

F. No. PA/85/2020-CPMU C No 85941  
Government of India  
Ministry of Women & Child Development  
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Jeevan Vihar Building,  
New Delhi - 110001  
11<sup>th</sup> November, 2020

To

The Principal Secretaries/ Secretaries, Department of Social Welfare /Women & Child Development of all States/UTs

**Subject:** Guidance note on operations of Anganwadi Services — regarding,

Sir/Madam,

Under-nutrition is one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in children under the age of 5 years. Delivery of preventive services to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on the nutrition is well recognized. Provision of essential services like Growth Monitoring Referral, and supplementary nutrition etc. to ensure the health and well-being of the pregnant ladies, lactating mothers and children below 5 years is most important. In view of Covid19 pandemic globally, it is imperative to ensure, that the beneficiaries do not suffer and remain away from Anganwadi services.

2. Hence, Anganwadi Services may be resumed outside containment zones with immediate effect, complying health and safety protocols. Further, cleanliness, Hygiene and Sanitization may be ensured in and around the premises of Anganwadi Center, use of mask/face covers shall be mandatory for everyone visiting the Centre, including AWW and AWH. Also, frequent hand washing, and strict social distancing as per MoHFW guidelines must be followed at Anganwadi Centre.

3. Ministry of Women and Child Development has taken up the matter with Ministry of Home Affairs regarding reopening of AWCs. Ministry of Home Affairs vide OM No. 40-6/2020/DM-1(A)/Part-2 dated 22nd October 2020 (copy enclosed) advised that AWCs may be opened outside the containment zones, by adhering to the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) related to health and security measures in consultation with State/UTs.

4. A guidance note for resuming Anganwadi Services is **enclosed** herewith. Based on the guidance note, States / UT Governments need to develop their own SOP for reopening AWC when the State/Union Territory Governments declare it safe for AWC to operate. **All States/UTs are expected to comply with the COVID-19 related directions issued by Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, from time to time.**

5. Therefore, it is requested that States/UTs may decide reopening of AWCs outside containment zones while adhering to health and safety protocols as per the guidelines of MOHFW.

Yours sincerely,



(Sanjiv Gajraj)

Executive Director,  
POSHAN Abhiyaan, MWCD

Copy to:  
PS to Minister,  
PS to MoS,  
Secretary MoHFW and Secretary MHA

**Ministry of Women & Child Development**  
**Government of India**

**Operational Guidance note for continuation of services in the context of COVID-19**

In view of Covid19 pandemic globally, functioning of Anganwadi centers was suspended to avoid spread of COVID 19. However, since it is imperative to ensure simultaneously, that the beneficiaries do not suffer on account of suspension of Anganwadi services, the door to door distribution of Supplementary nutrition under the scheme has continued. Subsequent unlock guidelines have been issued by the MHA, recommending phased reopening of services while adhering to preventive protocols.

As under-nutrition is one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in children under the age of 6 years, provision of essential services like Growth Monitoring, Referral, and Supplementary Nutrition etc. to ensure the health and well-being of children below 6 years along with the pregnant women & lactating mothers is most important to mitigate the challenges of malnutrition. Continuation/resumption of these services is also necessary to minimize the impact of the pandemic on vulnerable women and children.

Necessary vaccination and other health related interventions also need to be resumed to ensure that the children do not miss timely shots of vaccines and follow the mandatory protocol. While the school education has reinvented itself to engage with children through online platform, the children visiting Anganwadi Centers also need to recommence their education at Anganwadis as per ECCE practices. These essential services ought to be resumed, with due caution, to provide essential services including supplementary nutrition, health interventions and ECCE at Anganwadi Centers.

