



COVID-19 Advisory for flood affected people in temporary shelters other than relief camps

In Assam, on an estimated average 3-4 million people have been affected by floods in the last 10 years. While certain proportions of the affected people resort to relief camps operated by the local administration, many prefer alternative temporary shelters such as high raised platforms, roads and embankments as convenient shelters. While government encourages flood affected people to take shelter in formal relief camps, any informal temporary shelters that may come into being during floods, must follow COVID Appropriate Behaviors and protocols as mentioned below:

- **Shelter Coordination Committee** - As people resort to temporary shelters, a shelter coordination committee shall be formed and focal point shall be nominated by people themselves comprising of inmates with adequate representation of women, adolescents and young people and elderly to coordinate with local administration. The local administration must be notified about existence of such camp at the earliest and GR request through Gaon Burah/ Lot mondal / Panchayat representatives shall be placed before the local administration by the committee. The Shelter co-ordination committee will also arrange COVID testing /RAT at regular intervals with the help of health team. The Shelter co-ordination committee may arrange COVID-19 vaccination camp for the inmates with the help of District Immunization Officer.
 - **Co-ordination of Relief Distribution / essential items:** Relief and essential item distribution should be co-ordinated maintaining social distancing norms
 - **Display of Emergency Phone Numbers:** Emergency phone numbers should be displayed in the temporary shelter sites like DEOC (Control Room) No, Police Control Room No, Health, Fire & APDCL
 - **Awareness on COVID appropriate behavior:** The inmates should be adequately sensitized by local administration on the Govt. advisory and COVID appropriate behavior to be adopted in such temporary shelters through public miking, IEC distribution etc. Local administration may engage community volunteers like Protirudhi bandhu volunteers, Aapada Mitra, Civil Defence volunteers etc. for this purpose.
- Further the medical teams visiting such relief camps may guide the inmates for COVID appropriate behavior and testing within 24 hours of starting such shelters/ camps.

- **Sanitization of Temporary Shelters:** Daily sanitization of temporary shelters shall be ensured by local administration. One team per shelter or one team for a group of adjacent shelters can be assigned for sanitization of such shelters.
- **Social Distancing within and between tents-** If any temporary shelter is created, social distancing of atleast 6 feet shall be ensured between every tent and accordingly number of tents shall be erected. Per person covered space of 7 square metre shall be maintained as far as possible. Adequate quantity of tarpaulins shall be requested through Gaon Burah /lot mondal / Panchayat representatives by the shelter coordination committee. District / Local administration should provide sufficient tarpaulins to each family so that each family member can maintain a minimum covered space of 7 square metre within the tent.
- **Adequate water arrangements-** The shelter coordination committee through Gaon Burah/ Lot Mondal / Panchayat Representatives shall request PHED department for providing minimum 20 litres of water per person per day through appropriate sources. Hygiene shall not be compromised at any cost.
- **Adequate Lighting arrangements:** District Administration will ensure adequate lighting arrangements in the temporary shelters. The inmates should not face any difficulty for staying in the shelters during night time.
- **Handwashing facility with Soap-** Any such temporary shelter site shall have provision for hand washing with soap at entry and exit; and other locations depending upon the total population in such temporary shelters shall be made. Local arrangements based on materials available shall be made. 60 seconds of handwashing during entry, before and after use of toilet, before and after taking food, feeding baby, handling child faeces shall be ensured.
- **Mandatory wearing of masks-** all such flood affected families in temporary shelters must ensure that all members always wear masks mandatorily. They must be worn properly to cover nose and mouth. Touching the front portion of mask/face covers to be avoided. The site should have a common mask disposal bin which can be covered and all guidelines related to safe disposal of masks shall be followed. At least "1" triple layer mask should be given free of cost to the relief camp / temporary shelter inmates from DDMA per day.
- **Separate toilets form male and female-** Within a minimum distance of 10 metre and maximum 50 metre of any such temporary shelters, either existing community toilets to be identified and demarcated as male and