

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

NO.GAB-I/COM/GEN-4/2020

Kohima, dated, the 28th Oct' 2021

ORDER

Sub: **Re-opening of Schools for conduct of regular classes for students of classes 1 (one) to 4 (four) in the State.**

In pursuance of **para 4(i)** of the Order No.NSDMA-ER-COVID19/301/2020 (Part-II), dated, 28th October 2021, NSDMA, Home Department, the undersigned in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 22 (2) (b) and Section 22 (2) (h) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, in the capacity of Chairperson, State Executive Committee, permits the re-opening of Schools for conduct of regular/offline classes for students of classes 1(one) to 4 (four) **with effect from 1st November 2021, in the rural areas of the State, with up to 50% attendance**, in addition to classes 5 (five) and above which have already been allowed to conduct regular /offline classes by earlier orders.

2. Further in pursuance of **para 4(ii)** of the aforesaid order, in the **urban areas of the State**, the schools for the students of Class I up to Class IV will be allowed to open with 50% attendance, after approval by the concerned District Task Force on COVID-19 where the positivity rate is low.

2. The attendance of any student of Class I to class IV for the regular classes in the Schools, both in rural and urban areas, shall be based on parental consent, and it is further directed that the re-opening of the schools throughout the State, shall be subject to all the teachers and non-teaching staff of the school concerned being fully vaccinated (taken both the doses) against COVID-19, or having taken the 1st (first) dose of vaccine against COVID-19, and at least 15 (fifteen) days having passed since taking the 1st (first dose), and if the aforesaid criteria for vaccination is not fulfilled, then should have been tested negative for COVID-19 through either RT-PCR or TrueNat or CBNAAT once in every 15 (fifteen) days; and further subject to adherence to all the provisions of the Standing Operating Procedure (SOP) as **Annexure-I** on the preventive measures to contain spread of COVID-19 on the re-opening of Schools.

Enclosure: As stated

Sd/-
J. ALAM, IAS
Chief Secretary, Nagaland

To

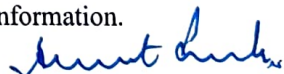
1. All the Deputy Commissioners & Chairmen, District Task Force, Nagaland for compliance.
2. All the District Education Officers, Nagaland for compliance.

NO.GAB-I/COM/GEN-4/2020

Kohima, dated, the 28th Oct' 2021

Copy to:

1. The Commissioner & Secretary to the Governor of Nagaland for kind information.
2. The Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Nagaland for kind information.
3. The Sr. PS to Deputy Chief Minister, Nagaland for kind information.



4. The Sr. PS to Advisor, School Education for kind information.
5. The Director General of Police, Nagaland for kind information.
6. The Special Secretary, School Education for kind information and necessary action.
7. All AHODs for information.
8. The Commissioner, Nagaland for information and necessary action.
9. The Chief of Staff, 3 Corps Hq. Rangapahar/IGAR (N), Kohima for information.
10. The Station Commander, Military Station, Jakhama/ Chief Engineer, Project Sewak, Dimapur/ DIG, CRPF, Kohima for information.
11. The Principal Director, School Education, Nagaland for information and necessary action.
12. All HODs for information.
13. The Station Director, AIR and Doordarshan, Kohima for information and publicity.
14. The Director, IPR for wide publicity.


(ABHIJIT SINHA) IAS
Principal Secretary, Home

SOP FOR REOPENING OF SCHOOLS FOR STUDENTS OF CLASSES 1 (ONE) TO 4 (FOUR) ON THE PREVENTIVE MEASURES TO CONTAIN SPREAD OF COVID-19

1. Scope

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) outlines various generic precautionary measures to be adopted in addition to specific measures to be taken to prevent spread of COVID-19 when schools resume normal functioning for students of Classes I (one) to IV (four).

2. Requirement of Parental Consent

The School shall seek prior consent of the parents concerned for the attendance of any student of Class IV (four) and below for the regular classes, and for those students, the consent is not given, the present system of online teaching by the School for such students shall be continued.

