

**GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI
DELHI DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
5-SHAMNATH MARG, DELHI-110054.**

F.No. 1(579)/DDMA(HQ)/Meeting/Covid/2021-22/361

Dated: 04-10-2022

Minutes of the 37th Meeting of the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) held on 22.09.2022 (Thursday) at 04:00 PM at Raj Niwas under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Delhi.

1. The 37th meeting of Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) chaired by Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Delhi to discuss the Covid-19 pandemic situation in NCT of Delhi was held at Raj Niwas on September 22, 2022 at 04:00 PM.
2. The list of participants in the meeting is enclosed as Annexure-I.
3. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed all the members of DDMA, Special Invitees and other participants present in the meeting. He further requested the Chief Secretary, Delhi to begin the proceedings.
4. The Chief Secretary, Delhi / CEO, DDMA welcomed Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Delhi, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Delhi, Dr. V.K. Paul, Member, NITI Aayog, Hon'ble Minister Revenue, GNCTD, Members of DDMA and Special Invitees for the meeting.
5. The Chief Secretary, Delhi gave a brief background of the Covid situation, as emerged since March, 2020. He stated that Delhi reported its first confirmed case of Covid-19 in March, 2020 and by the time National Lockdown was imposed the Government of NCT of Delhi had started issuing orders under the legal framework of Disaster Management Act, 2005. The Delhi Government took various measures for enhancement of hospital infrastructure like increase in number of beds, setting up of Institutional Isolation and Quarantine Centers and for the first time the concept of Home Isolation was also introduced in Delhi only. Chief Secretary, Delhi also mentioned about the coverage of high level of first and second dose of vaccinations among the eligible population of Delhi and further informed that the precaution dose coverage is about 24% of the eligible population.



6. The Chief Secretary, Delhi told that the current situation is comfortable but we cannot lower the guard as the variants keep on changing.
7. The Chief Secretary then requested the Secretary, Health & Family Welfare (H&FW), GNCTD to make a presentation regarding Covid Management post MHA's order dated 25.02.2022 and on the status of current Covid Situation prevailing in Delhi.
8. Secretary (H&FW), GNCTD made a presentation before the participants highlighting the agenda/discussion points for the meeting which included:
 - A. Management of Covid-19 situation post MHA's order dated 25.2.2022 in NCT of Delhi.
 - B. Current status of vaccination programme in Delhi.
 - C. Status of health infrastructure set-up and manpower engaged for Covid management.
 - D. Any other issue.
9. The presentation inter-alia outlined, the steps taken in respect of management of Covid-19 situation post MHA's order dated 25.2.2022 in Delhi, the data from 25.02.2022 to 20.09.2022 on Testing and Positivity Trends, Current Situation & Trend Analysis, Hospitalization, Covid deaths, Home Isolation, Medical Oxygen preparedness, CATS Ambulance Services, Covid Vaccination, Genome Sequencing. Details of Infrastructure projects, Manpower and other issues for consideration were also shared.
10. In respect of the management of current Covid-19 situation post MHA's order dated 25.02.2022 in NCT of Delhi, Secretary (H&FW) informed that Delhi Government has received a latest communication from MoHFW vide which States & UTs have been advised to contain any possible surge in Covid-19 cases and have been requested to closely monitor the case trajectories across all the districts on a daily basis to identify the early warning signals like increased positivity, emergence of new cluster of cases, increased occupancy of Covid beds in health facilities etc. and to take required actions in a timely manner focusing on the five-fold strategy of Test-Track-Treat-Vaccinate and adherence to Covid Appropriate Behaviour.



