

# Combating COVID-19 Pandemic in Sikkim

## A Report



### **COVID-19 Corona Virus 24X7 Emergency Helpline Numbers for all Districts of Sikkim**

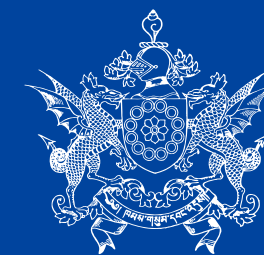
Health	: 104
IEC Officer	: +91 7407416464
Police	: 100
1. District Control Room (East)	: 03592-204444
2. District Control Room (South)	: 03595-264442/9474444429
3. District Control Room (West)	: 03595-250999/250633
4. District Control Room (North)	: 03592-234538

### **Disaster Management**

Shri. G.C. Khanal, Director SSDMA	: 9434137226/9647872307
SSDMA Control Room	: 03592-201145/202461/201075 (Fax)

### **Food & Civil Supplies Department**

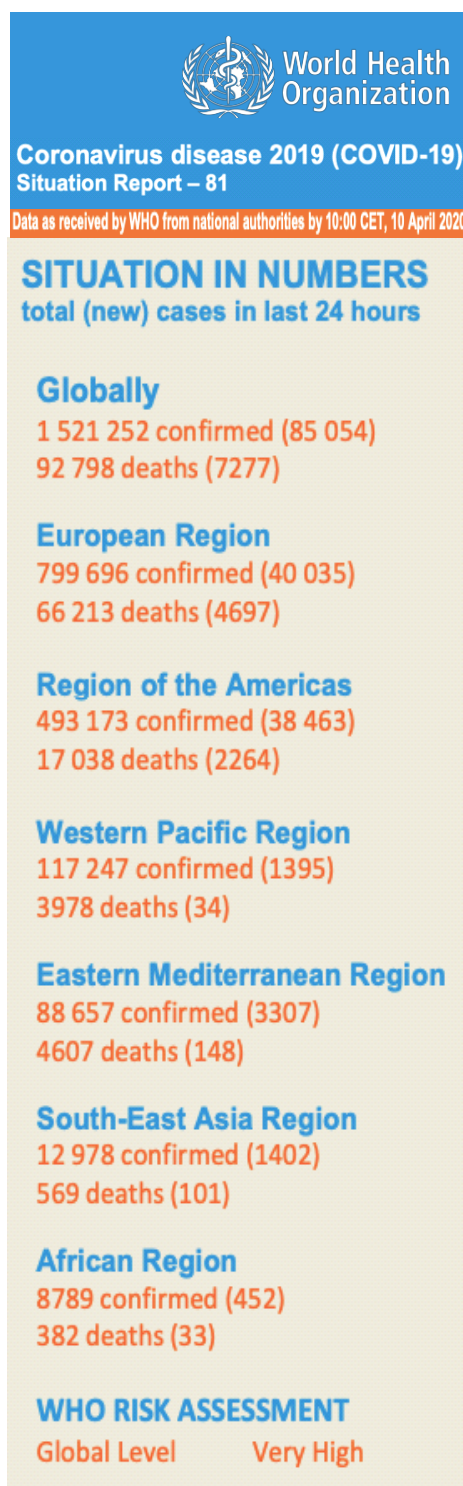
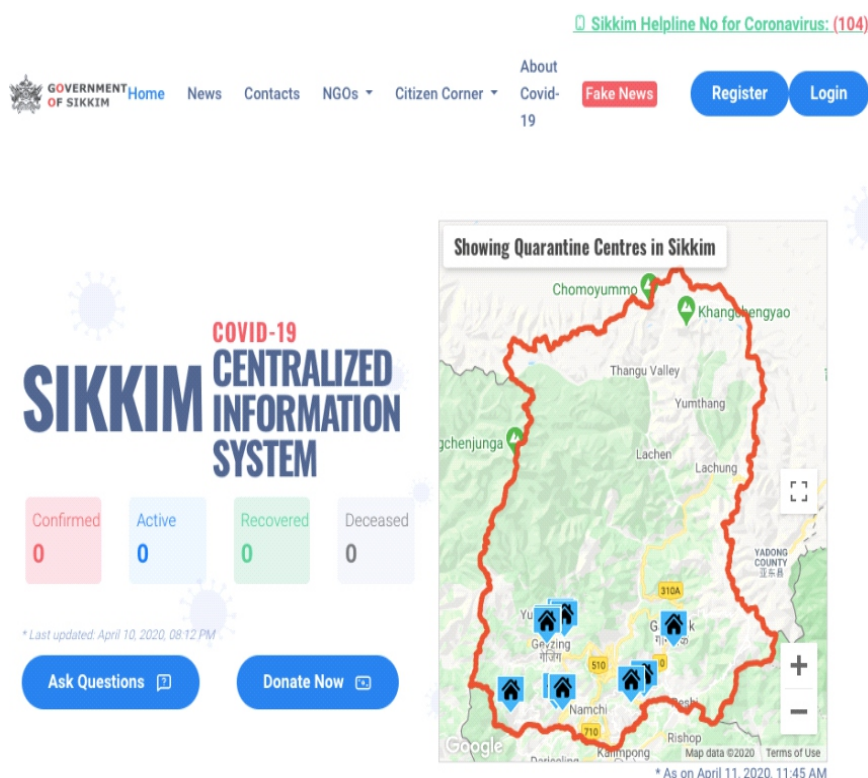
1. Shri. C.K. Sharma, Additional Comptroller HQ	: 9609014858
2. Shri. Dak Man Subba, DCSO (East)	: 7602453948
3. Shri. Palden Lachungpa, DCSO (North)	: 8145896216
4. Shri. Dinesh Pradhan, DCSO (South)	: 7797231495
5. Shri Arjun Rai, DCSO (West)	: 9733327413



Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority (SSDMA)  
Land Revenue & Disaster Management Department  
April-2020



# INTERIM REPORT-SIKKIM'S PREPAREDNESS FOR COVID-19



On 31 December 2019, Chinese authorities alerted the World Health Organisation (WHO) of pneumonia-like cluster of cases in Wuhan, Hubei Province. The disease initially referred to as novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) saw infected patients having clinical signs and symptoms such as fever, difficulty in breathing and invasive pneumonic infiltrations in both lungs. WHO points to evidence that suggests that the outbreak is associated with exposures in Hunan Seafood Wholesale market in Wuhan. The first case of lab-confirmed novel coronavirus outside of China was reported on 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 by the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), Thailand, and since then, the novel coronavirus has spread globally to countries in all 6 continents leaving aside Antarctica. On 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2020, WHO declared COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic and directed all countries to take immediate actions and develop mechanisms to respond to the threat posed by the disease. Directives were given to treat, detect and reduce transmissions to save people's lives.

As per the WHO report dated 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2020, COVID-19 pandemic has over 1.5 million confirmed cases and has resulted in the death of over 92,000 people worldwide.

Given the gradual rise in cases in India, and taking precautionary measures, on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020, the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, announced a 21-day countrywide lockdown. In his speech telecasted to the entire nation, he stated that in order to protect the country and each of its citizens, from

On 11 February 2020, the novel coronavirus was officially renamed as COVID-19 by the WHO.



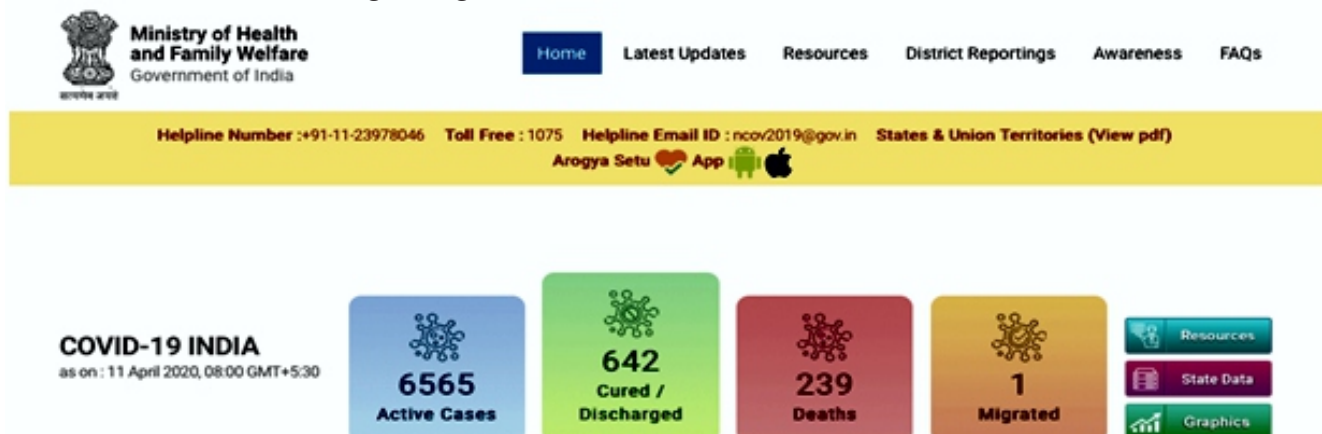
Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority, Land Revenue & Disaster Management Department



the 24<sup>th</sup> midnight onwards, a complete ban is being imposed on people from stepping out of their homes and on emergency to maintain social distancing.

India, as of 11 April 2020 (8:00 AM), according to the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), a total of 7447 COVID-19 cases have been reported in 31 states/union territories.

A breakdown of the official figure is given below:



### Measures taken in the state of Sikkim:

Taking COVID-19 global pandemic into all seriousness, Sikkim's Health and Family Welfare Department took up early precautionary measures since January, 2020 to ensure that there is no transmission of the virus into the State. A report presented to Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority (SSDMA) by Health and Family Welfare Department (H&FWD) on 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2020 outlines key works undertaken in preparation for fight against COVID-19:

- 20 video conferencing meetings have been conducted with Union Secretaries, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Department, Govt. of India, ICMR, Stake holders from Central Ministries/Departments /Cabinet Secretariat, Ministry of Home Affairs, Land Port Authority of India, Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Shipping, etc. till date since 27 January 2020.
- Additionally, 25 meetings and review meetings have been conducted from 27<sup>th</sup> January till date at both state and district level.
- Press release and media interactions have been done since 28<sup>th</sup> January to give an update on the situation in Sikkim, and also ensure precautionary measures on COVID-19 be taken up by to enhance state preparedness. Additionally, clarification via press releases was given to general public to avoid the spread of rumors videos, and audios that might misguide the general public.
- Special Gram Sabhas were held in different districts to sensitize the Panchayats of COVID-19 on dos and don'ts.
- Training of key personnel in different department including the Army and Health personnel to prepare for COVID-19 i.e. training and demonstration on how to use and dispose the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- Checking of vehicles, and screening of passengers entering through Rangpo and Melli check posts.
- Setting up of isolation wards and quarantine areas in State capital and different districts.
- Providing regular updates on measures taken by the H&FWD.



