

Draft

**Best Practice Hands Free Sanitization setup in the Mini Secretariat of
Charkhi Dadri**

Hands Free Sanitization setup in the Mini Secretariat of Charkhi Dadri

Introduction

Use of sanitization is the most widely practiced precaution to stay safe from the contagion effect of Corona. It is a safety measure not only for one's own self but also for the others who may come in contact. The risk of infection is all the more veiled because it leaves a person asymptomatic for up to fourteen days. In such an environment everyone has to keep oneself protected by the prescribed available means. Places and premises with larger footfalls need to create a sterile ambience for one and all. although most of the places which witness larger presence like markets, malls, cinema halls and restaurants, etc. have been prohibited with a widespread lockdown, yet there are places which cannot be barred for entry owing to their critical services in the public interests. Essential service establishments and offices of government at various level have to be kept open under all circumstances. Even though these places may work only with minimum staff, yet the number is significantly detrimental to social distance norms. Large offices like Secretariat and mini-Secretariats at district level need enough precaution to provide a safe environment to the officials who work day and night to sustain essential public services.

Precaution as an issue

Government employees and people visiting mini-Secretariat were coming into the premises without washing their hands even during this time of pandemic crisis. The employees working in the mini-Secretariat and people visiting there were at the risk of coming into contact with Corona infection. It was a threat to the families of the employees and the community as well.

Such carelessness could lead to failure of all the efforts which were diligently putting up by the district administration.

What was needed to ward off the hazard

- The general public and the employees should sanitize their hands before entering the premises.
- Even inside the premises they should adopt washing of hands with soap of twenty seconds as part of their habit (Behavioral change)
- People became more aware about hygiene issues.
- To keep away from surfaces in the common or utility areas

- Regular sanitization of premises by the concerned staff

Initiative at the mini-Secretariat

A standalone hands-free wash-basin along with the liquid soap was installed at the entrance of mini Secretariat where all the entrants needed to wash their hands compulsorily with soap. For the sake of full body sanitization a corridor was made, with a number of fans on both sides for spraying water-based disinfectant. Every time anyone enters the office premises, one has to pass through this corridor allowing enough body exposure to receive the spray on clothes and shoes, etc.

This activity is carried out and continues throughout the day. Dedicated staff have to ensure regular supply of spraying material and cleanliness in the disinfectant corridor and wash basin post. The whole activity was carried out under the supervision, guidance and funding of the district administration. There was only a small expenditure in erecting the corridor and procuring soap and disinfectant material and no extra expense was incurred on maintaining this service.

Results of the practice - outputs and outcomes

- People visiting and employees working in mini Secretariat become more aware of the hygiene aspect to avoid such kind of infection.
- The general public and the employees entered the premises of the mini Secretariat with sanitized hands to rule out the possibility of spreading infection.
- The efforts of district administration were respected by people and they started this practice even at their homes also to contain the possibility of spreading the infection.

Lessons learnt

What worked really well- what facilitated this?

A number of private agencies came forward for voluntarily helping the district administration regarding the activities like making free availability of sanitizers, liquid soaps and disinfectant.

This important activity was carried out in a very smooth manner and no hurdles were faced. In fact it has now become a way of life at the mini-Secretariat.

Conclusion

Not only the staff of mini-Secretariat but the general public also who witnessed the new initiative became aware of the sanitization practices.

Behavioral change is seen in the people who are looking at this model and they are trying to replicate the similar kind of sanitization practices at their homes or society.

This practice helps to avoid the possibility of spreading the infection. Hence, it is recommended that this practice be adopted in all establishments.

A best practice to be emulated

- The intervention may be considered as the best practice because our usual habit of touching of the metal knob of the water tap on the wash basin for washing hands is avoided.
- The intervention ruled out the chances of spreading of COVID-19 within the premises of the mini secretariat and the possible transmission to the community.
- If similar practice is adopted in every government office in the district, then the employees and general public visiting those government offices can be safeguarded from COVID-19.