

Government of Himachal Pradesh
Department of Personnel

No.Per(AP-B)B(15)-19/2020

Dated: Shimla-171002,

26th November, 2020

ORDER

Whereas, it has been experienced that quarantine and isolation of the suspected and confirmed cases of Covid-19 is the most potent non pharmacological intervention for the prevention, control, mitigation and containment of the Coronavirus. If quarantine/ isolation is not resorted to, such individuals might pose a threat to the society at large and might cause the most preventable mortality and morbidity in terms of human life.

Whereas, vide Order of even number dated 31st May, 2020, it has been mentioned that those employees, who develop flu like symptoms/ fever or respiratory problems may be advised to proceed on paid leave and take the prescribed treatment/ or proceed on home quarantine.

Whereas, clarificatory instructions regarding treating the period of an employee spent in institutional/home quarantine were issued vide this Department's order of even number dated 29th June, 2020. It has been clarified that if a Government servant/ daily paid/ contractual/ part-time/ outsourced worker is asked/ forced to get herself/ himself quarantined for a specified period due to contact with a Covid-19 positive patient during the discharge of her/ his official duties or/ and remains under treatment or such an employee resides in any notified containment zone, the period of absence of such employee shall be considered to be on duty and no wages/salary/emoluments shall be deducted till resumption of duty. However, if exposure has not occurred during the discharge of official functions, leave of the kind due shall be debited to the leave account of such employees.

Whereas, in the above mentioned Order, the period for which suspect/confirmed cases of Covid-19 are to be allowed to be quarantined/isolated, was not specified. Further, only limited and specified types of leave are permissible in case of contractual, daily paid, part-time and outsourced employees.

Whereas, references are being received from many quarters seeking clarifications in this regard. The matter has been examined thoroughly also keeping in view the discharge policy issued by

the National Health Mission, Himachal Pradesh vide Circular number NHMHP-IDSP/1/2020-IDSP-Section-National Health Mission-HP-Part(1)-6876 dated 1.9.2020 and guidelines issued vide Order No. NHMHP-IDSP/1/2020-IDSP-Setion-Part(2)-7156 dated 30.9.2020.


Whereas, a "High Risk Contact" has been defined as a person

- a. living in the same household as a Covid-19 case;
- b. having had direct physical contact with a Covid-19 case or her/ his infectious secretions without recommended Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) or with a possible breach of PPE.
- c. who was in a closed environment or direct contact with a Covid-19 case at a distance of within 1 metre, travelled in the same environment (car/taxi/bus/train/flight or any other mode of transit).
- d. who has touched or cleaned the linen/ clothes/ dishes of Covid-19 patient without wearing mask and without practising hand hygiene.

All contacts other than "High Risk Contacts" shall be categorized as "Low Risk Contacts".

Whereas, there has been an exponential rise in the Covid-19 positive cases in general and instances of employees under the State Government being High or Low Risk Contacts of Covid-19 positive cases, while being on duty or otherwise, in particular. Moreover, the stage of community spread of Covid-19 is being experienced in the State.

Now, therefore, in partial modification of this Department's Orders of even number dated 31st May, 2020 and 29th June, 2020 and in exercise of the powers vested in me under the Clause 3 of the H.P. Epidemic Disease (Covid-19) Regulations notified on 14th March, 2020, it is hereby directed that:

-  (i) All the Officers/officials identified as "High Risk Contacts" shall immediately notify the matter to the Head of Office, isolate himself/ herself and get tested, preferably RTPCR, on 6th or 7th day of the last contact, which will be facilitated by the former in consultation with the District Surveillance Officer designated as such by the Health & Family Welfare Department.

- (ii) All the employees identified as primary/secondary contacts of a Covid-19 positive person shall be tested immediately in case if he/ she develops any symptoms suggestive of Covid-19.
- (iii) In case of an employee being a "High Risk Contact", is tested on 6th or 7th day and found negative for COVID-19, he/she shall report to duty immediately.
- (iv) In case an asymptomatic "High Risk Contact" is tested positive on the 6th or 7th day of the contact, he shall remain on home isolation for 17 days and in case he/she develops any symptoms, then action as per the discharge policy issued by the National Health Mission shall be taken.
- (v) The employees categorized as "Low Risk Contact" are required to strictly adhere to mask use, practise personal, cough, sneeze and hand hygiene and avoid official tours/ visits.
- (vi) Leave of the kind due shall be allowed to a regular Government employee in case he/she comes into contact with a Covid-19 positive patient or/ and remains under home isolations/ quarantine or treatment.
- (vii) In case of contractual, daily paid, part-time and outsourced employees having contacted a Covid-19 positive person, she/ he shall be allowed to remain under home isolation/ institutional quarantine and also to undertake the prescribed treatment on a paid holiday as a special case subject to production of a certificate to this effect issued by the concerned District Surveillance Officer or any other competent authority of the Department of the Health & Family Welfare while resuming duties.

These instructions may be followed strictly.

By Order

Anil Kumar Khachi

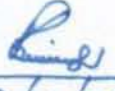
Chief Secretary to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh

Endst. No.Per(AP-B)B(15)-19/2020

Dated:Shimla-171002, 26th November, 2020

Copy to:-

1. All the Administrative Secretaries to the Government of Himachal Pradesh.
2. All Heads of Departments in Himachal Pradesh.
3. The Registrar, HP High Court, Shimla-171001.
4. The Divisional Commissioner, Shimla, Kangra and Mandi.
5. All the Deputy Commissioners in Himachal Pradesh.
6. All the Superintendents of Police in Himachal Pradesh.
7. All the Managing Director/Member Secretary/Commissioner/Secretary/Chief Executive officers/Registrars of Boards/Corporations/Councils/authority/Universities/Municipal Corporations/Co-operative Banks in H.P.
8. The Secretary, HP Public Service Commission, Shimla-171002.
9. The Secretary, HP Staff Selection Commission, Hamirpur, HP.
10. Guard File.


26/11/20

(Amarjeet Singh)

Special Secretary (Personnel) to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh
Telephone No.0177-2621897