

Date: 17.08.2021

Sub: Public Health and Preventive Medicine - Epidemics -
COVID-19 - SOPs related to re-opening of schools
(Government, Govt. aided and private) - certain
instructions - issued.

- Ref:
1. Hon'ble Chief Minister's Press Release no. 574, dated:
06.08.2021
 2. Additional Chief Secretary /Commissioner of Revenue
Administration Lr. No. OCI/563/2020, dated:
06.08.2021.
 3. G.O. (Ms) No. 504, Revenue and Disaster Management
(DM-IV) Department, dated: 07.08.2021

In the reference first, second and third cited it is tentatively proposed that classes for 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th standards shall be permitted to be conducted in all the schools (Government, Govt. aided and private) with effect from 01.09.2021 with 50% of students at a time by duly following the appropriate standard operating procedures.

In this regard, all the Deputy Directors of Health Services are instructed to Co-ordinate with the School authorities to ensure that schools are re-opening duly following Standard Operating Procedures related to re-opening of schools as enclosed with this letter.

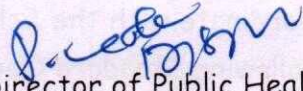
General Guidelines

- SoPs along with IEC materials to be shared to school management for development and display.
- Sanitizers/Soap with water to be made available by the concerned authorities.
- Screening of entire school children and teachers to be done in a week's time using RBSK team, if needed other PHC team may be mobilized. Screening of school children should include co-morbidity.
- MMU team should be available in the blocks and their contact details to be shared to schools for contacting them in case of emergency.
- Symptomatic students/teachers or staff shall not be allowed inside the campus.

- All the PHCs should be alerted to handle any suspected symptomatic children as per SOPs
- Sufficient quantity of Vitamin C, Multivitamin tablets and other immuno-boosters to be given to children.
- Vaccination of teachers and other staff who are working in the school should be ensured 100 %
- All students with eligible age group for vaccination should be vaccinated.
- Ensure that only 50% of the students are allowed at a time.
- Health Inspectors/Block Health Supervisors/Non-medical Supervisors to be assigned to each and every school including private institutions to monitor the follow-up of SOPs
- School campus cleaning and creation of sufficient hand washing facility will be the responsibility of local body/school management

The Deputy Director of Health Services are instructed to ensure that the Standard Operating Procedures followed with strict adherence without any deviation.

Encl: SoPs related to re-opening of schools.


for Director of Public Health and
Preventive Medicine, Chennai-6.

*Q.S.M.
17/1/2021*

To

All the Deputy Directors of Health Services.

Copy to

The Commissioner of School Education, DPI campus, Chennai-6.

Copy submitted to:

1. The Principal Secretary to Government, Health and Family Welfare Department, Chennai-9.
2. The Principal Secretary to Government (OSD), Health and Family Welfare Department, Chennai 09.
3. The Secretary to the Government, School Education Department, Chennai-9.

Annexure-I

I. STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOPs) FOR HEALTH, HYGIENE AND OTHER SAFETY PROTOCOLS BEFORE OPENING OF SCHOOLS

a) Ensure proper cleaning and sanitation facilities in the schools

- Arrange for thorough cleaning and disinfecting of all areas, furniture, equipment, stationery, storage places, water tanks, kitchens, canteen, washrooms, laboratories, libraries, etc. on school campus and ensure air flow in indoor space.
- Ensure working hand washing facilities in the schools.
- Ensure availability of key supplies like thermometers, disinfectants, soaps, etc., and arrange for availability of these essentials. The thermometer to be used should be a calibrated contact-less infrared digital thermometer.
- Ensure sanitization of school transport before they start plying.
- Guidelines issued by the Department on Disinfection of Common Public Places may be referred to for suitable follow-up.