11. The communication from MoHFW further advised that in the coming months due to multiple Festivals, commencing from 26th September to 31st December, 2022, mass gatherings are likely to be witnessed across the country. There may be a tendency to ignore Covid-safe behaviour during festivals, resulting in large gatherings, events, fairs, crowds in enclosed and non-ventilated spaces, etc. It is important to enforce adherence to Covid Appropriate Behaviour while allowing these festivities. Continued focus on vaccination for all eligible people including increased coverage of precaution doses would be critical intervention which should be coordinated by the States/UTs.
12. Secretary (H&FW), GNCTD informed that testing in Delhi has been above the National average. As on 20.09.2022, a total of 21,13,462 cumulative tests per million population have been done in Delhi that is more than three times the National average which is 6.5 lakh test per million. Regarding daily positivity trend he informed that positivity trend slightly increased in the month of August, 2022 and the number of cases rose nearly to around 2000 per day but the cases have declined substantially after 25th August, 2022 and now there are only around 100 cases per day in Delhi. Daily monitoring of Covid situation is being done by the H&FW Department, GNCTD. A Health bulletin is issued daily by the Department, for information of the general public and other stakeholders. The net positivity rate as on 20.09.2022 was 0.82% in Delhi, whereas the all India average was 1.33%.
13. Secretary (H&FW), GNCTD highlighted the Covid bed occupancy and available bed details along with figures of hospitalization of Covid patients in Delhi as on 20.09.2022. Covid bed capacity in the Government and Private hospitals as on 20.09.2022 was 9270 and a total of 44 (including 11 suspect Covid patients) Covid beds were occupied. Only 4 Covid positive patients were on ventilator beds. The figure of deaths of all primary cases and secondary cases are reported by the hospitals and an audit is being done of each and every death occurring due to Covid-19.
14. Secretary (H&FW), GNCTD presented an update on Medical Oxygen Infrastructure in Delhi. It was informed that in the last one year lot of work and efforts have been made to enhance the medical oxygen infrastructure in Delhi because severe scarcity of medical oxygen was observed during the onset of Delta variant. A total 98 PSA Plants with total capacity of 116.96 MT has been installed and commissioned. It was also informed that as



on 20.09.2022, LMO storage tanks capacity of 995.71 MT have been installed with buffer reserve of 442 MTs and all the tanks received PESO clearance. Oxygen capacity of 237.45 MT cylinders and Cylinders Reserve of 6000 (D type) + 9115 cylinders have been distributed in hospitals linked with Covid Care Centres. Further, 2 cryogenic bottling plants with a capacity of 12.5 MTs have also been commissioned in Siraspur. PESO clearance has been received with capacity to refill 1400 jumbo cylinders per day. It was also informed that out of 15 LMO tankers to be procured, 12 tankers were to be procured by DTC, out of which 8 have already come and remaining 03 tankers have been purchased by private persons through subsidy of Industry Department. It was suggested by the Secretary, (H&FW) that these 12 tankers may be operated by DTC on outsource basis. **At this stage, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Delhi suggested that 6000 cylinders may also be used on outsourced basis.**

15. Secretary (H&FW) informed that the availability of ambulances as on 20.09.2022 was 380 (240 CATS Ambulances + 140 hired ambulances). He also informed that average response time was under 15 minutes. **At this stage, Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Delhi desired to know the present use of ambulances, if Covid cases were subsiding. Secretary (H&FW), GNCTD informed that these ambulances are being used for non COVID emergencies also and their usage is rising. The Chief Secretary, Delhi suggested that 40% of the total ambulances should be advance model (ALS) and rest of the 60% should operate as ordinary ambulance.**
16. Secretary (H&FW) informed more than 370.63 lakh vaccine doses have been administered as on 20th September, 2022 in Delhi. 1st dose has been administered to 112% of eligible population and 2nd dose has been administered to 96% of such 18+age group persons. It was also informed that a total of 31,49,246 precaution doses have been administered as on 20.09.2022. Though total beneficiary due for the same are 1,33,77,289. He informed that 99% of 15-17 years age group has been administered the first dose and 2nd dose has been administered to 86% of such beneficiaries till 20th September, 2022. The National average for the same age group was 84% & 71% respectively. 1st dose has also been administered in 12-14 year age group to 110% and 2nd dose has been administered to 78% of such children up to 20th September, 2022, whereas the National average for the same age group is 87% & 66% respectively.



