



ABSTRACT

Disaster Management Act, 2005 – COVID 19 – Opening of the Swimming Pools in Tourist Places and all other areas - Standard Operating Procedures(SOP) – Orders – Issued.

REVENUE AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT (DM-4) DEPARTMENT

G.O. (Ms) No.291

Dated:24.02.2021

சார்வரி, மாசி 12
திருவள்ளூர் ஆண்டு 2052

Read:

1. G.O. (Ms.) No.673, Revenue and Disaster Management (D.M.IV) Department, Dated 30.11.2020.
2. G.O. (Ms.) No.723, Revenue and Disaster Management [D.M.4 (2)] Department, Dated 07.12.2020
3. G.O. (Ms.) No.84, Revenue and Disaster Management [D.M.4 (2)] Department, Dated 31.01.2021

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ORDER:

Considering the recommendations of the expert team of Doctors and Public Health specialists and based on the directives of Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, State-wide lockdown was extended from time to time and lastly extended up to 28.2.2021 under the Disaster Management Act, 2005 with certain restrictions and relaxations along with guidelines vide G.O.Ms.No.84, Revenue and Disaster Management (DM.IV) Department, dated 31.1.2021.

2. In the Government Order third read above, among other things orders were also issued for permitting Swimming Pools to function by following Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

3. The Government after careful examination, hereby issue Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Swimming Pools in Tourist Places and all other areas as in the Annexure.

(By order of the Governor)

RAJEEV RANJAN
CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

To
The Additional Chief Secretary / Commissioner of
Revenue Administration, Chepauk, Chennai-600 005.
The Additional Chief Secretary, Tourism Culture
& Religious Endowment Department, Chennai-600 009.
The Additional Chief Secretary, Municipal Administration and
Water Supply Department, Chennai -600009
The Commissioner of Tourism, Wallajah Road, Chennai-600 002.
The Commissioner, Municipal Administration, Chennai.

Copy to:

The Hon'ble Chief Minister's Office, Chennai-600 009.
The Private Secretary to Chief Secretary to Government,
Chennai-600 009.
SF/SC.

//Forwarded By Order//

[Signature]
24/2/2021
SECTION OFFICER

Standard Operating Procedures for Swimming Pools in Tourist Places and all other areas

1. Promoting COVID appropriate behaviour

- Simple public health measures are to be promoted to reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19 infection. These measures are to be observed by all (Swimmers/staff) in these places at all times.

These include:

- i. Physical distancing of at least 6 feet to be followed as far as feasible, in pool (use of alternate lanes in opposite direction), deck, sitting arena, shower areas etc.
- ii. Use of face covers/masks to be made mandatory, at all times, except when the swimmer is in the pool.
- iii. 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.
- iv. 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.
- v. Self-monitoring of health by all and avoid use of swimming pool if one is suffering from symptoms suggestive of COVID-19
- vi. Spitting shall be strictly prohibited.
- vii. Installation & use of Aarogya Setu App shall be advised to all.

2. Protecting the vulnerable population

Swimmers/coaches/visitors/staff who are at higher risk i.e. age 65 years or more, pregnant women, children below 10 years, and those who have underlying medical conditions or co-morbidities must avoid using swimming pool.

