



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

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STATE COMMISSIONERATE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
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No.851(1)/S2/2020/SCPWD

01-04-2020

From,

The State Commissioner & Govt.Secretary (Ex-Officio)

To,

All District Collectors &
All District Police Chiefs.

Sir/Madam,

Sub: SCPWD- Disability inclusive guidelines for the protection and safety of PWDs in the State threatened with COVID-19 Pandemic-Reg.

Ref: (1).GO (MS) 36/03/SWD dated 04-08-2003.
(2).RPWD Act 2016.

Please refer to the references cited. I am to inform you that Covid-19 is a National Disaster. Protective and controlling measures are to be instituted with utmost care and urgency. The State Commissioner for PWD is authorized to coordinate and to take timely measures to ensure the protection and safety of the disabled persons as per the RPWD Act 2016.

I am also to inform you that as per the Government Order referred above all District Collectors are nominated as Additional Commissioners (Disabilities) and to assist the State Commissioner for PWDs in the implementation of the COVID-19 related measures at District level.

1. All PWD's are to be protected and safety is to be guaranteed against Covid-19 and to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the Country by themselves and the persons coming in contact with them.
2. The Identity Card/Board Certificate issued by the Authorities should be considered as an official identity of the PWD's.

3. All information about COVID-19 such as services offered and preventive measures to be taken in this regard should be in local language and in accessible formats.
4. Make use of the media to disseminate information given by Govt. through Braille, graphic video, short films with subtitles, with sign language facility and through accessible websites.
5. All PWD's should be given access to essential foods, water, medicines and to the possible extent and such items should be delivered to their residence/quarantined place.
6. With the co-operation of Local Self Govt. provide essential food, water, medicines, social security pension, relief fund etc..
7. To the extent possible, the above items should be delivered at their residence/quarantined place.
8. They should have access to Social Food Canteen for food and water, conducted by Local Self Govt./NGOs/Social Justice Department.
9. They have to use the helpline toll free number '800-120-1001' provided by Govt. through the Kerala Social Security Mission (KSSM).
10. Form a District level committee to assist the Additional Commissioner for PWD's (District Collector) with District Social Justice Officer (DSO), District Medical Officer (DMO), District Police Chief, District Disaster Officer, representative of LSG and PWD's as members to take care of the issues related to PWD's.
11. All District Social Justice Officers (DSO) are directed to keep the list of PWD's and the persons with severe disabilities who are in need of high support.
12. All authorized Grievance Redressal Officers (GRO) of various Departments/University etc. are to be well informed and to hear the PWD's at their Department level to settle their grievances.
13. PWD's should be exempted from essential service work both in public and private sector especially employees with blindness, carrying mother PWD, PWD with severe disability.
14. During quarantine, essential support services, personal assistance, physical and communicative accessibility should be ensured.
15. Preserve specified opening days/hours for PWD's for shops, market, banks, ATM and to dispose of them at the earliest.
16. Avoid the queue system in Banks, Society for disbursement of social pension and are to keep social distancing.

17. Caregivers to PWD's should be given safety protection and health maintenance measures.
18. Exempt under strict conditions, caregivers, maids, support provided from restriction of lockdown, fund to be necessary after following due sanitizing procedure.
19. Travel passes are to be issued during emergency to PWD's/Caregivers.
20. Priority should be given to issue passes for caregivers, support service persons in a simplified manner with minimum contact under conditions.
21. Allow entry of Caregivers to their residence by resident welfare association after maintaining precautions.
22. Online counseling facilities have to be arranged by Govt. for PWDs in all 14 Districts, which helps to reduce their stress and strain.
23. Only RCI recognized counselors of NGOs are permitted to do counseling, otherwise the Police Department has to take proper action against such illegal practitioners.
24. All issues related to PWD's are to be primarily discussed with the District Social Justice Officer.
25. The Director, Social Justice Department and the Director, Women and Child Development Department are the higher authorities to be consulted as an appellate authority.

- To contact Commissionerate for PWDs in the following email,

Scpwdkerala@gmail.com

Guidelines to PWD's to Break the chain

- Stay home.
- Wash hands with soap and water after going outside and to contact other persons.
- Don't touch the mouth, eyes and nose with unhygienic hands.
- Avoid gathering.
- Keep social distancing.
- Support all activities of Government to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Your's faithfully,

Dr. Harikumar. G
State Commissioner &
Secretary to Govt.(Ex-Officio)

