

**Government of West Bengal**  
**Department of Higher Education**  
**Bikash Bhavan, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Salt Lake, Kolkata- 700091**

Memo. No. 01-Pr Secy-HED/2022

Dated: 03.01.2022

From: Manish Jain  
Principal Secretary to the Government of West Bengal

To: Vice Chancellor \_\_\_\_\_ ALL \_\_\_\_\_ Universities

Sub: Communication to combat spread of COVID-19 pandemic and a new COVID-19 variant "Omicron"

Sir / Madam,

Following the decision taken by the State Executive Committee of the West Bengal State Disaster Management Authority, vide Order No. 753/XVII-ISS/2M-22/2020 dated 02.01.2022, as enclosed, the restrictions imposed vide said communication, are now being extended upto 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

2. All the on campus academic activities in Colleges and Universities shall remain closed. However, the academic activity will continue online, via alternative modes until further order.

3. The Administrative Departments of the Colleges/ Universities like the office of the Vice Chancellor, Registrar, Finance/ Examination Department, Principals/ TICs/ OICs, Head of Institutions including emergency services e.g. electricity, water supply, security etc. shall remain open as per local need to be decided by the Head of respective Institute as per the extant guidelines issued from time to time read with order stated above.

4. The hostels will also remain closed until further order. Adequate arrangements as per the medical protocol will be made by the respective Institute for the foreign/ other students who are not able to leave the campus due to distance or otherwise. No visitor should be allowed during the period to visit the hostel, without prior approval of the Head of the Institute.

5. It is presumed that all the Universities must have formed a suitable mechanism and also issued an advisory to all its affiliated colleges to develop the Monitoring Grievances/



Concerns related to online Examinations, if any. I would request you to kindly review the mechanism thus formed and ensure that the grievances / concerns thus received, are addressed appropriately.

This is for your kind information and necessary action, with a request that all affiliated colleges under your control may also be advised accordingly.

Enclosure: As stated

With warm regards,

Yours faithfully,



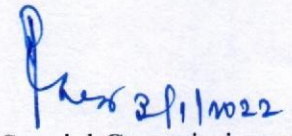
Principal Secretary

Memo. No. 01/1(7)-Pr Secy-HED/2022

Dated: 03.01.2022

Copy forwarded for kind information and necessary action:

1. Special Commissioner (All), Department of Higher Education
2. Special Secretary, Department of Higher Education
3. Joint Secretary (All), Department of Higher Education
4. Director of Public Instruction, West Bengal with a request to circulate the above to all colleges under her control
5. Director of Technical Education, West Bengal with a request to circulate the above to all colleges under his control
6. Private Secretary to the Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Department of Higher Education
7. Sr. PS to the Chief Secretary, Government of West Bengal for kind information of the Chief Secretary.



Special Commissioner



**Government of West Bengal**  
**NABANNA**  
**325, Sarat Chatterjee Road, Howrah -711102**

**ORDER**

**No-753/XVII-ISS/2M-22/2020**

**Dated: 02/01/2022**

Whereas, in order to contain spread of COVID-19 pandemic, state government vide order No 753/XVI-ISS/2M-22/2020 dated 15/12/2021 read with various orders issued earlier, notified certain restriction and relaxation measures in terms of the provisions under Disaster Management Act 2005 read with West Bengal Epidemic Disease, Covid-19 Regulations 2020, which are in force till **15/01/2022**.

Whereas, after a review of the current situation of COVID-19 pandemic and the concerns due to high rate of infectivity and multiple cases of a new COVID-19 variant "**Omicron**", State Executive Committee of West Bengal State Disaster Management Authority recommended to review the current restrictions and relaxations.

Accordingly, in terms of the provisions under Disaster Management Act 2005 read with West Bengal Epidemic Disease, Covid-19 Regulations 2020, and in continuation of earlier orders, in addition to **restriction and relaxation measures as already in force, following additional restrictions shall remain in force up to 15/01/2022:**

- 1) All academic activities in schools, colleges and universities shall remain closed. Only administrative activities shall be permitted with 50% of employees at a time.
- 2) All government offices including public undertakings shall function with 50% of employees at a time. Work from home shall be encouraged as far as possible.
- 3) All private offices and establishments shall function with 50% of employees at a time. Work from home shall be encouraged as far as possible.
- 4) Swimming pools, spas, gyms, beauty parlors, saloons and wellness centers shall remain closed.
- 5) All entertainment parks, zoos, tourist places shall remain closed.
- 6) Shopping malls and market complexes may function with restricted entry of people by not exceeding 50 % of the capacity at a time and up to 10 PM.
- 7) Restaurants and bars may operate with 50% of capacity at a time and up to 10 PM.
- 8) Cinema halls and theatre halls may operate with 50% of seating capacity at a time and up to 10 PM.
- 9) Meetings and conferences shall be allowed with a maximum of 200 people at a time or 50% seating capacity of the hall, whichever is lower.
- 10) Not more than 50 persons at a time shall be allowed for any social, religious and cultural gatherings.
- 11) Not more than 50 persons shall be allowed for marriage related ceremonies.
- 12) Not more 20 persons shall be allowed for funeral/ burial services and last rites.
- 13) Local trains shall operate with 50% seating capacity up to 7 PM only.
- 14) Metro services shall operate with 50% seating capacity as per usual operational time.
- 15) Movement of people and vehicles and public gatherings of any kind shall be prohibited between 10 PM to 5 AM. Only essential and emergency services shall be permitted.



**Other Advisory:**

- i) Duare Sarkar camps starting 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2022 are hereby postponed and will be organised again from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022.
- ii) Like in first two COVID pandemic waves, various Chambers of Commerce and Trade organizations may adopt different market places and ensure regular sanitization and COVID appropriate health and hygiene protocols. Norms of physical distancing should be strictly enforced and people without masks shall not be allowed to enter the markets.
- iii) Management of industries, factories, mills, tea gardens and other establishments shall ensure strict compliance of COVID appropriate norms including wearing of masks, regular sanitization of work places and only double vaccinated workers shall be allowed to enter the work sites.
- iv) All government and private hospitals are advised to review the arrangements and facilities for treatment of COVID in the hospitals so that timely and proper treatment can be given to those needing hospitalization.
- v) People with Covid positive test results but asymptomatic are advised to go for home isolation and monitor their health.
- vi) At least 50 % of the institutional quarantine facilities as were existing during the 2<sup>nd</sup> wave of COVID pandemic should be made operational.
- vii) Employers/ management bodies / owners / supervisors of all offices, establishments and work places shall be responsible for provisioning of all COVID safety measures including regular sanitization of work places, vaccination of employees and for compliance of stated directives and COVID appropriate norms. Work from home shall be encouraged as far as possible and practical.
- viii) Home delivery of food and other essential products shall be allowed as per usual operational hours following proper COVID appropriate care and protocols.
- ix) Wearing of masks, maintenance of physical distancing and health & hygiene protocol must be followed at all times.

District administration, police commissionerates and local authorities shall ensure strict compliance of the stated directives. Any violation of the restriction measures will be liable to be proceeded against as per the provisions of Disaster Management Act, 2005 and under Indian Penal Code.

The above-mentioned restrictions shall come into effect from **03/01/2022**.



**Chief Secretary**