



COVID-19 (nCorona) Virus Outbreak Control and Prevention State Cell

Health & Family Welfare Department

Government of Kerala

ADVISORY REGARDING CONDUCT OF NEET 2020

No.31/F2/2020/ Health- 10th August 2020

1. The distribution of NEET 2020 Examinees according to the centre of examination to be prepared in advance and communicated to the concerned institution as well as to the concerned District health authorities. The same is to be communicated to the students also in advance.
2. Guidelines for International arrivals issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of Kerala, to be operational from 00.01 Hrs, 8th August 2020, is to be followed by students coming from abroad for the examination. Refer the guideline issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Government of India-
<https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/RevisedguidelinesforInternationalArrivals02082020.pdf>
3. As per the above guidelines, travellers may also seek exemption from institutional quarantine by submitting a negative RT-PCR test report on arrival. This test should have been conducted within 96 hrs prior to undertaking the journey. The test report should be uploaded on the portal for consideration. Each passenger shall also submit a declaration with respect to authenticity of the report and will be liable for criminal prosecution, if found otherwise. The test report could also be produced upon arrival at the point of entry airport in India.
4. If the International/Interstate students on arrival are symptomatic or become symptomatic during the period of quarantine, they shall inform DISHA- 1056/local hospital and get tested for COVID-19 and shall be followed up as per the existing testing and treatment guidelines of the Department of Health and Family Welfare Govt. of Kerala.
5. Guidelines issued by the Government of Kerala regarding international and interstate travel should also be followed.
6. Students appearing for the exam coming from abroad and other states should reside in home/institutional quarantine for 14 days from the time

of arrival in Kerala. The parent/guardian should also be quarantined for 14 days if accompanied.

7. Students under quarantine and coming from containment zones / hotspots are to be allocated separate examination centres or separate class rooms maintaining a **sanitized corridor** as described further below.
8. Examination centre authorities should prepare a micro plan including the number of students (state, outside state, students under quarantine, students from containment zone/hotspots), number of class rooms, seating arrangements, movement plan of students etc. There should not be over crowding of students in the classrooms (maintain at least two meters between the seats).
9. Two Field level Health Care Workers (one male and one female) should be posted at the examination centre on the days of examination by the Department of Health Services. The micro plan should be vetted by the health care workers in consultation with the Medical officer of the concerned health institution well in advance of the examination.
10. The examination centre authorities shall make necessary infrastructure arrangements for the conduct of examinations in consultation with the health workers. The health workers shall review the infection control measures in examination centres.
11. A training should be conducted before the examination to sensitize the invigilators, institution management and staff on the micro plan as well as the conduct of exam with respect to COVID prevention. The health workers shall take necessary steps for the training.
12. Conveyance to and from their place of stay to examination centre should be arranged by the students/guardians themselves. Drivers of the vehicles should adhere to the State advisory for taxi drivers. As far as possible no parents should accompany the students. If they are accompanying they should remain seated in their vehicles and not do congregation around the Exam Centre before the exam and after the exam. The students should be asked to come back to the place where the vehicle was parked at the time of dropping off the students. It is for the safety of parents, students and community.
13. Examinations should be conducted in halls/ class rooms with very good air circulation. Windows should be kept open; fans and other mechanical ventilation should be used to increase air exchange. **Exams should not be conducted in air conditioned class rooms or halls.**

14. **Recommendations for Students coming from:**

a. **Abroad after completion of quarantine**

- b. **Outside Kerala state after completion of quarantine**
- c. **Students in Kerala who are NOT on quarantine or NOT from Containment zone/Hotspot**

Social distancing and hand hygiene with hand sanitizer is to be ensured and triple layer mask should be worn by all students. Seating arrangements in the examination centre should have a minimum distance of two meters between seats. Thermal screening of all students should be performed at the entrance. Those students with mild symptoms should be seated in a separate room for writing the exam (**Sick room, should be planned ahead**) and after the end of the day's examination, these students should seek health care/call DISHA. The students who have not completed quarantine period should also be sitting in a separate room other than the room for the symptomatic students. **All the invigilators should wear triple layer mask and gloves.** Before putting on and after removing gloves hand hygiene should be ensured. The time spent by invigilators inside the exam hall may be minimized by using CCTV monitoring etc. Exchange of articles like pens, instrument box etc between students should not be permitted and strictly prohibited. Answer sheets should be carefully handled. Once the time allotted for the exam is over the students shall get up from their seats one by one and **drop their answer papers into a large plastic bag kept in the class room/hall.** Once all the students in the class room/hall have submitted the answer papers in this manner, the invigilator can tie and seal the plastic bag. **Provision for large plastic bags should be made before the exams.** The sealed bags of answer sheets may be sent to the valuation camps on the same day itself for safe custody. Answer sheets of these students should be stored separately and should be valued only after seven days. After the exam for the day is over, the entire class room, floor, desks and benches/chairs should be cleaned with 1% bleach solution.

15.Recommendations for Students coming from within Kerala state who are on quarantine and from containment zones/hotspots, Students who have not completed quarantine , Students who are symptomatic:

A **sanitized corridor** [red channel] has to be maintained by the student and guardian to and from the quarantined place/containment zone/hotspot (see diagram below). Separate class room/hall is to be planned and assigned for this category of students. The Sanitized corridor will have to be maintained in the examination centre as well as in the examination hall. Large sign boards should be placed in the

institution such that this category of students does not come in contact with other students.

Those students with mild symptoms should be seated in a separate room for writing the exam (**Sick room, should be planned ahead**) and after the end of the day's examination, these students should seek health care/call DISHA. The students who have not completed quarantine period should also be sitting in a separate room other than the room for the symptomatic students.