Additionally, some of the key measures taken up by the State include:

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Measures taken</b>
1	22.02.2020	Regular screening and testing of suspected patients.
2	05.03.2020	Restriction in the entry of foreign nationals into Sikkim.
3	16.03.2020	Directives given by Chief Secretary to identify and set up quarantine centres in all districts.
4	17.03.2020	Department of Health and Family Welfare, Sikkim informing students and parents studying outside the state and the parents to act responsibly to avoid the spread of COVID-19 within the state. Declaration form to be filled up by individuals and students returning home. Parents requested to monitor the health status of their children for symptoms of COVID-19.
5	17.03.2020	All Government and Private educational institutions to remain closed till 15 <sup>th</sup> April, or until further orders.
6	17.03.2020	Melli and Rangpo as designated check posts for screening. Rambam, Reshi and Uttarey check posts to be closed, allowing more manpower for the two designated check posts.
7	17.03.2020	Restriction in the entry of domestic tourists into Sikkim.
8	17.03.2020	Restriction in the entry of new workers in the factories from outside the state.
9	19.03.2020	Setting up State Task Force for COVID-19.
10	20.03.2020	Departments to function with limited staff to ensure social distancing in offices.
11	20.03.2020	Miking of do's and don'ts with regards to COVID-19 by IPR.
12	22.03.2020	Section 144 of the IPC enforced to reduce public gathering and ensure social distancing.
13	22.03.2020	Janata Curfew implementation.
14	23.03.2020	Implementation of Odd-Even scheme to control the movement of vehicles.
15	25.03.2020	Implementation of country-wide lockdown as per the directives from the Government of India.
16	27.03.2020	Distribution of rations to migrant labors, BPL, and others who do not possess state documents.
17	30.03.2020	Financial relief to mitigate the hardships of those students who are studying in various educational institutions outside the State and are stranded due to the lockdown.
18		Updates on directives, initiatives, and measures taken via different mediums such as Government of Sikkim's official website, official Facebook page, etc.



### **Activities undertaken by the Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority (SSDMA):**

The State Disaster Management Authority (SSDMA) being the key Nodal agency to oversee the preparations for tackling COVID-19 undertook several measures to ensure proper coordination within different State departments in close association with the State Task Force headed by the Chief Secretary. With directives coming from the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on modalities for providing updates undertaken by the state, SSDMA has been working towards maintaining clear communication channels with the Centre. It has initiated meetings with key State departments to establish mechanisms for carrying out protocols mandated by the State Government as well as the Government of India. Furthermore, it has been procuring, stockpiling and distributing chemicals, and equipment required by different agencies and departments for sanitization of public spaces, departmental buildings across all for districts, and also for vehicles at entering Sikkim via Rangpo and Melli Check post. Reporting to NDMA is also being done on a daily basis.

Key measures undertaken SSDMA so till date is tabulated below:

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Date/Month</b>	<b>Tasks under taken</b>
1	March	De-contamination of public spaces and other important buildings have been discussed, and coordination mechanisms have been set up in consultation with the Army, 17 Div. which has a unit to combat a biological disaster. During the meeting, materials required for de-contamination, and the involvement of three army teams in the process was discussed. Accordingly, materials required were procured and given to the military personnel.
2	March	Coordination with Districts related to the steps taken up by the concerned authority to fight against COVID -19.
3	20.03.2020	Provision of thermal scanners, masks, sanitizers and other materials/equipment required by offices and officials on duty.
4	24.03.2020	Sanitization of Tashiling Secretariat Block B.
5	25.03.202	Video conferencing with NDMA to provide an update on the Sikkim's state of preparedness as per the template provided by the National Authority.
6	25.03.2020	Regular stockpiling of important items and equipment to combat COVID-19 such as bleaching, bag pack sprays, sanitizers, masks, gloves etc. are being done.





7	26.03.2020	Co-ordination meeting with Civil Defence. Protocols and guidelines for Covid-19 preparedness, prevention, and action documents provided. They will be assisting SSDMA and the State in generating awareness to general public. Additionally, they will also be involved in the carrying out sanitization activities.
8	26.03.2020	Chemicals, Backpack sprays, dress outfit, bleaching powder have been provided to the Districts (DDMA), Civil Defence, Urban Development Department, Health and Family Welfare Department and Gangtok Municipal Corporation for decontamination of the areas through Civil Defence Crops. Vehicles entering Sikkim through Melli and Rangpo check post are being de-contaminated.
9	26.03.2020	Co-ordinated with Agriculture Department and Animal Husbandry Department to procure 8 sets of Bag pack spray machine 10 sets of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) respectively.
10	28.03.2020	Co-ordination meeting with officials from Health and Family Welfare Department (Key points discussed attached as Appendix 1).
11	29.03.2020	Compilation of data from various stakeholder departments involved, to enhance and support measures that need to be undertaken as part of COVID-19 preparation.
12	31.03.2020	Deployment of personnel to sanitize public spaces in Rangpo and Melli check post, as well as vehicles both entering Sikkim (especially trucks delivering essential commodities).
13	01.04.2020	Co-ordination meeting with Shri. Prabhakar Rai, Director Panchayat Raj, Rural Development Department (RDD) for collation of data pertaining to migrant labors, BPL and others without state documents in Gram Panchayat Units (GPU), as well as measures to be taken up at GPU level (Key points discussed attached as Appendix 2).
14	01.04.2020	Updating daily data received from the Health and Family Welfare Department into SSDMA's GIS database.
15	01.04.2020	Co-ordination meeting with the apex NGO, Helping Hands to discuss ways the NGOs can assist the State in generating awareness on COVID-19. The meeting was also attended by Sikkim Chemist Association and representatives from TAAS, and Sikkim Chamber of Commerce (Key points discussed attached as Appendix 3).



