PREVENTIVE MEASURES OF COVID-19 BY SRI LANKA RAILWAYS

Introduction

As the one of major transport provider of office workers in sub-urban area, SLR has vital responsibility to provide safe & systematic transport during this difficult situation.

Passenger transportation cannot be conducted in a same way as usual. Both transport providers & passengers have to follow some safety precautions, guidelines & regulations due to this pandemic outbreak.

Local & international health officials has concluded that,

- Proper/traceable data system of passengers.
- Minimum human interaction to keep social distance.
- Reduce the time waste during the journey.
- Restrict non-essential journeys.

Would help to reduce spread of pandemic.

Therefore SLR has designed <u>convenient rail transportation system</u> to fulfill above requirements.

To whom?

- In the first stage travel by train will be allowed only who holds Government/Private season ticket (Monthly/Quarterly).

- Also, passenger should be identified & nominated as an essential service worker.

How to filter?

- Inform to nominate the list of essential service staff by a fax or an email for each Department/Organization/Company..Etc.

- This should be requested & certified by an authorized person.

What are the Information?

- Name, NIC number, Contact Number, Address, Dates of work, entrain/detrain stations, Service type, Season folder number, Travel time.

How to publish ?

- Applying process, format of application, guidelines will be published via,

➤ Railway official web site

➤ Media / Social media

➤ Email/ Fax

(Already faxed/emailed to nominated Ministry/Department/Government bodies)

Process of the system

1. Gather information

2. Schedule trains based on demand

3. Publish train schedule

4. Authorize an officer for each organization

5. Make reservation

6. Confirm reservation by SMS/email

7. Use SMS as gate pass at station

8. SMS verification by passenger

9. Travel by reserved seat

10. Record data & report

1. Gather information

Get the information such as, list of employees which will travel by the train, travelling times, dates, entrain/detrain stations & other relevant information.

2.Schedule trains based on demand

Based on above information, calculate passenger demand Line wise & station wise.
Arrange train schedule & make a time table accordingly.

3.Publish train schedule

Publish train arrangements to Institution who has sent passenger information via email or fax.

4. Authorize an officer for each organization

Let authorized officer to access <u>Train reservation web application</u> using a customized 'user name & password'.
Upload passenger information to system.

5. Make reservation

Reserve seats for passengers based on provided information.

6. Confirm reservation by SMS/email

Send an email or a SMS to passenger for confirm their reservation. It contains train number, time, compartment & seat number.

7. Use SMS as gate pass at station

SMS is the authority to access a Raiway station. If some passenger fails to reveal their identity SMS, will not be allowed to enter to station or travel by train. While entering the station & entraining, SMS will be monitored by Railway/Police/Forces officials

8. SMS verification by passenger

Passenger has to confirm their presence by a SMS. It will be entered in the data base too.

9. Travel by reserved seat.

There will be a pre-reserved seat for all entrained passengers. They can find their seats by themselves or can ask for assistance from travelling railway staff. Passenger is not allowed to change their seats under any circumstances.
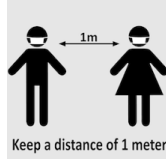
10. Record data & report

Record all the passenger movement information & provide when it will be needed.

Advices for passengers

Must wear a face mask

Keep 1 m distance.

Wash hands when entering the stations.

Use foot & body disinfections if available at the station.

Passenger has to appear early at the station. (If the train missed, cannot travel by next train & has to use alternative)

SMS is essential to access to station.

Least or zero contact with others/ stop unwanted movements.

Keep distance at platform too.

Advices for passengers contd..

Use separate entrances, exits.

No spit or littering at station, inside the train or off the train.

Do not carry extra bags/baggage

Group chats, playing cards & gatherings are prohibited.

NO PUBLIC RESTROOMS

Using lavatory should be minimized.

Use own hand sanitizer for your own safety.

Railway security, Railway staff , Police & Defense forces will accompany with the train.

Do not swap seats which provided by SLR by any circumstances.

Advantages

- Safe & Traceable rail transportation system.

- Can train schedules based on passenger demand.

- As soon as seat of train are filled, train can go express run till the Destination.

  ex: If Mathara/Maradana trains' seats filled at Galle, Then train can go directly to Colombo without stopping.

- Even organization can identify the pattern of passenger movements.

- Less engagement opportunities with both railway staff & other passengers.

- Technical support by Mobitel telecommunication.

Limitation & improvements

- Only 50% out of full seating capacity can be used.

- Less/poor respond from Essential service organizations.

- Lack of resources to disinfect railway stations & compartment.

- Infrastructural development for passenger disinfection.

- Lack of staff to monitor & guide passengers.

Optional plan

SLR has requested all the essential service departments to send their passenger information. But, only few of them responded back. Due to that, SLR has implemented a simple but, informatic manual system.

- Passenger should write down their information in a book at railway station. (passenger should bring their own pen).
- After verify, station master will give a colored token.(five colors of tokens will give for each 5 working days)
- Station master should record & report all passenger data to Head office.

Thank You !!