

IMMEDIATE

No. EDN-HE (21)A(3)06/2020-V

Directorate of Higher Education

Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-1

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Dated: Shimla-1 the 19th September, 2020

To

1. All the Principals
Govt./Pvt. Degree/ Skt. Colleges in,
Himachal Pradesh
2. All the Deputy Directors of Higher Education,
Himachal Pradesh
3. All the Deputy Directors of Elementary Education,
Himachal Pradesh
4. All the Principals,
District Institute of Education and Training,
Himachal Pradesh
5. All the Principals/ Headmasters,
Government/Pvt. Sen. Sec./ High Schools in,
Himachal Pradesh

Subject:- Regarding Re-opening of Schools for Students of 9th to 12th Classes on Voluntary Basis During Unlock-4 Period Outside the Containment Zones.

In pursuance to Government of Himachal Pradesh letter No.EDN-B-B(14)-12/2018 dated 19-09-2020, received from the Secretary(Education) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh, on the above mentioned subject.

In this regard, in the areas outside the Containment Zones, Schools, Colleges, Educational Institutions and Coaching Institutions will remain closed for Students and regular class activity upto 30th September, 2020. However, following has been permitted for Govt./Pvt. Colleges/ Skt. Colleges/ DIETs/ Govt./ Pvt. Sen. Sec./ Govt./ Pvt. High Schools/ Govt./Pvt. Middle Schools/Govt./ Pvt. Primary Schools:-

- a) **Online/ distance learning shall continue to be permitted and shall be encouraged.**
- b) **50% of teaching and non-teaching staff of Educational Institutions will be called to the Schools at a time for online teaching/ tele-counselling and related work, in areas outside the Containment Zone only w.e.f. 21st September, 2020 for which, Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) issued by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Directorate of General of Health Services (EMR Division) on 08-09-2020 (copy enclosed for ready reference) will be followed strictly.**

- c) **Students of Classes 9th to 12th may be permitted to visit their Schools, in areas outside the Containment Zones only, on voluntary basis, for taking guidance from their teacher. This will be subject to written consent of their parents/ guardians and will be permitted w.e.f. 21-09-2020 as per SOP issued by the MoHFW on 08-09-2020.**

In view of above mentioned, you are directed to take further necessary action in the matter accordingly and these directions/ instructions may also be publicized widely for the information of Students.

This may be given personal attention and top priority please.



(Dr. Amarjeet Kumar Sharma),
Director of Higher Education,
Himachal Pradesh

Endst. No. Even Dated Shimla-1 the 19th September, 2020
Copy for information and necessary action is forwarded to:-

1. The Secretary (Education) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-2, w.r.t. above mentioned letter number and date.
2. The Technical Officer, IT Cell, with the direction to upload this letter on the Departmental website.
3. Guard file.



Director of Higher Education,
Himachal Pradesh

8th September, 2020

Government of India
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Directorate General of Health Services
(EMR Division)

SOP for partial reopening of Schools for students of 9th to 12th classes on a voluntary basis, for taking guidance from their teachers: In the context of COVID-19

1. Background

Government of India is following a phase-wise unlocking of activities. In days to come, this would also involve partial resumption of activities in schools for students of classes 9th to 12th on a voluntary basis, for taking guidance from their teachers. This would be allowed from 21st September 2020.

2. Scope

This SOP outlines various generic precautionary measures to be adopted in addition to specific measures to be taken when schools are permitting students (for 9th to 12th class) in the specific context detailed at para-1 above, to prevent spread of COVID-19. All States/UTs are expected to comply with the COVID-19 related guidelines issued by Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

3. 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. Use of face covers/masks to be made mandatory.
- 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 wherever feasible.

4. All schools (with classes IX to XII) shall specifically ensure the following arrangements

- i. Online/distance learning shall continue to be permitted and shall be encouraged.
- ii. Students of class 9th to 12th shall be permitted to visit their school on voluntary basis for taking guidance from their teachers. This will be subject to written consent of their parents/guardians. Such visits and teacher – student interaction must be organized in a staggered manner.

4.1 Before opening up of the school

a) Planning of reopening of school

- i. School 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 the school. 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 partial functioning is resumed. Guidelines issued by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare for disinfection of common public places including offices may be referred to in this regard)
(<https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/Guidelinesondisinfectionofcommonpublicplacesincludingoffices.pdf>)
- iv. The concerned teaching and non-teaching employees (up to 50 % of the strength) may be called to schools for online teaching/tele-counselling and related work.
- v. Students from class 9th to 12th will have the option of attending the classes remotely/virtually or physically only on a voluntary basis for guidance from their teachers subject to written permission of parent / guardian.
- vi. Instead of biometric attendance alternate arrangements for contactless attendance shall be made by the school administration.
- vii. 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.
- viii. Ensure hand washing facilities along with provision of soap.
- ix. 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.)
- x. 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.

- xi. Assemblies, sports and events that can lead to overcrowding are strictly prohibited.
- xii. The school should display State helpline numbers and also numbers of local health authorities etc. to teachers /students / employees to contact in case of any emergency.
- xiii. For air-conditioning/ventilation, 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.
- xiv. Lockers of students will remain in use, as long as physical distancing and regular disinfection is maintained.
- xv. Gymnasiums shall follow MoHFW guidelines (available at: <https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/Guidelinesonyogainstitutesandgymnasiums03082020.pdf>).
- xvi. Swimming Pool (wherever applicable) 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/explore-course/course/do_313010389971255296164) may be undertaken by all employee and students during online interactions or guidance sessions 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 management to the teachers and employee.
- ii. Provide an 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 trash cans
- 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/BMW-GUIDELINES-COVID_1.pdf)
- vi. Housekeeping employee to be informed & trained about norms for waste management & disposal

4.2 After opening of the schools

a) At the entry point

- i. Entrance to have mandatory hand hygiene (sanitizer dispenser) 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 guidance 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 guidance activities to be done, with separate timing 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 students 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 4m² per person is available for working on equipment/work station.
 - iv. Ensure that members sanitize their hands before and after using training equipment. For such purpose hand sanitizer should be provided at workstations/simulation labs etc.
- d) Activities in common areas – library, mess/canteen, common rooms, gymnasium 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 time
 - 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 school, proper physical distancing, sanitization of buses/other transport vehicles (with 1% sodium hypochlorite) shall be ensured.

5. Hygiene and Sanitation

- i. Daily cleaning of the floors shall be taken up.
- ii. Provision of soap in toilets and hand sanitizers in other common areas in sufficient quantity must be ensured.
- iii. Cleaning and regular disinfection (using 1% sodium hypochlorite) of frequently touched surfaces (door knobs, elevator buttons, hand rails, chairs, benches, washroom fixtures, etc.) to be made

mandatory in all class rooms, 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% alcohol wipes.
- v. Deep cleaning of all drinking and hand washing stations, washrooms and lavatories shall be ensured.
- vi. Students and employee should be advised to dispose of used face covers / masks in separate covered bins placed in classrooms, work stations 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 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 wellbeing

- i. Ensure regular counselling is done for students and teachers reporting mental health issues such as anxiety and depression.
- ii. It is advisable that teachers, school counsellors and school health workers should work in unison to ensure emotional safety of the 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 others.
- 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 designated public health authority (district RRT/treating physician) 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.

SOP FOR PARTIAL REOPENING OF SCHOOLS FOR STUDENTS OF 9TH TO 12TH

To be permitted from 21st Sept. 2020



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Generic Preventive Measures

(1/2)



Physical distancing of at least 6 feet to be followed



Mandatory use of face covers/masks



Frequent hand washing with soap
(for at least 40-60 seconds)



Use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers
(for at least 20 seconds)

To be permitted from 21st Sept. 2020

Generic Preventive Measures

(2/2)



Respiratory etiquettes to be strictly followed



Self-monitoring of health by all & reporting any illness at the earliest



Spitting to be strictly prohibited



Installation & use of Aarogya Setu App to be advised

SOP FOR PARTIAL REOPENING OF SCHOOLS FOR STUDENTS OF 9TH TO 12TH



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To be permitted from 21st Sept. 2020

Arrangements to be Ensured in all Schools



Online/distance learning shall continue to be permitted & shall be encouraged



Students of class 9th to 12th permitted to visit their school on voluntary basis for taking guidance from their teachers



