

**GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI
DELHI DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
REVENUE DEPARTMENT (HQ)
5, SHAM NATH MARG, DELHI-110054**

No.1(461)/DDMA(HQ)/miscellaneous/Covid-19/2020/ 2081

Dated: 04/12/2020

**MINUTES OF THE 13th MEETING OF DDMA HELD THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCING ON
25.11.2020 UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF HON'BLE LT. GOVERNOR, DELHI**

1. A meeting to discuss COVID-19 pandemic situation in NCT of Delhi was held on November 25, 2020 through Video Conferencing under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Lt. Governor. The 12th meeting of DDMA had been last held on 23.10.2020, 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 more efforts need to be put in place to tackle the recent surge. He emphasized on expeditious implementation of decisions taken during the meeting Chaired by Hon'ble Union Home Minister for effective containment of COVID-19 in Delhi.
3. Thereafter, Pr. Secretary (H&FW), GNCTD made a presentation and apprised about the situation/scenario as on date in Delhi. The presentation outlined the statistical review of COVID situation in Delhi in respect of recent trends of COVID cases, testing, surveillance and containment measures, hospital preparedness and COVID vaccine roll out preparedness. The situation of Delhi vis-à-vis India was presented. At present, the Recovery Rate of Delhi stands at 91.28% in comparison to the national figure of 93.72%. The tests per million for Delhi stands at 3,11,298 as compared to 99,735 at national level. The Case Fatality Rate (CFR) in respect of Delhi at 1.59% is now reaching close to the national figure of 1.46%.
4. The recent trend of daily cases and active cases for the period 15.10.2020 to 24.11.2020, testing status, testing statistics etc. were also presented. The peak of the third surge of COVID-19 was observed on 11.11.2020 when 8,593 positive cases on a day were recorded. Since then, there has been a discernible decline of cases in the last two weeks. The testing levels in Delhi have remained steady with nearly 60,000 daily tests on an average basis. Within this, the number of RT-PCR tests has seen a significant increase to 24602 tests on 23.11.2020 vis-à-vis 15661 tests on 15.10.2020. The number of contacts traced per active case has also gone up to 16.03 during the month of November, 2020. Significantly, the percentage of active

cases within containment zones has increased to 36.88%. It was also shared that special emphasis continues to be given to the home-isolation strategy and only four deaths in last 4 months, among home isolation cases, have taken place. Moreover, the number of deaths within 72 hours of hospitalization has also reduced from 57.37% to 33.2% in November which is slightly more as compared to October, 2020 when it was 26.5%. Further, it was informed that in pursuance of the revised testing strategy, it was informed that a total of 72,680 RT-PCR samples have been collected from super spreader areas like markets, religious places, restaurants, salons, beauty parlors etc. from 15.11.2020 to 23.11.2020 and there was increased focused on testing in containment zones in the market areas. In respect of ongoing household survey and surveillance in the 4456 containment zones / hot-spot areas, out of identified total population of 57,89,799, 57,30,998 persons have been covered and 11,116 symptomatic persons identified and cumulative 11,790 symptomatic tests have been carried out.

5. Thereafter, an overview of the status of the hospital beds capacity and the trend of hospital occupancy vis-à-vis active cases were also shared. It was informed that the total bed capacity has been increased from 14974 on 18.09.2020 to 18196 on 25.11.2020 with 8928 beds being vacant at present. Ambulance details also revealed a position of comfort presently. Given the projections by the experts of nearly 12000 daily cases as a possible worst case scenario in the last week of November, DDMA was informed about the preparations for tentative capacity escalation worked out by the H&FW Department. In this regard, the total requirement of hospital beds would be 20,604 beds, out of which 18,196 are currently available and a gap of 2408 beds needs to be bridged. The planned escalation includes 1558 additional beds in Delhi Govt. hospitals, 1092 additional beds in Central Government hospitals and 2241 additional beds in the private hospitals.
6. On COVID vaccine rollout preparedness issue, Pr. Secretary (H&FW), GNCTD informed that preparation of databases for Healthcare workers has been completed for Public Healthcare facilities / Registered Nursing Homes and is ongoing for smaller clinics. Preparation of databases of available vaccination sites and vaccinators has been completed. Assessment of Cold chain capacities has been completed which is adequate for the HCW phase. Requirements have been already communicated to GOI for additional equipment. For Coordination mechanism, State Steering Committee / State Task Force for Immunization / District Task Force for Immunization are in place.
7. After the presentation, worthy Chief Secretary requested the experts to provide their valuable guidance.
8. Dr. V.K. Paul appreciated the efforts made so far by the Delhi Government but enquired about the number of deaths in Home Isolation. Pr. Secretary (H&FW) informed that only 4 deaths have been reported since 1st September, 2020 in Home

Isolation. He further asked whether any preparations have been made about the Feluda tests. Dr. Ms. Mundeja, DGHS, Delhi Govt. informed that Feluda testing has not started as yet in GNCT of Delhi. Dr. Paul suggested that this should be examined as this was our own laboratory devised test kit. Dr. Paul observed that our health services are getting stretched and we have to find out avenues to enhance the capacity. He also stated that about 80% of the ICU beds have been exhausted which implies almost 100% occupancy in ICU. He therefore emphasized and urged to increase the ICU beds on a war footing so that the situation does not deteriorate further. He further referred to cluster of cases coming up in offices & expressed that SOPs need to be in place offices for stemming the tide of cases. Work on Feluda testing and bed dashboard should be expedited. Public messaging has to improve further and must reach to the vulnerable groups. He also emphasized need for greater restrictions so that Covid Appropriate Behaviour is enforced.

