

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
DISPUR, GUWAHATI-781006

No-HLA 264/2020/5

Dated Dispur, the 17th May 2021

ORDER

In supersession of the earlier order No. HLA 269/2020/25, dated 11th July, 2020, the following SoP is issued for Home/Institutional Isolation of COVID positive patients.

Whereas, the Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Assam, has been taking all possible steps for the management and treatment of the COVID-19 patients in the wake of the second wave of the COVID pandemic in the State,

Whereas, the bed capacity in the hospitals across the State has been ramped up considerably and the COVID Care Centres are being set up in order to accommodate asymptomatic and mildly symptomatic patients,

Whereas, some individuals who have tested positive have been insisting on permission to undergo isolation at home and allowed to do so subject to conditions,

Whereas, home isolation of COVID-19 patients comes at a risk of transmitting the infection to other residents of the home and neighbourhood and also complications in some cases, especially among those above 50 years of age and those with co-morbidities,

Whereas, it is seen that a large number of patients who have opted for home Isolation are falling seriously ill, as a result of not following Home Isolation guidelines and medications carefully,

Whereas, the Health & Family Welfare Department has deployed all available medical personnel to take care of the patients in the Government facilities and hence it is not possible to spare medical staff to monitor the condition of individual COVID-19 patients at their residences,

Whereas, the ambulances of Health & Family Welfare Department are also fully engaged in transfer of patients, hence it may be difficult to provide ambulance if the condition of a patient, who has opted for home isolation, rapidly deteriorates at home,

Whereas, it is also noted that forced hospitalization or forced institutional isolation of a person is against the principles of liberty and freedom of choice,

Health & Family Welfare Department has decided that to modify the permission for home isolation as follows:

1. **COVID-19 patients, who are aged 50 years and above or with co-morbidities shall be strictly advised to undergo institutional isolation as per COVID treatment protocol applicable.**
2. They shall undergo 7 days of Institutional isolation under medical supervision and shall be eligible for all supports including refreshment etc. as notified from time to time. After discharge, following the discharge protocol, they shall complete another 7 days of home isolation.
3. Those above 50 years and above or with co-morbidities will be allowed home isolation only if they fulfill the other criteria of home isolation as follows:
 - A. The patient is asymptomatic, and that he/she is, prima facie, in good clinical condition without serious co-morbid conditions certified by a medical practitioner.
 - B. There is separate well ventilated room with a separate toilet for the person in isolation. If there is no such arrangement for separate toilet and well ventilated room, then Home Isolation will not be permitted.
 - C. There is no person living in the house along with the patient, who is above 60 years of age with co-morbidities/ a pregnant lady/ and others in the high risk category in respect of COVID- 19.
 - D. The entire residence shall be converted to containment zone for 14 days. All persons living in the house along with the patient, shall voluntarily get themselves tested for COVID-19 on the 4th day after beginning of home isolation period. In case, any of these persons develop symptoms they will not wait for the 4th day and shall get tested immediately in the nearest testing centre.
 - E. In case of the residence of the patient being located in an apartment or densely packed neighbourhood, and the neighbours object to the home Isolation on reasonable and good grounds, then the patient will have to be shifted to a hospital.
 - F. The patient has to isolate himself at home and all the family members including the patient have to wear a mask all the time.
 - G. A caregiver should be available to provide care on a 24 x7 basis. The caregiver should follow all protocols strictly so as not to spread infection. The caregiver should also take prophylaxis treatment as per protocol.
 - H. The patient/guardian shall arrange for a private medical practitioner to regularly monitor the patient's condition in person or through tele/video-link. Without private medical practitioner engaged, Home Isolation will not be granted.