17. On Genome Sequencing, Secretary (H&FW) informed that Genome Sequencing is conducted in two of Delhi hospitals i.e. Institute Liver Biliary Sciences (ILBS) and Lok Nayak Hospital (LNH), in addition to Central Government facilities. In the month of July, 2022 number of samples analysed by labs were 1271 and these samples were detected with following variant of concern of BA.2: 1133, BA.4: 00 and BA.5:138. In the month of August, 2022 number of samples analyzed by labs was 1865, samples were detected with a variant of concern of BA.2: 1865, BA.4: 00 and BA.5:199.
18. Secretary (H&FW) informed that in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic Delhi Government had planned to setup seven (07) ICU Covid hospitals besides ongoing four (04) hospitals in various parts of Delhi. In these Covid hospitals, provision of only COVID ICU beds was envisaged to maximize number of beds due to ongoing COVID pandemic. It has now been proposed that in view of the current scenario and to ensure comprehensive services, OPD facilities and general services would be required to be introduced in these standalone Covid hospitals, as a result of which the number of beds may vary. Hon'ble LG desired that OPD/general services should continue in these facilities. The likely dates of completion of these 07 hospitals, as informed to H&FW Department by the Public Works Department, GNCTD, was as under:

Seven ICU Covid Hospitals:

Projects	Bed Capacity*	Likely Date Of Completion as Informed by PWD	Physical progress as Informed by PWD as on 17.09.2022
SaritaVihar	336	31.10.2022	60%
CNBC	610	30.11.2022	50%
Sultanpuri	525	30.11.2022	45%
Shalimar Bagh	1430	31.12.2022	50%
GTBH	1912	31.12.2022	45%
Raghubir Nagar	1565	31.12.2022	30%

Amul

Kirari	458	28.02.2023	0%
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* Due to changed COVID scenario, number of beds may vary due to operationalization of OPD and other general services.

Four Hospital Projects:

Projects	Bed Capacity	Likely Date Of Completion As Informed By PWD	Physical progress as Informed by PWD as on 17.09.2022
Siraspur	1164	30.09.2023	48%
Jwalapuri	691	30.06.2023	65%
Madipur	691	30.06.2023	57%
Hastasal	691	31.12.2023	12%

19. Secretary (H&FW) informed that in the wake of rising Covid cases, 11 Covid Care Centres/ Field hospitals were established. Out of these, 10 were operated by Delhi Government and 01 was operated by Government of India. These 11 Covid Care Centers (CCC) were closed due to decline in positivity rate and number of cases but 03 Covid Care Centres were maintained physically i.e. they have not been dismantled. Request has been coming from the Radha Soami Satsang, Chattarpur; Sawan Kirpal, Burari and Sant Nirankari, Burari that their land may be handed back. Secretary (H&FW) asked for a decision regarding dismantling of the physical infrastructure of these 03 Covid Care Centres. **Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Delhi and Hon'ble Chief Minister, Delhi agreed that the land of the 03 CCC may be released but reiterated that proper inventories of the equipment available there may be worked out and may be distributed / transferred among the hospitals as per their requirements. Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Delhi further directed that the equipment would be transferred to those hospitals where these are required and ensure that they are used in a proper manner. Secretary (H&FW), GNCTD stated that some of the equipments would have to be stored and later used in new under construction hospitals. Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Delhi advised that a proper plan for safe storage of the equipments must also be prepared.**



20. Secretary (H&FW), GNCTD gave brief background on augmentation of Human Resources in Delhi Government hospitals in the wake of onset of Covid-19 pandemic in the month of March, 2020. He informed that at the time of surge in Covid cases a large number of manpower was needed. Therefore, it was decided to take more than 25% of the HR personnel on contractual basis over and above the sanctioned strength. In this background, vide order dated 24.03.2020, all the GNCT hospitals were allowed for contractual engagement of manpower and also on outsourcing basis services i.e. the sanitation, security, Nursing Orderly's and Class IV staff up to 25% in addition to the existing sanctioned strength of the hospital till June, 2020.
21. Subsequently, COVID Hospitals were also allowed to engage up to 25% additional Doctors and 40% additional nurses & paramedics above the sanctioned strength. This arrangement was last extended up to 30/06/2022 for COVID as well as non-COVID Hospitals. Secretary (H&FW), GNCTD requested for a decision on extension of manpower hired on contractual basis against vacant posts only in Covid hospitals up to 31.03.2023. It was also informed that during Covid three hospitals were established but there was no manpower available at that time hence manpower to these hospitals was diverted from other hospitals. This situation led to large number of vacancies in the other hospitals. In this background, it is desired that contractual engagement against the sanctioned vacant posts may be allowed up to 31.03.2023. Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Delhi observed that hiring of manpower on contractual basis may be discouraged. At this stage, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Delhi mentioned that a crisis situation would arise in the hospitals in the absence of large number of vacancies of the doctors, nurses and paramedics. Therefore, the contractual engagements against the sanctioned vacant posts was required till the regular recruitments against the sanctioned posts are finalized. **It was agreed that contractual engagement against the vacant sanctioned posts may be continued till 31.12.2022 for which proposal may be submitted in the file for approval of competent authority.**
22. Secretary (H&FW), GNCTD also informed that at present Health & Family Welfare Department, GNCTD has invoked provisions of the Epidemic Act, 1897 and has issued order for imposition of Rs. 500/- as a fine for not wearing a mask in public places, which will lapse on 30.09.2022. He sought further guidance of the DDMA on this matter.