b) Seating plan

- As suggested by the Ministry of Health, there must be at least 6 feet distance between students in the revised seating plan. It is advisable to mark the seating that students should occupy.
- If there are single-seater desks, simply providing space between the desks in the classrooms to maintain physical/social distancing of 6 feet will be effective. If benches are used, 'one student one bench norm' may be considered.
- Similarly, physical/social distancing shall also be maintained in the staff rooms, office area, and other places of public interaction.
- If available, temporary space or outdoor spaces (in case of pleasant weather) may be utilized for conducting classes, keeping in view the safety and security of the students and physical distance protocols
- Seats may be designated with adequate distance for teachers in the staff room and other available rooms/halls.
- The number of seats in the reception area may be limited with at least 6 feet distance between them.

c) Ensure Physical / social distancing at the Entry and Exit Points of the schools.

- Staggering the timing of entry and exit for students of different classes.
- Earmarking different lanes for coming and going.
- Opening all the gates at the time of entry and exit in case schools has more than one gate and earmarking classes for each gate to avoid crowding.
- Making announcements through Public Announcement System to guide parent/guardians and students to maintain physical/social distancing.

d) Display Signages and markings for enforcing physical/social distancing and safety protocols -

- Displaying posters/messages/stickers and signage at appropriate places in the schools reminding students about maintaining physical/social distancing such as inside the classroom, libraries, outside washrooms, hand washing stations, drinking water areas, school kitchen, halls, classrooms, buses/ cabs parking, entry and exits.
- Ban on spitting shall be strictly enforced.
- Marking circles on ground at different places like reception, water facility stations, hand washing stations, area outside washrooms, and other areas.
- Marking separate lanes with arrows for coming and going at all possible places in college to avoid physical contact.

e) Staggering timetables - some alternatives suggested to school authority:

- One way of ensuring physical/social distancing is to have flexible, staggered and reduced timings planned for different classes in such a way that physical/social distancing is maintained along with other guidelines.
- Asking only 50% percentage of the students to attend the school depending on the enrolment, rotationally on alternate days, or every two days in a week and combining with home assignments could be another mechanism. (To be decided as per instructions from Education Department.)

- Alternatively, there could be a weekly class-wise timetable for attendance.
- Odd-Even Formula for classes can also be considered.
- Running schools in two shifts in case of high enrolment schools can also be considered by reducing time duration of school hours per shift, such that the school is able to manage with the same set of teachers in the overall school hours.
- In case size of classroom is small, classes may be held in rooms having larger area such as computer room, library, laboratory etc. with physical distance of 6 feet between the students.

f) School events, congregations, meetings, etc.

- Schools should not undertake any events where physical/social distancing is not possible.
- Functions and celebration of festivals should be avoided in schools
- However, school assembly may be conducted by the students in their respective classrooms or outdoor spaces or other available spaces and halls under the guidance of the teachers.
- Likewise, if possible, virtual parent teacher meetings can be arranged.
- During the process of admission to new classes, only parents/guardians may be consulted. Children need not accompany parents as far as possible.
- Efforts may be made to conduct admissions online wherever possible.

g) Sensitize students, parents, teachers, community members and hostel staff on COVID-19 related challenges and their role:

- Prior to reopening of school, arrangements may be made for sensitization of teachers, parents, staff, and members of Management Committee through online/offline modes such as pamphlets, letters, public announcement systems in villages, urban wards etc. on COVID appropriate behavior such as:
 - Required do's and don'ts including maintenance of hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene, and disinfection of frequently touched surfaces
 - Maintaining physical distance
 - Hygienic practices necessary for the prevention of COVID-19
 - Stigmas attached to COVID-19
 - Thermal screening for fever detection
 - Avoiding attending school if having symptoms and seeking medical care
- Teachers and students belonging to containment zones shall not

attend the school and other educational institutions until the containment zone is denotified.

- Students and teachers shall be advised not to visit areas falling within containment zone.
- All employees who are at higher risk i.e, older employees, pregnant employees and employees who have underlying medical conditions to take extra precautions.

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for Director of Public Health and
Preventive Medicine, Chennai-6.

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17/08/21