

**ORDER**

**WHEREAS**, The World Health Organization (WHO) designated SARS-CoV-2 variant: B.1.1.529 (Omicron) as the Variant of Concern. The number of COVID-19 cases being reported in Goa are increasing, and the situation might further aggravate if public gatherings and active interactions is permitted unrestricted.

**AND WHEREAS**, the State Task Force considering the present situation examined the recommendations of the Expert Committee, which has informed that the number of hospitalization vis a vis Covid positive cases is low, the Covid positivity rate is also rapidly going up;

**AND WHEREAS**, in order to contain the spread of the pandemic, certain measures were undertaken and restrictions have been imposed under the Disaster Management Act, 2005 vide the Revenue Department's order No. 1/5/29/2020-RD dated 29/12/2021. Considering the prevailing situation, the said restrictions and measures are required to be continued, while additional restrictions needs to be imposed to prevent the further spread of the disease;

**AND WHEREAS**, the State Government is satisfied that the State of Goa still faces threat of the spread of COVID-19 virus in the immediate future and therefore it is necessary to take certain emergency measures to prevent and contain the spread of virus, the Government in exercise of the powers conferred under various provisions of the Epidemic Act, 1897, it is expedient to enforce certain additional measures throughout the State till further order.

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred under the Epidemic Act, 1897, the undersigned has been directed to convey that the following activities/establishment/facilities/events shall be restricted, till further order:

1. Schools shall be closed for students till 26/01/2022, however teachers to attend schools for conducting online classes;
2. Colleges and other institutions of higher educations shall be closed for students till 26/01/2022 except for the conduct of examinations, however teachers to attend schools for conducting online classes;

**Contd...2/-**

3. The Health department and Directorate of Education/other school authorities shall endeavor to complete vaccination of children from 15 to 18 years of age as soon as possible.
4. Public gatherings in case of indoor halls/auditoriums/mandaps etc. shall be restricted to a maximum of 50 persons or 50% of the seating capacity or whichever is less.
5. Public gatherings in case of open spaces shall be restricted to a maximum of 100 persons.

The above restrictions is in addition of the restrictions already imposed under the Disaster Management Act, 2005 vide the Revenue department's order No. 1/5/29/2020-RD dated 29/12/2021,

The District Collector North and South Goa are required to ensure strict compliance of these directions and take necessary action wherever required to ensure total compliance. Both the District Collectors are also empowered to issue necessary urgent clarifications etc. to remove any ambiguity or difficulty arising in interpretation and enforcement of these instructions.

Any person contravening this order shall be punishable under Section 188 of the Indian Penal Code.

By Order and in the name of  
the Governor of Goa

  
**(Gautami Parmekar)**  
Under Secretary (Health)

To,  
The Director, Printing & Stationery, Government Printing Press, Panaji for favour of publication in the Official Gazette.

**Copy to:-**

1. The Collector (North), North Goa, Panaji-Goa.
2. The Collector (South), South Goa, Margao-Goa.
3. The Dean, Goa Medical College, Bambolim-Goa.
4. The Director of Health Services, Panaji-Goa.
5. All Head of Departments/Offices.
6. The Jt. Secretary to Hon. Chief Minister, Secretariat, Porvorim.
7. P.S.to Hon. Minister for Health, Secretariat, Porvorim.
8. P.A. to Chief Secretary, Secretariat, Porvorim.
9. P.A. to Secretary (Health), Secretariat, Porvorim.
10. The Director of Accounts, Panaji-Goa.
11. The Sr. Dy. Accountant, General (Audit), Alto-Porvorim.
12. Guard file.
13. O/c.