

FOOD SAFETY ACTIVITIES IN ODISHA DURING COVID-19

At the initial stage when COVID -19 was declared as pandemic, the Health and Family Welfare Department immediately issued order for the measures to be undertaken to stop the spread of infection in public. Accordingly Commissionerate of Food Safety instructed to all the food safety enforcement officials as per the guidelines of State and FSSAI instructions.

However after the nationwide lockdown from 24th March, 20 all the enforcement officials are stationed in their headquarters and work is assigned as per the priorities of District Administration. At present all the Food Safety Officers are working by focussing on the following priority areas apart from issuing license and registration along with e- inspections of Food Business Operators:

➤ AAHAR KENDRA:

All the AAHAR KENDRAS functioning near to the hospitals are under complete monitoring and guidance of the enforcement officials. Regular checking of the prepared food and monitoring the hygiene practice is the thumb rule practice now.





➤ **FREE FOOD SERVICE CAMPS:**

The Food Safety Officers are regularly monitoring the free food which is distributed by the approved hotels and organisations with the help of local administrations on regular basis. The cooking personnel's are advised for maintaining the basic precaution and the serving as well as the packaging persons are also sensitised.





SURVEILLANCE OF LOCAL MARKETS:

The officers along with enforcement team are visiting the local markets and the vegetable vendors are sensitised. Awareness is also created among the meat sellers and fish vendors for maintaining social distance and to take precaution for selling the perishable items.



➤ CHECKING OF THE FOOD MALLS:

The Big Bazaars, Reliance Fresh, Food Bazaars which are supplying the essential commodities are also checked in order to check their ground level application of social distancing. They are also instructed to restrict the sale of non-essential items.





➤ **INSPECTION OF WHOLESALERS AND GODOWNS FOR ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES:**
 Checking of the wholesalers is also carried on along local administration and civil supplies Department. At some special cases the manufacturing units of essential commodities are visited to check the precautions undertaken for the workers and transporters.

Apart from above Food Safety Officials are also engaged in other allied activities of health department under the orders of local administration.

