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GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, PUNJAB

(Health-IV Branch)

(Punjab Civil Secretariat-2, Sector 09, Chandigarh)

NOTIFICATION

The 13th March, 2026

No. HFW-HLH405A/1/2026-4H4-I/1343033/2026.-

Declaration of Leprosy as Notifiable Disease

Whereas, the Government of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Department of Health and Family Welfare vide its letter number D.O. No. Z-14020/05/2025-Lep., dated 14th May 2025 has communicated that, in alignment with the Global leprosy Strategy 2021-2030, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched the National Strategic Plan 2023-2027 to accelerate the progress towards interrupting the transmission of Leprosy by mandatory reporting of all diagnosed cases in the State and to consider declaring Leprosy as a "Notifiable Disease" in the State.

Since Leprosy is an infectious disease, it continues to be a major public health concern in the country. If not diagnosed and treated early, it may lead to physical deformity, disability and significant morbidity. It is also associated with social stigma and discrimination.

Whereas Leprosy is a curable disease with full course of Multi Drug Therapy (MDT) and early diagnosis followed by complete treatment is the cornerstone of the Leprosy Prevention and Control Strategy. Comprehensive and timely reporting will enable the State to:

- i. Ensure that all the patients shall avail services available under National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP)
- ii. Provide follow-up care to individuals who experience complications or disabilities even after treatment completion.
- iii. Facilitate administration of chemoprophylaxis to healthy contacts to prevent further transmission.
- iv. Support the diagnosis and management of Drug resistant leprosy (DRL) cases.

Therefore, in pursuance of The Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 and in the interest of public health, the Government of Punjab hereby declares that-

- I. The Leprosy is a notifiable disease in the State of Punjab.

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- II. The notification shall be applicable to all persons/establishments (private or government) dealing with diagnosis, treatment and follow up related to leprosy, namely Hospitals, Medical Institutions imparting Medical Education and providing diagnostic services, private practitioners, private clinics, pharmacy, laboratory and any other health care Sectors.
 - III. All the diagnosed cases of Leprosy must be mandatorily reported to the District Leprosy Officer, Medical Officer or Non Medical Supervisor of the respective district within two weeks of diagnosis. A monthly report shall be generated by District Leprosy officer and the same shall be forwarded to State Leprosy Officer.
 - IV. All individuals or institutions, reporting or notifying cases, shall maintain a prescribed register and retain a copy of the submitted reporting format, which is enclosed herewith for all the new or ongoing cases under their care.

Chandigarh
The 12th March, 2026

KUMAR RAHUL, IAS
Principal Secretary to Govt. of Punjab
Department of Health and Family Welfare

