



No. SO (EP&C) 1-8/2020  
**GOVERNMENT OF THE PUNJAB  
PRIMARY & SECONDARY HEALTHCARE  
DEPARTMENT**

Dated Lahore the 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2020

To

1. The Secretary to Govt of Punjab, Culture & Youth Affairs Department
2. All Commissioners in the Punjab
3. All Deputy Commissioners in the Punjab
4. All Chief Executive District Officers District Health Authorities, Punjab

Subject: **SOPs TO PREVENT COVID-19 SPREAD WHILE RESUMPTION OF CINEMA AND THEATRE BUSINESS**

On the recommendations of Technical Working Group (TWG), Primary & Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) is pleased to issue following 'Standard Operating Procedures' (SOPs) for resumption of cinema and theatre operation in the province:

**1. Basic Principle**

COVID-19 is a highly transmissible disease which spreads through respiratory droplets produced during coughing, sneezing and talking of the infected person including asymptomatic people. The droplets may contaminate surfaces and hands. Touching eyes, mouth and nose with contaminated hands may transmit the virus. Cinema halls and theatres are required to ensure compliance to COVID-19 prevention key principles: -

**a. Hand Hygiene**

- (1) Frequent hand wash with soap and water for 40 seconds or rub with >60% alcohol-based sanitizer for 20 seconds is advised. Practice hand hygiene especially after touching shared surfaces like door handles/knobs, furniture, chair arms, tables, computer equipment, audio/video equipment, tools/ devices, and other communal use items.
- (2) Avoid touching surfaces unnecessarily.
- (3) Maintain sufficient stock of hand sanitizer at cinemas and theater halls to provide the participants where required.

b. **Respiratory Etiquettes**

- (1) Principle of **NO MASK NO ENTRY** should be strictly implemented.
- (2) Avoid touching and exchange mask/face covering.
- (3) Wash/sanitize hands if contaminated while coughing/ sneezing or touching mask.
- (4) Maintain sufficient stock of masks at cinema and theater hall and provide to the clients and staff as per need.

c. **Physical (Social) Distancing**

- (1) Maintain inter-person spatial distance of 6 feet in waiting and ticketing areas. Floor marking for social distancing at entry and waiting area should be practiced.
- (2) Any unnecessary physical contact, handshake and hugging must be avoided.
- (3) Limit the hall occupancy up to 40% of total capacity.
- (4) Ensure spectators sit on alternative chairs while leaving adjacent, front, and back seats vacant. The allocated vacant seats should be marked with red cross ribbon/ display of "no seating" cards.
- (5) Open air theater should be preferred over indoor closed hall.
- (6) Live status of availability of seats in the hall should preferably be displayed visibly at entry gates so ticketing and gate keeping staff can manage the entries. Additional staff with placard on seat availability may be deployed at the gate to guide the spectators.
- (7) Online ticketing should be preferred over walk-in window ticketing.

d. **Cleanliness & Disinfection**

- (1) Ensure regular cleanliness and disinfection of surfaces of surroundings in use by multiple individuals. Priority areas for frequent cleanliness include floor, furniture, equipment, doors (knobs & handles), rest rooms, wash basins, toilets, etc.
- (2) Carpeting or mat cover of floors is not permissible. Carpets should also be removed from stage/actor performance areas in the theatres.





- (3) Ensure cleanliness and disinfection of cinema/theater hall after every show.
- (4) Follow standard procedure i.e. clean the surface to make it dirt/ dust free then wipe with 1% freshly prepared sodium hypochlorite solution.
- (5) Staff deployed for cleanliness and disinfection of communal use equipment should wear mask and gloves.
- (6) Ensure adequate ventilation of the halls.
- (7) Ensure regular exchange of fresh air in air-conditioned halls and frequent cleanliness & disinfection of air conditioner filters.
- (8) Staff engaged in currency exchange/collection and ticketing should use wet sponge to turn leaves while counting. Use of mouth saliva for this purpose is not permissible. A message shall be displayed appropriately cautioning people to avoid this practice.
- (9) Don't share cellphone, camera or other devices unless wiped with alcohol (spirit swab).
- (10) Communal towel use is not permissible.
- (11) Ensure continual cleanliness and disinfection of communal use wash basins and toilets. Full time cleaner should be present at the facility to keep it clean and disinfected.
- (12) Ensure adequate arrangements for collection and disposal of solid waste.
- (13) Inter show interval should be at least for 60 minutes to ensure proper cleanliness, disinfection and ventilation.

## **2. Health Status and Awareness**

Health status and awareness regarding COVID-19 prevention requires high importance for self-protection and taking care of others.

### **a. Health Status**

- (1) Fever with cough and sore throat are considered symptoms of COVID-19. If anybody is identified/reported with these symptoms, please call 1033 for guidance.
- (2) Ensure temperature checking with thermal scanners at entry points.



(3) Entrants who suffer from fever and cough should be immediately separated and referred for medical checkup. Cinema/theatre management should have liaison with ambulance service (Rescue 1122) to shift the patient when required.

**b. Covid-19 Awareness Activities**

- (1) Ensure display of awareness standees on COVID-19 prevention at entries and other prominent places.
- (2) Deploy trained staff member to monitor COVID-19 SOPs compliance.
- (3) Each show should be started with advertisement or presentation providing awareness about COVID-19 prevention and precautions.



**CAPTAIN (R) MUHAMMAD USMAN**  
Secretary

**No.& Date Even**

A copy is forwarded for information and further necessary action to:

1. Minister for SHC&ME and P&SHC Departments Punjab.
2. Chief Secretary, Government of Punjab.
3. Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister Punjab.
4. Secretary, SHC&ME Department, Government of Punjab.
5. Special Secretaries, SHC&ME and P&SHC Departments
6. Additional Secretaries (Tech), SHC&ME and P&SHC Departments.
7. Director General Health Services, Punjab, Lahore.
8. All Divisional Directors Health Services in Punjab.
9. Master File.