

**Initiatives to combat COVID-19 by
Pudussery and Malampuzha Gram
Panchayat.**



INDIAN INSTITUTE
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PALAKKAD

Pudussery and Malampuzha Grama panchayat in Palakkad District have started taking precautionary measures to combat COVID-19 as per the Kerala government circular to Local Self Government Departments dated 01/02/2020.

Broad and extensive campaign activities related to personal hygiene like washing hands with soap quite often, avoiding sneezing and spitting in public spaces, avoiding public interactions with persons showing symptoms such as fever, cold etc. The campaign was conducted in different schools, residence associations, office complexes, business establishments etc. All persons working in the Public Health Centre and other medical institutions have been advised to follow the Information Control Protocol by the Health Department. Gram panchayats have also been instructed to share



Home Isolation Protocols to the persons coming from COVID-19 affected regions and to their primary contacts and also to facilitate the treatment of persons affected by COVID-19 as per Health Department protocol. By 11/03/2020 Gram panchayats have instructed the people to avoid public gatherings in religious institutions, marriage functions etc. Gram panchayats monitored educational institutions are not open for any kind of activities such as tuition classes, special classes or vacation classes other than for conducting High School and Higher Secondary exams. Door-to-door campaign started from 16/03/2020 onwards in the Gram Panchayats for creating personal hygiene awareness. The Department of Revenue – SDMA and Department of Police have their specific cells working in close coordination with the Gram Panchayat. The District Collectors are overall incharge of activities at the district level.

Sl No:	Description	Pudussery East	Pudussery West	Pudussery Central	Malampuzha -II
1	Awareness Activities including 'Break the Chain Campaign'.	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	Installation of Hand washing facilities in Public Places.	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Daily monitoring of the people who are in home isolation.	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	Supply of food materials to the vulnerable sections and quarantine people	✓	✓	✓	✓
5	Community kitchen to supply free meals	✗	✗	✓	✗
6	Support for agriculture allied activities	✓	✓	✓	✓
7	Disinfecting public places with the help of the Fire & Safety Department	✓	✓	✓	✓
8	Relief camps for Migrant Labourers	✓	✗	✓	✗

Some of the main initiatives done in Pudussery and Malampuzha GramPanchayat for combating COVID-19 are

1. Awareness Activities

Pudussery and Malampuzha Gram panchayat are conducting awareness campaigns on the pathogenesis of COVID-19, preventive measures, and the need of preventing the spread of COVID-19 among the villagers. Special attention to old age and palliative care groups, SC/ST categories and their colonies, MGNREGA workers, Kudumbasree members, and migrant workers have been ensured.

Break the Chain

In a bid to contain the spread of coronavirus or COVID-19 virus across the state, the Kerala government has launched a mass hand washing campaign named "break the chain". The campaign aims to educate people about the importance of public and personal hygiene. The Pudussery and Malampuzha Grama Panchayats took up this campaign and started awareness activities in the following main areas:

- Sensitised people about the need to evolve personal hygiene as a healthy habit.
- Use of soap/sanitizer for hand wash and do it after coming from public contact.
- Discouraged assembling of people and encouraged social distancing.
- Campaign among auto/taxi drivers, newspaper and milk distributors.
- Installed handwashing facilities in banks, ATMs, elevators etc.

2. Environmental Cleanliness Programmes

During lockdown, Pudussery and Malampuzha Gram panchayat have started various cleaning activities in coordination with Haritha Keralam Mission. The following places are given importance:

- Village and Gram Panchayat Offices
- Public places such as bus stops and markets
- Also instructed people regarding the safe disposal of Personal Protective Measures like masks and gloves after use.



3. Quarantine/ Isolation Activities

As per the State government's instruction, following activities are conducted by the Gram Panchayat.

- Daily monitoring of the people who are in home isolation.
- Informing the Health Department regarding the people who came from abroad.
- Awareness to other family members of people who are in isolation.
- Pledging social support and counselling to the family who live in isolation.
- Ensuring food security to the people in need and those who live in isolation.

4. Formation of various committees

Pudussery and Malampuzha Gram panchayats setup and started functioning various committees such as:

- Ward health committee
- Health awareness committee
- Emergency response team
- Community groups are led by ward members and constituting members from Anganwadi/Asha workers, Kudumbashree, SC/ST promoters, Health workers etc to collect and take care of the vulnerable groups especially specially-abled people, pregnant women, MGNREGA workers and migrant labourers.

