

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

IMMEDIATE

No. Health. 21/2020/Pt VII/ 115

Dated Shillong, the 2nd June, 2021.

HEALTH ADVISORY

As per the report on the Genome sequencing of the samples of COVID-19 positive cases in the State of Meghalaya, it is revealed that the majority of the samples detected are those of the mutated strains which are listed by the WHO as the “Variants of Concern” and some of them are Variants of Interest. The Variants of Concern are the strains which are highly transmissible and can spread rapidly across the community, overwhelm the health infrastructure and cause increase in absolute death numbers.

It may be noted that the Government had already issued instructions vide letter no. Health.140/2020/4 Dated Shillong, the 2nd June, 2020 stating that the population shall be treated as Category ‘A’ patients, implying that all the residents of the State, must consider themselves Asymptomatic cases and take due precautions as mentioned therein. Considering the new findings, it is hereby declared that henceforth all are to be considered Asymptomatic persons carrying these Variants of Concern (VoCs) and can involuntarily spread the infection.

The only way forward is to have a collective approach where every individual is responsible for his/her safety through strict adherence to the COVID Appropriate Behavior as frequently advised by the Government and Public Health Experts. Strict adherence to the health protocol (wearing a mask in a proper manner and maintaining social distancing) is of utmost importance at this juncture whether in workplaces or even at home settings. Everyone is advised to always maintain COVID Appropriate Behavior to contain the spread at the earliest by following ‘participatory COVID elimination plans’ whereby for every known COVID positive case, the others around will maintain absolute abstinence from all social activities of intermingling in the neighborhood/compound/house, family dining etc. and adhere to strict observance of social distancing and double masking for a period of a minimum of 7-10 days to kill the virus and break the chain of transmission.

The protocol of tracing-testing-tracking should continue with more rigor and ensure that the symptomatic cases are tested, isolated and treated with early treatment protocols. The Health advisory issued vide letter no. Health.21/2020/Pt.VIII/95 Dated Shillong, the 27th May, 2021 is to be followed closely, to be mindful of the onset of the early warning signs in the patients around the 8th day onwards after the onset of the first symptoms as mentioned therein. Seeking prompt medical help in this regard will help reduce the case fatality.

The community must understand that at present the vaccine is the only effective means to combat the destructive spread of the virus. The vaccination has been proven to prevent severe disease even though few breakthrough cases are seen in the State. Therefore it is felt that concerted efforts should be made by all concerned to remove psychological barriers of vaccine hesitancy.


(Sampath Kumar, IAS)
Principal Secretary,
Health&Family Welfare Department.

M.No.Health.21/2020/Pt.VII/ 115 -A

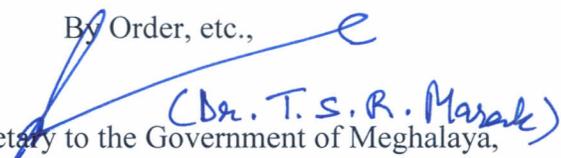
Dated Shillong, the 2nd June, 2021.

Copy to:-

1. The P.S. to the Hon’ble Chief Minister, Government of Meghalaya for information of the Chief Minister.

2. The P.S. to the Hon'ble Minister, I/c Health & Family Welfare, Government of Meghalaya for information of the Minister.
3. The P.S. to the Chief Secretary, Government of Meghalaya for information of the Chief Secretary.
4. The P.S. to the Principal Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Meghalaya for information of the Principal Secretary.
5. The P.S. to the Commissioner & Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Meghalaya for information of the Commissioner & Secretary.
6. The Mission Director, National Health Mission, Meghalaya for information and necessary action.
7. The Secretary, IPR Department for information and necessary action.
8. The Deputy Commissioner,
East Khasi Hills, **Shillong**/West Khasi Hills, **Nongstoin**/Ri-Bhoi, **Nongpoh**/West Jaintia Hills, **Jowai**/West Garo Hills, **Tura**/ East Garo Hills, **Williamnagar**/ South Garo Hills, **Baghmara**/ North Garo Hills, **Resubelpara**/South West Garo Hills, **Ampati**/ East Jaintia Hills, **Khliehriat**/ South West Khasi Hills , **Mawkyrwat** for information and necessary action.
9. Director of Health Services (MI),(MCH&FW)/(Research) Meghalaya, Shillong for information.
10. The Joint Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department for information.
11. Office Copy.

By Order, etc.,


(Dr. T. S. R. Marak)
Under Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya,
Health & Family Welfare Department.