Such visit will be subjected to written consent of their parents/guardians



Student visits & teacher – student interaction must be organized in a staggered manner

Date: 10th September 2020

SOP FOR PARTIAL REOPENING OF SCHOOLS FOR STUDENTS OF 9TH TO 12TH

To be permitted from 21st Sept. 2020

Planning before Reopening of Schools (1/5)



Only schools outside the containment zones to be allowed to open



Students, teachers & employees living in containment zones not allowed to attend school



All work areas intended for teaching/demonstrations, common utility areas, etc. to be sanitized



Schools that were used as quarantine centres to be properly sanitized



Concerned teaching & non-teaching employees (up to 50%) may be called to schools for online teaching/tele-counselling & related work

SOP FOR PARTIAL REOPENING OF SCHOOLS FOR STUDENTS OF 9TH TO 12TH

To be permitted from 21st Sept. 2020



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Planning before Reopening of Schools (2/5)



Students to have the option of attending the classes remotely/virtually or physically on a voluntary basis for guidance from their teachers



Alternate arrangements for contactless attendance to be made by the school administration



Scheduling of activities and seating plan to be made following physical distancing norms



Ensure hand washing facilities along with provision of soap



Specific markings on the floor with a gap of 6 feet may be made

To be permitted from 21st Sept. 2020

Planning before Reopening of Schools (3/5)



Physical distancing to be maintained in staff rooms, office areas & other places like mess, libraries, cafeterias, etc.



Outdoor spaces may be utilized for conducting teacher-student interactions, following physical distancing norms



Assemblies, sports and events that can lead to overcrowding strictly prohibited



Schools to display helpline numbers of State, local health authorities etc. for contact in case of emergency

To be permitted from 21st Sept. 2020

Planning before Reopening of Schools (4/5)



For air-conditioning/ventilation, the guidelines of CPWD to be followed:



Temperature setting to be in the range of 24-30°C



Relative humidity to be in the range of 40- 70%



Recirculation of air to be avoided



Intake of fresh air as much as possible



Cross ventilation to be adequate

SOP FOR PARTIAL REOPENING OF SCHOOLS FOR STUDENTS OF 9TH TO 12TH

To be permitted from 21st Sept. 2020

Planning before Reopening of Schools (5/5)



Lockers of students will remain in use, physical distancing & regular disinfection to be maintained



Gymnasiums to follow Health Ministry guidelines



Swimming Pool to remain closed

SOP FOR PARTIAL REOPENING OF SCHOOLS FOR STUDENTS OF 9TH TO 12TH

To be permitted from 21st Sept. 2020

Planning and Scheduling of Activities



All employees who are at higher risk to take extra precautions. They should preferably not be exposed to any front-line work



iGOT online modules training course on 'basic awareness on COVID' to be undertaken by employees & students

To be permitted from 21st Sept. 2020

Availability and Management of Supplies



Appropriate back-up stock of personal protection items like face covers/masks, hand sanitizers etc. to be made available



Adequate supply of thermal guns, alcohol wipes, soap, Pulse oximeters, IEC, etc. to be made available



Ensure availability of sufficient covered dustbins & trash cans



Proper disposal of used personal protective items & general waste according to CPCB guidelines



Housekeeping employee to be trained about norms for waste management & disposal

SOP FOR PARTIAL REOPENING OF SCHOOLS FOR STUDENTS OF 9TH TO 12TH

To be permitted from 21st Sept. 2020

Measures to be taken at the Entry Point after Opening of Schools



Mandatory hand hygiene & thermal screening provisions at entrance. Separate gates, if feasible, to be used for entry & exit



Only asymptomatic persons to be allowed in the premises. Symptomatic persons to be referred to the nearest health center



Posters/standees on preventive measures about COVID-19 to be displayed prominently



Proper crowd management in parking lots, in corridors & in elevators duly following physical distancing norms to be organized



Entry of visitors should be strictly regulated/restricted

To be permitted from 21st Sept. 2020

Conduct of Guidance Activities in the Rooms or Open Spaces within School Campus



Seating arrangement to ensure a distance of 6 feet between chairs, desks etc.



