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## **MESSAGE**

The novel Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) which was discovered in 2019 is a new strain that has not been previously identified in humans and at present is spreading rapidly to different countries of the world. The common signs of infection as described by the World Health Organization (WHO) include respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. In more severe cases, the infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, and other health problems.

The spurt of coronavirus cases all over the world has resulted in declaring the current outbreak as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) by the World Health Organization. The Health & Family Welfare Department as well as our Police Department are constantly engaging in various endeavors to prevent the possible transmission and outbreak of the virus in the state of Meghalaya.

The standard recommendations made in order to prevent infection, spread and transmission of the virus, include regular hand washing, covering of mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing, thoroughly cooking meat and eggs, and avoiding close contact with anyone showing symptoms of respiratory illness such as coughing and sneezing and most importantly maintaining of at least 1 meter (3 feet) distance from each other.

As it is our primary duty as sentinels of law to prevent the transmission and spread of the virus, initiatives such as organizing of awareness meetings within the jurisdiction/Battalion/Organisation, should be taken up on a priority basis, so as to impart awareness to all members of the uniform force as well as the general public regarding the novel COVID-19 and the preventive measures that needs to followed. As it is also our duty to lead from the front, it is also important to ensure that social distancing are maintain while holding the awareness programme and that protective gear such as facemask are worn by those attending the programme.

I urge each and every one of you to sincerely commit towards providing a safe and a healthy environment for everyone, and in addition to the initiatives that will be convened from time to time, it is also imperative to strictly adhere with the directions of the Department and that of the Health & Family Welfare Department which have been issued.

I look forward for a positive response from your end and a compliance report regarding the activities undertaken should be sent to Police Headquarters without fail.

With *Warm regards,*

Yours sincerely,

*R. Chandranathan*

**(R. Chandranathan, IPS)**

To,  
All the Superintendents of Police/Commandants,  
Meghalaya Police.