KERALA COVID-19 TRACKER: 83 NEW CASES & 62 RECOVERIES TODAY, 1,258 PATIENTS UNDER TREATMENT

Two new hotspots, 35 exempted, total 133

Thiruvananthapuram, June 11: Chief Minister, Shri Pinarayi Vijayan has informed that 83 new cases of Covid-19 were confirmed in Kerala today while 62 patients under treatment have recovered from the same. The Chief Minister also condoled the death of P K Mohammed, a 70 year old native of Kannur district who was suffering from severe liver disease and had tested positive for Covid.

27 persons who returned from abroad (UAE-11, Oman-4, Nigeria-4, Kuwait-3, Saudi Arabia-2, Russia-2 & Djibouti-1) and 37 who came back from other states (Maharashtra-20, Delhi-7, Tamil Nadu-4, Karnataka-4, Madhya Pradesh-1 & West Bengal-1) are among those who tested positive. 14 people have got infected through primary contact. In Thrissur, four are Corporation cleaning staff and four are warehouse headload workers. Five health workers have also got infected.

The district-wise details of positive cases are: 25 people in Thrissur district, 13 from Palakkad district, ten each in Malappuram and Kasargod districts, eight from Kollam district, seven in Kannur district, five from Pathanamthitta district, two each in Ernakulam and Kottayam districts, and one in Kozhikode district.

16 patients from Thiruvananthapuram district, 13 in Palakkad district, eight from Kannur district, seven in Thrissur district, six from Ernakulam district, five in Kasargod district, three from Kozhikode district, and two each from Kollam and Malappuram districts are those who have recovered from Coronavirus. Till now, there are 2,244 confirmed Covid cases in the State and 1,258 patients are now under treatment (active cases).

A total of 2,18,949 people are under observation in various districts of the state. Of these, 2,17,027 are under house / institutional quarantine and 1,922 are in hospitals. 231 people were admitted to the hospital today.

5,044 tests were conducted today. So far, 1,03,757 samples have been sent for testing and the results of 2,873 samples are awaited. In addition, as part of Sentinel Surveillance, 27,118 samples were tested from high-risk groups and 25,757 samples were negative.

Two new places in Palakkad district were declared as hotspots today while 35 areas have been excluded from the list. Presently, there are 133 hotspots in Kerala.

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Kerala issues new guidelines for quarantine and containment zones
Thiruvananthapuram, June 11: With more people coming back to the State and an increase in the number of new cases, Kerala today came out with a new set of guidelines for quarantine and also redefined the rules for declaring new containment zones.

Briefing the media, Chief Minister, Shri Pinarayi Vijayan said, “63.63 per cent of those coming back to Kerala from other states are from the Red Zones. Accordingly, the quarantine guidelines are being revised as per the recommendation of the Expert Committee. Those coming from abroad can go home after giving an affidavit but they will have to follow the quarantine conditions strictly. Police will take legal action against those who violate quarantine rules. Those who register on the Covid Jagratha portal should give an affidavit about home quarantine. They can choose their own house or any other suitable house. The LSG bodies should make sure that they have enough facilities at home for quarantine. Institutional quarantine is only for those who don’t have such a facility at home. Paid quarantine is for those who opt to stay in hotels.”

The LSG body will inspect the house based on the affidavit and approve home quarantine or institutional quarantine or paid quarantine, if found inadequate. The approval should be communicated to the concerned Local Self Government, Police, Covid Care Centre Nodal Officer and District Collector.

The Chief Minister also announced some changes to the definition of the containment zones. “The Containment Zone will be notified every night before 12. In the Panchayats, the Containment Zone may be declared at the Ward level and in Corporation, at the Sub Ward Level. They can be defined at a very local level based on the number of positive cases for people under quarantine, primary contacts and secondary contacts. Initially, the containment zone will be declared for seven days which can be extended after review by the District Collector.”

Kerala proposes Work Sharing Bench to boost IT sector

Thiruvananthapuram, June 11: In a series of initiatives to boost the IT industry which has been affected by the Covid pandemic, the Kerala Government has come out with a Work Sharing Bench proposal to maximise skill sharing and upgradation of skill sets for IT professionals who are in the danger of losing their jobs. The government has also announced a rent waiver scheme for government-owned IT parks.

Briefing the media, Chief Minister, Shri Pinarayi Vijayan said, “The pandemic has badly affected the IT sector. In the first three-quarters of the current fiscal, revenue loss is estimated at Rs 4,500 crore. The Planning Department estimates that more than 26,000 direct and 80,000 indirect jobs will be lost. Many MSMEs that rely on software exports are in crisis. In this scenario, the government will support the IT industry in all possible ways. IT companies should ensure job security but at the same time, they should not be overburdened.”
Some of the measures announced are:

§ Rent exemptions for three months for rent of up to 10,000 sq. ft. of all buildings with a total floor area of 25,000 sq.ft. The company can opt for this benefit for any three months in 2020-21.

§ Avoidance of annual increase in rent will be considered. If decided, there will be no increase in rent for 2021-22.

§ Government departments have been asked to clear any pending payments for government's IT projects.

§ Government will support IT companies get more loans for working capital. They will be able to get 20% additional loan at existing interest rates.

§ Special preference for Kerala based IT companies for IT-enabled services of various government departments.

§ The government is willing to work with IT companies to set up 'Work Near Home' units for those who face problems working from home.

§ Work sharing bench to enable a common pool of skilled IT professionals and training/retraining in skillsets. IT companies should go for new appointments only after utilising those in Work sharing bench.

The Chief Minister also added that Kerala will have a lot of opportunities in the IT sector in the post-Covid scenario and companies should be able to capitalise on this demand. “Technology-based industries have the greatest potential. This will create a lot of opportunities in the field as all new industries need the outsourcing of information technology.”

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