16	01.04.2020	Provided ward maps/location maps to Police Control Room.
17	02.03.2020	Meeting was held with Special Secretary, Urban Development Department, Shri Chewang Gyatso Bhutia to collate data on Migrant workers in urban areas for coordinating supply of rations.
18	04.04.2020	Updating the details required by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in respect to Migrant workers, NGOs and any other information on daily basis.
19	05.04.2020	Sanitization taken up for Sir Thutob Namgyal Memorial Hospital at Socheygang by the State Relief Commisisoner-cum- Secretary, LR&DMD/SSDMA, Director, SSDMA/LR&DMD, Staff of SSDMA, Mayor, Gangtok Municipal Cooperation with other member and teams from District Disaster Management Authority (East) headed by Mr. Sonam Wangyal Lepcha, Deputy Director and Dr. Tilak Ghatani, Additional Director, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services Department.
20	06.04.2020	Co-ordination with the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) with regards to the Stranded migrants from Assam at South District, Sikkim. District Collector, South was informed about the same and necessary steps were undertaken accordingly.
21	07.04.2020	Inspection and meeting was carried out by the State Relief Commissioner–cum-Secretary, Director and staffs from SSDMA at Rangpo and Mellicheck post. Materials required by health and district officials stationed there were delivered. (Key points discussed attached as Appendix 4).
22		Handbooks and posters on Do's and Don'ts for COVID-19 as per NDMA guidelines simplified and translated from English to Nepali published. They have been distributed to officials in all districts. Specified posters (for banks, post offices, ATMs etc) will be put up accordingly in these buildings, and public spaces.
23	08.04. 2020	A meeting with the Hon'ble Minister, Land Revenue and Disaster Management Department, Shri. Kunga Nima Lepcha, was held at his residence.



24	09.04.2020	COVID-19 awareness video was produce in collaboration with Channel ACE Production, Gangtok and the same was shared in the social media platform.
25	11.04.2020	Meeting with Chief Minister, Shri. P.S. Tamang and the Head of the Department at Shaman Bhawan. Relief commissioner cum-Secretary updated the Chief Minister about the activities taken up by the SSDMA for prevention of COVID -19 in the State.
26	11.04.2020	Trial on the Pincode based SMS Alert by message “BE AT HOME AND BE SAFE” was initiated by SSDMA for Tadong Area as per the direction from Department of Telecommunication (DoT). As per the report from DDG Telecom Gangtok, 7590 Airtel, 6111vodafone subscribers have received the message successfully. Data for Jio and BSNL is awaited.





**Appendix 1: Minutes of the Meeting held with Health and Family Welfare Department on 28<sup>th</sup>**  
**March 2020 at SSDMA Conference Hall, Tashiling Secretariat, Block B**

A meeting between Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority and Health and Family Welfare Department was held to discuss on the joint measures to be carried out for the current COVID-19 situation in Sikkim. The meeting was held in the SSDMA Conference Hall, Tashiling Secretariat, Block B, on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

**Points discussed**

- Following the guidelines of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Department of Government of India, Health Department has prepared the SOP for Dead body disposal and submitted to the Chief Secretary for approval.
- SSDMA is to facilitate transport of materials required by the Health Department ordered from different parts of India to Gangtok.
- A dedicated vehicle is to be allotted for transport of test samples from Gangtok to Siliguri on daily basis.
- The setting up a dedicated health laboratory in the State is under process. Request has been send to the concern authority.
- SSDMA is to stock pile N95 masks, sanitizers and PPEs for times of emergency.
- Hundreds of trucks and essential commodities vehicles are crossing the border on a daily basis. The security concern over the sanitization issue of such vehicles/drivers is of prime importance.
- Increased number of Quarantine centres is to be identified and earmarked. The population living in such areas need to be sensitized accordingly to avoid panic and discrimination.
- Health Department has been regularly training Health/ASHA/Agandwadi personnel on the CoVid-19 situation, tracking the quarantined persons in the State and are equipped for emergency situation, if it arises.
- Media is required to play a positive role in factual dissemination and boost the morale of Health personnel and other officials working dedicatedly to tackle the situation.
- Director, SSDMA has asked the Health Officials present to provide a checklist of materials and equipment required to tackle the COVID -19 situation.



**Appendix 2: Minutes of the Meeting on COVID -19 with Rural Development Department held at Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority's (SSDMA) Conference Hall on 01/04/2020**

A meeting between Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority and Rural Development Department was held to discuss the joint measures to curb COVID-19 situation in Sikkim. The meeting was held in the SSDMA Conference Hall, Tashiling Secretariat, Block B, on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2020.

Secretary, Home (Protocol), informed the house that mobile application for tracking people with suspected COVID -19 cases is in the process of development by the Central Government which shall be disseminated to all.

**Points discussed:**

- The Panchayat members have already been directed to get the details of the migrant workers in their respective GPU on the 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020, and the same would be submitted by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020, to the office of the BDOs. The compiled list would be submitted to the SSDMA at the earliest by the Director, Panchayati Raj. The data will be categorised in two part :
  - **Migrant worker from the Other States and people who are staying in Kuth/Adhya in farm lands and who do not poses any documents of the State.**
  - **Below Property Line (BPL) people of the village vide Notification No. 19/Home/2020, date:27/ 03/2020.**
- The Panchayat members has already been directed to disseminate the information about the COVID -19 in a simpler language and the member has already taken steps by involving the one family one job personnel for door to door campaign for dissemination of information while maintaining social distancing protocol.
- It was also discussed and suggested that NDMA guidelines about the do's and dont have to be simplified in Sikkim local context.



**Appendix 3: Minutes of the Meeting on COVID -19 with Sikkim Helping Hand “Umbrella Organisation” held at Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority's (SSDMA) Conference Hall on 01/04/2020**

A meeting between Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority and Helping Hands (NGOs) was held to discuss the joint measures to curb COVID-19 situation in Sikkim. The meeting was held in the SSDMA Conference Hall, Tashiling Secretariat, Block B, on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2020.

Secretary, Home (Protocol) suggested that the important contact numbers to be shared and to create a whatsapp group for the NGO's and to include SSDMA, Home (Protocol) and Health & Family Welfare Department for dissemination of information.

