

Metro and rlys launch awareness campaigns

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Metro rail and Southern Railway's Chennai division have kicked off awareness campaigns on precautions to be taken against novel coronavirus (Covid-19) at its facilities.

Metro rail authorities have begun sending text messages to people on the precautions. The messages dwell on the need to cover the face while sneezing, the need to frequently wash hands with soap and the need for people to maintain at least one metre distance from another person.

A metro rail official said bulk text messages are being sent. "There is also a plan to undertake disinfection exercise at stations before train services start in the morning and after the services end on two days."

Notices have been put up near ticket counters of metro rail stations cautioning commuters about the virus. Staff at work have been advised to wear masks at the counters.

"The Airport station receives people who arrive on flights from

abroad, while Central metro receives people from across the country. So, the awareness programme and move to disinfect stations are crucial," he added.

Southern Railway also kicked off Covid-19 awareness campaigns at Central and Egmore railway stations on Wednesday. An exhibition has been organised at the concourse area of the stations explaining about coronavirus, precautions, tips for behaviour in public and others.

P Mahesh, divisional railway manager, Chennai, distributed pamphlets to passengers and said, "We do not have instructions to begin screening passengers similar to the airport. St John Ambulance has set up a desk at Central so that people who have fever can get themselves checked. Help desks have been provided at major railway stations. Announcements will be made in the public address system." He said all coaches and railway premises are being sanitised by housekeeping staff. Central railway station and the suburban station together handle around three lakh passengers a day.