

Government of West Bengal
Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health
Public Health Branch
Howrah

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Memo no: 662/16

Date: 16/12/2016

Notification

1. Whereas, In excess of 12 lakhs people die every year due to tobacco use in India. According to the Global Adult Tobacco Survey conducted by Government of India and World Health Organization (WHO), prevalence of tobacco use among adults in Bihar is 54% in comparison to the national average of 34%.
2. Whereas, in 2004 India has ratified World Health Organizations' Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) and therefore obligated to uphold the provisions of the FCTC. Preamble of the FCTC recognised the need to be alert to any efforts by the tobacco industry to undermine or subvert tobacco control efforts and the need to be informed of activities of the tobacco industry that have a negative impact on tobacco control efforts. With Article 5.3 it states that "in setting and implementing their public health policies with respect to tobacco control Parties shall act to protect these [tobacco control] policies from commercial and other vested interests of the tobacco industry in accordance with national law."
3. Whereas, Section 2 of the Cigarettes and Other tobacco products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 (COTPA) states "it is hereby declared that it is expedient in the public interest that the Union should take under its control the tobacco industry."

Therefore, in the interest of public health and in order to deal with any kind of interference by Tobacco Industry (registered / local manufacturer/ Seller/ any person or organisation intended to act as representative of the same) in the implementation of provisions of Cigarette and Other Tobacco Product Act 2003 (COTPA) and any initiative taken or in consideration to reduce human consumption of any form of tobacco or any products intended to promote its use; you are requested to abide by the following guidelines-

1. The officials and employees of Government working under Howrah district administration shall limit interactions with the tobacco industry and/or their representatives.
2. Meeting shall be conducted only in the event that is strictly necessary for the interest of the public and before the same is must be clarified that such interaction doesn't imply partnership, dialogue or collaboration and indicate it in writing to the tobacco industry that they should not mischaracterised the nature of the meeting. A transcript/detailed minute of the meeting's proceeding should be prepared. A voice recording of the meeting may be made to assist in preparing the transcript and further should be filed for record purposes
3. All are requested / advised not to participate in any tobacco industry activities, not even activities organised by any other agencies supported by tobacco industry.

4. All are also advised not to accept any direct/indirect/in-kind sponsorship/funding as a form of CSR support or in any other form, from any corporate or individual engaged in tobacco trade and commerce in order to implement any health or development initiative in the district of Howrah.

All are hereby requested to refer any cases related to this matter to the District Nodal Officer- Tobacco Control, Howrah if necessary.


16.12.2016
Dy. Chief Medical Officer of Health-II
Howrah



16/12/16
Chief Medical Officer of Health
Howrah

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Copy forwarded for kind information and taking necessary action to:

1. The Sabhadhipati, Howrah Zilla Parishad.
2. The Mission Director (NHM), Govt of WB, Deptt of H&FW
3. The District, Magistrate, Howrah
4. The Additional DHS (NCD), Govt of WB, Deptt of H&FW
5. The Commissioner of Police, Howrah City Police
6. The Superintendent of Police (Rural), Howrah
7. The ADHS (Oncology), Govt of WB, Deptt of H&FW
8. The Deputy Chief Medical Officer of Health-II & District Nodal Officer, Howrah
9. The Officer-in-Charge of Health, Howrah
10. The Additional Commissioner of Police, Howrah
11. The Deputy Commissioner of Police, Howrah
12. The Regional Transport Officer, Howrah
13. The Deputy Commissioner, Excise Department, Howrah
14. The District Programme Officer, SSM, Howrah
15. The District Inspector of Schools (Secondary), Howrah
16. The District Inspector of Schools (Primary), Howrah
17. The District Information & Cultural Affairs Officer, Howrah
18. The District Programme Officer, ICDS, Howrah
19. The District Labour Officer, Howrah
20. The Principal Agricultural Officer, Howrah
21. The Divisional Railway Manager, Howrah
22. The District Controller, Food & Supplies, Howrah
23. The Executive Director, MANT, Kolkata
24. The DTCC under PH Branch, Howrah
25. The State Consultant. NTCP
26. The District Consultant, NTCP, Howrah
27. DPMU unit, Howrah
28. Office copy


16.12.2016
Dy. Chief Medical Officer of Health -II
Howrah