3. Maximum allowed percentage of attendance of students in any class and requirement of mandatory vaccination/testing for teachers/non-teaching staff.

- (a) The maximum allowed percentage of attendance of students in any class on a particular day shall be 50%.
- (b) All the teachers and non-teaching staff should be fully vaccinated (taken both the doses) against COVID-19, or should have taken the 1st (first) dose of vaccine against COVID-19, and at least 15 (fifteen) days should have passed since taking the 1st (first) dose, or should have been tested negative for COVID-19 through either RT-PCR or TrueNat or CBNAAT once in every 15 (fifteen) days.
- (c) The schools planning to re-open shall submit the list of all the teaching/non-teaching staff along with the details of the vaccination status or testing status as the case may be, as well as all the arrangements being made for ensuring adherence to the provisions of this SOP to the respective District Task Force (DTF) through the District Education Officer concerned.
- (d) The DTF may carry out verifications as considered necessary, and only on being satisfied of the overall preparedness of the school concerned, may grant permission for the re-opening of the school.
- (e) The schools which have cases of teaching/non-teaching staff submitting negative COVID-19 test report on account of not being vaccinated against COVID-19 as mentioned above, shall continue submitting the details of the COVID-testing status of such teaching/non-teaching staff every 15 (fifteen) days to the respective District Task Force (DTF) through the District Education Officer concerned.
- (f) The schools shall continue with the present system of online teaching while making preparations and awaiting clearance from the DTF for re-opening for conduct of the regular classes.

Generic Preventive Measures

The generic preventive measures include simple public health measures that are to be followed to reduce the risk of COVID-19. These measures need to be observed by all (teachers, employees and students) in these places at all times. These include:

- i. Physical distancing of at least 6 feet to be followed as far as feasible.
- ii. Mandatory wearing of face covers/masks by all concerned.
- iii. Frequent hand washing with soap (for at least 40-60 seconds) even when hands are not visibly dirty. Use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers (for at least 20 seconds) can be done wherever feasible.
- iv. Respiratory etiquettes to be strictly followed. This involves strict practice of covering one's mouth and nose while coughing/sneezing with a tissue/handkerchief/flexed elbow and disposing off used tissues properly.
- v. Self-monitoring of health by all and reporting any illness at the earliest.
- vi. Spitting shall be strictly prohibited.
- vii. Installation & use of Aarogya Setu App may be advised for teachers, employees wherever feasible.

5. All schools shall specifically ensure the following arrangements

- i. Seating arrangement to ensure a distance of 6 feet between chairs, desks etc.
- ii. Schools shall prepare alternate day routine for classes so as to fulfill the parameters given in 3(a) & 4(i) above. For example: Monday, Wednesday, Friday for class I, and Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday for classes II etc.
- iii. Schools shall frame the alternate day routine as per the enrolment in each class and the infrastructure facilities available.
- iv. Schools may encourage and continue Online/distance learning.

5.1 BEFORE OPENING UP OF SCHOOLS

a) Planning of reopening of schools.

- i. Schools outside the containment zones only shall be allowed to open. Further, students, teachers and employees living in containment zones will not be allowed to attend schools. Students, teachers and employees shall also be advised not to visit areas falling within containment zones.
- ii. Prior to resumption of activities, all work areas intended for teaching/demonstrations etc., including laboratories, other common utility areas shall be sanitized with 1% sodium hypochlorite solution, with particular attention to frequently touched surfaces.
- iii. Schools that were used as Quarantine Centres will be properly sanitized and deep cleaned before functioning of the school is resumed. Guidelines issued by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India for disinfection of common public places including offices may be referred to in this regard) (<https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/Guidelinesondisinfectionofcommonpublicplacesincludingoffices.pdf>)