5. Availability of essential commodities

- Community kitchen is run by Gram Panchayats in coordination with Kudumbashree in order to ensure the supply of free food to the needy and costing Rs 20 to other people.
- Gram panchayat is taking essential measures to ensure food security in coordination with Food civil supplies.
- The availability of general and essential medicines in the medical store are ensured and monitored by the authority.



6. Listing the available resources

The following are the list of resources collected by the Pudussery and Malampuzha Gram panchayat for combating COVID-19 in their villages.

★ *Medical Resource (Government and Non-Government)*

- Doctors, Nurses, and other paramedical staffs
- Medical Students
- Palliative care units

★ *Community Resource Persons, Youth Clubs, Volunteers*

- For doing counselling at homes
- For the distribution of food supplies

★ *Availability of medical facilities*

- Hospitals - Government and Private, number of isolation beds available
- Ventilator facility
- Number of oxygen cylinders
- X-Ray facilities
- Scanning facilities
- ECG, EEG facilities
- Ambulance

7. Agriculture and Allied Activities

- Distribution of paddy seeds to the farmers.
- Collecting excess vegetables from the farmers and selling through the horticulture department.
- Facilitating the transport pass to the farmers for the procurement and selling of agriculture related products to ensure an uninterrupted market.
- Encouraging home based farming by distributing seeds and seedlings through ward members.
- Harvest and Procurement of Paddy brought under essential service and facilitated their activities.

8. Other activities taken by Pudussery and Malampuzha Gram panchayats

- Distribution of unemployment wages
- Rehabilitation of homeless people and providing them shelter, food and ensuring personal hygiene.
- Ensuring sufficient supply of medicines to the necessary people.

- Disinfecting public places with the help of the Fire & Safety Department.
- Ensuring relaxation to the rent remittance of buildings owned by Pudussery and Malampuzha Grama panchayats.
- Food items including rice, pulses, edible oil, spices and condiments, processed food, groceries, milk, bread, fruits, vegetables, meat, egg, fish, and other essential and perishable products and their transportation related activities and warehousing also made relaxation to function.
- Ration distribution to more than 80% of the population.
- CM Helping Hand Loan scheme providing interest free loans to the Kudumbashree members. Maximum amount of Rs 20,000 can be taken by a member under this scheme.
- Cloth mask making by Kudumbashree members.

Role/Contribution of IIT Palakkad in assisting with the preventive measures

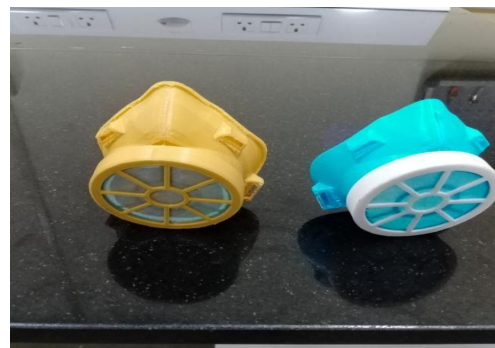
1. Hand Sanitizer

IIT Palakkad has also been playing a proactive role in protecting the public and medical professionals from the first line of infection. Ever since the spread of COVID-19 took place, IIT Palakkad has been making hand sanitizer in its chemistry laboratories and supplying it to the public totally free of cost. Till date, IIT Palakkad has supplied close to 350 litres of IPA based hand sanitizer to various hospitals in Palakkad.



2. Respirator masks with replaceable antiviral filters

IIT Palakkad has developed indigenously designed masks and filters containing antiviral coatings. The masks have been tested at the laboratories of IIT Palakkad and reviewed by medical doctors at the



District hospital of Palakkad. IIT Palakkad has signed a Know-how transfer agreement with Kooper Medical Technologies, Palakkad who will be the industry partner to mass produce the respirator masks and replaceable antiviral filters.

3. Vulnerability zone mapping.

A GIS based analysis is performed on Panchayat and Taluk level that helps to identify the regions in Kerala vulnerable to COVID-19. The analysis is based on pre-existing conditions like Respiratory problems, Diabetics, Population density, Age, Hypertension etc . Moreover, CORONA care centres and hospitals have also been mapped across Kerala.