

PRESS RELEASE
GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
22ND MARCH 2020

Given the public health situation arising from the spread of the coronavirus across the globe, including India, and with a view to containing and preventing the spread of the virus in the State of Meghalaya, the following measures are being put in place.

1. Starting 23rd March, 2020, a model of one day open and two days closure will be adopted so that social distancing can be effectively enforced for the whole population of the State. For the three-day period 23rd- 25th March, the open day will be 23rd March (Monday). On this day shops/ stalls/ go-downs/ establishments who are dealing with essential items and services including Pharmacies, Grocery Shops, Vegetable & Fruit Vendors, Meat & Fish Vendors, Shops selling Rice, Pulses, Wheat, Grams, Millets, Toiletries, Take Away Food Outlets, LPG Cylinders Outlets and deliveries, Petrol Pumps, Banks and ATMs will be open. However, Operation of all other commercial and business establishments is prohibited. Movement of all public transport including local taxis and auto rickshaws will be restricted. Only 25 % of such vehicles will be allowed to ply in the three districts of EKH, WGH and WJH.
2. For, the period 24rd -25th March, Operation of all commercial and business establishments, all forms of public transport and Assembly or Gathering of 5 (five) or more persons in all public areas, premises, commercial and residential localities beyond the individual households is being prohibited through orders of the Deputy Commissioners. Security Forces and Medical Teams on duty, Pharmacies and all essential services including Health Services, MeECL, Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department, Public Works Department (PWD), Police and Armed Forces, Fire & Emergency Service, Food & Civil Supply Department, Shillong Municipal Board, Telecom, Telegraph & IT Services, Banks and ATMs are exempt for this full closure.
3. All essential Government offices will function with a capacity of 50 %. All non-essential offices will be closed till 31th March. However, all Government servants are required to be available 24*7 on the telephone/mobile to attend to any kind of emergencies.

4. The Epidemic Diseases Act 1897 has been invoked in the State under which it has been made mandatory for all travelers who have a travel history of coming from COVID-19 affected countries and Indian States to register and notify their travel history to the Government.
5. Entry into the State for local residents and supply of essential commodities will be allowed, henceforth, only from the following nine locations:

LOCATIONS	DISTRICT
Ratacherra	East Jaintia Hills
Saitsama and Umransu	West Jaintia Hills
Byrnihat	Ri Bhoi
Dainadubi and Bajengdoba	North Garo Hills
Phulbari and Tikrikilla	West Garo Hills
Garodoba	South West Garo Hills

6. Entry for people from Dawki, West Jaintia Hills and Dalu, West Garo Hills has also been stopped.
7. Entry of tourists into the State has also been stopped.
8. All people entering into Meghalaya are required to mandatorily register on the COVID-19 monitoring system (meghalayaonline.gov.in/covid), in addition to undergoing health screening. Proof of registration, either a system generated acknowledgements should be checked at all entry points. In case of any technical challenges, registration can also be done on paper at the point of entry.
9. To enforce, home isolation, a system is being put in place to stamp “PROUDLY UNDER HOME ISOLATION” from DATE, on the left hand of all the people entering the State.
10. About 650 people have already registered on the portal in the last two days and another 382 people have also registered on the Health departments 108 helpline. We have now put in place a system for automatic calling of all these registered people over the next 14 days. Any person reporting any of the coronavirus related symptoms will be personally followed up by the respective District Surveillance teams.
11. Thermal scanners are in place in six locations (Byrnihat-3 and one each at the Ratacherra, Dawki, Dalu, Dainadubi and Bajengdoba).
12. Private hospitals in the State have been roped in for setting up of dedicated isolation rooms for suspected COVID-19 patients. These hospitals have

also been requested to come up with proposals to set up testing facility as the ICMR has issued guidelines yesterday allowing Private hospitals to set up testing facilities. The State has currently one testing facility at NEIRIHMS.

13. Advisory to Hospitals and media is being issued not to reveal the names of suspect cases and patients.
14. All DCs have been asked to constitute Citizen Support Committees for enforcing social distancing in general and home quarantine for those who have recent travel history.



Chief Secretary
Government of Meghalaya