- iv. Instead of biometric attendance alternate arrangements for contactless attendance shall be made by the school administration.
- v. At all times, the teachers and students shall maintain a physical distancing of 6 feet apart, wherever feasible. Scheduling of activities and seating plan shall be made accordingly.
- vi. Hand washing facilities along with provision of soap shall be ensured.
- vii. For ensuring queue management, inside and outside the premises, specific markings on the floor with a gap of 6 feet may be made. Similarly, physical distancing shall also be maintained in staff rooms, office areas (including reception area), and other places (mess, libraries, cafeterias, etc.).
- viii. Weather permitting, outdoor spaces may be utilized for conducting teacher-student interactions, keeping in view the safety and security of students and physical distancing protocols.
- ix. Assemblies, sports and events that can lead to overcrowding are strictly prohibited.
- x. Schools should display State helpline numbers and also numbers of local health authorities etc. to teachers/ students/ employees to contact in case of any emergency.
- xi. For air-conditioning/ventilation wherever applicable, the guidelines of CPWD shall be followed which emphasizes that the temperature setting of all air conditioning devices should be in the range of 24-30°C, relative humidity should be in the range of 40-70%, intake of fresh air should be as much as possible and cross ventilation should be adequate.
- xii. Lockers of students will remain in use, as long as physical distancing and regular disinfection is maintained.
- xiii. **Gymnasiums, if any, existing in the school shall remain closed.**
- xiv. **Swimming Pools, if any, existing in any school compound, shall remain closed.**

b) Planning and scheduling of activities

All employees who are at higher risk i.e., older employees, pregnant employees and employees who have underlying medical conditions to take extra precautions. They should preferably not be exposed to any front-line work requiring direct contact with the students.

iGOT online modules training course on 'basic awareness on COVID' (https://diksha.gov.in/igot/explorecourse/course/do_3130103899712552) may be undertaken by all employees and students on the first day.

c) Availability and management of supplies

- i. Appropriate back-up stock of personal protection items like face covers/masks, visors, hand sanitizers etc. shall be made available by school managements to teachers and employees.
- ii. Provide adequate supply of thermal guns, alcohol wipes or 1% sodium hypochlorite solutions and disposable paper towels, soap, IEC materials on COVID.
- iii. Pulse oximeter to check oxygen saturation levels of any symptomatic person must be arranged.

- iv. Ensure availability of sufficient covered dustbins and trashcans.
- v. Provision for proper disposal of used personal protective items and general waste in accordance with CPCB guidelines (available at: <https://cpcb.nic.in/uploads/Projects/Bio-Medical-Waste/BMWGUIDELINES-COVID1.pdf>) shall be made.
- vi. Housekeeping employees to be informed & trained about norms for waste management & disposal.

5.2 AFTER OPENING OF SCHOOLS

a) At the entry point

- i. Entrance to have mandatory hand hygiene (sanitizer dispenser/hand washing facilities) and thermal screening provisions. Multiple gates/separate gates, if feasible, should be used for entry and exit.
- ii. Only asymptomatic persons (teachers, employees and students) to be allowed in the premises. If a teacher/employee/student is found to be symptomatic, he/she should be referred to nearest Health Center.
- iii. Posters/standees on preventive measures about COVID-19 to be displayed prominently.
- iv. Proper crowd management in the parking lots, in corridors and in elevators - duly following physical distancing norms shall be organized.
- v. Entry of visitors should be strictly regulated/restricted.

b) Conduct of activities in the rooms or open spaces within the school campus

- i. Seating arrangement to ensure a distance of 6 feet between chairs, desks, etc.
- ii. Staggering of activities to be done, with separate timings/slots, to allow for adequate physical distancing and disinfection of classroom premises.
- iii. The teaching faculty will ensure that they themselves and students wear masks throughout the conduct of the teaching/guidance activities.
- iv. Sharing of items like notebook, pens/pencil, eraser, water bottle etc. amongst student should not be allowed.