3. Providing and maintaining healthy environment at swimming pools

- Prior to resumption of activities, all works areas, common utility areas, railings of the pool, gymnasium/physiotherapy centres (if attached to pools) etc. shall be sanitized with 1% Sodium Hypochlorite solution (alternatively 70% alcohol based disinfectant for use on metallic surfaces). Thereafter this will be done on a regular basis. Detailed guidelines are available at: <https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/Guidelinesondisinfectionofcommonpublicplacesincludingoffices.pdf>.
- Cleaning and regular disinfection (using 1% Sodium Hypochlorite solution or 70% alcohol based disinfectant for use on metallic surfaces) of frequently touched surfaces (door knobs/handles, elevator buttons, hand rails, chairs, tabletops, benches, washroom fixtures, etc.) and floors, walls etc to be done before start of activities, at the end of the day and at other appropriate times at all locations.
- All sanitary staff shall use appropriate PPE (mask, heavy duty gloves, face shields, aprons).
- Provisions would be made for multiple hand washing stations and hand sanitizers for the use of swimmers/coaches/visitors/staff. Provision of soaps in toilets and hand sanitizers in other common areas in sufficient quantity must be ensured.
- Deep cleaning of all drinking and hand washing stations, washrooms, showers and lavatories shall be ensured.
- Swimmers/staff should be advised to dispose of used face covers/masks in separate covered bins placed in common areas.
- Swimming pool shall ensure adequate and regular water filtration and chlorination as per laid down standards.
- The swimming pool management may make suitable provisions for contact-less payments.
- All personal training equipment belonging to any swimmer shall be disinfected every time before use.
- Sharing of personal articles such as soaps, towels, any other utility must be avoided by all.

- Ensure availability of covered dustbins and trash cans in sufficient numbers to manage waste as per CPCB guidelines (available at: <https://cpcb.nic.in/uploads/Projects/Bio-Medical-Waste/BMW-GUIDELINES.COVID 1.pdf>)

4. Planning for operations, scheduling and monitoring of activities of swimming pool

4.1 Institutional arrangements:

- The swimming pool management shall be responsible for overall implementation of protocols outlined in this SOP.
- One of the staff/coach shall be identified as the Nodal person and sensitized on the basics of COVID-19 available at: <https://igot.gov.in/igot/explore-course/course/do312993264544849920136> and COVID Appropriate behavior (available at: [https://igot.gov.in/igot/play/content/do31304842933413478411107?content Type = Explanation Resource](https://igot.gov.in/igot/play/content/do31304842933413478411107?content%20Type%20=%20Explanation%20Resource)). He/she shall be well versed with the SOPs issued by Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, as amended from time to time.
- Prior to resuming operation of swimming pools, every user and staff shall be sensitised on COVID appropriate behaviour, which are to be implemented at the swimming pool.
- 100% coverage of Aarogya Setu application among all persons using the pool is desirable.

4.2 Physical distancing

- Physical distancing of 6 feet in the premises of the pool shall be ensured. For swimming, alternate lanes of the pool shall be used from both directions to maintain physical distancing, to the extent feasible.
- Staggering of swimmers for different events/training sessions to be done, to allow for adequate physical distancing.
- Locker rooms for swimmers/staff may remain in use provided there is adequate ventilation and regular disinfection.
- Physical distancing of 6 feet also will be followed in shower rooms and change areas.

4.3 Crowd management

- CCTV monitoring shall be ensured to detect crowding at the pool, visitor's gallery, common areas etc. and prompt steps must be taken to avoid such crowds.

4.4 Ensuring ventilation

- As far as feasible, natural ventilation must be ensured and use of small enclosed spaces must be discouraged.
- Circulation of outdoor air needs to be increased, as much as possible, by opening windows and doors, using fans, or other methods.
- For air-conditioning/ventilation of closed enclosures, the guidelines of CPWD shall be followed which emphasizes that the temperature setting of all air conditioning devices should be in the range of 24-30°C, relative humidity should be in the range of 40-70%, intake of fresh air should be as much as possible and cross ventilation should be adequate. Air handling unit needs to be cleaned prior to switching on.

4.5 Making available COVID related supplies

- Appropriate arrangements for personal protection devices like face covers/masks, heavy duty gloves, face shields, aprons and other logistics like hand sanitizers, soap, Sodium Hypochlorite solution (1%) etc. shall be made available by management.
- Provide an adequate supply of calibrated thermal guns.
- Ensure availability of covered dustbins and trash cans in sufficient numbers to manage waste.

