INSTRUCTIONS FOR SELECTED PUBLIC ACTIVITIES/WORK SETTINGS
FOR THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF COVID-19

The instruction notes are given for a range of public activities and work settings. Some sectors such as tourism, large shopping malls, event management, etc. would require reference to several instruction notes.

The Instructions are subject to overall permission given by the Ministry of Health to resume functions (totally/selected).

Each instruction note is issued by the Director General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Indigenous Medical Services and are for the establishment/owner/ responsible authority to follow in prevention of transmission of COVID-19.
32. Groceries / Small boutiques

Specific message/Instruction/s

Organizer/ owner/employer
- The number of persons entering should be controlled.
- A sign can be put up at entrance indicating the number taken in
- Alternatively, the customers may be asked to wait outside the shop while the items on the shopping list are prepared and given
- The staff should strengthen personal protection and wear masks; pay attention to hand hygiene, and cover mouth and nose with a tissue or elbow when sneezing.
- Clean and disinfect frequently contacted public supplies, surfaces (e.g. – door/fridge handles, display windows/counters) and facilities
- Keep the doors/ windows/ fan lights open as much as possible to improve natural ventilation
- Attempt to minimize handling of doors – leave doors open if non air conditioned
- Pre-packaging will minimize time taken for each customer.
- Options for improvised online shopping / electronic shopping needs to be promoted. (Even for small shops catering for a small area can have their customers sending them their requirements over text message and for them to make ready so that the time spent at shop is limited.
- You are required to fill the provided Assurance form, indicating compliance with the instructions given. The original of the Assurance form should be submitted to the area Medical Officer of Health. A copy of the same should be sent to the local government authority (municipal council/ urban council/ pradeshiya sabha) and another copy should be kept with you. The owner/ employer/ manager of the organization/ premises is responsible to ensure that the above guidelines are strictly adhered to.

User/ client / self
- Clients should be encouraged to wear a mask
- Instructed to maintain a physical distance of at least 1 meter from others, expected to practice respiratory etiquette
- Plan you shopping in advance so that you can spend little as much time at the shop and if possible, send your list to the shop in advance for making ready. Avoid frequent shopping
- Use of online shopping as much as possible and use of online fund transfers as much as possible.
- Minimise handling of cash. Try to give exact amount where possible
- Visit the shop nearest to your home, and avoid crowded shops where possible

Method/s of instruction
- Posters to be placed at the entrance to the shop - indicating limited entry, wearing of face mask and physical distancing
- Implementation of such measures to be supervised and monitored by the Public Health Authorities

Director General of Health Services

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