



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.

Further guidance on occupational (work) settings if needed - please refer to

http://eohfs.health.gov.lk/occupational/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=61&Itemid=208&lang=en



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TOWARDS A NEW NORMAL



MINISTRY OF HEALTH
AND INDIGENOUS
MEDICAL SERVICES



GOVERNMENT MEDICAL
OFFICERS ASSOCIATION



SRI JAYAWARDENEPURA
KOTTE MUNICIPAL
COUNCIL



44. Garbage Handlers, Street Cleaners and Cleaning Staff

This guideline applies to all persons who handle and collect garbage, within institutions, on the streets and using garbage trucks. In general, this job involved handling of potentially dangerous waste, and while the general guidelines still apply, extra precautions must be taken to prevent infection and transmission of COVID-19.

Specific Messages / Instructions

Employer

- Provide employees with adequate protective supplies (masks, gloves, gumboots, disinfectants, soap, etc.).
- Install handwashing facilities (with soap) at central and other key locations.
- If feasible, facilities to wash uniforms and to have a wash at the end of a shift should be arranged at a central location.
- Ensure workers facilities (toilets and changing/rest rooms) are regularly cleaned and disinfected and have good ventilation. Adequate space must be available in rest rooms to allow physical distancing
- Ensure workers facilities (toilets and changing/rest rooms) are regularly cleaned and disinfected. Keep the main doors, windows, fanlights open as much as possible to improve natural ventilation. Adequate space must be available in rest rooms to allow physical distancing.
- Limit the number of workers to the minimum required, as per the requirement.
- Verify area of residence of all workers and prepare a list of contact details.
- Adopt a system of inquiring about the health of employees daily (ask for fever and respiratory symptoms like cough/cold) and a process of getting appropriate medical advice for them.
- Educate the workers regarding healthy behaviors including proper use of masks, physical distancing of at least 1-meter, respiratory etiquette, not spitting on the ground, personal hygiene measures and to avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth. Workers must also be made aware of the risks involved when dealing with garbage and means of taking precautions.
- Employees should be provided with adequate uniforms to allow them to wash the uniform daily at the end of their shift.
- 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 is responsible to ensure that the above guidelines are strictly adhered to.

Employers of cleaning staff

- Each employee should be given their own set of cleaning equipment and supplies, and these should not be shared between employees.
- Adequate cleaning supplies (including dusters and bin bags) should be given to ensure that employees clean surfaces properly. Bin liners/bags should be used for all waste bins.

Employee (garbage handlers, street cleaners and cleaning staff)

- Disclose correct details (place of residence, any symptoms, any contact with suspected COVID-19 patient) to employer.
- Do not report to work if you are feeling unwell or have a cough, fever, sore throat.
- Wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds before starting work and at the end of the day. Whenever possible, wash your hands with soap and water during your shift.
- Wash uniforms and clothes worn to work daily and have a thorough wash at the end of your shift



Instructions for selected public activities/work settings for the prevention and control of COVID - 19

- Always use the protective equipment as instructed by your employer, for your safety.
- Always wear a mask when carrying out your duties and properly dispose of it into a closed bin at the end of the shift.
- Do not handle garbage of any kind (even general waste) with your hands directly – use gloves or equipment.
- Always maintain a distance of at least 1meter from others.
- Do not share cups, plates and towels with others.
- Do not spit on the ground.
- Do not touch your mouth nose or eyes when on duty.
- Always cover your nose and mouth with the inner side of your elbow when coughing or sneezing.
- Do not loiter/chat with other employees during and after your shift.
- Do not consume betel during your shift.

Employee (Cleaning staff)

- Do not share cleaning equipment and supplies with other employees.
- Disinfect cleaning equipment thoroughly between use – this includes washing dusters thoroughly with soap and water at frequent intervals and mops at the end of your shift.
- Bin liners/bags should be used for all waste bins.
- If possible, ensure all doors and windows are open to improve ventilation.
- Disinfect commonly touched surfaces regularly with a clean cloth and disinfectant – e.g. door handles, stair railings, lift buttons, counter tops, fingerprint sensors.
- Avoid touching frequently touched surfaces such as door handles as much as possible.

Employee (Garbage collectors)

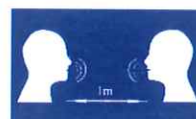
- Avoid touching doorbells and gates.
- Do not open any garbage bag.

User/ Client

- Use extra caution when keeping out garbage – ensure all masks, tissues, wipes and gloves are safely bagged.
- Waste belonging to someone who is ill or someone caring for who is ill should be double bagged and tied.
- Garbage may not be collected if it is loose/not properly bagged.
- Minimise contact with garbage handlers by keeping out garbage outside your gate well in advance.
- Ensure a distance of at least 1m is maintained with cleaning staff and garbage handlers.
- For your own safety, disinfect your own workspace (table, computer switches and keyboard, chair, pens, etc.) using disinfectant at the start of your workday.

Methods of instruction

- Letter to all organisations engaged in garbage collection/employers of cleaning staff, to be briefed to all staff on a regular basis.
- Mass media.




Director General of Health Services

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