



ਦਫਤਰ ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਮੈਜਿਸਟਰੇਟ, ਐਸ ਏ ਐਸ ਨਾਗਰ
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Ref. No. DCM/MA/2020/6317

Dated **01.04.2020**

ORDER

WHEREAS, COVID19 has already been declared as a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) and National Disaster Management Authority, being satisfied that the country is threatened with the COVID19 epidemic, has declared a lockdown in the entire country.

WHEREAS, in exercise of powers under the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897, the Government of Punjab has already issued the Punjab Epidemic Diseases, COVID19 Regulations, 2020 for the containment and prevention of the spread of COVID19.

WHEREAS, in order to contain the spread of COVID 19, which poses a threat to human life, health and safety; curfew was imposed in the entire state to enforce stricter measures of isolation and social distancing

WHEREAS, as on 31st March, the number of COVID positive cases in the world are 7,50,890 of which 57,610 are in the last 24 hours itself. Of these 36,405 have succumbed to the disease. India has 1466 active cases with 38 deaths. In the state of Punjab there are 41 cases with 3 fatalities; of these 10 of the cases are in this district itself with 1 fatality; further over 1000 people have been quarantined. While there have been no casualties in the district thus far, as new cases are being reported, the numbers are rising through contact tracing. As such, it is imperative to take urgent and essential steps to synchronize the strategies for prevention and treatment of the disease in order to increase the survival rate and preserve human life.

WHEREAS, the public health infrastructure in the district is inadequate, given the potential magnitude of the pandemic. Even the district hospital, which is under reconstruction as a Medical College, has only 100 beds (out of which 20 beds have been set aside for isolation) and zero ventilators. The district has a strong private health infrastructure which will be crucial to supplement ICU beds/ ventilators needed.

WHEREAS, the Ministry of Health, Government of India had already issued advisories clearly stating:

1. "Some beds should be set apart and prepared for creating isolation facilities in every public and private hospital.
2. All hospitals should mobilize additional resources including masks, gloves and personal protection equipment. Healthcare personnel should be trained for dealing with any foreseeable emergencies.
3. No suspected COVID 19 patient should be turned away from any hospital and the admission of any such patient should be notified to NCDC or IDSP immediately."

WHEREAS, there have been many reports of non-cooperation, under-reporting of capacity, exorbitant charging, refusal to set apart and create isolation facilities and even turning away of patients by Private hospitals in the district. Moreover, it has been reported

that in some cases, the hospital management has stated that their staff has refused to treat/ attend to COVID positive/ or even suspected cases. This is an unprecedented situation and at this time parochial profiteering objectives cannot be justified. Concerted efforts will be required in order to be fully prepared.

WHEREAS, many of the private hospitals in the district have been facilitated by the Government in many ways including allotment of land free or at subsidized rates so that they can fulfill a public purpose. Moreover, the district is also home to considerable population from low-income groups. Access to healthcare is a fundamental part of right to life guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution. The minimal public health infrastructure would be overwhelmed in case of the pandemic spreading exposing those from the lowest groups to the highest risk as they cannot afford private medical care. The survival or life of any person cannot be dictated by his paying capacity. It is not only prudent but imperative to be prepared for any eventuality.

WHEREAS, as per Section 34 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005:

“34. Powers and functions of District Authority in the event of any threatening disaster situation or disaster — For the purpose of assisting, protecting or providing relief to the community, in response to any threatening disaster situation or disaster, the District Authority may—

(j) procure exclusive or preferential use of amenities from any authority or person”

And THEREFORE, the District Disaster Management Authority is satisfied that in view of the emergent nature and potential magnitude of the pandemic; for the purpose of assisting, protecting or providing relief to the community and to put in place measures for provision of proper medical care for the COVID19 positive/ suspected cases in the district, it is hereby directed that:

1. As per Section 28 of the Act, an advisory committee headed by the ADC Mohali is hereby constituted to assess and identify the required private health infrastructure to be used/ set aside, in case of any contingency.
2. Composition of the Committee shall be as follows:

i.	ADC, Mohali	Chairperson
ii.	Civil Surgeon, Mohali	Member-Secretary
iii.	Municipal Commissioner	Member
iv.	Addl Chief Administrator, GMADA	Member
v.	Representative of SSP (not below DSP)	Member
vi.	2 Representatives of IMA	Member
vii.	Any other expert/ person required by the Committee may be co-opted.	
3. Private hospitals (having 10 beds or more) shall provide an inventory of their beds (including ICU)/ ventilators/ respirators, laryngoscopes, PPE and any other essential item as specified by the Committee.
4. The Committee shall decide the number of beds/ ventilators/ ambulances etc. to be made available by each hospital on a pro-rata basis depending on the of overall capacity of the hospital and strictly on the principle of equity.
5. Private hospitals (having 10 beds or more) in the district shall set aside isolation beds/ wards/ other infrastructure as specified by this Committee to be placed at the

disposal of the Civil Surgeon, Mohali, to be called into service as and when the need arises.

6. Private hospitals in the district shall not refuse admission/ treatment to patients referred by the Civil Surgeon, Mohali.
7. The infrastructure utilized for the purpose of COVID19 as per the above and cases referred by Civil Surgeon Mohali shall not be charged by the concerned hospital; except for consumables (such as medicines, syringes etc.) actually used in the treatment; at rates prescribed by the Government.
8. These hospitals shall ensure that staff – doctors, nurses, and paramedics etc. are all available on duty and no one shall refuse treatment to COVID19 positive/ suspected cases.
9. The management of these hospitals shall be held personally responsible for compliance of these directions.

Given under my hand and seal.



**GIRISH DAYALAN, IAS
DISTRICT MAGISTRATE
SAHIBZADA AJIT SINGH NAGAR**