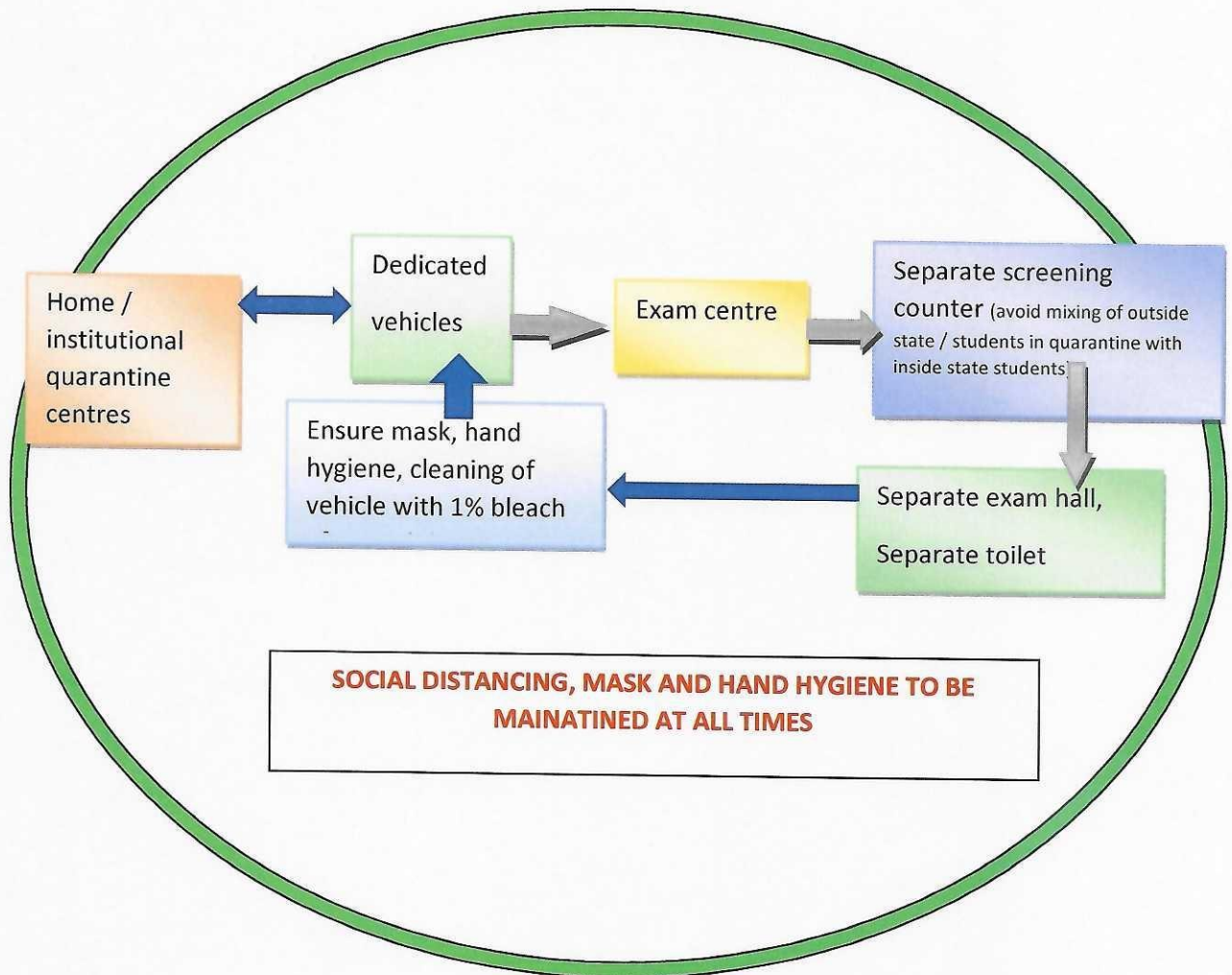
Such students should contact the institution beforehand and inform their status of belonging to a quarantine/containment zone/hotspot category.

The healthcare workers posted in the exam centre should supervise the creation of and compliance of the sanitized corridor protocol. A checklist should be used by the healthcare worker to ensure compliance with the sanitized corridor protocol.

All the recommendations for the conduct of the exam as described in the point above (15) should be followed in addition to the sanitised corridor mechanism.

15. The exam centre/institution staff should also wear masks [cloth/surgical] and practice hand hygiene and social distancing.
16. The exam centre/ Institutional authorities should ensure that there is no crowding of students/parents outside the examination centre.
17. Parents/guardians accompanying students should wear masks, practice social distancing and hand hygiene. Only one person should accompany the student to the examination centre. Gathering/Interaction between guardians in the perimeter of the examination centre should not be permitted.
18. After the examination guardians and students who are on quarantine/containment zone/hotspot should return to their place of quarantine/ respective home.
19. Institution authorities should ensure availability of masks, alcohol-based hand rubs and hand washing facility with liquid soap and water.
20. Drinking water should be brought by the students themselves and should not be shared between the students.
21. **Separate toilets** should be earmarked for students on quarantine/containment zone/hotspots. Appropriate signages should be provided.
22. **Separate toilets** should be earmarked for symptomatic students
23. Signages with DO's and DON'T's for the students and guardians should be displayed at multiple points inside the examination centre premises. Care must be ensured to avoid crowding around the signages.

SANITIZED CORRIDOR PROTOCOL FOR STUDENTS AND GUARDIANS
UNDER QUARANTINE /CONTAINMENT ZONE/HOTSPOTS



Rajan
Principal Secretary