Hence, Anganwadi services may be resumed in outside containment zones, when the State/Union Territory Governments declare it safe for AWC to operate, while complying with following measures:

1. Cleanliness, Hygiene and Sanitization may be ensured in and around the premises of Anganwadi Center.
2. Use of mask/face covers shall be mandatory for everyone visiting the Centre, including AWW and AWH.
3. Frequent hand washing, sanitization, strict social distancing etc. as per MoHFW guidelines must be followed at the AWC.
4. Appropriate messages for prevention from COVID 19 (i.e. recommending social distancing, use of face mask, hand washing, sanitization, identification of COVID symptoms, primary health care at home etc.) may be suitably displayed in and around AWC.
5. Persons above 65 years of age, and persons with co-morbidities, should not visit Anganwadi Centre.
6. Pregnant women and children below the age of 10 years should visit Anganwadi Centre only for essential and health purposes.

**Providing Supplementary Nutrition:**

States/UTs may provide cooked food & take-home ration either at the AWCs or delivered at home, based on the prevailing local situation, while observing necessary social distancing and hygiene protocols during storage, preparation and distribution of the same.

### **Growth Monitoring Services**

1. A roster of children may be maintained by AWW to avoid accumulation of beneficiaries at the same time in AWC. The schedule may be shared with parents/caregivers in advance, through mobile phone messages, or any other suitable manner.
2. Growth monitoring services may also be carried out during VHSND as per MoHFW guidance or during home visits, while ensuring hand hygiene, sanitization of weighing equipment and other covid protocols.
3. Severely malnourished children, high risk pregnancy and lactating mothers should be monitored strictly and continued with the home-based service delivery and take-home cooked food.

### **Counseling Services:**

1. Counseling on maternal, infant and young child care and feeding practices may be carried out during home visits, during VHSND or video/telephone calls and whatsapp messages.
2. CBE events may be organized in-person in small groups for short duration following all COVID-19 protocols or virtually through video/audio medium.

### **ECCE Services**

1. Preschool education may be resumed at the Centre in small groups of five to eight children on any day. Children may visit Anganwadi Centre once a week and follow up on the lessons at home, with help of parents.
2. On line Pre-school education, using satellite telecast and sharing lessons through mobile network may be encouraged wherever possible.

### **Protocol after identification of CORONA patients**

Any Child or adult showing any symptoms of COVID should be sent back to their homes. AWW/AWH may inform ASHA/ANM/PHC/any other facility as prescribed by local administration, regarding them. In case of confirmed COVID cases visiting AWC, the premises may be re-sanitised as prescribed by and with support of local administration. Persons who came in contact with the patient may be asked to self-isolate and report to health authorities in case of COVID symptoms.

**Note:** All States/UTs are expected to comply with the COVID-19 related directions issued by Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, from time to time. District Collectors/ District Magistrate may decide extent of opening and service delivery at AWC outside containment zones, guiding the field functionaries within the District, based on the prevalent and changing local circumstances. They shall conduct regular review and monitoring with all concerned for ensuring the functioning of Anganwadi as per the laid down parameters.

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सं. 40-6/2020-डीएम-1 (ए)/ पार्ट-2  
भारत सरकार  
गृह मंत्रालय  
(आपदा प्रबंधन प्रभाग)


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कमरा न° 10-C  
नॉर्थ ब्लॉक, नई दिल्ली।  
दिनांक: 22 अक्टूबर, 2020.

कार्यालय ज्ञापन

**विषय: आँगनबाड़ी केन्द्रों के पुनः संचालन हेतु।**

अधोहस्ताक्षरी को उपरोक्त विषय पर महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्रालय से प्राप्त पत्र संख्या PA/85/2020-CPMU दिनांक 14 अक्टूबर, 2020 के संदर्भ में यह कहने का निर्देश हुआ है कि आँगनबाड़ी केन्द्रों को संबन्धित राज्य/ संघ राज्य क्षेत्र से परामर्श के बाद, स्वास्थ्य और सुरक्षा उपायों संबंधी एसओपी के पालन के अधीन, कंटेनमेंट जोनों से बाहर फिर से शुरू करने के लिए, महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्रालय निर्णय ले सकता है।



(आशिष कुमार सिंह)

अवर सचिव, भारत सरकार

सेवामें,

सचिव,

महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्रालय ,

शास्त्री भवन, नई दिल्ली।