



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

Health & Family Welfare Department

Government of Kerala

**ADVISORY ON REOPENING OF CINEMA THEATRES
IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19
NO-2/31/F2/H&FWD- 4th January 2021.**

Opening of Cinema Halls can result in COVID 19 superspreading events, if strict mitigation measures are not adopted in Cinema Theatres.

COVID 19 transmission dynamics is closely related to the 3 Cs

1. **CLOSED SPACES** with poor airflow.
2. **CROWDED PLACES.**
3. **CLOSE CONTACT settings** with face to face contact.

In order to open the Cinema Halls the following preventive measures should be put in place to ensure that the 3Cs which are closely related to COVID 19 transmission dynamics gets addressed.

To prevent the spread of COVID-19 infection, it is important to ensure that standard operating procedures at Cinema Halls are followed meticulously.

All the personnel involved in maintenance of infrastructure and operations of Cinema hall and projection systems shall be allowed after COVID test result is negative for starting the operations of cinema halls. Subsequently, they are instructed to follow COVID appropriate behaviour and take following measures and precautions.

1. The functioning of cinema halls, theatres, multiplexes shall be from 9 AM to 9 PM. It has to be ensured that the show is over by 9 PM. Late night shows shall not be conducted.
2. Places where there are multiple theatres/auditoriums (multiplex) the shows timings shall be designed so that they do not start and end at the same time with other shows in the same venue(staggering of screening timings).
3. The audience shall not cross 50% of the capacity of the setting (theatre). Bookings are to made in accordance with 50% capacity.
4. Symptoms screening should be performed before entering the theatre (for audience and staff). Symptomatic persons should not be permitted to enter the theatre. They should seek health care and get tested.

5. Hand hygiene should be performed before entering the theatre hall/auditorium.
6. All persons (audience and movie theatre staff) should wear masks, observe cough and sneeze hygiene. Staff should also ensure physical distancing of at least 6 feet while interacting with people.
7. The air conditioning system should be serviced and cleaned before reopening for the public. Periodic maintenance should be performed. The air conditioning should be operated with increased rate of exchange of air with outdoor air and minimizing recirculation of air. All doors/ windows (if present) should be opened to allow natural cross ventilation before and after each show.
8. Markings 6 feet apart should be done on the floor at ticket counters (ticket lines) and food counters so as to avoid overcrowding and to follow proper queuing.
9. A seat mapping should be prepared and adhered to. The audience should be seated with minimum one seat gap in between. The seats that are not to be used should be marked physically.
10. Elevators should be monitored so that there is no overcrowding. People may be encouraged to use the stairs.
11. Food and beverages should not be taken and consumed inside the theatre. Adequate interval timings should be provided for refreshments and use of washrooms.
12. Adequate signages and information should be provided at key places in the venue.
13. Appropriate announcements and health messages should be provided through the PA system.
14. Elevators (lifts), seats, arm rests, railings, door knobs and other high touch surfaces should be disinfected before and after each show with appropriate disinfectants.
15. Washrooms should be disinfected (door knobs, taps, wash basins etc) before and after each interval. There should be adequate ventilation in the washrooms. Entry to bathrooms should be regulated if there are chances of overcrowding. Adequate soap and water facilities should be made available.
16. Online bookings are to be preferred and promoted as far as possible.
17. Parking facility area should be monitored to prevent overcrowding and congregation of people.
18. A sick room (infirmary) should be identified for isolating symptomatic persons till health care is sought.
19. Training should be imparted to all the staff and employees regarding the measures to be adopted for COVID prevention.
20. Employees with high risk (age > 60 yrs and persons with severe comorbidity) may be placed in low risk areas of exposure in the settings.
21. Managers should ensure that the guidelines are adhered to and any non-compliance rectified immediately.
22. All general safety and security measures should be updated and maintained.

Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette

- All staff, cinema viewers to use sanitizer that contains at least 70% alcohol and cover their coughs and sneezes.

Masks

- Universal masking of all staff, cinema viewers are necessary. Everyone should wear masks.
- All should maintain physical distancing of 6 feet.

Symptom screening

- Those with symptoms of fever, cough, myalgia, headache, anosmia etc should not be allowed.
- Symptomatic staff also should seek medical attention or stay at home till symptoms abate.

Physical distancing

- Ensure that the adequate physical distance (at least 6 feet) is maintained
- Discourage huddling and coming in a group

Signages

- Signages with regard to SMS [soap, mask, social distancing] and SOPs to be followed should be displayed at all vantage points.

Cleaning and disinfection

- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces after each show using 1% bleach solution For example: handrails, slides, and structures for climbing; lounge chairs, tabletops, and door handles and surfaces of restrooms, handwashing stations and showers
- Consult with the company or engineer that designed the venue to optimize air flow.

Ventilation

- Ensure that ventilation systems of indoor spaces operate properly. Increase air turnover or outside air exchange before shows.
- Increase introduction and circulation of outdoor air as much as possible

Modified layouts

- Change layouts to ensure that in the seating areas, individuals can remain at least 6 feet apart.

Physical barriers and guides

- Ensure staff, cine viewers stay at least 6 feet apart during ticketing , entering and coming out of Cinema hall

Common spaces

- Stagger use of common spaces and clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at least daily and shared objects before and after each time they are used.
- Discourage activities, such as eating in common spaces that require removal of masks.


Principal Secretary