23. The Chief Secretary, Delhi requested Dr. V.K. Paul, Member, NITI Aayog for his expert advice and opinion.
24. Dr. V.K. Paul, Member, NITI Aayog emphasized that surveillance is still needed as the virus is still present and mutations and variants of the virus have emerged from time to time. The surveillance is to be carried out on the basis of three pillars i.e. genomic surveillance, sewage surveillance and hospitalizations. He stated that ICMR has been conducting biological survey. It was desired to intensify systematic surveillance and also increase vaccination. At this stage, Dr. Nutan Mundeja, DG, DGHS informed that each case is tested in the hospitals even for H1N1 virus on regular basis both by government or private hospitals. She further stated that every day data is monitored by the Health & Family Welfare Department, GNCTD. All hospitals are also testing patients with influenza like symptoms and reporting to the Government. Dr. V.K. Paul, Member, NITI Aayog asked whether sewage surveillance is being carried out or not. Secretary (H&FW) told that NCDC & DJB were doing it, however data has not been shared by NCDC. Dr. Paul further stated that NCDC should analyze data on Genome Sequencing for the last 3 months and find out what are the trends. Virological survey of Hospital based pneumonia cases may be analyzed. It was also emphasized that vaccination should be increased. It should be tried to reach at the level of at least 50% target for the booster / precaution dose.
25. As the Festival season is approaching, mass awareness programme may be carried out and vaccination may further be pushed. Hon'ble Chief Minister, Delhi agreed that the Delhi Government would continue the public awareness campaign on Covid Appropriate Behaviour. Wearing of mask would be emphasized and promoted in a persuasive mode. Dr. V.K. Paul, Member, NITI Aayog stated that wearing of mask in closed places especially inside rooms should be emphasized. He also reminded that masks are much more essential for elderly people and persons with co-morbidities in closed places. Dr. V.K. Paul, Member also asked about the data of genome sequencing of 3 months. Secretary, H&FW stated that he would share it in due course of time.
26. Dr. Rajendra Singh, Member, NDMA stated that Dr. Paul has largely covered all the points and he concurs with him.



27. Dr. Anil Kumar, Addl. Director General, DGHS, GoI representing NCDC suggested that a meeting may be convened by the NCDC regarding sharing of sewage surveillance data and to analyze the data on mortality. Dr. V.K. Paul, Member, NITI Aayog also suggested that the Covid/ field hospitals may not be dismantled simultaneously but sequentially.
28. Sh. Kailash Gahlot, Hon'ble Minister of Revenue, GNCT of Delhi thanked all the experts for their guidance and advice during the crucial period of pandemic. He informed that it is the first physical meeting of the DDMA in the last two years. The situation in Delhi is relatively comfortable now but at the same time it must be assured that Government of NCT of Delhi would take all necessary measures, whenever required.
29. Dr. Rajendra Singh, Member, NDMA suggested that wearing of masks be continued upto 15.11.2022 in view of the coming festivities.
30. Commissioner of Police desired a clarity and complete set of instructions on the enforcement of wearing of masks. He reminded that markets and ramlilas are all crowded places and it was essential to have clear cut instructions for the Police as to how the Covid Appropriate Behaviour is to be enforced.
31. Chief Secretary, Delhi intervened and suggested that a self discipline mode may be tried now as the public is well aware of its responsibilities and lot of awareness has also been carried out on Covid Appropriate Behaviour by the Government in the last two years. Hon'ble Minister of Revenue, GNCTD reiterated that there were practical difficulties in enforcing wearing of masks. He stressed the need to relax the wearing masks for the general public.
32. Sh. Kunal Satyarthi, Joint Secretary, NDMA observed that this is the first offline meeting of the DDMA. The Delhi Government has done a commendable job in the management of Covid-19 pandemic. However, he emphasized that awareness campaign be continued and adequate preparedness for the coming festival season may also be ensured. He also agreed that mandating wearing of masks may not be advisable in the present circumstances. He



however emphasized that some push is needed to increase the percentage of precaution dose among the eligible population.

