



Development & Panchayats Department Haryana
Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin)

Haryana Panchayat Bhawan, Plot No.3, Sector-28A, Chandigarh – 160026
0172-2637670, hssbmdph@gmail.com, achssbmdph@gmail.com

(Through email only)

To

1. All the Deputy Commissioners in the State
2. All the Additional Deputy Commissioners in the State
3. All the DDPOs in the State
4. All the BDPOs in the State

Memo No. HSSBM-SPM-2020/ 25926

Dated: 21-04-2020

Subject:

**Continuing sanitation and hygiene activities during the prevailing
lockdown while observing due health and safety protocols — reg.**

Please find enclosed herewith a copy of letter No. S-18011/24/2015-SBM dated 18th April, 2020 along-with health, safety and hygiene protocols for sanitation workers and masons received from the Addl. Secretary to Govt. of India, Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, New Delhi on the subject cited above.

Sanitation and hygiene deserve the utmost priority at this critical time and effective measures need to be undertaken to ensure that people continue to use toilets to defecate and that key hygiene practices are adopted by everyone. The Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India vide Order No.40-3/2020-DM-I(A) dated 16th April, 2020, issued in continuation of their revised consolidated guidelines on the measures to be taken for containment of COVID-19 epidemic in the country, issued vide order No. 40-3/2020-DM-I(A) dated 15th April, 2020, has also allowed construction activities for water supply and sanitation in rural areas with effect from 20th April, 2020.

The District Administration may review their preparedness and, starting 20th April, 2020, recommence work in their districts on *ODF Sustainability, which includes the construction of Individual Household Toilets and Community Sanitary Complexes. Solid and Liquid Waste Management works may also be taken up with effect from 20th April, 2020.* All construction, behaviour change and hygiene promotion activities should be in compliance with the said lockdown guidelines.

While developing new norms of initiating work activities during the lockdown period, due attention should be paid to ensuring adequate health and safety protocols including maintaining social distancing. The above referred revised consolidated guidelines issued by Ministry of Home Affairs on 15th April, 2020 must be strictly



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followed. The recommendations of Ministry of Jal Shakti with regard to health, safety and hygiene protocols for sanitation workers and masons should also be followed.

You are, therefore requested to ensure that implementation of sanitation and hygiene activities commence after the orientation of frontline workers on safety measures, including the use of protective gear and the practice of social distancing.

Encl: as above

State Project Coordinator (SBM-G)
For Principal Secretary to Govt. of Haryana
Development & Panchayats Department

CC:

PS/PSDP for the kind information of W/PSDP
PA/DP for the kind information of W/DP

MOST URGENT
COVID-19

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, SIRSA

Endst. No. 22481-495/MA Dated:- 21/04/2020

A copy of letter No. HSSBM-SPM-2020/25926 dated 21.4.2020 received from the PS to Govt. Haryana, Dev. & Panchayats Department regarding sanitation and hygiene activities during the prevailing lockdown while observing due health and safety protocols, is forwarded to the following for information and strict compliance:

1. ADC Sirsa
2. All SDMs in district Sirsa
9. DDPO, Sirsa
10. DIPRO, Sirsa
11. All BDPOs in district Sirsa
12. Coordinator, SBM (G), Sirsa

For Deputy Commissioner,
Sirsa

CC:

1. Incharge, District War/Control Room, Sirsa
2. DIO, NIC, Sirsa

No.S-18011/24/2015-SBM
Government of India
Ministry of Jal Shakti
Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation
Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen)

4th Floor, Pt. DD Antyodaya Bhawan
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road
New Delhi - 110003
18th April, 2020

To
Addl. Chief Secretary/Pr. Secretary/Secretary
In charge of rural sanitation
All States/UTs

Sub: Continuing sanitation and hygiene activities during the prevailing lockdown while observing due health and safety protocols - reg.

Madam/Sir,

I am to refer to the video conference held by the Secretary, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, on 9th April, 2020 with the ACS/Pr.Secretaries/Secretaries in-charge of rural sanitation of some States, and their Mission Directors, to review the status of sanitation and hygiene activities during the prevailing lockdown.

