

**OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT SHEEP HUSBANDRY OFFICER BANDIPORA**

E-mail:dshobandipore@gmail.com Tele/Fax: 01957225511

**ADVISORY TO LIVESTOCK FARMERS, NOMADS AND CHOPANS DURING
COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

COVID-19 is caused by a Coronavirus. There are many other types of coronaviruses that can infect animals. Some of these may cause animals to become sick. They are different to the COVID-19 virus. There has been reports of isolated cases of animals overseas testing positive for the COVID-19 following close exposure to owners that were confirmed to be sick with COVID-19. In this regard, a tiger at the Bronx zoo was tested positive for novel corona virus and a cat in Belgium had traces of the virus's genome in its stool and vomit. Scientists continue to study the COVID 19 virus. This includes if and how animals may be affected. The world organization for Animal Health has confirmed that there continues to be no evidence that domestic animals spread the disease or play a significant role in this human disease. As of now human outbreaks are being driven by person to person spread not through contact with domestic animals. Amid the threat of COVID-19 and lockdown, the government of Jammu and Kashmir has allowed seasonal migration of livestock to higher pastures in batches. In this connection and under the able guidance of Mr Shahbaz Ahmed Mirza (KAS), Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, the District Sheep Husbandry organization Bandipora has issued an advisory for pastoral nomadic community (Gujjar, Bakarwals), chopans for their safety and welfare of livestock (sheep and goat)

Advisory for sheep farmers

1. Take precautionary measures to look after yourself and your animals. Follow good hygiene and biosecurity practices
2. Wash your hands after contact with animals. Make sure animal housing conditions are clean. These are important parts of routine animal management
3. If you are sick, avoid or minimize close contact with your animals as a precaution
4. Prepare a plan including any alternative arrangement for the care of animals just in case you become sick or need self isolation

5. If you are not sick with COVID-19 or any other communicable diseases like the flu or a cold, call your veterinarian to make an appointment as you normally would for treatment of livestock (sheep and goat)
6. If you are sick with COVID-19 or another disease, stay at home and minimize contact with others until you are well. Any non urgent appointment with veterinarian can be rescheduled
7. If your animals situation is urgent and you have COVID-19 or suspect you might call your veterinarian for animal service while minimizing risks of transmitting COVID-19 to other people
8. While handing over livestock to chopans during migration, avoid such areas which have been declared Red Zones (Parray Mohalla, Chandergeer, Batagund, SK Bala, Hakbara , Naidkhai, Gund Jehanger and Madwan- block Hajin; Kunan, Gondi Kesar, Nowgam, Gundi Dachina – block Bandipora)
9. Handing over shall take at those places which are far away from village or towns
10. Handing over should take place in proper order or village wise that too individually
11. An alternate route should be taken for transportation from village to gathering place such that contact with other villages could be minimized
12. Besides the use of masks and frequent use of soap as well as maintaining social distance are most critical measures in prevention of spread of the disease
13. Congregation of livestock belonging to different farmers under the supervision of a particular chopan need to be avoided at this critical juncture
14. Prior to migration ensure that the livestock has been vaccinated properly. In this regard Department of Sheep Husbandry, Bandipora has made availability of PPR , Sheep Pox, ET vaccine at various stations and ensure your animals are vaccinated before leaving to higher pastures.

Advisory for Gujjars and Bakerwals

1. Traversing the long distances from different areas of J and K, they are hereby advised to establish separate transit camps enroute migration. Intermingling of transit camps should altogether be avoided
2. Avoid bringing old aged persons, women and children in this pandemic who can join you after pandemic is over
3. While moving to highland pastures personal hygiene, wearing of masks and social distancing should be ensured

4. Avoid moving through Red zones areas as declared by government of J and K
5. Department of Sheep Husbandry, Bandipora will establish first aid camps from 15th of May 2020 at various transit routes for the welfare of your livestock and the staff posted there can be contacted any time.

Advisory for Chopans

1. Migration of sheep/goat to highland pastures via chopans is old age practice especially in J and K. Prior to migration it is in your interest and welfare of the livestock to avoid routes traversing through Red zone areas. Better to adopt new safe routes if possible
2. Old aged and children should altogether be avoided to move along with livestock especially during this period of chaos and confusion
3. Chopans who are old and immunocompromised or having respiratory problems should not be a part of migration
4. Minimum number of personnel should be employed for migration in view of pandemic
5. Maintaining social distance while grazing flocks at high land pastures
6. Bahak camps will be established by the department at various places in the district from 15th of June 2020. In case of any eventuality you can contact staff posted there
7. At high land pastures, chopans are advised to strictly follow the hygienic guidelines like washing of hands with soap and water before and after contact with animals so as to avoid transmission of infection.

Contact details of officials for grievance redressal related to COVID-19 and thereof

Name	Designation	Ph. No
Dr Showket Ahmad Ahanger	DSHO	7889958645
Dr Arfat Alam	Technical Officer	7006764268
Dr Danish Masood	Lab officer	9419352779,
Dr Younis	VAS Naidkhai	9622819691
Dr Mir Meharaj	VAS Ajas	7006948945
Dr Abid Sofi	VAS Aloosa	7006231331
Dr Mustafa Khalil	VAS Badugam	7006628292