

From

Director General Health Services,  
Haryana, Panchkula.

To

All the Civil Surgeons,  
Haryana.

No. 32/3-IDSP-2021- 285 - 306

Dated: 10.3.21

**Subject: Standard Operating Procedures on Preventive Measures to Contain Spread of COVID-19 during Kumbh Mela, Haridwar 2021.**

In reference to the subject cited above,

It is mentioned that Kumbh Mela is not only a religious pilgrimage, but also perhaps the largest mass gathering at one place. It is celebrated four times over a course of 12 years and spans four locations. This year the Kumbh Mela would be held at Haridwar (Uttarakhand). The likely dates for this event are from 27th February 2021 to 30th April 2021. These days are expected to witness large surge of crowds congregating at Har Ki Pauri Ghat, Haridwar, to take holy bath.

Since, mass gathering events, such as Kumbh Mela, have the potential to facilitate the transmission of the virus and potentially disrupt the gains made by the country in COVID-19 management.

Hence, various generic precautionary measures have been issued by the Government of Uttarakhand, which are to be adopted in addition to specific measures to be taken to prevent spread of COVID-19 by the devotees travelling to Kumbh Mela from various States of India.

The high risk group population needs to be protected and following procedures shall be followed:

- i. The Government of Uttarakhand shall follow registration of the devotees and a compulsory medical certification regimen on similar lines as being practiced for the Shri Amarnath Yatra. All devotees desirous of attending the Kumbh Mela shall:
  - a) All devotees desirous shall register with the Government of Uttarakhand.-  
<https://dsclservices.org.in/kumbh/#:~:text=Instructions%3A,covid%2019%20for%20Kumbh%202021.&text=It%20is%20mandatory%20to%20upload,generating%20epass%20for%20kumbh%202021>
  - b) All devotees desirous shall obtain a compulsory medical certificate from the nearest Community Health Centre/ District hospital / Medical College in their State.
  - c) Installation & use of Aarogya Setu App shall be advised to all.
- ii. The vulnerable population [age more than 65 years; pregnant women; children below the age of 10 years; those with underlying comorbid conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, cardiac disease, chronic lung disease, cerebro-vascular disease, chronic kidney disease, immune-suppression and cancer] shall be discouraged to attend the Kumbh Mela.
- iii. Devotees coming to the Kumbh Mela site without the compulsory medical certificate issued by a competent authority shall not be allowed to enter.

- iv. Devotees with negative RT-PCR test report (test done 72 hours prior to the date of visit) shall only be allowed to enter the Kumbh Mela site. The devotees may carry such test reports either on their mobile phones or in hard copies.
- v. In addition to the above SOP, International travelers visiting Kumbh Mela shall follow the travel advisory available on the website of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (<https://www.mohfw.gov.in/>) for international arrivals.
- vi. This apart, travelers shall fulfill country specific mandatory requirements, if any, prescribed from time to time.
- vii. Simple public health measures are to be followed to reduce the risk of COVID-19. These measures need to be always observed, by all. These are as follows:
  - a) Individuals must maintain a minimum distance of 6 feet in public places as far as feasible.
  - b) Use of face covers/masks to be made mandatory. Mask dispensing kiosks at Government approved rates may be set up at entry points and parking lots. Provision shall be kept for distribution of free masks for those who cannot afford.
  - c) Levying fines/penalties on defaulters for not wearing mask/face cover, or for not following physical distancing norms should be done by the enforcement agencies.
  - d) Practice frequent hand washing with soap (for at least 40-60 seconds) even when hands are not visibly dirty. Use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers (for at least 20 seconds) can be made wherever feasible.
  - e) Establishing hand washing stations in public utility areas and ensuring availability of soap and water. Use of foot operated taps and contactless soap dispensers is mandatory.
  - f) Respiratory etiquettes to be strictly followed. This involves strict practice of covering one's mouth and nose while coughing/sneezing with a tissue/handkerchief/flexed elbow and disposing off used tissues properly.
  - g) Self-monitoring of health by all and reporting any illness at the earliest to State and District Helpline.
  - h) Spitting should be strictly prohibited.

Hence, you are requested for the wide advertisement of the same in your respective Districts.

  
Director Health Services (IDSP)  
Haryana, Panchkula.

No. 32/3-IDSP/2021- 307-331

Dated: 10.3.21

A copy is forwarded to the following for kind information please.

1. Worthy Additional Chief Secretary (Health), Haryana
2. Mission Director, National Health Mission, Haryana
3. All District Deputy Commissioners, Haryana
4. Director General Health Services, Haryana

  
Director Health Services (IDSP)  
Haryana, Panchkula.