**Zhemgang Dzongkhag**

**COVID-19 Preparedness Plan.2020**

*“****For efficient and effective containment of COVID-19”***

DC19TF/01/2020/ 29th August 2020

**Standard Operating Procedures (SoP) for Disinfection of Vehicles at Tamala Mobile Check Point (MCP)**

1. **Purpose**

Establish and maintain high levels of hygiene for vehicles entering the Dzongkhag and reduce the spread of COVID-19 infections.

1. **Scope**

This SoP shall apply to all vehicles that are permitted to enter Zhemgang Dzongkhag and transit to other Dzongkhags via Zhemgang through Tamala MCP.

1. **Objectives**

* Provide guidance on procedures for effective and efficient disinfection process for vehicles and people entering inside the Dzongkhag.
* Prevent risks of incursion or reduce the spread of COVID-19 virus into the Dzongkhag through fomites like vehicles, personnel, clothing, essential items and other vehicular loads.
* Ensure uninterrupted and timely supply of essential items and inputs into the Dzongkhag as well as facilitate transportation of stranded people during the COVID-19 lockdown.

1. **Implementing Agencies**

The lead implementing agency shall be BAFRA, Zhemgang and supported by other relevant agencies like RLDC, RBP, Desuup, RSTA and Zhemgang Dzongkhag COVID-19 Incident Command.

1. **Materials and equipment required**

* Power sprayer and knapsack sprayer.
* Disinfectants like bleaching powder and glutaraldehyde.
* PPE set like coverall, plastic apron, hand gloves, goggles, face mask/N95 respirator, gumboots and disposal bag.
* Drum and adequate water supply to prepare disinfectant solutions.

1. **Flowchart for SoP**

Vehicles arrive at MCP, Tamala

Determine the point of origin

From COVID-19 affected areas or declared red zones

From COVID-19 clean areas

Follow general procedures for disinfection outlined in Section 7

Follow additional procedures for disinfection outlined in Section 8

1. **General Procedures for Disinfection of Vehicles**
   1. The personnel engaged in the disinfection procedures shall use full PPE set at all times which includes coverall, plastic apron, face mask/N95 respirator, hand gloves, goggles and gumboots.
   2. The disinfection shall be done for all vehicles entering Tamala MCP to Zhemgang Dzongkhag as well as transiting to other Dzongkhags via Zhemgang Dzongkhag.
   3. The disinfection will be done by using 0.5% of bleaching powder solution for exterior parts of the vehicles and 0.1% glutaraldehyde for interior parts of vehicles including food contact surfaces.
   4. The use of glutaraldehyde for disinfection shall be limited to vehicles coming from COVID-19 affected areas and red zone declared areas only.
   5. As the vehicles importing essential items from the neighboring countries are already disinfected thoroughly at the point of entries or international borders (IB), the withholding time of 24 hours will not apply for this SoP.
   6. The disinfection of exterior parts of vehicles shall include tyres, hood and trunk of the vehicles using medium power sprays to avoid aerosol and dust particle explosion.
   7. The minimum contact time for disinfectant to be effective or withholding time for vehicles at MCP shall be 30 minutes before permitting vehicle to move from the MCP.
   8. During the disinfection and withholding time, the drivers and passengers shall not be allowed to come out of the vehicle.
   9. The disinfectant team shall maintain appropriate distance of minimum one (1) meter from the vehicle and the driver/passenger inside.
   10. The drivers and passengers should be mandated to wear facemask during the entire disinfection process.
   11. For vehicles entering the MCP from COVID-19 non-affected areas, the vehicles shall be allowed to enter the Dzongkhag or transit through the Dzongkhag irrespective of time of arrival at the MCP after enforcing the disinfection requirements and the contact time.
   12. All the vehicles transporting essential goods will be strictly monitored to unload their goods at the destination and immediately directed to return to their respective point of origins.
   13. The team on disinfection duty shall submit the daily report for disinfection of vehicles to the Dzongkhag COVID-19 Task Force as per prescribed format.
2. **Additional Procedures for Disinfection of Vehicles from COVID-19 Affected Areas/COVID-19 Red Zone Declared Areas**
   1. Follow all the disinfection procedures as prescribed in section 7.
   2. For vehicles coming from COVID-19 affected areas or red zone declared areas and arriving at the MCP and entering into Zhemgang Dzongkhag, the following SoPs shall apply:

* All vehicles transporting essential goods shall be transshipped to another identified vehicle with alternate driver if this had not been done at other port of entries.
* If the vehicles are allowed after meeting the above condition and arrive after 10:00PM at Tamala MCP, the vehicle will be disinfected as per SoP and withheld at Tamala MCP and then allowed to pass at 4:00AM next morning. This is mainly to prevent the drivers and passengers from halting in the town areas of the Dzongkhag and reduce risks of spreading the infections.
* The vehicles carrying essential items and coming from the COVID-19 affected areas or red zone declared areas shall be disinfected using bleaching powder for exteriors and 0.1% glutaraldehyde in interiors and food contact surfaces.
  1. For vehicles arriving at Tamala MCP and transiting through Zhemgang Dzongkhag to other Dzongkhags, the vehicles should be thoroughly disinfected at MCP as per the prescribed SoP and permit the vehicle to pass irrespective of the time of arrival at the MCP. However, strict monitoring shall be done by the security personnel and direct the vehicles to travel without halting along the ways in the Dzongkhag.

1. **References**

* MoH (2020). SoP for decontamination and disinfection of COVID-19 contaminated area. *2nd Edition, 15th March 2020, Ministry of Health.*
* W.B. Ford (1995). Disinfection procedures for personnel and vehicles entering and leaving contaminated premises. *Rev. sci. tech. Off. int. Epiz., 1995,14 (2), 393-401.*
* FAO (2001). Decontamination procedures. Manual on procedures for disease eradication by stamping out. *Part 3, Chapter 1.*