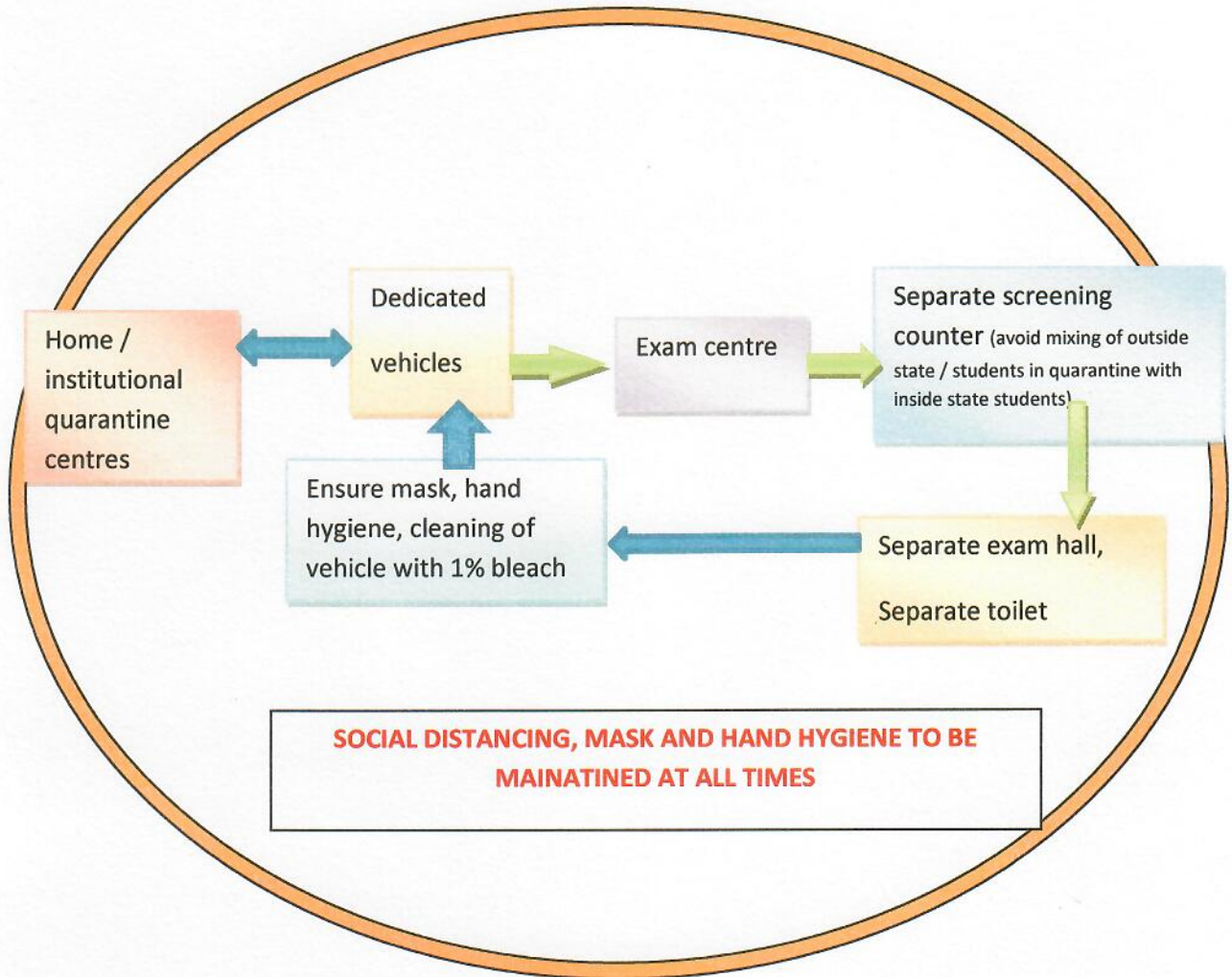
4. The school authorities shall make necessary infrastructure arrangements for the conduct of examinations in consultation with the health officers. The health care officer shall review the infection control measures in examination centers.
5. A training should be conducted before the examination to sensitize the invigilators, school management and staff on the micro plan as well as the conduct of exam with respect to COVID prevention. The health resource person shall take necessary steps for the training. A capacity building online module will be prepared and shared with the Department of Education.
6. Students from Lakshadweep and other states should reside in home/institutional quarantine for 14 days from the time of arrival in Kerala. The parent/guardian should also be quarantined for 14 days.
7. Conveyance to and from their place of stay to examination centre should be arranged. Drivers of the vehicles should adhere to the State advisory for taxi drivers.
8. Examinations should be conducted in halls/ class rooms with very good air circulation. Windows should be kept open; fans and other mechanical ventilation should be used to increase air exchange. **Exams should not be conducted in air conditioned class rooms or halls.**
9. **Students coming from Lakshadweep, outside Kerala state and in quarantine period:** Social distancing and hand hygiene with hand sanitizer is to be ensured and triple layer mask should be worn by all students. Seating arrangements in the examination centre should have a distance of 1.5 meters between seats. Thermal screening of all students should be performed. Those students with mild flu like symptoms should be seated in a separate room (should be planned ahead) and after the end of that day's examination, these students should attend nearby health centre. **All the invigilators should wear triple layer mask and gloves.** Before putting on and after removing gloves hand hygiene should be ensured. The time spent by invigilators inside the exam hall may be minimized by using CCTV monitoring etc. Exchange of articles like pens, instrument box etc between students should not be permitted. Answer sheets should be very carefully handled. Once the time allotted for the exam is over the students shall get up from their seats one by one and **drop their answer papers into a large plastic bag.** Once all the students in the class room/hall have submitted the answer papers in this manner, the invigilator can tie and seal the plastic bag. **Provision for large plastic bags should be made before the exams.** The sealed bags of answer sheets may be sent to the valuation camps on the same day itself for

