

GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI

DELHI DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

F.No.1(579)/DDMA(HQ)/Meeting/COVID/2021-22/2351

Dated: 23/03/2021

**MINUTES OF THE 18TH MEETING OF DELHI DISASTER MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITY (DDMA) HELD THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCING ON 05.03.2021
UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF HON'BLE LT. GOVERNOR, DELHI**

1. The 18th meeting to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic situation in NCT of Delhi was held on March 5, 2021 through Video Conferencing under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Delhi.
2. At the outset, the Chairperson Hon'ble Lt Governor welcomed the participants. While appreciating the efforts made by all the stakeholders in the management of COVID-19 situation in Delhi, Hon'ble LG emphasised the need to continue to be vigilant without lowering guard to contain any possibility of resurgence of the infection. He advised that necessary COVID appropriate should continue to be observed and enforced strictly and a close watch should be kept on any possible signs or signals of increase in COVID 19 cases so that corrective measures can be timely taken to address the causes.
3. Thereafter, Pr. Secretary (H&FW), GNCTD made a presentation and apprised the participants about the COVID-19 situation in Delhi. The presentation outlined statistical review of COVID situation in Delhi in respect of recent trends of COVID cases, testing and vaccination status, de-escalation of hospital beds, Covid vaccine rollout status. A snap-shot of COVID-19 cases in Delhi vis-a-vis India was presented as under:-

| Summary | India | Delhi |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Total Cases | 11139516* | 639681 |
| Total recovered/discharged/migrated | 10812044* | 627227 |
| Total active Cases | 170126* | 1543 |
| Total number of deaths | 157346* | 10911 |
| Case Fatality Rate (in %) | 1.41%* | 1.71% |
| Recovery Rate (in %) | 97.06%* | 98.05% |
| Growth Rate | 0.14% | 0.03% |
| Total Tests Done | 218403277 *** | 12487056*** |
| Tests per million | 161540 | 657213 |

4. It was highlighted that the recovery rate of Delhi stands at 98.05%, which compares favourably to the national average of 97.06%. The tests per million for Delhi are nearly four times the National average at 6,57,213 and compare favorably to 1,61,540 at the National level.

5. The recent trend of daily cases and active cases since the last DDMA meeting on 22.02.2021 were also presented. It was explained that active cases have risen to 1543 which is 0.91% of the total active cases in India as on 2.3.2021. Daily testing levels in Delhi have been maintained around 65,000 tests with 66,624 tests on 02.03.2021. The percentage of RT-PCR tests till March 2nd, 2021 was over 64.61% of the total tests. The positivity rate for RT-PCR tests had seen a significant decline from 22.33% in November, 2020 to 3.71% in December, 2020, 0.69% in January, 2021 to 0.36% in February, 2021 though this percentage has slightly risen to 0.46 % on 02.03.2021. The total positivity rate has also been on a decline from 11.74% in November, 2020 to 2.15% in December, 2020, 0.44% in January, 2021 to 0.26% in February, 2021 0.34% in 02.03.2021. A total of 6,05,420 RT-PCR tests were conducted in the month of November, 2020, 12,02,697 in December, 2020, 11,78,700 in January, 10,59,768 in February and 87,518 till March 02nd, 2021. The net positivity rate has also fallen to 0.23% and daily deaths have also been in single digits.
6. Pr. Secretary (H&FW) also presented details of surveillance in respect of persons returning from the United Kingdom (U.K.) for the period 23rd February, 2021 to 3rd March, 2021. It was informed that as per protocol / guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India all 41,869 international UK passengers in 72 flights landed at Delhi were tested. Only 154 (all non-transit) positive cases were found (positivity = 0.38%) and all positive samples were sent to NCDC for Genome Sequencing. The information relating to 41,715 international passengers testing negative, who took connecting flights to other states, was shared with the concerned State Surveillance units and District Administration of the concerned States for rigorous follow up.
7. Thereafter, an overview of the status of the hospital beds capacity and de-escalation exercise was shared. It was informed that as on 03.03.2021, after de-escalation, a total bed capacity is 5711 and at present 5198 beds are vacant. Considering the comfortable level of vacant beds and the number of active cases, a further de-escalation can also be considered as per advice of experts.
8. On vaccination, Secretary (H&FW), GNCTD presented the picture. He informed the participants that in 04 supply cycles, a total of 14,52,980 vaccine doses have been received. The vaccination drive was launched on 16th January, 2021 at 81 sites in 81 hospitals as prescribed by the Government of India. After that vaccination sites were increased to 308 in 212 hospitals by the end of February 2021 and by the end of 1st week of March, these will further be scaled up to 401 sites in hospitals/facilities. Total consumption of vaccine was 661950 with a balance stock of 791,000. It was also informed that another 1.43 lakh doses of Covishield is expected by next week.
9. Secretary (H&FW) also informed that among the prioritized beneficiaries comprising a total of 3,37,415 persons, a total of 2,27,572 persons (67.45%) have been vaccinated as on 03.03.2021. It was also brought to the notice that only about 25% HCWs of AIIMS, Safdarjung, RML & LHMC have got vaccinated. Considering that these 04 premier hospitals account for nearly 18% of Delhi's cohort of HCWs, it has a direct impact on the overall percentage coverage of HCWs in Delhi.
10. Dr. V.K. Paul, Member, Niti Aayog, GoI, observed that COVID situation in NCT of Delhi so far has been very good but emphasized that sustained RT-PCR testing should continue. He further mentioned that strategy formulated in Delhi has been working well but a careful watch on the emerging situation must also

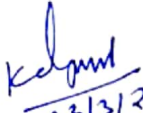
continue. He suggested that the possibility of sewage sample testing for virus tracking may also be considered. Wearing of masks and enforcement of IEC need to be scaled up and enforcement of COVID Appropriate Behaviour must also continue. Referring to the vaccination programme, he stated that it has progressed well in GNCT of Delhi. Dr. V.K. Paul, Member, Niti Aayog further emphasized that while increasing the vaccination coverage, it must be ensured that poor people are not left out and an outreach programme must be launched for inclusion of these sections of society.