33. Chief Secretary, Delhi drew the attention of the DDMA members and stated that CoWIN platform is an excellent application and should be used for universal immunization programme as well. Dr. V.K. Paul, Member, NITI Aayog informed that work is already going on in this direction.
34. Hon`ble Chief Minister, Delhi thanked Dr. V.K. Paul, Member, NITI Aayog for his expert opinions from time to time. He recalled that Dr. V.K. Paul, Member, NITI Aayog, inspite of being very busy and distinguished person for his advice throughout India, has guided the Delhi Government at every crucial stage of the pandemic and the GNCT of Delhi has acted on his advice. He referred to the observation of Dr. Paul where it has been emphasized that masks are still needed particularly in the covered places and hence sought his advice on the kind of messages and awareness campaign to be carried out for this purpose.
35. Based on the discussions in the meeting, Chief Secretary, Delhi summed up the deliberation as under:-
 - a) It was unanimously agreed that though wearing of masks was useful in maintaining Covid Appropriate Behavior yet it was agreed that the order of compulsory wearing of masks under the Epidemic Act may not be extended beyond 30.09.2022. Hence a Fine of Rs. 500/- for not wearing of masks in public places would also stand withdrawn after 30.09.2022.
 - b) It was agreed that the Land on which the 03 Covid Care Centres (CCC) have come up, i.e.Radha Saomi Satsang, Chattarpur; Sawan Kirpal, Burari; Sant Nirankari, Burari, may be handed back to the concerned organizations. It was also decided that the medical equipment and medical stores in these Covid Care Centres would be transferred to the hospitals where it was required. A proper inventory of such equipments and stores would be prepared.



- c) Engagement of contractual / outsourced manpower against sanctioned vacant posts in COVID hospitals is permitted up to 31st December, 2022 only in Covid Hospitals.
- d) 12 oxygen tankers may be operated by DTC on outsourcing basis. The 6000 oxygen cylinders should also be utilized on outsourcing basis.

36. Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Delhi thanked all the participants and observed that Delhi is on a right track. On vaccination front, he observed that Delhi can do a little better but emphasized that there should not be any lowering of the guard. He stated that in coming months when there will be multiple festivals there is a need for continued and strict vigil as well as timely response. This will be a critical period as people may ignore Covid Appropriate Behavior during Festivals. It is important to have adherence to Covid Appropriate Behavior and to create a mass awareness among the people to follow the same.

37. The Meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.


(Sushil Singh)

Special CEO (Disaster Management)

F.No. 1(579)/DDMA(HQ)/Meeting/Covid/2021-22/361

Date:- 04-10-2022

Copy to:-

1. Secretary to Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Delhi.
2. Additional Secretary to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, GNCTD.
3. Secretary to the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi.
4. Dr. V.K. Paul, Member, NITI Aayog, GoI.
5. Secretary to Hon'ble Minister of Health, GNCTD.
6. Secretary to Hon'ble Minister of Revenue, GNCTD.
7. OSD to Chief Secretary, GNCTD.
8. General Officer Commanding (HQ), Delhi Cantt. Area, Delhi.
9. Commissioner of Police, GNCT of Delhi.
10. Special Officer, Municipal Corporation of Delhi.
11. Pr. Secretary (Revenue), GNCTD
12. Director General -ICMR, Govt. of India.

13. Sh. Krishna Vatsa, Member NDMA.
14. Sh. Rajendra Singh, Member NDMA.
15. Director, AIIMS.
16. Secretary (Home), GNCTD
17. Secretary (H&FW), GNCTD
18. Secretary (Power), GNCTD
19. The Joint Secretary (Policy and Plan), NDMA, Ministry of Home Affairs, GOI
20. Director, NCDC.
21. Sr. System Analyst, Revenue Department, GNCTD for uploading the Minutes of Meeting on the DDMA website.


4/10/2022
(Sushil Singh)

Special CEO (Disaster Management)