

**GOVERNMENT OF NAGALAND
HOME DEPARTMENT
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION BRANCH-I**

NO.GAB-I/COM/GEN-1/2020

Dated Kohima, the 26th of April 2020

To,

1. All Deputy Commissioners, Nagaland.
2. The Commissioner of Police, Dimapur.
3. All Superintendents of Police, Nagaland.
4. All Chief Medical Officers, Nagaland.
5. All District Welfare Officers, Nagaland.

Sub :-Guidelines on COVID-19 measures in respect of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs)

Sir/ Madam,

Reference above, Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) are among the high risk and vulnerable groups in the COVID-19 situation. As such, there is a need to understand their disability specific requirements, daily living activities and take appropriate and timely measures to ensure their protection, safety and treatment.

The following measures shall be taken to give focused attention to protection and safety of persons with disabilities during this COVID 19 situation in the state –

1. State Nodal Authority

- a. In pursuance with the guidelines for protection and safety of Persons with Disabilities during COVID-19 of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD), Nagaland is designated as the State Nodal Authority in respect of Persons with Disabilities in the State.
- b. The SCPD will coordinate with the State Disaster Management Authority, Health, Police and other Line Departments as well as District Administrations and District level disability officials and will be the overall in-charge to deal with matters related to persons with disability.

2. District Nodal Authority

- a. The Deputy Commissioner is designated as the District Nodal Authority in respect of Persons with Disabilities and the District Welfare Officer (DWO) as the Nodal Officer for PwDs.
- b. The DWO will list all PwDs in the district and monitor their requirements periodically. A separate list will be maintained of persons with disabilities with high support needs (severe disabilities).
- c. The DWO will take the help of Disabled Peoples Organisations/Civil Society Organisations/NGOs/Church groups to list of PwDs, monitor and reach the disability community in various parts of the district.

3. Delivery of non-COVID essential health services to Persons with Disabilities

- a. Some categories of persons with disabilities such as those having blood disorders, chronic neurological conditions and developmental disorders, etc, require frequent and compulsory visits to Hospitals, Health Care and Rehabilitation Centres for regular treatment or follow up. It must be ensured that persons with disabilities do not face hardship in availing of these services.
- b. District Administration and Police shall issue travel passes on priority to persons with disabilities who require such essential health services. Further, all necessary help is to be extended to enable them to reach the appropriate Hospital or Health Centre to avail of the needed services.
- c. Some persons with disabilities may be using services of caregivers from outside the home. In such cases, caregivers should be allowed to reach the persons with disabilities by exempting them from restrictions during lockdown or providing passes in a simplified manner.

4. Quarantine/isolation/treatment of persons with disabilities

- a. In many cases, persons with disabilities who need to be quarantined or need hospital care in relation to COVID-19, family members or caregivers will be required to be present - e.g. persons with physical disabilities, persons with intellectual/mental disabilities (psychosocial), etc., are dependent on caregiver support. Health Department shall put protocols in place to ensure that this is made possible and also to provide Personal Protective Equipments (PPE) to caregivers free of cost.
- b. In connection to the above, separate accessible quarantine/isolation facilities for persons with disabilities is to be set up in each district.
- c. It must be ensured that there is no discrimination in treatment of Persons with disabilities. Special care shall be taken in respect of children and women with disabilities.

5. Access to essential food supplies, medicines, etc

- a. Persons with disabilities must be ensured access to essential food, water, medicine, and, to the extent possible, such items should be delivered at their residence or place where they have been quarantined.
- b. Data of persons with disabilities assisted must be maintained and uploaded as a separate category.

6. Exemption

- a. In pursuance of the Office Memorandum of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions No.11013/9/2014-Estt. (A.III) dated 27th March and 1st April 2020, employees with disabilities, in Public/ Private Sectors, PSUs, Financial Institutions, etc, shall be exempted from essential services work during the COVID-19 situation.

7. All information to be made accessible

- a. All information about COVID-19, services offered and precautions to be taken is to be made available in accessible format, i.e. in audible tapes for persons who are blind, video-graphic material with subtitles and sign language interpretation for persons with hearing impairment.
- b. Websites dealing with COVID-19 information and all online content must be accessible to persons with disabilities.
- c. Relevant information on support to persons with disabilities should be a part of all awareness campaigns.

You are requested to take necessary actions as per the above guidelines in your respective districts.

Yours faithfully,


(ABHIJIT SINHA) IAS
Principal Secretary, Home

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Copy to:-

1. The Deputy Secretary to Chief Secretary, Nagaland, Kohima for kind information.
2. The DGP Nagaland for kind information and necessary action.
3. The Principal Secretary, Health & Family Welfare, Nagaland for kind information and necessary action
4. The Commissioner, Nagaland, Kohima for kind information.
5. The Commissioner & Secretary, Social Welfare, Nagaland, Kohima for kind information and necessary action.
6. The State Commissioner for Disabilities, Nagaland, Kohima for kind information.
7. The Director, Social Welfare, Nagaland, Kohima for information and necessary action.
8. Office copy.

(ABHIJIT SINHA) IAS
Principal Secretary, Home