2. Sanitation and hygiene deserve the utmost priority at this critical time and effective measures need to be undertaken to ensure that people continue to use toilets to defecate and that key hygiene practices are adopted by everyone. The Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India vide Order No.40-3/2020-DM-I(A) dated 16th April, 2020, issued in continuation of their revised consolidated guidelines on the measures to be taken for containment of COVID-19 epidemic in the country, issued vide order No. 40-3/2020-DM-I(A) dated 15th April, 2020, has also allowed construction activities for water supply and sanitation in rural areas with effect from 20th April, 2020.

3. It is therefore suggested that all the State/UTs Governments may review their preparedness and, starting 20th April, 2020, recommence work in their States/UTs on ODF Sustainability, which includes the construction of Individual Household Toilets and Community Sanitary Complexes. Solid and Liquid Waste Management works may also be taken up with effect from 20th April, 2020. Hygiene promotion should be actively taken up, for which separate guidelines will be issued. It is emphasized that all construction, behaviour change and hygiene promotion activities should be in compliance with the said lockdown guidelines.

4. While developing new norms of initiating work activities during the lockdown period, due attention should be paid to ensuring adequate health and safety protocols including maintaining social distancing. The above referred revised consolidated guidelines issued by Ministry of Home Affairs on 15th April, 2020 must be strictly followed. Some additional recommendations from this Department with regard to health, safety and hygiene protocols for sanitation workers and masons are attached with this letter.

5. States should ensure that implementation of sanitation and hygiene activities commence after the orientation of frontline workers on safety measures, including the use of protective gear and the practice of social distancing. This department has also recently issued guidelines to States/UTs on use of funds available with Gram Panchayats as well as the Performance Incentive Grants funds under SBM(G) to provide disinfectants, sanitizers and safety equipment for frontline workers.

Yours faithfully,


(Arun Baroka)

Addl. Secretary to the Govt of India
E-mail: arun.baroka@nic.in

Encl: As above.

Copy to: 1. Chief Secretaries, All States/UTs
2. Mission Directors, SBM-G, All States/UTs

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Health and Safety Measures for Sanitation Workers

1. Introduction

Swachh Bharat Mission assigns highest value to its field functionaries for their exemplary contribution towards making India open defecation free and intends to equip them with necessary health and safety measures acknowledging their importance as frontline warriors of Swachhata. Frontline WASH workers are those who work closely with the people in rural areas on various components of Swachh Bharat Mission. Their role focuses on WASH service provision and maintenance. They mobilise communities to work towards improved personal hygiene and environmental sanitation, and promote proper care and use of WASH infrastructure.

Now as the State Governments are preparing themselves to restart delivery of sanitation and hygiene services, it is important that all sanitation related interventions are carried out following the prescribed minimum standards in rural areas. All States should ensure that everyone who is involved in delivery of sanitation and hygiene services are oriented on the protocol to be followed while promoting sanitation practices among communities in villages, undertaking community outreach activities, construction of Individual and Community Toilets and providing important information, knowledge and skills on sanitation and hygiene related topics.

2. Assessment of risks

States and Districts should undertake an assessment of risks to determine the scale and intensity of implementation and measures to be taken to ensure that all possible risks are covered. Measures for protecting sanitation workers from exposure to, and infection with Coronavirus Disease would depend on the type of work being performed and exposure risk, including potential for interaction with people with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 and contamination of the work environment.

Risk mitigation strategies should include using appropriate combinations of social, engineering and administrative controls, safe work practices, and personal protective equipment to prevent sanitation worker's exposures. Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation and Department of Panchayati Raj, Government of India through a joint advisory have allowed Gram Panchayats to procure disinfectants, masks and gloves and sanitizers for stepping up cleanliness in villages on one hand and ensuring health and safety of sanitation workers. It would be important that the advisory is followed in letter and spirit and abundant caution is taken before initiating implementation of sanitation and hygiene interventions.

3. Orientation for Sanitation functionaries

All sanitation workers who shall be involved in community outreach, construction of toilets, hygiene promotion, cleaning and maintenance of toilets and implementation of solid and liquid waste management (SLWM) should receive orientation on the suggested protocol at Block and or Gram Panchayat level, following all the norms of social distancing or virtually. The orientation can be provided by Block Development Officer or Gram Panchayat and should include information on basic hygiene practices; social distancing, use and disposal of personal protective equipment. People to be involved in sanitation related work must also be advised to promptly seek medical attention if displaying any signs or symptoms of COVID-19.

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