11. Dr. Guleria, Director, AIIMS agreed with the observations made by Dr. V.K. Paul, Member, Niti Aayog. He stated that Delhi has so far done very well but caution must be maintained. He stressed the need for continued active surveillance and mapping and to ensure that no pockets are missed out. COVID Appropriate Behaviour and wearing of masks by all must be promoted.
12. Prof. Balram Bhargava, DG-ICMR, congratulated all concerned in Delhi Government for all the hard work and results were reflected in the presentation. He reiterated that focus should remain on RT-PCR testing. He suggested that vaccination of teachers on priority be considered.
13. Sh. Krishna Vatsa, Member, NDMA emphasized for sustained campaign on compulsory wearing of masks and for promotion of COVID Appropriate Behaviour. Aggressive vaccination programme should be continued.
14. Dr. Sujit Kumar Singh, Director NCDC also congratulated everyone involved in the management of Covid -19 situation and further observed that as far as number of cases are concerned, Delhi is in a comfortable position. He stressed the need for continued surveillance and tracking of active cases, RT-PCR testing and COVID appropriate behaviour should be the guiding force for keeping the situation under control. . He, however, cautioned about the situation in Akola & Amravati where cases increased from 100 to 1000 in no time. Referring to Sero prevalence of more than 50% in Delhi, he observed that this was not a surety as nearly one crore people are still perceptible to the virus.
15. Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Delhi observed that COVID situation in Delhi is being managed well.
16. The representative of GOC-in-C, Delhi Area informed that the directions and guidelines issued by the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) are being followed in the Army and in the Cantonment Area.
17. The Chief Secretary, Delhi recapitulated that immense work has been done under the guidance of the Experts group on all aspects of the COVID management. He assured that testing levels will be maintained at optimum levels, enforcement drive of Covid appropriate behavior in general and particularly at crowded places will be enhanced through deployment of teams and also by involving local public representatives. On the issue of vaccination among the poorer sections and especially of those who may be somewhat digitally handicapped, the Chief Secretary emphasized that the administration is fully committed to ensure vaccination of all sections of society. Special efforts such as outreach programmes including providing transport facilities in the areas will be made available.
18. Finally, Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Delhi appreciated the intense work done by all in containing and managing COVID 19 in Delhi . He especially acknowledged the valuable guidance provided by the experts at all stages . As advised by the

experts, Hon'ble LG emphasised that the existing strategy of cluster based surveillance, testing, genome sequencing and constant vigil should be maintained. Wearing masks and observing COVID Appropriate Behaviour should be strictly enforced by the DMs and Delhi Police especially in crowded areas , public functions and market places . Hon'ble Lt. Governor, further stressed that a close watch should also be kept on the COVID 19 situation in the States of Maharashtra and Kerala etc and the movement of people from these States to Delhi . Besides the above , Hon'ble LG advised that necessary steps should be taken to make vaccine coverage more inclusive and equitable by way of greater outreach and focused IEC campaign, with special emphasis on marginalised/ poor sections without access to digital platforms.

19. The members of Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) also resolved to ratify decisions / orders issued since the last meeting.

20. The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to the Chair.


23/3/21
(K.S. Meena, IAS)
Spl. CEO, DDMA

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Copy to:

1. Secretary to Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Delhi.
2. Addl. Secretary to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, GNCTD.
3. Dr. V.K. Paul, Member, NITI Aayog, Govt. of India.
4. Secretary to the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi.
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. Addl. Chief Secretary (Services)/ State Nodal Officer, GNCTD of Delhi.
9. ACS (UD) / Director, Local Bodies, Delhi Secretariat, Delhi.
10. Commissioner of Police, GNCT of Delhi.
11. Addl. Secretary (Policy and Plan), NDMA, MHA, Govt. of India.
12. General Officer Commanding (HQ), Delhi Cantt Area, Delhi.
13. Pr. Secretary (Home), GNCTD.
14. Pr. Secretary (H&FW), GNCTD.
15. Pr. Secretary (Revenue), GNCTD.
16. Prof. Balram Bhargava, DG-ICMR, Govt. of India.
17. Sh. Krishna Vatsa, Member, NDMA, Gol.
18. Sh. Kamal Kishore, Member, NDMA, Gol.
19. Dr. Randeep Guleria, Director, AIIMS.
20. Dr. P. Ravindran, Addl. DDG (DGHS) & Director EMR, MoHFW, Gol.
21. Dr. Sujit Kumar Singh, Director, NCDC.
22. Sr. System Analyst, Revenue Department, GNCTD for uploading the Minutes of Meeting on the DDMA website.