



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.



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முதியு வாழ்க்கை, முறையைய நோக்கி
TOWARDS A NEW NORMAL



MINISTRY OF HEALTH
AND INDIGENOUS
MEDICAL SERVICES



World Health
Organization



GOVERNMENT MEDICAL
OFFICERS ASSOCIATION



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13. Places of Alcohol and Tobacco Sale

Smoking - Smokers are likely to be more vulnerable to COVID-19 as the act of smoking means that fingers (and possibly contaminated cigarettes) are in contact with lips which increases the possibility of transmission of virus from hand to mouth. Smokers may already have lung disease or reduced lung capacity which would greatly increase risk of serious illness.

Conditions that increase oxygen needs or reduce the ability of the body to use it properly will put patients at higher risk of serious lung conditions such as pneumonia.

Alcohol – Alcohol reduces the immunity of the body and make people more vulnerable for COVID infection. Additionally, alcohol increases the occurrence of road traffic accidents, domestic violence and other violence behaviors. These will demand more hospital facilities depriving the others who need urgent medical care in a pandemic situation.

Both alcohol and smoking often involve the sharing of glasses, eating utensils and mouth pieces which could facilitate the transmission of COVID-19 in communal and social settings.

Bars, taverns, pubs, nightclubs, casinos, betting centers should adhere to the government rules and regulations during the COVID and NON-COVID period.

Specific message/ Instruction/s

Organizer/ owner/employer-

- Alcohol and tobacco sales should be restricted. Sale and use of tobacco and alcohol is prohibited at social gatherings, occupational settings etc.
- The production and sale of illicit alcohol and tobacco should be strictly monitored by Police and strict legal actions should be taken
- Films, tele dramas, songs that promote alcohol, tobacco should not be telecasted in media
- The institutions and people who promote and sell alcohol and tobacco through social media and online platforms should be prosecuted under the NATA act
- 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.

Client

- Avoid alcohol and smoking altogether so that you do not undermine your own immune system and health and do not risk the health of others.
- Smoking and drinking in social gatherings is not permitted

Method/s of instruction

Restaurants, pubs, groceries, supermarkets should refrain from displaying alcohol and tobacco products as these may remind the clients of their unhealthy behaviours

Director General of Health Services

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