- I. During the period of home isolation, the patient shall strictly adhere to the medical advice given by medical practitioner and also strictly follow hygiene and social distancing norms in the residence.
- J. The patient shall keep a fingertip pulse oximeter and thermometer at hand, and keep a proper record of the oxygen saturation level, pulse rate and temperature readings at regular intervals. In case, the oxygen saturation level falls below 95% or there are any life threatening symptoms and signs, the patient shall be shifted to a hospital by the guardian/care-giver immediately.
- K. As the Government ambulances are fully engaged in ferrying patients to Government facilities at all hours, **the patient/guardian must make arrangements for a private vehicle to be available at all hours, in case the need arises to shift the patient to a private hospital, which is treating COVID patients or to Government COVID hospital.** This should be intimated to 104 immediately. However, 108 assistances shall be provided wherever possible.
- L. The patient/guardian shall make arrangement for treatment in a private sector hospital, if need arises. However, the said patient will be allowed to be treated in Government facility, if he/she so desires.
- M. The 104 team is regularly calling patients who have opted for home isolation in Kamrup Metro district. The patients in Home isolation are to cooperate with the 104 callers and give correct information as asked for.
- N. Each District will set up tele-medicine service for the patients in Home isolation.
- O. One ADC rank officer shall be designated as nodal officer for issues relating to home isolation in the district. Another officer not below the rank of Assistant Commissioner shall be similarly designated to look after tele-medicine /call centre services.
- P. The Sampark team, stationed at NHM headquarters, consisting of a dedicated team of Doctors and counsellors, are calling all Covid Home isolation positive patients. Patients in Home Isolation may call the Sampark team in case of emergencies or for medical advice by means of the eSanjeevani OPD app and call directly in the number from which calls were made to the patient between 10 AM to 10PM.
- Q. A patient who has completed 14 days of home isolation without any complications shall be deemed to be discharged, in consultation with State Discharge Board. 104 and Sampark team will advise accordingly.

- R. All patients in Home isolation are to cooperate with the District Administration, the 104 and SAMPARK team. Anyone not cooperating will be mandatorily shifted to Health facilities run by Government.
- S. An undertaking is to be furnished by the COVID-19 patient seeking Home Isolation, in the format at ANNEXURE-I mandatorily to the district administration.
- T. Correct information and phone number is to be given in the undertaking. In case false information is provided then Health & Family Welfare department reserves the right to revoke permission for Home Isolation and impose penalty. It is mandatory for Home Isolation patients to respond to follow up calls.

Sd/-

(Anurag Goel, IAS)

Principal Secretary to the Government of Assam

Health & Family Welfare Department

Dated: Dispur, the 17th May 2021

Memo No: HLA 264/2020/5-A

Copy to:

1. Chief Secretary, Assam.
2. Director General of Police, Assam.
3. Principal Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam.
4. Chief Executive Officer, Assam State Disaster Management Authority.
5. Mission Director, National Health Mission, Assam.
6. All Deputy Commissioners for necessary action.
7. All Superintendents of Police for necessary action.
8. Director of Medical Education, Assam
9. Director of Health Services, Assam.
10. All Principals/ Superintendents, Medical College Hospital.
11. All Joint Directors of Health Services/ District Surveillance officers for necessary action.
12. P.P.S to Hon'ble Chief Minister for kind appraisal of Hon'ble Chief Minister.
13. P.S to Hon'ble Health Minister for kind appraisal of Hon'ble Health Minister.
14. Any other concerned.

12/5/21
Joint Secretary to the Government of Assam
Health & Family Welfare Department

UNDERTAKING for Home Isolation by COVID Positive Patient

To,
The Deputy Commissioner,
..... District.

I..... Age..... S/D/W of resident of
..... on being diagnosed as a
Covid 19 positive patient, do hereby voluntarily undertake to maintain strict Home-
Isolation at all times for the prescribed period.

I hereby declare that I am asymptomatic, and prima facie found in good clinical con-
dition by a medical practitioner, and do not have any serious co-morbid conditions
including kidney diseases, heart disease, stroke, Tuberculosis, Cancer, HIV, Immune-
compromised conditions etc.

I, fully understand the risks of remaining in home isolation outside a hospital and will
not hold the Government of Assam responsible in any way in case of any complica-
tions that may arise due to my home isolation.

During the period, I shall monitor my health and comply with all conditions laid
down in the Government notification no.....datedMay, 2021, includ-
ing arrangement of a private medical practitioner to monitor my condition regularly
and private vehicle for emergency transportation to a health facility.

I shall cooperate with the Health & Family Welfare Department at all times, as re-
quired, and readily comply with any advice given by the Department.

I am liable to be acted on under the prescribed law or any non-adherence /violation
to home isolation protocol/ instructions.

Signature of the patient in Home Isolation	Signature of the Responsible Person (household member)
	Relationship to the patient
Name	Name
Age/sex	Age/sex
Date	Date
Contact Number	Contact Number