

GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI

DELHI DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

F.No.1(461)/DDMA(HQ)/miscellaneous/COVID-19/Part file/2020/2287 Dated: 16/2/2021

MINUTES OF THE 16TH MEETING OF DELHI DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (DDMA) HELD THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCING ON 01.02.2021 UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF HON'BLE LT. GOVERNOR, DELHI

1. The 16th meeting to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic situation in NCT of Delhi was held on February 1st, 2021 through Video Conferencing under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Delhi. The 15th meeting of DDMA had been held on 06.01.2021, in which the overall management of COVID-19 had been reviewed by DDMA.
2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the participants. He appreciated the efforts made by all, so far with respect to handling the COVID-19 situation and stressed that we should not let our guards down. The current level of efforts need to be sustained to contain any possibility of resurgence of the infection.
3. Thereafter, Secretary (H&FW), GNCTD made a presentation and apprised about the management of COVID-19 situation in Delhi. The presentation outlined the statistical review of COVID situation in Delhi in respect of recent trends of COVID cases, testing and vaccination roll-out programme, de-escalation of hospital beds. A status report on vaccination programme was also presented. The situation of COVID-19 cases in Delhi vis-a-vis India was presented. At present, the recovery rate of Delhi stands at 98.07%, which is more than the national average of 96.99%. The tests per million for Delhi is nearly five times the National average at 5,62,143 as compared to 1,45,405 at the National level.
4. The recent trend of daily cases and active cases since the last DDMA meeting on 06.01.2021 were also presented. It was explained that active cases have fallen below 1500 which was less than 1% of the total active cases in India. Daily testing levels in Delhi have been maintained at around 65,000 – 70,000 tests on an average. The percentage of RT-PCR tests have been over 50% of the total tests during the last 3 months with 57.23% in the month of January, 2021. The positivity rate for RT-PCR tests have also seen a significant decline from 22.33% in November, 2020 to 3.71% in December, 2020 and 0.72% in the month of January, 2021, which is a very reassuring trend. The total positivity rate has also been on a decline from 11.74% in November, 2020 to 2.15% in December, 2020 and 0.46% in January, 2021. A total of 6,05,420 RT-PCR tests were conducted in the month of November, 2020, 12,02,697 in December, 2020 and further 11,10,584 have been conducted till January 30th, 2021. The net positivity rate has fallen 0.23% and daily deaths have also been in single digits. In the last one week, daily deaths have fallen to less than 10. No death has taken place in Home isolation in January, 2021.
5. Secretary (H&FW) also presented details of surveillance of persons returning from United Kingdom (U.K.) for the period 8th January, 2021 to 30th January, 2021. It was stated that as per protocol / guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India all 5185 international UK passengers

in 34 flights landed at Delhi were tested. Only 26 positives were found (positivity = 0.43%) and all positive samples were sent to NCDC for Genome sequencing. 1165 passengers testing negative were sent to institutional quarantine. The information relating to 3994 international passengers testing negative who took connecting flights to other states was shared with the State Surveillance units and District Administration of the concerned States for vigorous follow up.

6. Thereafter, an overview of the status of the hospital beds capacity and de-escalation exercise was shared. It was informed that out of total COVID-19 bed capacity was 13389 on 23.06.2020 and at that time 7125 beds were vacant. On 18.09.2020 the bed capacity was increased to 14974 with 8018 beds vacant. As on 30.01.2021 total bed capacity is 8621 has been de-escalated and even then at present 7928 beds are vacant. Considering the vacancy of beds and the number of active cases, a further de-escalation can also be considered as per advice of experts.
7. On COVID-19 vaccine roll out issue, Secretary (H&FW), GNCTD informed that a consignment of 2,54,500 Covishield was received on 12.01.2021 and a further consignment of 20,000 Covaxin were received on 13.01.2021 in the supply cycle 1. The percentage of vaccine type 93% Covishield with 7% Covaxin. In the 2nd supply cycle a consignment of 2,88,500 Covishield was received on 20.01.2021 and consignment of 1,50,400 Covaxin was received on 23.01.2021. The percentage of Covishield 66% and Covaxin 24% in the supply cycle 2. The vaccination drive was launched on 16th January, 2021 at 81 sites in 81 hospitals as prescribed by the Government of India. Since then vaccination sites have been scaled up to 106 sites in 82 hospitals from 28th January, 2021 to 1st February, 2021. This will further be scaled up from 2nd February, 2021 onwards to 183 sites in 114 hospitals. It was also informed that vaccination drive will also be scaled up to 6 days a week now instead of 4 days a week. Vaccination drive of Front Line Workers (FLWs) will commence from 6th February, 2021 as preparatory work is required since scheduling modality of FLWs is different as compared to health care workers.
8. Secretary (H&FW) also informed that among the prioritized beneficiaries a total of 2.6 lacs unique records of health care workers, 3.38 lacs frontline workers have been prepared. Further, approximately 42.58 lacs persons of 50 years plus have also been identified from the electoral rolls of the last elections. It was also explained that on an average 54.48% beneficiaries per session were vaccinated on 16th January, 2021, which has increased to 82.77% on 30th January, 2021, which is quite encouraging. The day wise trend of AEFI cases reported from 52 on 16th January, 2021 to only 10 cases on 30th January, 2021, which is also quite satisfactory.
9. After the presentation, worthy Chief Secretary pointed out that positivity rate in Delhi has fallen below 1% and it was one of the lowest in the country. He further recalled that it was heartening to note that the number of active and new cases of COVID-19 have been declining steadily during last two months in NCT of Delhi and considering this, it has been decided that all the guidelines issued by Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India be made applicable mutatis mutandis in NCT of Delhi. He highlighted that in the past, not all activities were permitted in GNCT of Delhi. Even in the case of UK returnees, GNCT of Delhi had adopted a sterner approach and compulsory quarantine was ordered for all passengers coming from UK. Chief Secretary, Delhi dwelled upon the complete scenario of COVID situation before the DDMA members in this context. He stated that any

