

TN extends lockdown till June 28; dists categorised

Buses, Metro to operate with 50% occupancy in city, nearby dists

STATE UNWINDS

DISTRICTS SPLIT INTO 3 CATEGORIES

CATEGORY 1

11 districts where positive cases are high

CATEGORY 2

23 districts where caseload is relatively low

CATEGORY 3

Chennai and its three neighbouring districts

No relaxations for districts in category 1.

In category 2- general shops can function from 9 am till 5 pm



In category 3- general shops can function from 9 am till 7 pm

In category 2 and 3- grocery, vegetables, fruits, flowers and meat shops can function from 6 am to 7 pm

Buses and Metro permitted with 50% occupancy rate in districts under category 3

e-pass for travelling for marriages in districts falling under category 2 and 3 is mandatory



CHENNAI: The State government on Sunday extended the lockdown till June 28 with more relaxations in districts with reduced caseload, including Chennai. Buses, Metro Rail are permitted in Chennai and neighbouring districts with 50 per cent occupancy.

Districts were split into three categories during this lockdown. In the first category, the districts with high cases including Coimbatore, The Nilgiris, Tirupur, Erode, Salem, Karur, Namakkal, Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam and Mayiladuthurai were grouped and no new relaxations were provided.

In the second category, the remaining districts excluding Chennai, Chengalpattu, Kancheepuram and Tiruvallur with low COVID prevalence have been grouped while the Chennai region falls under Category -III. Several relaxations have been announced in both the categories.

For shops selling groceries, vegetables, fruits, flowers, meat and fish, timings have been extended from 6 am to 7 pm in categories II and III. Similarly, hotels, restaurants, bakeries and snack shops can function from 6 am to 9 pm but only parcel service is allowed. E-commerce for both food delivery and general goods delivery is permitted from 6 am to 9 pm in both these categories. In Category -II, electrical and hardware shops, vehicle showrooms, vehicle repair shops, stationery shops, footwear shops, specs selling and repairing shops, shops selling household appliances, shops selling construction materials and mobile phone shops are permitted to function from 9 am till 5 pm while they are permitted till 7 pm in Category -III.

Essential government departments can operate with 100% staff while it remains 50 per cent in others. In private firms, 33 per cent staff are allowed in Categories II and III. Along with the relaxations, intra and inter district bus services are permitted with

50 per cent occupancy rate and without air conditioning facility. Similarly, 50 per cent occupancy is permitted in Chennai Metro trains by following SOPs.

Movie and serial shooting are permitted with 100 staff and it is mandatory for them to have undergone COVID-19 test. Cinemas would continue to be closed down across the State. All shops except malls can function from 9 am till 7 pm. Tea shops, salons, beauty parlour timings have been extended till 7 pm. The State government also withdrew the need for e-registration while travelling in taxis and auto rickshaws. The bar on public entry to places of worship would continue. For a visit to hill stations including Kodaikanal and the Nilgiris district, e-pass from district Collectors is necessary. Nod to travel without e-registration are among the additional relaxations for Chennai and three other districts. In the second category regions, for travel in autos and taxis, e-registration is necessary.