

**GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA  
HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT**

No.Health.99/2020/Pt.II/14,

Dated Shillong, the 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2020.

**ORDER**

In view of the pandemic situation arising out of COVID-19 and the need to ensure safety of health workers drafted for COVID-19 duties and in health care facilities, the guidelines prescribed by the Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Meghalaya and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India will be followed in all health care facilities in the State and by all health care workers performing duties at the forefront.

I. Institutional Mechanism for preventing and responding to Healthcare Associated Infections (HAIs) among HCWs

Hospitals shall activate its Hospital Infection Control Committee (HICC). The HICC in the health facility is responsible for implementing the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) activities and organizing regular trainings on IPC for HCWs.

A Nodal Officer (Infection Control Officer) shall be identified by each hospital to address all matters related to Healthcare Associated Infections (HAIs). With reference to preventing such infection among healthcare workers, he/she will ensure that:

- i. Healthcare workers in different settings of hospitals shall use PPEs appropriate to their risk profile as detailed in the guidelines issued by this Ministry (available at: <https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/GuidelinesonrationaluseofPersonalProtectiveEquipment.pdf>)
  - ii. All healthcare workers have undergone training on Infection Prevention and Control and they are aware of common signs and symptoms, need for self-health monitoring and need for prompt reporting of such symptoms.
  - iii. Provisions have been made for regular (thermal) screening of all hospital staff.
  - iv. All healthcare workers managing COVID-19 cases may be provided with chemo-prophylaxis under medical supervision.
  - v. Provisions have been made for prompt reporting of breach of PPE by the hospital staff and follow-up action.
2. Action for Healthcare Workers
- i. Ensure that all preventive measures like frequent washing of hands/use of alcohol based hand sanitizer, respiratory etiquettes (using tissue/handkerchief while coughing or sneezing), etc. are followed at all times.
  - ii. He/she shall use appropriate PPE at all times while on duty.
  - iii. A buddy system\* to be followed to ensure that there is no breach in infection prevention control practices.
  - iv. Any breach in PPE and exposure is immediately informed to the nodal officer/HoD of the department
  - v. HCWs after leaving the patient care units (wards/OPDs/ICUs) at the doctor's duty rooms/hostels/canteen or outside the HCF must follow social distancing and masking to prevent transmission to/acquiring infection from other HCWs who may be positive.
  - vi. Pregnant/lactating mothers and immune - compromised healthcare workers shall inform their medical condition to the hospital authorities for them to get posted only in non-Covid areas