Staggering of guidance activities with separate time slots to ensure adequate physical distancing & disinfection of classroom premises



Teaching faculty to ensure wearing of masks by themselves & students throughout the teaching/guidance activities



Sharing of items like notebook, pens/pencil, water bottle etc. amongst students not to be allowed

To be permitted from 21st Sept. 2020

Conduct of Skill Based Training in Workshops/ Laboratories



For lab practicals, maximum capacity per session based on redesigned spaces may be planned & scheduled accordingly



Ensure disinfection of frequently touched surfaces of equipments before & after each use



Ensure a floor area of 4m² per person is available for working on equipment/workstation



Ensure sanitization before & after using training equipment. Hand sanitizer to be provided at workstations/simulation labs etc

SOP FOR PARTIAL REOPENING OF SCHOOLS FOR STUDENTS OF 9TH TO 12TH

To be permitted from 21st Sept. 2020

Measures for Activities in Common Areas - Library, Mess/Canteen, Gymnasium etc.



Physical distancing of 6 feet to be maintained



Persons using the common areas to use mask/face cover all the time



Cafeteria/mess facility within the premises to remain closed

Transportation to and from the Institution



Proper physical distancing, sanitization of buses/other transport vehicles to be ensured

SOP FOR PARTIAL REOPENING OF SCHOOLS FOR STUDENTS OF 9TH TO 12TH



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To be permitted from 21st Sept. 2020

Hygiene and Sanitation (1/2)



Daily cleaning of the floors to be taken up



Provision of soap in toilets & hand sanitizers in other common areas must be ensured



Cleaning & regular disinfection of frequently touched surfaces mandatory in all class rooms, labs & other common areas before beginning & at the end of classes

SOP FOR PARTIAL REOPENING OF SCHOOLS FOR STUDENTS OF 9TH TO 12TH

To be permitted from 21st Sept. 2020

Hygiene and Sanitation (2/2)



Teaching materials, computers, laptops, printers to be disinfected with 70% alcohol wipes



Deep cleaning of all drinking & hand washing stations, washrooms & lavatories to be ensured



Students & employees to be advised to dispose of used face covers/masks in separate covered bins. The same may remain stored in the bins for 3 days & then disposed off



Students not to be involved in any of the cleaning activities for health safety reasons

To be permitted from 21st Sept. 2020

Risk Communication



Ensure students do not gather when leaving the school and in their free time



Sensitize students, parents, teachers & employees to create awareness on COVID appropriate behavior



If a student, teacher or employee is sick, they should not come to school & follow necessary protocols

SOP FOR PARTIAL REOPENING OF SCHOOLS FOR STUDENTS OF 9TH TO 12TH



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To be permitted from 21st Sept. 2020

Psycho- Social Wellbeing



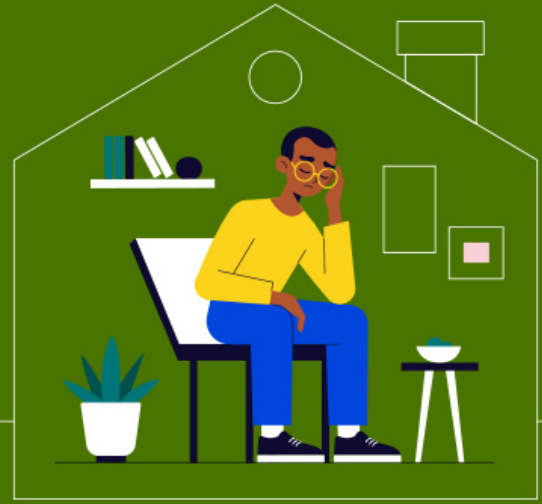
Ensure regular counselling for students & teachers reporting mental health issues such as anxiety and depression



It is advisable that teachers, school counsellors and school health workers should work in unison to ensure emotional safety of the students

To be permitted from 21st Sept. 2020

In Case a Student /Teacher/Employee Develops Symptoms



Place the ill person in a room or area where they are isolated from others



Inform parents/guardians as the case may be



Patient to remain isolated while wearing a mask/face cover till such time they are examined by a doctor



Immediately inform the nearest medical facility (hospital/clinic) or call the state or district



A risk assessment to be undertaken by designated public health authority & accordingly further action be initiated



Disinfection of the premises to be taken up if the person is found positive