

**Government of Himachal Pradesh
Department of Transport**

File No. TPT-F(10)-5/2020 Dated – Shimla-2 the

06/01/2021.

NOTIFICATION

Whereas, the directions were issued vide this department Notification of even number dated 25-11-2020 that the Inter State and Intra State buses will operate at 50% capacity till December 15, 2020 subject to prescribed Standard Operating Procedures, which were extended upto 05-01-2021 vide this department Notification dated 21-12-2020.

Whereas, the directions have been issued by the SEC on 5th January, 2021 that there will be no restrictions regarding seating capacity in operation of Inter-State as well as Intra State buses.

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers under Section 38 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 and in modification of earlier Notifications dated 25-11-2020 and 21-12-2020, directions are hereby issued that operation of Inter-state and Intra-State buses will be allowed henceforth without restriction of seating capacity and subject to observance of the Standard Operating Procedures annexed at Annexure-I.

By Order,

Kamlesh Kumar Pant
Principal Secretary (Transport) to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh

Standard Operating Procedure (SOPs) for Operation of Bus Services.

1. Buses shall operate on their respective routes.
2. To maintain social distancing and avoid overcrowding in buses, the occupancy shall be maintained at 100% with no standees.
3. All passengers shall wear masks from the time of boarding till alighting from the bus.
4. Driver/Conductor and passengers should undergo self-monitoring for flu-like symptoms and in case any symptom appears, then she/he shall report the same to the nearest health institutions.
5. The buses shall be sanitized completely in the late evening hours or early morning before plying on their routes.
6. All safety protocols of Health Department shall be followed by driver, conductor and passengers.
7. No standing passengers shall be allowed in the buses during journey.
8. Social distancing shall be maintained at booking counters and while boarding and de-boarding the bus.
9. Proper ventilation be ensured in the bus.
10. Conductors shall be provided thermal scanners to get any passenger checked, boarding enroute. The Operators/Regional Manager shall ensure providing thermal scanners in all buses.

PROTOCOL FOR BUS STANDS, BUSES AND STAFF:-

(a) At Bus Stand:

1. Aarogya Setu App status would be checked preferably (for compatible device only) to ensure that passenger is free on COVID-19 symptoms. Passengers with “Red: Status in Aarogya Setu App would not be permitted to travel.
2. Only passenger(s) shall be allowed to enter in the bus stand through single-entry point.
3. Every toilet shall be sanitized and must have soap dispenser.
4. Bus Stand Management and Development Authority shall ensure adequate signages to guide the passengers, in all aspects related to COVID-19.
5. Public announcement system at bus stand shall regularly disseminate information about the precautions to be followed during travel.

6. Physical distance of at least one meter shall be ensured while boarding and de-boarding.
7. Proper queue system should be followed during boarding and at the bus counter.
8. Anyone moving inside the bus stand shall mandatorily wear the face cover.
9. Adequate bins shall be placed for disposal of used material like masks etc. All such waste to be handled and disposed as per the prescribed procedure.
10. HRTC shall ensure that person sitting at cash counters be provided with adequate safety protective gears like gloves, masks, face covers, face shields, hand sanitizers etc.

(b) Inside the bus (passenger protocol):

1. All passengers shall wear mask/face cover throughout the journey and ensure that co-passengers shall also wear masks.
2. Passengers must use hand sanitizers regularly during their journey for their own safety.
3. Avoid unnecessary touching of common contact points, by anyone. Signages be placed at Interstate Counters in HP.
4. Avoid travelling in case of any illness. In case of emergency and illness, inform the conductor for maintaining physical distance during journey.
5. In case of any symptoms of illness of co-passengers, information shall be provided to crew members of the bus.

(c) Bus protocol:

1. Boarding and de-boarding in the bus shall be from the rear and front door respectively.
2. While issuing the tickets, conductor shall avoid physical contact with the passengers and maintain proper physical distance.
3. Passengers must assist driver/conductor to maintain social distancing.
4. Proper ventilation must be maintained during journey by opening the window glasses.
5. Buses shall be stopped for boarding and de-boarding on the designated bus stands/stops only.
6. Stage Carriage buses can pass through containment zones, however boarding and de-boarding of passenger(s) shall be strictly prohibited within containment zones.

7. Regional Managers, HRTC shall ensure that the proper hygiene and cleanliness is maintained at authorized Dhabas for passengers safety.

(d) Conductor:

1. He shall wear mask/face cover, gloves and face shield throughout the journey.
2. While issuing tickets, he/she shall ensure physical distancing from the passengers.
3. He shall educate passenger(s) about protocol to be followed during journey and ensure that all safety precautions are adhered to by all concerned.
4. He shall ensure proper ventilation in the bus.

(e) Driver:

1. The Driver shall ensure minimum contact with the passengers and the public.
2. He shall use protective gears like masks/face cover, hand sanitizers etc.

(f) Way Side Amenities protocol:

1. Proper sanitization and cleanliness must be ensured in dining area, kitchen and toilets at Dhabas/Restaurants.
2. Every Dhaba/ Restaurant must have sanitizer for public use.
3. Soap dispenser must be available in toilet and each wash basin.
4. Seating arrangement in dining area must be such that proper physical distancing be maintained.