**Points discussed:**

- NGO's to interlink with the District Collector for all the distribution of relief materials.
- NGOs to help with social awareness on the usage of mask and sanitizers.
- NGO's to distribute the relief material to the needy.
- Counselling to the people specially the migrant workers regarding the lock down and sanitizing about the steps under taken by the Government to tackle the COVID -19
- NGOs was directed to contact the RC (Delhi)/ SSDMA/ Home (Protocol) regarding the transport of critical medicine or emergency materials from outside the State.
- NGO's were directed to submit their list of volunteers to SSDMA for the travel pass.

Chairman, Sikkim Helping Hand showed concern over the plying of vehicles from Melli- Rangpo- Gangtok and he also said that people are not serious about the lock down. He said that a strict action needs to be taken up. He further added that his building having a capacity of 800 people at Rey, East Sikkim could be used for Isolation purpose. If needed by the Government of Sikkim.



**Appendix 4: Minutes of the Meeting on COVID-19 with Joint Secretary to CM's Office cum-  
Officer on Special Duty at Rangpo and Melli Check Posts, SDM, Civil Defence and  
Superintendent of Police on 07/04/2020**

An inspection and meeting was carried out by Shri. P.N.Sherpa, State Relief Commissioner-cum-Secretary, accompanied by Shri. G.C. Khanal, Director, SSDMA and other team members visited Rangpo and Melli checkpoint on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2020, to take stock of the situation at the check post on both the locations. At Rangpo, meeting was held with Shri. P.K Rai, SDM (Rangpo), J.S (CMO) and OSD Melli and Rangpo check posts, Shri. Deepen Sharma, Shri. C.M Khawas Civil Defence Member (Rangpo). .

**Points discussed:**

- The Chief Minister is constantly monitoring the work at Rangpo and Melli check post in his office via CCTV footages. He is in direct contact with officials stationed there.
- Regular sanitization is being done for vehicles entering Sikkim.
- In the quarantine centre set up at Rangpo, there are catering services which provide regular meals and tea when asked.
- The SDM has been directed that he is the sole authority to take decisions pertaining to measures that needs to be taken in the spot for challenges faced. He can consult the SSDMA if and when needed.
- A makeshift health facility has been set up outside Rangpo check gate with health officials, to cater to healthcare needs of neighbouring West Bengal villages. Given that monsoon season is approaching, the Director has assured the OSD and SDM that POTA cabins (Portable cabins) will be set up at the earliest.
- Melli, BDO informs that screening of the drivers and sanitization of the vehicles plying inwards are conducted by respective teams 24/7.

One of health officials stationed at Melli check gate explains the key challenge for them, and the State was to tackle the issue of non-state supply truck drivers, and their handyman, who could be potential carriers of the virus. As of now, they have been directed to wear raincoats when entering the state.





## PHOTO GALLERY



**Pic: Actions taken at State level**



**Pic: SSDMA Team at check points**



**Pic: Joint meeting of SSDMA and State Health Department to chart out strategy for covid-19 prevention**







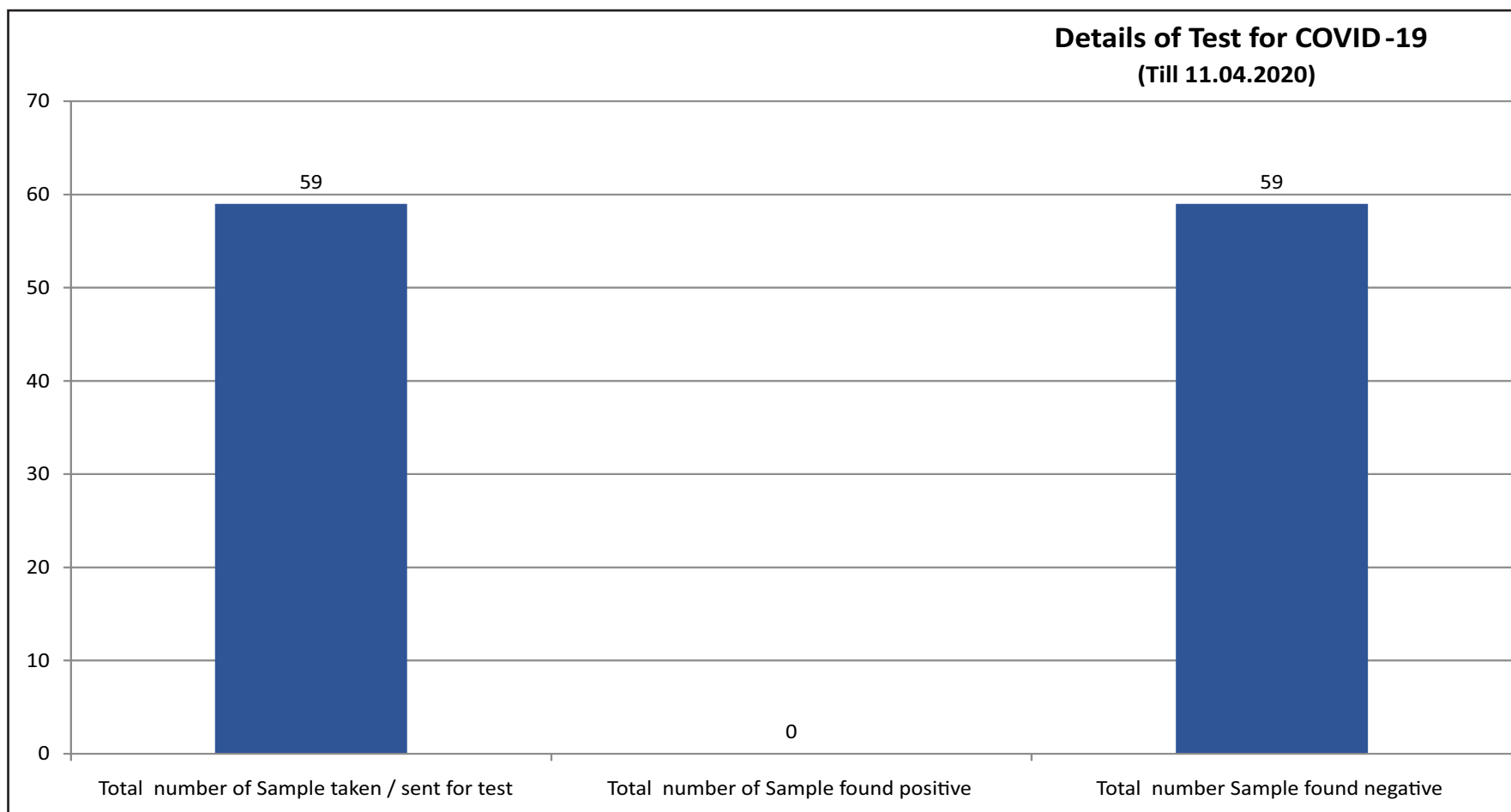
**Pic: Coordination Meeting with NGO's and media**



**Pic: Deployment of teams to sanitize at various locations**



## Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) Report on Novel Corona Virus CoVID-19



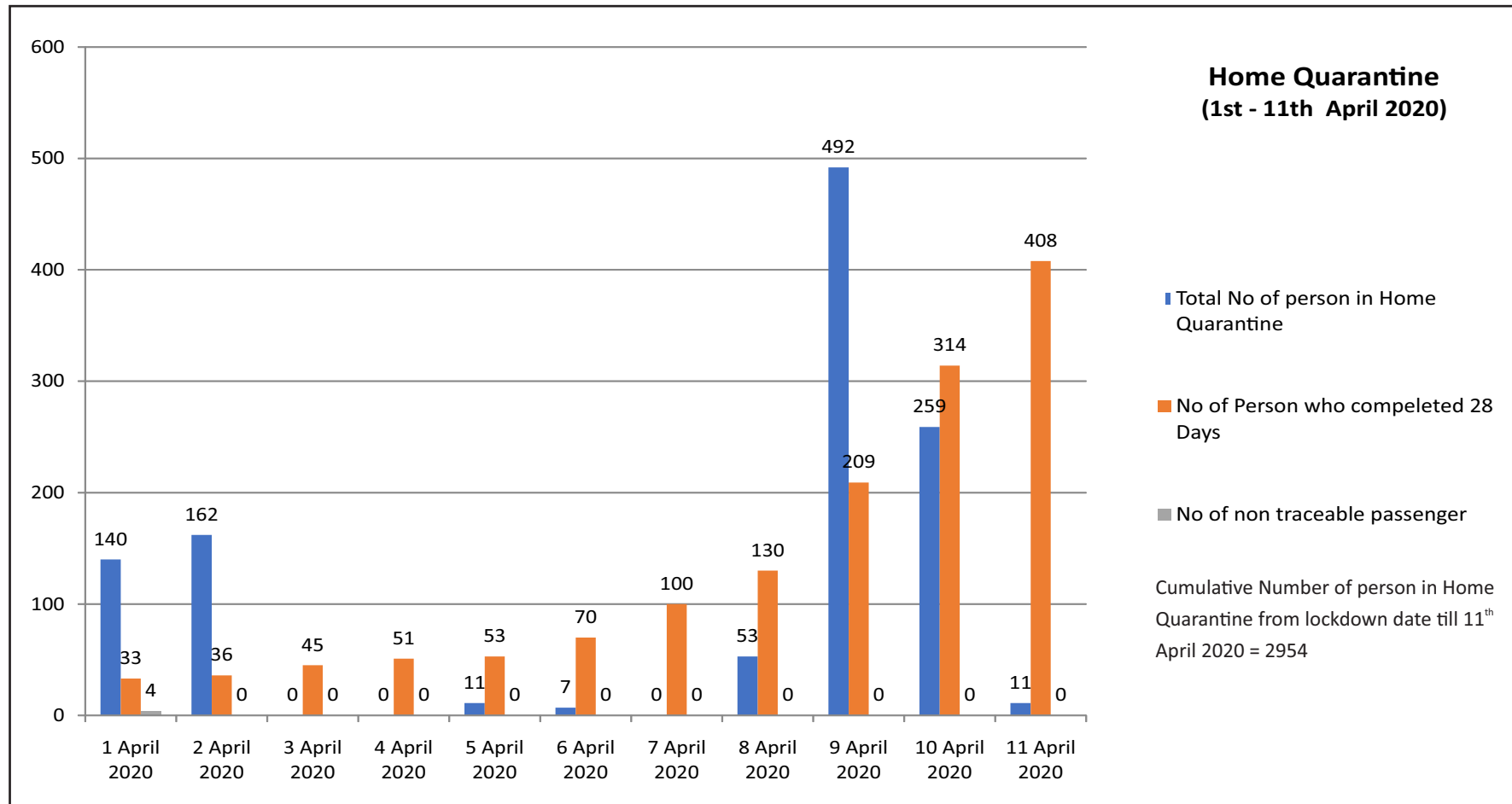
*Source: H & FW Department, GoS*



Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority, Land Revenue & Disaster Management Department

# Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP)

