

Government of India/भारतसरकार
Ministry of Home Affairs/गृहमंत्रालय
[Police Division-II]

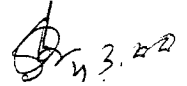
Subject:- Measures to Prevent spread of COVID-19 for uniformed personnel deploying in UN Field Missions

Reference to PMI to UN vide E/fax 117 dated 21.02.2020 and UN Department of Operational Support communication dated 21.02.2020(**copy enclosed**) on the above mentioned subject.

2. The UN Secretariat through Permanent Mission of India to United Nations (PMI to UN) has informed that due to the current outbreak of COVID-19 across China and at least 26 other countries, it is important for all of us to play our part in minimizing risks both to the populations we serve and to our mandate objectives. Accordingly, UN has bring attention a number of training and other medical requirements for all uniformed personnel and uniformed medical personnel deploying to or currently deployed in field missions. These additional training and requirements are to be implemented immediately in order to mitigate against the spread of COVID-19. PMI to UN has requested to shared these pre-deployment training requirements for the personnel who would be inducted into the UN Peacekeeping Missions in coming months.

4. Therefore the guidance at annex A are shared for information and with the directions to **all uniformed personnel to strictly adhere to instructions/guidance and take additional pre-deployment training before induction to the UN Peacekeeping Missions in coming months. please submit the action taken reports, if any to this ministry.**

Encl:- As Above



(S.Muthukumar
Under Secretary (PF-VI)
☎/☎:23092527

- 1 DIG (Pers), CRPF, CRPF HQ
- 2.DIG (OPS), SSB, RK Puram HQ,
- 3.AIG(Ops), CISF HQ, CGO Complex, New Delhi
- 4.Commandant (Ops), BSF, R K Puram HQ
- 5.Commandant (Ops), ITBP HQ, CGO complex, New delhi
6. Colonel GS(Ops), Assam Rifles through LO/AR
Commandant , UN Civpol Centre, ITBP, Tigri Camp, New Delhi

MHA ID No. 21023/08/2017-PMA

(Dtd 04 March, 2020)

Copy to :-

✓ SO (IT), MHA - With the request to upload the above communication on MHA website
(Police Division-II(policy guidelines for UN)





PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

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21 February 2020

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Repeate d	1. DS (Pers)-Police-II MHA, New Delhi Email: dirpers@nic.in dirpers@mha.gov.in 2. DS (UNP) MEA, New Delhi Email : dsunp@mea.gov.in	Priority : IMPORTANT
Internal	PR, DPR	No of Pages : 1 + 4

Sub: Measures to prevent spread of COVID - 19

Find enclosed UN Department of Operational Support communication dated 21 February 2020 on guidance to Troop/Police Contributing Countries on measures to prevent the spread of novel coronavirus disease.

2. The communication also enlisted **additional pre-deployment training** requirements for the personnel who would be inducted into the UN Peacekeeping Missions in coming months. The communication may please be shared with all concerned force headquarters.

Warm regards


(Thirugnana/Sambandan, S.)
First Secretary



Excellencies,

FEB 21 2020

I am writing to provide guidance to all troop- and police-contributing countries (T/PCCs) and field operations on measures to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in peacekeeping missions and special political missions.

The current outbreak of COVID-19 continues to expand with reported cases across China and at least 26 other countries. Experience to date shows that majority of patients would have mild disease and recover. The virus may, however, have an exacerbated impact on those most vulnerable, including people without access to medical care and who may have an existing underlying condition.

It is therefore important for all of us to play our part in minimizing risks both to the populations we serve and to our mandate objectives.

Accordingly, I wish to bring to your attention a number of training and other medical requirements for all uniformed personnel and uniformed medical personnel deploying to or currently deployed in field missions. These additional training and requirements, attached as Annex I, are to be implemented immediately, in order to mitigate against the spread of COVID-19. I wish to stress that these are precautionary measures aimed at enhancing our preparedness. These requirements will be reviewed again on 30 April 2020.

I thank you in advance for your support in helping us mitigate against any spread of COVID-19 in our missions. If you have any queries on this subject, the Division of Health-Care Management and Occupational Safety and Health in the Office of Support Operations of the my Department, is available to reach at email: dos-dhmosh-public-health@un.org.

Please accept, Excellencies, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Atul Khare', written over a horizontal line.

Atul Khare
Under-Secretary-General
for Operational Support

Permanent Representatives of Member States
to the United Nations
New York

Annex A:

Pre-Deployment Training

COVID-19 preventative measures are simple, common sense actions that every civilian and uniformed personnel should take to preserve their individual health as well as the health of those around them. These preventative measures are effective not only against COVID-19, but also against similar diseases that spread person-to-person, including influenza and the common cold.

