

ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION  
DIRECTORATE OF TRIBAL WELFARE

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**Steps taken for protection of PVTGs of A&N Islands from COVID-19**

1. All Tribal Welfare Officers (TWO) have been instructed to brief all field workers about DO's & Don'ts of COVID -19 and provided with WHO guidelines for prevention, protection and care.
2. Sanitary kits (soaps & sanitizers), masks have been provided to all field workers with the instructions to wear the mask and gloves at all times during field visits and in contact with PVTGs.
3. Ensure no handshake and body touch with PVTGs. Maintain maximum gap as possible during interaction and ration distribution.
4. Sensitised PVTGs about COVID -19 along with pictures and videos in their own language by staff who are fluent in their language and asked them to report immediately if anyone of them shows the following symptoms - cold, fever, cough, sneezing, body pain. Pharmacist/ ANMs have been instructed to take special note on this.
5. All workers in Strait Island (Andamanese settlement) and Dugong creek (Onge settlement) have been shifted from settlements.
6. No staff/ANM to be given leave and in case of non-reporting for duty report immediately.
7. Medical Officer conducted the screening of body temperature of Onge PVTGs on 24/3/2020 in Dugong creek and reported that all Onges are normal.
8. Tribal Welfare Officer have been directed to contact Medical Officers of their respective PHCs to conduct screening of the PVTGs, if required.
9. All PHCs have been requested to decongest tribal ward by removing sofa etc and sanitize the surrounding areas every day.
10. Movement of vehicles in the Andaman Trunk Road passing through Jarawa Tribal Reserve has been restricted from four convoys to one convoy per day w.e.f. 21.3.2020 and only for vehicles involved in essential activities.
11. A Task Force Team has been constituted in each tribal settlement area with the objectives of:-
  - (i) To provide report to TWO.
  - (ii) Keeping vigil on Andaman Trunk Road passing through Jarawa Tribal Reserve.
  - (iii) Ensure zero contact of outsiders with PVTGs.
  - (iv) Shift Jarawas towards coastal areas.
  - (v) Block the inroad areas towards tribal settlement areas in Dugong creek (Onge settlement) and Campbell Bay (Shompen area).

(vi) ANMs/Pharmacists posted in Jarawa areas, Strait Island, Campbell Bay and Dugong creek to report TWOs on daily basis which in turn will report back to Executive Secretary, AAJVS.

12. Request has been made to Police, Health, Electricity and Education Departments to replace the officials posted in the tribal settlements at Strait island and Dugong Creek only after conducting screening of officials to be posted for COVID-19
13. Jarawa tribe has been shifted to west coast from ATR passing through Jarawa tribal reserve from Jirkatang to Middle Strait. In view of opening of fishing activity from lockdown, Police Marine Force has been requested to intensify the patrolling in the west coast to avoid any contact of fishermen/ poachers with Jarawa.
14. Decision has been taken to provide rice and dal as supplementary nutrition to Jarawas for a period of three months.
15. Director of Health Services to depute Medical Officers in the tribal settlements of Strait Island and Dugong Creek to conduct screening of tribes periodically.

**Secretary (TW)**

**To**

The Joint Secretary  
Ministry of Tribal Affairs,  
Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi