

**Association of Officers of UCO Bank**  
(Registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926)  
Affiliated to All India Federation of UCO Bank Officers (AIFUCBO)  
An Affiliate of All India Bank Officers Association (AIBOA)

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Circular No. 126/2018-21

June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020

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**TO ALL THE MEMBERS**

**Re: COVID – 19**

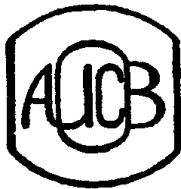
**SITUATION AND OPERATION OF BANKING ACTIVITIES**

We reproduce hereunder the full text of letter dated June 17, 2020 issued by Com. Siddhartha Khan, Convenor, United Forum of Bank Unions, West Bengal State Unit, addressed to The Honourable Chief Minister, Government of West Bengal, on the captioned subject for information of all concerned.

Comradely Yours,

Yours truly,

**Ajoy Kumar Mondal**  
**General Secretary**



Quote

Date: 17/06/2020

The Honourable Chief Minister,  
Government of West Bengal ,  
NABANNA.

Respected Madam,

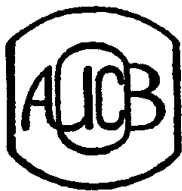
**COVID – 19**

**SITUATION AND OPERATION OF BANKING ACTIVITIES**

You are aware that despite long nationwide lockdown there is an alarming increase in the Covid-19 affected cases despite several restrictions. Already a large section of people have been affected countrywide and the toll is alarmingly rising in the city of Kolkata. In West Bengal also the situation is no less alarming. Everyday the number of affected persons is increasing by leaps and bounds. It can neither be predicted when the situation would become normal nor when the dreaded virus would be contained through medicine/vaccine.

2) During the lock down period, only banks were open even though bank employees are also susceptible to the impact of the dreaded virus keeping aside the fact that theatres, restaurants, gyms and even temples were closed in order to ensure social distancing.

3) Bank employees, as seen many times earlier also, rose to this critical occasion also as brave corona warriors and provided essential Banking services for the entire period of lockdown stage to the customers/general public and are still continuing their uninterrupted services. In majority of the branches, it was observed that customers in large number entered the banks even for non-essential works despite declaration of lockdown. At the same time, employees were compelled to deal with the customers, particularly in the crowded banking hall, giving a go-by to the social distancing precaution that is totally unsafe and grave. In such difficult circumstances bank employees, who have their personal transport , attended office and provided essential services to the customers/general public. Now bank employees are put in a tremendous difficult situation as far as transport system is concerned, since local trains are not available and public transport is totally inadequate for which they are



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facing a great hardship to attend offices to keep on providing essential services to the customers apart from ensuring meticulous supply of cash to replenish ATMs to serve the customers.

4) Bank employees, being inspired by the motto of keeping the interests of the Country foremost in their mind, never expect anything in return for the services they are rendering, but the basic and minimum requirements of bank employees need to be taken care of, particularly considering the hardship and difficulties faced by them under various compelling circumstances.

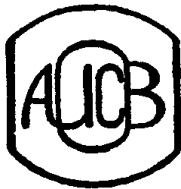
5) The number of infected bankers and their family members are on the rise and we have to address the situation in an extra attentive manner. While we understand that banking is an essential service during this tough time, but at the same time, our employees' health aspect cannot be ignored under such an alarming condition. In red zone districts the Govt. had notified certain areas as containment areas and the number of those containment areas have also increased since first notification, we feel that we need to revisit our strategy regarding opening of branches and limiting staff strength.

6) Under the above circumstances, we refer to Para 6 and Para 7 in Annexure 1(National Directives for Covid-19 Management) of MHA guidelines dated 30th May, 2020 which reads "Work from Home(WfH):As far as possible the practice of WfH should be followed" and "Staggering of work/business hours will be followed in offices,work places,shops,markets and industrial & commercial establishments" respectively.

In this regard we appreciate West Bengal Government's decision of working with 70% staff capacity in two shifts and the instruction to ignore late attendance to prevent the over exposure of the staff to Covid -19 contamination.

7) Further,quite a number of states have decided to close branches in the highly affected areas and to run branches with 50% staff. Some States have also decided to totally close the Bank branches to control further spread of virus.

8) Going by the guidelines, we would like to request you to consider opening of a single branch in the affected areas and utilizing staff strength on rotation in other areas and instruct The General Manager & Convenor, State Level Bankers Committee, West Bengal accordingly to ensure safety and security of the life of the financial warriors whose invaluable contribution at this hour of crisis can not be overlooked. In the declared containment areas, all bank branches may be kept closed, exempting all bank employees residing in those areas from attending office and working from home. This is the only logical and possible way in this crisis period by which the requirement of staff can be minimised and thereby the exposure time and chances of infection for bank employees can be reduced as well as to confirm to the need of the hour to impose the most desired relaxation in attendance and working hours of the employees to keep the Banking Operations going in avoidably safe and sound manner.



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9) We earnestly look forward to your positive response in the matter and proactive action to safeguard the lives of the financial warriors who are always ready to render their service for the interest of the People and the State.

Yours Faithfully,

(SIDDHARTHA KHAN)

CONVENOR

CC TO

Com.S K Banglish

Convenor, United Forum of Bank Unions

With regards,

(SIDDHARTHA KHAN)

Unquote