To this end, the United Nations has added additional elements to the education component of the pre-deployment training delivered by all T/PCCs. This includes training on the basic preventative and hygiene measures necessary to protect oneself against COVID-19 infection. These elements are as follows:

- All deploying personnel must complete the *OpenWHO* online platform course “ePROTECT Respiratory Infections” available at <https://openwho.org/courses/eprotect-acute-respiratory-infections>. In the event that e-learning is not feasible, T/PCCs are to deliver a training package which covers all of the material of this WHO e-learning package.
- All health care personnel (doctors, nurses, medics) deploying from a T/PCC who may be in contact with, or who may clinically manage a severe case of respiratory infection (e.g. a severe COVID-19 case) needing critical care in mission, must also complete the following *OpenWHO* training courses, as part of their pre-deployment training:
 - *Training on Critical Care Severe Acute Respiratory Infection* at <https://openwho.org/courses/severe-acute-respiratory-infection>
 - *Training on Emerging Respiratory Viruses, including nCoV: Methods For Detection, Prevention, Response, and Control* at <https://openwho.org/courses/introduction-to-ncov>

Pre-deployment training remains the responsibility of the troop and police contributing countries as per 2010.20 Policy on Training for all United Nations Peacekeeping Personnel. The above enhanced health education for all uniformed personnel / uniformed medical personnel respectively, is a mandatory addition to current pre-deployment training. The delivery of this training should be conducted by a certified health professional for any training not delivered as an e-learning package.

As with all pre-deployment training, attendance records should be kept so as to confirm that all uniformed personnel and uniformed medical personnel have received the appropriate training. Such records should be made available during Pre-Deployment Visits where applicable.

In-Mission Training

Similarly, the above enhanced health education programs are required to be delivered within the mission area to all uniformed personnel including uniformed medical personnel. They may be delivered by using the official *OpenWHO* e-learning course, or an equivalent local training solution may be delivered, provided that all content of the official training material is covered.

In collaboration with the Integrated Mission Training Centre, the Chief Medical Officer and Force Medical Officer in the Mission are responsible to plan and oversee in-mission training, which is to be conducted by the medical unit overseeing the health care for the respective contingent/unit. A spot-check evaluation system by Force Medical Officers / Senior Medical Officers should be established for assessment of learning outcome

Additional Requirements for Uniformed Military Medical Elements

All deployed military and police medical elements must emphasize standard infection prevention and control practices in their clinics and hospitals. Health care personnel must follow appropriate infection prevention and control measures and routinely and consistently implement, at all times, standard precautions regardless of patient's diagnosis. Any health care worker in contact with a suspect or confirmed case of COVID-19 is to wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for contact, droplet and airborne transmission. This includes surgical masks, fit-tested respirators, eye protection, long-sleeved water-resistant gown and gloves. For more information, see [https://www.who.int/publications-detail/infection-prevention-and-control-during-health-care-when-novel-coronavirus-\(ncov\)-infection-is-suspected](https://www.who.int/publications-detail/infection-prevention-and-control-during-health-care-when-novel-coronavirus-(ncov)-infection-is-suspected)

Please note that the UN Medical Director has determined that a fit-tested particulate mask (e.g. N95 mask) is required as the minimum standard for healthcare workers caring for known or suspect COVID-19 cases. Medical or logistic units seeking advice on PPE stockholdings are encouraged to seek advice from the Medical Support Section of DOS.

All deployed military and police medical elements are required to develop standard operating protocols to identify, triage, and manage suspect COVID-19 cases as part of preparation of your health facility to receive cases. Such SOPs should be developed in coordination with the Chief Medical Officers in your mission and also developed with reference to UN DHMOSH's Guidance on Management of a Suspect COVID-19 Case available at https://hr.un.org/sites/hr.un.org/files/COVID-2019%20Suspect%20Case%20Guide%20DHMOSH-PH%2020200213_0.pdf

All deployed military and police medical elements must further establish isolation rooms or review their isolation facilities for placement of any suspect COVID-19 cases. WHO guidance on this is available at [https://www.who.int/publications-detail/clinical-management-of-severe-acute-respiratory-infection-when-novel-coronavirus-\(ncov\)-infection-is-suspected](https://www.who.int/publications-detail/clinical-management-of-severe-acute-respiratory-infection-when-novel-coronavirus-(ncov)-infection-is-suspected)

A dedicated COVID-19 website for all UN health care personnel is available as a resource at <https://hr.un.org/page/covid-19-information-un-healthcare-workers>

A dedicated COVID-19 website for non-health care personnel is available at <https://hr.un.org/page/coronavirus-disease-covid-19> for more information.

Travel and Self-Quarantine Measures

The WHO does not recommend any travel or trade restrictions, and in line with WHO guidance, the UN has not banned travel to or from any country for reasons of COVID-19, whether it be for official business, entitlements or recruitment/deployment, but each case should be assessed based on individual merit.

Any UN personnel, including individual military and police officers who returns or deploys from a country with a wide-spread outbreak, and who is well and free from any respiratory symptoms, shall be allowed to self-quarantine in their living quarters on a voluntary basis for up to 14 days.

Such returning officers should liaise with a designated medical official at the mission-level immediately upon their return. These individuals should also be advised to monitor their health for 14 days after travel and review DOS's health advisory on the novel coronavirus webpage at <https://hr.un.org/page/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>

Given the frequent reliance on UN accommodation facilities, including areas of shared or high concentration accommodation, all relevant field entities should also ensure arrangements are in place for isolated living arrangements for military and police personnel where such precautions might be needed.

Steps have also been taken, through the Office for Military Affairs and Police Division of DPO, to encourage authorities in China to ensure that the health of all returning military and police officers is screened prior to departure from China.

Given the concentration of personnel, including in transit, the current situation regarding COVID-19 will continue to be assessed before military or police contingents are newly deployed, including rotations, from T/PCCs experiencing a wide-spread outbreak of the virus.