## Report on Novel Corona Virus CoVID-19



Source: H & FW Department, GoS

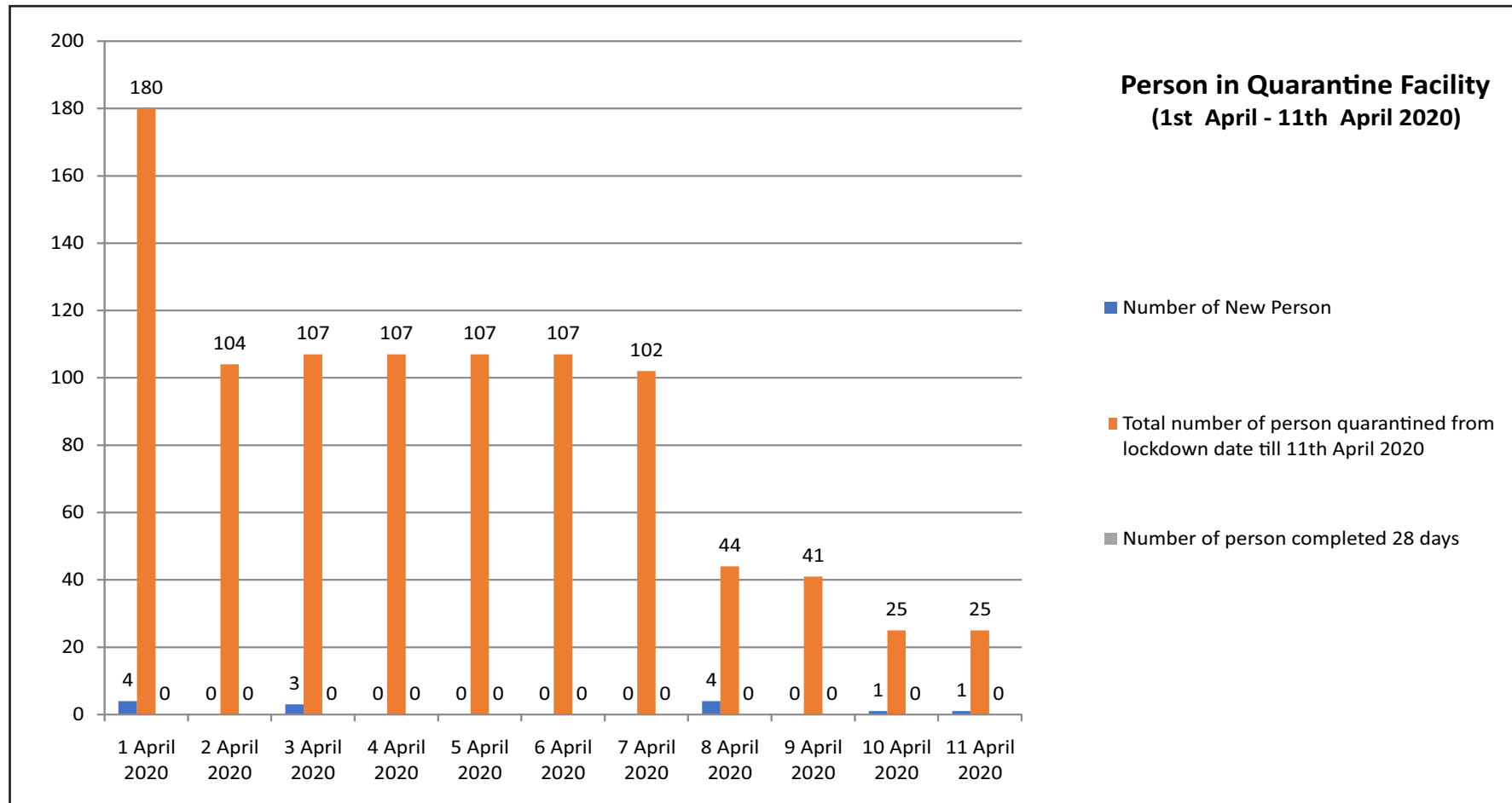


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# Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) Report on Novel Corona Virus CoVID-19