4.6 Creating awareness

- Provisions must be made for display of Posters/standees/AV media on preventive measures against COVID-19 at prominent places in the premises of the swimming pool.

5. Maintaining Healthy operations

5.1 Risk assessment

- Swimmers and staff shall submit a declaration to the management stating that they (i) are not suffering from any symptoms suggestive or COVID-19 (ii) have not come in close contact with a

person who has tested positive for COVID-19, (iii) are not residing in an active containment zone.

- It is the responsibility of the owners/authorities/agencies, etc., in-charge of the swimming pools concerned to ensure complete adherence to prescribed protocols and to secure declaration from respective users and staff that any activity undertaken shall be in full compliance to these protocols.
- Thermal screening of all swimmers and staff shall be undertaken prior to allowing access to the pool.

5.2 At the entry and exit points

- Entrance to have mandatory hand hygiene (sanitizer dispenser) and thermal screening provisions.
- Only asymptomatic persons (swimmers and staff) to be allowed in the premises.
- Separate gates, if feasible, should be used for entry and exit.
- Swimmers and staff to be allowed entry only if using face cover/masks. The face cover/mask has to be worn at all times inside the premises, except for the time the swimmer is in the pool.

5.3 Precautions to be observed at the swimming pool

- Swimmers and coaches shall be screened by properly calibrated thermal guns at the entry of pool deck.
- Wash hands with soap and water/use hand sanitizer at the time of entry to the pool deck.
- Swimmers will shower before entering and after exiting the pool.
- Verbal cues should be kept to minimum and screaming should be avoided.
- Swimmers shall avoid taking pool water in their mouth and if required, spitting shall be done only in the pool gutter.

5.4 Activities in common areas – changing rooms, showers, locker rooms etc.

- Ensure physical distancing norms in all common areas.

- In cafeteria, seating arrangement should ensure adequate physical distancing.
- Cafeteria staff should wear mask and hand gloves and take other required precautionary measures.
- Use of gymnasium (if available in the swimming pool complex), should be in accordance with MoHFW guidelines (available at: https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/Guidelinesonyogainstitutesandgymnasiums_03082020.pdf)
- In the kitchen, the staff should follow physical distancing norms at workplace.

6. Precautions to be followed in case of a suspect case in the premises

- Place the ill person in a room or area where they are isolated from others.
- Provide a mask/face cover till such time he/she is examined by a doctor.
- Immediately inform the nearest medical facility (hospital/clinic) or call the state or district helpline.
- A risk assessment will be undertaken by the designated public health authority (District Rapid Response Team/treating physician) and accordingly further action be initiated regarding management of case, his/her contacts and need for disinfection.
- Disinfection of the premises to be taken up if the person is found positive.

7. Further guidelines for Swimming Pools in all other areas

1. Sanitizer placed at the entry point of the Swimming Pool and all are requested to sanitize their hands.
2. Thermal Scanners are being used to monitor the persons with fever.
3. Only 50% of the Pool capacity is allowed.
4. Social distance should be maintained. While using wash rooms and toilets disinfection should be done every day.

5. Users above 60 years are not permitted at the initial stage. Baby pool will also remain closed.
6. The authorities are directed to carry out instructions strictly and are being monitored by Municipal officials.
7. Hand washing facilities arranged adjacent to the swimming pools.
8. Water sanitation level is maintained by maintaining chlorine level in the water at 2.0ppm along with 7 to 7.40PH of water.
9. Chlorine levels in the pools will be measured 45 min before start of using the swimming pool.
10. Spitting and cleaning of nasal/secretions in the pool during swimming at any place within the facility is prohibited.
11. Sharing of equipments is prohibited inside the campus.
12. Rest rooms attached to swimming pools shall be kept clean and there will be no crowding in these areas. Hand washing for with soap will be encouraged.

RAJEEV RANJAN
CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

/True copy/

Rajeev Ranjan
24/2/24
SECTION OFFICER