9. Dr. Guleria, Director, AIIMS referred to the 80% ICU beds occupancy in Delhi and stated that this was a cause of concern. He emphasized that we need to have a buffer of ICU Beds. He also referred to the turnaround time of cases and suggested review of discharge policy as stabilized patients can be shifted to wards. This de-escalation would help in having more ICU beds. He also emphasized that Home Isolation of persons with co-morbidity should be avoided and even their visits to smaller nursing homes / hospitals in the neighborhood should be discouraged as such nursing homes / hospitals lacked the necessary facilities to deal with emergency medical conditions of patients and these hospitals refer those critical patients to hospitals after considerable delay and after that nothing could be done by the big hospitals.
10. Prof. Bhargava, DG, ICMR complimented Delhi Government for increasing the number of RT-PCR tests in a very short time. He also appreciated that imposing the restriction of only 50 persons in marriage functions from 200 is a welcome and good step. Further, he mentioned that some Labs should function 24x7 and number of lab technicians must be increased. Efforts are being made by ICMR to make labs operable in three shifts. Mobile testing lab for RT-PCR tests facility have been launched by the ICMR and four more such labs are likely to be introduced which will further scale up RT-PCR testing in Delhi.
11. Dr. Sujit Kumar Singh, Director NCDC observed that there was progress in RT-PCR testing in Delhi but pointed out that RT-PCR test reports are received after 24 to 48 hours. During this period infected patient continues to move around. RAT tests allow us to remove the infected person immediately to isolation and therefore he suggested going for two samples. ICU care protocol should also be looked into.
12. Dr. P. Ravindran, Addl. DDG (DGHS) & Director EMR, MoHFW, GoI mentioned that in the winter, indoor pollution is higher and as such patients in Home Isolation need to be careful. He further observed that transmissions in Home Isolations are

increasing. In urban areas, wherever there are patients, with co-morbidities they should be shifted to the hospitals. Dr. P. Ravindran also pointed out that it was very cold in the Radha Swami Hospital and something should be done about this. He also mentioned that Spike in COVID-19 cases is expected in December-20 to February-21 due to high pollution and cold weather.

13. On the suggestion of double sampling, Dr. Ms. Mundeja, DG, DGHS, GNCT of Delhi mentioned that VTM has live virus and in the case of double sampling patients would have to wait and it can raise unnecessary issues. She also stated that on discharge policy, GNCT of Delhi is looking forward to the guidelines of Govt. of India and changes would be made as per directions of the Ministry.
14. Sh. Krishna Vatsa, Member NDMA advised that total number of tests should be increased and surveillance in the containment zones should also be enhanced. He further suggested that testings should be avoided within the hospitals and must be held outside the hospitals. He also stated that weekly markets should also be closed.
15. Sh. V.K. Mishra, General Officer Commanding (HQ), Delhi Cantt. Area mentioned that they are monitoring the situation in their areas and things are under control. He further suggested that the resources of the Army are deployed at Manesar and Narela for quarantine facility and requested release of the resources.
16. Commissioner of Police stated that after the hike in fine from Rs.500 to Rs.2000 more people are putting on masks and compliance is almost 100% in many areas. However, in some outlying areas, 5 to 10% people are still not complying. But overall prosecution has come down due to compliance and imposition of heavy fines. Physical distances are still not being observed in market areas but as compared to the festival days, gatherings are slightly less in the markets now.
17. Hon'ble Chief Minister observed that it was very heartening that all agencies are working in close coordination and as a result positivity rate has come down again to single digit. However, he mentioned that number of deaths are a cause of worry. Hon'ble CM advised that Death Audit format needs to be revisited and the system needs to be improved. He further thanked the experts for their valuable advice. And noted that the challenges remain but the Government would take all necessary measures as advised by the experts to ensure that the spread of COVID-19 remains under control in NCT of Delhi.
18. Finally, the Hon'ble Lt. Governor thanked all the experts and appreciated the efforts of the officers in managing the COVID-19 situation. He emphasized on scaling up of hospital infrastructure – both physical and human resources, particularly the ICU beds along with enhanced testing and provision of timely clinical assistance. Hon'ble LG laid special emphasis on extensive IEC through all modes of media to inform and persuade people to follow COVID appropriate behavior. Besides strict enforcement of preventive and protective measures Hon'ble LG also called upon Authorities to assist

people and provide masks wherever possible to the poor. Hon'ble LG called for continuous and coordinated action and regular monitoring with feedback from experts to effectively reduce positivity and mortality.

19. The members of Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) also resolved to ratify decisions / orders issued since the last meeting in view of the exigency.
20. The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to the chair.

K.S. Meena
4.12.2020

(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, Gol.
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, GNCT 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, Gol.
17. Sh. Krishna Vatsa, Member NDMA
18. Sh. Kamal Kishore, Member NDMA
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.

K.S. Meena
4/12/2020

(K.S. Meena, IAS)
Spl. CEO, DDMA