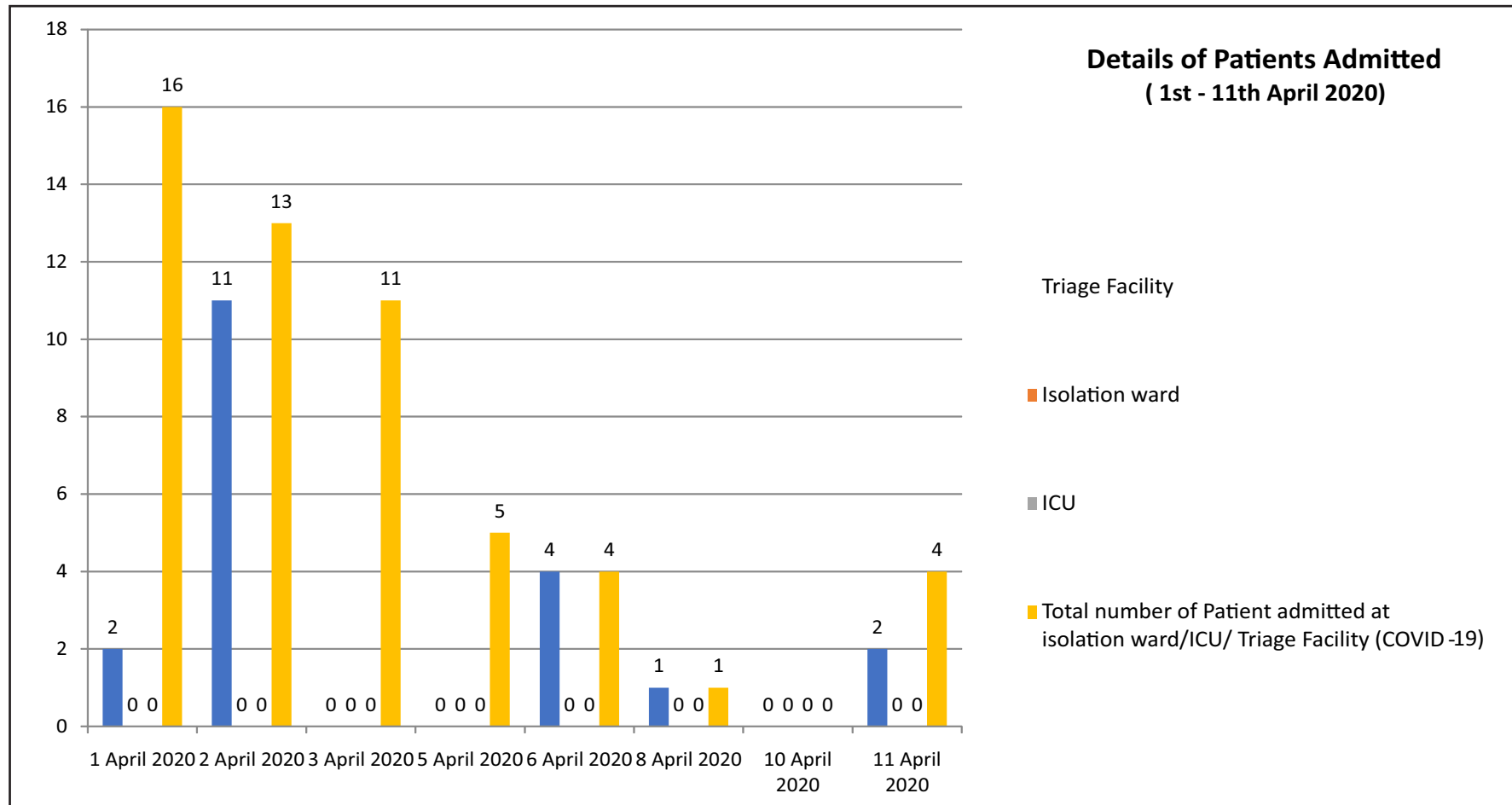


Source: H & FW Department, GoS



Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority, Land Revenue & Disaster Management Department

# Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) Report on Novel Corona Virus CoVID-19



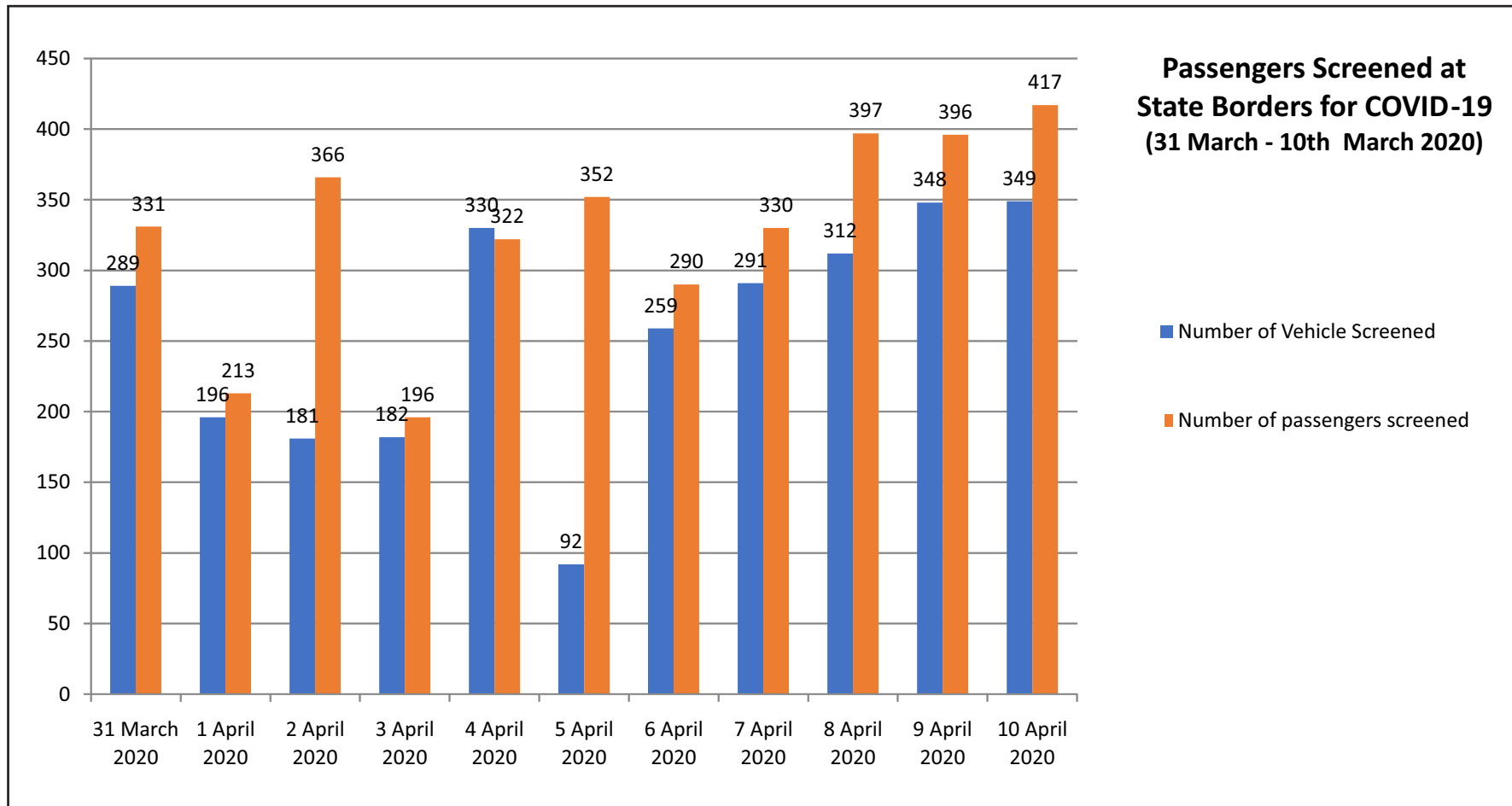
Source: H & FW Department, GoS



Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority, Land Revenue & Disaster Management Department



## Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) Report on Novel Corona Virus CoVID-19



Source: H & FW Department, GoS



Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority, Land Revenue & Disaster Management Department