



Government of Odisha
Office of Special Relief Commissioner

Cyclone / Most Urgent

No. 2804 /R&DM(DM)

Date: 18.05.2020

From

Pradeep Jena, IAS
Special Relief Commissioner &
Additional Chief Secretary to Govt.,
Disaster Management

To

The Collector
Balasore/ Bhadrak/ Kendrapara/ Jagatsinghpur/ Puri/ Khordha/ Cuttack/ Jajpur/ Mayurbhanj

Sub: Evacuation of vulnerable people to safe shelters in the wake of Super Cyclone-AMPHAN – Taking care against spread of COVID-19

Ref: Letter No.2785/R&DM(DM) dated 18.5.2020

Sir,

Please invite a reference to my earlier letter regarding evacuation of vulnerable population to safe shelters in the wake of Super Cyclone AMPHAN. It is needless to say that evacuating a large number of people from vulnerable locations and houses to shelters during pandemic situation poses great challenge to the administration as people are already going through psychological stress due to COVID-19.

In light of this, care may be taken that people being evacuated need to be sensitized to appreciate the necessity of evacuation as threat to life in a vulnerable house/ location due to cyclone is a more dangerous option than COVID-19 infection.

Shelters already used as temporary medical centres (TMCs) must be thoroughly and visibly sanitized not only to ensure prevention of spread of infection but also to gain the psychological confidence of the people being sheltered there.

The elderly persons and pregnant women need to be separated from others as far as possible and they may be sensitized to refrain from mingling with younger people and maintain social distancing to ensure their health safety.

Use of liquid soaps instead of soap bars may be preferred in shelters to build confidence among the inmates that cross infection through use of common soap bars is not there.

People being evacuated need to be impressed to use masks/ cover their mouth and nose with Gamucha, Dupatta or any piece of clean cloth available at home during evacuation and the entire period of stay in the shelter even if it is uncomfortable, in the interest of their health.

Yours faithfully,


Special Relief Commissioner &
Additional Chief Secretary to Govt.,
(Disaster Management)