

HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND AT RANCHI
The Standard Operating Procedure for Physical functioning of the High Court
of Jharkhand

Office Order no.286/Accts.

Dated :01/10/2021

In supersession of earlier guidelines issued by this Court from time to time to contain the spread of COVID-19, considering the significant decline in the number of Covid-19 Cases in the State of Jharkhand and in view of the suggestions of the Jharkhand State Bar Council and representatives of all the Associations of the Advocate, The Hon'ble Court has been pleased to issue following guidelines:

1. With a view to gradually facilitate resumption of physical hearing, the final hearing / regular matters may be heard in the physical mode as may be decided by the Hon'ble Court, considering the number of parties in the matter as well as the limited capacity of the Court rooms.
2. In a matter listed for physical hearing, one arguing counsel and one junior counsel per party will be allowed entry; one advocate clerk per party, as may be chosen by the arguing counsel, shall be allowed entry to carry paper-books / journals etc. of the Counsels up to the Court-rooms.

However, in appropriate cases larger number of Lawyers may be permitted to enter the premises as decided by the Court concerned.

3. The entry of the Counsel(s) / party(s) –in- person into the Court Rooms to appear for physical hearing will be through daily “**E-Pass**” which will be issued through the website of the High Court of Jharkhand.

However it is made clear that “**E-Pass**” shall not be mandatory for Advocate General, Chairman State Bar Council, Senior Designated Counsels, President of Advocates' Association, President of Bar Association, and President of Lawyers Association.

4. It shall be incumbent upon the entrants to maintain minimum prescribed physical distancing norms in the Court Rooms and Court Premises.
5. E-Pass holders shall enter the Court Room through the designated Gate, after subjecting themselves to check by thermal and such other scanning devices as may be installed for detecting body temperature, infection status, etc.
6. There shall be a team of Lawyers as proposed by the Associations which shall work in co-ordination with the team of Officers and staff of this Court to ensure the

compliance of this SOP and necessary Covid Protocol.

7. On entering in the movement Corridor, such pass holders may proceed to the designated waiting area (s)/Advocate Hall and wait for their turn to enter respective Court Rooms where physical hearing of their respective case(s) may be scheduled, and they would proceed only through the movement corridors created and demarcated for the purpose.
8. At the designated waiting area(s), Display System may also guide the Advocates further, as and when their turn comes for entering the designated Court Room for hearing.
9. Subject to the capacity of any Court room, only the entry of parties in ongoing matter and the parties next in sequence of matter to be taken up shall be permitted.
10. Wearing of mask, frequent use of hand sanitizer and maintaining physical distancing norms are mandatory for all entrants into the High Court premises, including into the Courtrooms.
There shall be arrangement of adequate number of covered dustbins at different places in court premises for disposal of used masks.
11. On completion of hearing of their respective case(s), the Learned Advocates/ Advocate Clerks, etc. shall move out of the Court Room through the movement corridor(s) and exit from the designated gates;
12. Learned Advocates/ Counsels having more than one case for hearing in physical mode shall be issued separate E-Pass for each case and after hearing of one case is complete, they may wait in the designated waiting area(s)/Advocate Hall for the purpose of appearing in the next case;
13. Persons having symptoms of Covid-19 shall not be permitted entry inside the Court premises.
14. Litigants and parties concerned, who are represented by any advocate, shall only be allowed to enter inside the Court premises where their personal appearance is required by virtue of order of the Hon'ble Court.
15. Special Pass shall be issued to the parties, appearing in person, or person(s) who has/have been directed to appear in person by the Hon'ble Court, on an application made by them or their Advocate along with the copy of the Court's order directing them to appear in person. Such application shall be made prior to the date of hearing to the Court Officer. Party shall then produce the Pass along with valid ID proof at the entry gate.
16. In the lifts, entry of maximum three persons including the lift-man shall be allowed at

a time.

17. There shall be strict adherence to Social Distancing norms and directions/ guidelines/ SOPs/ advisories issued by the Government of India and the Government of Jharkhand from time to time, in respect of the Covid-19 pandemic.
18. For any assistance regarding maintenance / observance of Covid Protocol inside the High Court premises, The Deputy Registrar (Protocol) may be contacted who has been nominated [vide Office Order No. 278/Accts dated 20.09.2021] as the Nodal Officer (Mobile No.-9431115617) for management of corona matters of this Court and for ensuring observance of the Covid Protocol by all the officials of the Court.
19. The existing protocol regarding Lawazima Boards and defect removal / inspection of files shall continue till further Orders.
20. The entry of senior Advocates and the parking arrangement shall continue as before.
21. During Court proceedings, prescribed Dress Code shall be followed as before the Pandemic.

By Order

Sd/-

(Registrar General.)