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PRESS RELEASE

In light of the resumption of flights from mainland to Port Blair, the UT Administration has revised the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) to be followed by all passengers, Airports Authority, airline operators and others concerned. The following are the highlights of the revised SOP:-

- As per Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) Order dated 21.05.2020, all airline operators shall share the passenger manifest of each flight in the prescribed format with the UT Administration beforehand.
- On arrival, Thermal screening of all passengers shall be done by the local health authorities.
- At the point of screening, all passengers to share their contact details and residential address of A&N Islands with the Administration for record.
- All asymptomatic passengers will be allowed to travel to their residence/ next destination by local/private transport.
- All symptomatic/suspect cases in passengers, as assessed by the Health authorities will be isolated at the designated COVID Care Centre (CCC).

In addition to the above, it is again reiterated that the residents of the Islands (with no travel history from 25.03.2020 onwards), shall be allowed to travel to the other Islands without any restrictions, after thermal screening at the point of embarkation. Further, persons coming by air shall not be required to be quarantined at home henceforth.

All Guidelines/ directives of the Ministries of Home Affairs and the Health & Family Welfare and the SOPs issued by Govt. of India shall be strictly followed.

Nodal Officer (COVID-19)

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR EVACUATION OF STRANDED PERSONS BY SHIP

In case the islanders are evacuated by Ship the following protocol will be observed during boarding, journey and disembarkation:

A. DEPARTURE & JOURNEY:

1. The ship sailing should be equipped with all necessary logistics including the PPE and/or full body gown/Coveralls, triple layered masks gloves and Infra-red thermometers in sufficient capacity..
2. The ship also should have hypochlorite solution, Lysol, Dettol etc for disinfection in sufficient quantity.
3. All passengers to undergo thermal screening at the port before embarkation and be provided with a safety kit containing sufficient number of face masks & Sanitizers for use during the voyage.
4. Anyone with ILI symptoms will not be allowed to board the ship.
5. All the crew members shall wear full body gown/PPE/Coveralls while in contact with the passengers.
6. All the passengers shall be briefed about do and don'ts regarding COVID-19 and the same may be displayed in multiple locations on board.
7. All the crew members should refrain from mixing with the passengers and the master on board to deploy only the required number of crew for cooking, serving and cleaning the ship. In the crew cabins also adequate social distancing as per norms should be ensured. They should stay in their cabins when they are not working.
8. Cleaning of toilets should be done every two hours under the supervision of the doctor on board. Proper disposal mechanisms to dispose used masks/gloves of the crew/passengers should be ensured at well distinguished places for the use of all.
9. Only 50% of the seating capacity will be allowed in the ship.
10. Buffer area will be designated in the ship between the crew and the passengers, This can be done by either keeping few rooms vacant in a row on the same floor or by keeping one floor vacant between the passengers and crew cabins, as may be feasible, as decided by the Shipping Department.
11. CCTV and motion sensors may be installed, if needed or if available.
12. Ship may be divided into cluster based on cabin; berth and passengers in the each cluster should maintain social distancing. Captain of ship may designate officials who will ensure social distancing. Passengers who violate the national directives/norms etc. shall be identified and they should be fined by the appropriate authority at the time of disembarkation at Port Blair.

13. Passengers and crew should download the **AAROGYA SETU** app to the extent possible and keep the Bluetooth on always, if installed.
14. Any passengers with fever, cold, cough should be isolated in a separate cabin during the course of sailing. He/she should be provided with a face mask and sufficient sanitizers. Interactions with sick persons should be kept as brief as possible and interactions of others with the sick persons may be kept limited.
15. Meals may be distributed at separate times in different sections of the ship so that overcrowding may be avoided. Disposable plates with food wrap may be used for food distribution instead of calling them to the canteen area.
16. Drinking water sources should have one crew who will ensure social distancing and if possible, every section to have drinking water sources functional which are to be cleaned and sanitized regularly. Disposable glasses to be kept at the water points to prevent re-use.
17. The floor should be cleaned with 1% hypochlorite solution twice a day or with Lysol solution 1:10 strength.
18. All the garbage should be first sprayed with hypochlorite solution or Dettol solution and then sealed. The sealed bag to be re sprayed with solution and then shifted to quarter deck.
19. All crew members to ensure that every movement in the ship to follow disinfection process.
20. The Doctors on board shall prepare a list of all ILI /SARI cases and isolate them in separate space / rooms. The same list should be shared with the PHO.
21. It should be ensured that all "HIGH TOUCH" surfaces in the ship like door knobs, hand rails, table surfaces, and common seating areas should be sanitized at regular intervals.

ON ARRIVAL:

1. Disembarkation of passengers will be done batch wise, the first batch will be symptomatic patients, other patients with one attender, elders > 60 years of age and pregnant women/Lactating mothers with minimum social distancing of 6 feet.
2. The luggage of passengers as well as crew will be sanitized during the Disembarkation.
3. Transportation vehicles such as boats/ambulances will observe all laid down procedure of safety strictly while transporting passengers from ship to shore (if applicable) and shore to quarantine facilities.
4. Temperature to be measured at the point of disembarkation and necessary forms will be filled for detailed information by the local health authority. If found symptomatic will be lodged in the designated COVID Care Centre.

5. All asymptomatic passengers who are residents of Port Blair/ Ferrargunj will be taken to their respective homes by buses that will be arranged by the Transport Department and placed under Home Quarantine for 14 days.
6. Asymptomatic passengers who are residents of other districts/ inter-island will be allowed to proceed to their place of residence by a separate designated bus/Pvt. vehicle/ Ship/helicopter. In case of movement by ship they should be given separate cabins and shall be discouraged from intermixing with other passengers. Details of all such persons will be shared by the district administration, South Andamans with the other districts for further necessary action.

In case their movement is not possible immediately, they will be accommodated locally by the administration till first available transport.

7. During home quarantine the district administration along with health officials to keep strict watch over health conditions of the passengers and supply of essential commodities to be monitored by the district administration.

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