suggestion by the august members of the DDMA and experts would be welcomed and implemented.

10. Dr. V.K. Paul, Member, Niti Aayog, Gol, commended the superb work and well coordinated response to a very challenging situation which was developing during the 3rd peak of COVID-19. He wanted to know the results of recent Sero Survey carried out in NCT of Delhi. Chief Secretary, Delhi explained that Sero Survey data has been compiled and is in the final stage of its completion. This should come out in a day or two. The findings are around 50% of the population has been found with Covid antibodies. Dr. V.K. Paul, Member, Niti Aayog, stressed the need to continue testing around 2,000 persons per million and it should not fall below 1,000 per million population in any case. The focus should remain on RT-PCR testing. Dr. V.K. Paul, Member, Niti Aayog, explained that in the current situation, contact tracing can be streamlined and it should be made more strenuous to be effective. On every positive case, 20 contacts must be tracked and placed in quarantine. Contacts are key to contain the spread of COVID virus. Dr. V.K. Paul, Member, Niti Aayog, Gol suggested that instead of 14 days quarantine of persons arriving on international flights, he advised that after 7 days of quarantine, a RT-PCR test should be carried out and if the test is found negative, the condition of further 7 days of quarantine would not be required. This can be considered and it is scientifically valid. He further said that on de-escalation of hospital beds Delhi has set an example and is a model for others to follow. On vaccination, Dr. V.K. Paul, Member, Niti Aayog observed that progress was very good but he suggested that retired doctors and non-practicing old doctors and nurses are not included in data of health care workers. Effort should be made to bring them in the data of health care workers. He also mentioned that the vaccination drive would be very intense when we cover all persons of 50 years or more.
11. Dr. Guleria, Director, AIIMS agreed with the observations made by Dr. V.K. Paul, Member, Niti Aayog. He stated that it was good to find that the cases have come down sharply but he stressed the need for continued surveillance and ensure COVID appropriate behaviour by all. Considering the number of vacant beds in NCT of Delhi, further de-escalation of beds can be considered.
12. Prof. Balram Bhargava, DG-ICMR, stressed the continued RT-PCR testing. On Vaccination of health care workers, he pointed out that vaccination coverage of HCWs in some UTs was more than 80% and Delhi should also improve upon this overall percentage coverage.
13. Sh. Krishna Vatsa, Member, NDMA congratulated the officers and all health care workers for their efforts in containing the spread of COVID-19. He observed that COVID cases have declined substantially but it may have a long tail and 100 – 200 cases may continue for considerable period. Hence, more targeted intervention would be needed.
14. Dr. Sujit Kumar Singh, Director NCDC mentioned that a challenge remains though the cases in Delhi have declined. He further stated that over 70% of the cases are being reported from only two states i.e. Kerala and Maharashtra and in the rest of the country the cases are declining. He referred to the Brazilian virus strain which has been reported only in the last one month. This variant is going to be a challenge in the global scenario. He stressed the need for continued surveillance, RT-PCR testing and COVID appropriate behaviour

should be the guiding force in keeping the situation under control. Efforts should be made to open vaccination for general community as well.

15. Hon'ble Chief Minister, Delhi congratulated the entire team of officers lead by the Chief Secretary, Delhi, all doctors and health care workers for having tackled the COVID situation very successfully. He further hoped that this happy situation remains in Delhi.
16. Finally, Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Delhi complimented all the stakeholders for the continuous and sustained efforts put in by all the experts , officers , health care workers, frontline workers in the fight against COVID 19 in the past one year. Hon'ble LG further stressed the need for strict enforcement of COVID compliant behaviour beside sustaining current levels of RT-PCR testing, contact tracing and quarantine. He emphasised the need to scale up vaccination efforts to enhance coverage of all categories of prioritised beneficiaries and to undertake requisite IEC activities to elicit public support in the fight against COVID 19 .
17. The members of Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) also resolved to ratify decisions / orders issued since the last meeting.
18. The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to the chair.



(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.

