

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
(Prisons and Correctional Services)

No: J2/SC/WP.No.1/2020

Office of the
Director General of Police
Prisons and Correctional Services
#4, Seshadri Road, Bengaluru -560 009
Dated: 28.09.2020

CIRCULAR

Sub: Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for handling new admissions of prisoners, detainees and inmates during COVID-19 Pandemic in the Prisons of Karnataka - reg.

Ref: This office Circular of even number, dated: 22.05.2020.

A standard operating procedure regarding the Protocol to be followed in prisons for preventing spread of COVID-19 was issued vide Circular dated 22.05.2020. In view of the dynamic nature of the pandemic, it is necessary to adapt to the changing circumstances and requirements. Accordingly, in supersession of the aforesaid Circular dated 22.05.2020, the revised Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) regarding Guidelines and Protocols to be followed in the Prisons for prevention and spread of COVID-19 are as follows.

A. Measures for Prison Staff while entering into the Prison :

1. All Prison Staff shall wash their hands with soap and water. Hand wash facilities shall be made available near the main gate.
2. Face masks / Hand kerchiefs and head visors shall be used to cover nose and mouth by all the staff.
3. All the Prison Officers / Staff shall be screened for cough, cold and fever.
4. Social Distancing with each other shall be followed.

B. Measures to be taken at the point of entry for newly admitted under trial prisoners / parole returnee convicts:

1. In order to prevent the infection from entering the prison premises, it shall be ensured that all the new under trial prisoners who are brought to the prisons for admission and convicted prisoners returning from parole are mandatorily tested for COVID-19 before their entry into the prisons.

2. Prisoners who are COVID-19 positive shall not, under any circumstances, be permitted to enter the prison premises and shall be treated as per the prescribed health protocol in a designated COVID hospital/center.
3. A prisoner who is asymptomatic and tests negative or has a report/certificate showing that he is COVID-19 negative within the previous 48 hours shall be quarantined separately within the prison premises for a period of 14 days from the date of admission or as prescribed by the State Health Authorities from time to time.
4. During the period of quarantine, all the prisoners shall be screened for symptoms such as cough, cold, fever, etc., their temperatures shall be checked using IR thermometer and oxygen saturation levels shall be checked using a pulse oximeter.
5. A prisoner who tests COVID-19 negative but is symptomatic at the time of his admission shall be quarantined in a separate room/isolation ward and a mandatory COVID-19 test shall immediately be conducted. If the test result is positive, the procedure set out under Point C.4 and C.5 shall be followed.

C. Quarantine Policy:

1. All the newly admitted prisoners and parole returnee convicts shall be quarantined for a period of 14 days or as prescribed by the State Health Authorities from time to time.
2. During the period of quarantine, continuous health screening and monitoring shall be made.
3. Any inmate who develops symptoms of cough, cold and fever, shall be provided with medical assistance and immediately tested for COVID-19. The prisoner shall be isolated until the test results are obtained.
4. If any inmate tests positive for COVID-19, immediately the information shall be provided to the local health authorities, District Administration and Police Authorities.
5. Such prisoners who test positive for COVID-19 shall be immediately shifted to the identified COVID-19 Hospitals / COVID-19 Care Centers of the State Government as per the District Administration and the State Health Department Protocol and with their help, for proper medical care and treatment.

6. Information and awareness regarding COVID-19 shall be provided to all the prisoners periodically to overcome their anxiety and tension.

D. For existing inmates in the prison:

1. All the prisoners shall be screened for cough, cold and fever daily.
2. The staff on duty shall constantly monitor the health of the prisoners and identify the sick prisoners if any, at the earliest and ensure medical care and treatment.
3. If any prisoner has any symptoms of cough, cold and fever, they shall be provided with medical assistance and immediately tested for COVID-19. The prisoner shall be isolated until the test results are obtained.
4. If any prisoner tests positive for COVID-19, immediately the information shall be provided to the local health authorities, District Administration and Police Authorities.
5. Such prisoners who test positive for COVID-19 shall be immediately shifted to the identified COVID-19 Hospitals / COVID-19 Care Centers of the State Government as per the District Administration and the State Health Department Protocol and with their help, for proper medical care and treatment.
6. Information and awareness about personal hygiene and cleanliness including hand hygiene, cough and cold, use of masks, social distancing and related information shall be provided to all the prisoners regularly by the duty staff.
7. Movement of prisoners shall be kept minimum and gatherings, group formations shall be avoided.
8. The staff shall be extra vigilant, highly observant and communicate with prisoners all the time to ensure that all prisoners are able to get the attention of staff.

E. For the prison staff -

1. If any prison staff reports for duty after any illness or long period of leave or history of travel, the staff shall come with COVID-19 test report and shall be taken on duty only if COVID-19 test report is negative.

2. Such staff coming from leave shall be posted to outer circle / wall duty or any other such place for 14 days, where contact with both the inmates and staff is at minimum.
3. If the staff develops any symptom of sickness while on duty, they shall report the same immediately to the higher officers for medical assistance. If need be tested for COVID-19.
4. If any staff tests positive, they shall be immediately shifted to the nearby COVID-19 Hospitals / COVID-19 Care Centers of the State Government as per the District Administration and the State Health Department Protocol and with their help for proper medical care and treatment.
5. It shall be the responsibility of the staff at all levels to ensure that the good practices and guidelines are followed.

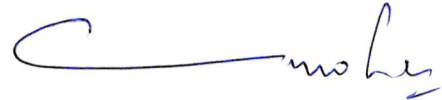
F. On general sanitation and disinfection of prison offices, barracks and other areas -

It shall be ensured that:

1. All the areas are cleaned at least twice daily i.e., early in the morning before the work begins and every evening after the work ends. Some places such as toilets or public spaces shall be cleaned more number of times based on need.
2. All employees shall clean their work area / desks with a disinfecting wipe prior to use.
3. Prison kitchen, barracks, toilets and bathrooms shall be cleaned and sanitized daily.
4. General sanitation measures in and around the prison premises shall be ensured.
5. Segregation and proper disposal of all the waste inside the prison shall be ensured.
6. Adequate stock of the essential items and materials shall be kept to meet unforeseen contingencies.

All the Prison Superintendents shall maintain proper co-ordination with the District Health Authorities, District Administration and Police Authorities towards shifting and treatment of COVID-19 prisoners. Assistance from the Health and Civic Authorities shall be taken towards the maintenance of hygiene and general health in all the Prisons of the State.

DIG Prisons, South Range and DIG Prisons, North Range shall ensure compliance of these guidelines in all the prisons under their supervision.



(ALOK MOHAN, IPS)

Director General of Police
Prisons and Correctional Services
Karnataka State.

To,

1. DIG Prisons, North & South Range- Belagavi & Bengaluru.
2. All Chief Superintendent / Superintendents- Central / District / Open / Taluka / Revenue Prisons.

Copy to,

1. The Deputy Inspector General of Police (I/c) and Superintendent of Police, Prisons Headquarters, Bengaluru.
2. The Deputy Inspector General of Prisons, Headquarters, Bengaluru.
3. Superintendent of Prisons, Headquarters, Bengaluru.
4. Office copy.