safe custody. Answer sheets of these students should be stored separately and should be valued only after seven days. After the exam for the day is over, the entire class room, desks and benches/chairs should be cleaned with 1% bleach solution. The students should not break the sanitized corridor mechanism as described in the diagram below.

10. **Students coming from within Kerala state and NOT on quarantine:** should practice social distancing, hand hygiene with hand sanitizers and should wear masks [cloth masks /surgical masks]. Thermal screening at entry point should be done. Those students with mild flu like symptoms should be triaged and should be seated in a separate room (should be planned ahead). Symptomatic students should wear triple layer mask. **The answer sheets of symptomatic students seated in the separate room should be collected in a similar manner as that for those from outside the state and in quarantine.** Distance between seats should be 1.5 m in rooms where symptomatic students are seated. All the invigilators in areas where symptomatic students are seated should wear triple layer mask and gloves. Before putting on and after removing gloves hand hygiene should be ensured. The time spent by invigilators inside the exam hall should be minimized by using CCTV monitoring etc. Exchange of articles like pens, instrument box etc between students should not be permitted. Students (Normal or asymptomatic) should submit their answer papers one by one on a separate desk or table. Once all the students have submitted, the invigilator can pack them in a paper bag and stored separately. These answer papers shall be valued only after seven days. After the exam for the day is over, the entire class room, desks and benches/chairs should be cleaned with 1% bleach solution.
11. School/Institution staff should also wear masks [cloth/surgical] and practice hand hygiene.
12. School / Institutional authorities should ensure that there is no crowding of students/parents outside the examination centre. Adequate waiting area should be provided to them.
13. After each day's exam guardians and students should return to their quarantined place.
14. Parents/guardians accompanying students should wear masks, practice social distancing and hand hygiene. Only one person should accompany the student to the examination centre. Interaction between guardians waiting outside the examination hall should be restricted.

15. For all students coming from outside the state and for those who are in quarantine, a **sanitized corridor** [red channel] has to be created for transporting the student and guardian to and from the quarantined place (see diagram below). Sanitized corridor will have to be maintained in the examination centre as well as in examination hall. The healthcare workers posted in the school should supervise the creation of and compliance of the sanitized corridor protocol. A checklist should be used by the healthcare worker to ensure compliance with the sanitized corridor protocol.
16. School authorities should ensure availability of masks, alcohol-based hand rubs and hand washing facility with liquid soap and water.
17. All students who are coming from hotspots from within the state should be permitted to appear for exams in examination centers within hotspots preferably. If their examination centre is outside the hotspot they must follow the sanitized corridor protocol.
18. It is preferred that all students from outside state and Lakshadweep may be cohorted and allotted a separate dedicated examination centre in the district.
19. If students from other states are writing exams in the same centre as other students, separate toilets should be earmarked for both the groups with separate entry. Separate toilets should be earmarked for symptomatic students.
20. Parents/Guardians and students in quarantine/outside state should not be allowed to have food or water from hotels, shops or canteen in between their travel. They should bring food [if exams are there in afternoon also] from the quarantine centre. Water should be provided by school authorities for both guardians and students. Sharing of cups for drinking water should not be permitted.
21. Signages with DO's and DON'T's for the students and guardians should be displayed at multiple points inside the examination centre premises. Care must be ensured to avoid crowding around the signages.

SANITIZED CORRIDOR PROTOCOL FOR STUDENTS AND GUARDIANS
COMING FROM OTHER STATES/QUARANTINED HOUSES



Principal Secretary