c) Conduct of skill based training in workshops/laboratories

- i. For practical activities in laboratories maximum capacity per session based on redesigned spaces, may be planned and scheduled accordingly.
- ii. Ensure that the equipments have been disinfected, particularly the frequently touched surfaces before and after each use.
- iii. Ensure a floor area of 4m^2 per person is available for working on equipment/workstation.
- iv. Ensure that members sanitize their hands/ wash with soap before and after using training equipment. For such purpose hand sanitizer/hand washing facility should be provided at workstations/simulation labs etc.

d) Activities in common areas - library, mess/canteen, common rooms, etc.

- i. Physical distancing of 6 feet needs to be maintained.
- ii. Persons using the common areas need to use mask/face cover all the times.
- iii. Cafeteria/mess facility, if any within the premises, shall remain closed.

e) **Transportation to and from the institution:**

If transportation facility is being managed by the institution, proper physical distancing, sanitization of transport vehicles/buses (when permitted to ply) with 1% sodium hypochlorite, shall be ensured. Further the drivers and attendants should be fully vaccinated (taken both the doses) against COVID-19, or should have taken the 1st (first) dose of vaccine against COVID-19, and at least 15 (fifteen) days have passed since taking the 1st (first dose) or should have been tested negative for COVID-19 through either RT-PCR or TrueNat or CBNAAT once in every 15 (fifteen) days.

5.3 Hygiene and Sanitation

- i. Daily cleaning/sanitization of the floors shall be taken up.
- ii. Provision of soap in toilets and hand sanitizers in other common areas insufficient quantity must be ensured.
- iii. Cleaning and regular disinfection (using 1% sodium hypochlorite) of frequently touched surfaces (door knobs, elevator buttons, handrails, chairs, benches, washroom fixtures, etc.) to be made mandatory in all classrooms, laboratories, lockers, parking areas, other common areas etc. before beginning of classes and at the end of the day.
- iv. Teaching materials, computers, laptops, printers, shall be disinfected with 70%alcoholwipes.
- v. Deep cleaning of all drinking and hand washing stations, washrooms and lavatories shall be ensured.
- vi. Students and employees should be advised to dispose of used face covers/ masks in separate covered bins placed in classrooms, workstations and other common areas. The same may remain stored in the bins for 3 days and disposed of as dry general solid waste after cutting/shredding.
- vii. Students should not be involved in any of the cleaning activities for health safety reasons.

6. Risk Communication

- i. Create awareness to ensure that the students do not gather when leaving the school and in their free time.
- ii. Sensitize students, parents, teachers and employees to create awareness on COVID appropriate behavior, as detailed under generic measures above.
- iii. If a student, teacher or employee is sick, they should not come to the school and follow necessary protocols in this regard.

7. Psycho-social well-being

- i. Ensure regular counseling is done for students and teachers reporting mental health issues such as anxiety and depression.
- ii. It is advisable that teachers, school counselors and school health workers should work in unison to ensure emotional safety of students.

8. **SOP to be followed in case a student/teacher/employee develops symptoms (fever, cough, difficulty in breathing)**

- i. Place the ill person in a room or area where they are isolated from other.
 - ii. Inform parents/guardians as the case may be.
 - iii. Patient will remain isolated while wearing a mask/face cover till such time they are examined by a doctor.
 - iv. Immediately inform the nearest medical facility (hospital/clinic) or call the State or District Helpline.
 - v. A risk assessment shall be undertaken by the District Task Force and accordingly further action be initiated regarding management of case, their contacts and need for disinfection.
 - vi. Disinfection of the premises to be taken up if the person is found positive.
9. **Hostels, wherever existing, shall remain closed for students of class 4(four) and below, and for students who are unable to attend regular classes because of hostels not being available, the present system of online teaching for such students by the School shall be continued**
10. **Any violation of the provisions of the above SOP will attract action as per legal provisions against the management of the school/institution.**
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