

**GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI**

**DELHI DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**

F.No.1(579)/DDMA(HQ)/Meeting/COVID/2021-22/353

Dated: 13/09/2021

**MINUTES OF THE 24<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF DELHI DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (DDMA) HELD THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCING ON 27.08.2021 (FRIDAY) AT 02:00 PM UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF HON'BLE LT. GOVERNOR, DELHI**

1. The 24<sup>th</sup> meeting of Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic situation in NCT of Delhi was held on August 27, 2021 through Video Conferencing under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Delhi.
2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed all the participants and asked the Chief Secretary, Delhi to start today's proceedings.
3. Thereafter, Secretary (H&FW), GNCTD made a presentation and apprised the participants about the current situation of COVID-19 pandemic in NCT of Delhi. The presentation outlined the statistical review of COVID-19 pandemic in Delhi in respect of current situation & trend analysis of COVID cases, testing and containment measures, health system preparedness, enforcement of COVID appropriate behaviour, vaccination in GNCTD, status of genome testing. A snap-shot of COVID-19 cases in Delhi vis-a-vis India was presented as under:-

Summary	India	Delhi
Total Cases	32558530	1437550
Total recovered/discharged/migrated	31788440	1412081
Total active Cases	333725	389
Total number of deaths	436365	25080
Case Fatality Rate (in %)	1.34	1.74
Recovery Rate (in %)	97.63	98.23
Avg. Growth Rate	0.104%	0.0033%



Total Tests Done	513129378	25281174
Tests per million	379533	1330588

4. It was stated that as far as testing in Delhi was concerned, it has been ahead of the National average. Daily cases have remained in double digits and active cases have also fallen sharply. Positivity ratio is less than 0.1%. The daily tests have remained high with around 70% RT-PCR. Monthly occupancy of bed capacity has ranged from 2% to 5% only. Deaths have largely been in single digit or in between Nil deaths have been reported on many days. There has been an increasing trend of enforcement of Covid Appropriate Behaviour. Police has also enhanced enforcement activity by initiating a large number of prosecutions under Section 188 of the IPC. Genome sequencing process has been started in ILBS hospital and LNJP hospital also. It was also stated that there was no shortage of Covid drugs and sufficient stock of drugs is available in Delhi. An IEC campaign is being worked out for educating the medical fraternity and public for judicious use of medicines.

5. Thereafter, an overview of the status of the hospital beds capacity was shared. It was informed that as against 25106 beds and 6867 ICU beds on 25.05.2021, Delhi has planned escalation to 37,000 beds, including 12000 ICU beds in preparation for the possible next wave.

6. At this stage, Addl. Chief Secretary (H&FW), GNCT of Delhi informed that Secretary (H&FW), Govt. of India vide his letter of 13.07.2021 has forwarded recommendations of the Empowered Group I on state wise preparedness necessary for any possible next surge of COVID-19. It has been recommended that Delhi should plan for around 33,145 beds, with 17,871 Isolation Care beds, 11,914 Oxygenated beds and 3,364 ICU beds as against bed capacity of 37,000 beds including 12,000 ICU beds planned by NCT of Delhi.

7. Secretary (H&FW), GNCTD gave an update on establishment of PSA plants in Delhi. It was informed that a total of 47 PSA plants with a capacity of 57.44 MT have already been commissioned. Another 18 PSA plants with capacity of 22.58 MT will be commissioned by 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2021, 6 PSA plants with capacity of 5.69 MT will be commissioned by 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2021, 7 PSA plants with capacity of 8.82 MT will be commissioned by 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2021 and 3 PSA plants with capacity of 5.67 MT by 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2021. He further gave an update about LMO storage tanks in which 5 tanks with a combined capacity of 271 MT have been installed and an order has been placed for 3 more storage tanks of 50 MT each and the same are likely to be received by 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2021. These 3 storage tanks will be installed at 3 different hospitals. Cryogenic bottling plants with capacity of 13.4 MT will be installed by 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2021 (sufficient for refilling 1400 cylinders per day).



8. On vaccination, Secretary (H&FW), GNCTD informed that more than 127.19 Lakh doses have been administered. 6.47 Lakh doses are in stock and on 26<sup>th</sup> of August, 2021. Government of India has made a total allocation of 21.86 Lakh doses for the month of August, 2021 and has further allocated 29.95 lakh doses for September, 2021.

9. After the presentation, Chief Secretary, Delhi informed that the Home Secretary, Govt. of India recently convened a meeting where prevailing situation of COVID in Kerala, Maharashtra and North-East States was discussed. He referred to the current situation in Delhi and observed that though situation was comfortable in Delhi but we need to exercise caution and follow protocols. He desired views of the Experts on what measures are needed for managing the epidemic. He further referred to the deliberations in the previous DDMA meeting held on 06.08.2021, when it was decided to set up a committee to discuss ways and means for opening of the schools in Delhi. A report of the Joint Committee of the Officers from Education and Health Departments, GNCT of Delhi regarding re-opening of schools in NCT of Delhi has also been circulated among all members of the DDMA and other invitees. He requested the Experts to share their views on current situation of COVID-19 pandemic and report of the Joint Committee on re-opening of schools.

10. Dr. V.K. Paul, Member, Niti Aayog observed :

(a) At present the situation is good and referred to the recommendations of the Empowered Group on preparedness for any possible next surge of COVID-19. He stated that these recommendations are based on 350 to 370 cases per million per day, whereas in the last surge Delhi had 1150 to 1200 cases per million per day. He suggested that for Delhi bed capacity should be planned accordingly.

(b) Referring to the present flu like situation in the city, he pointed out that symptoms of flu and Covid are almost similar and in this phase contact tracing and ILI / SARI Survey must be promoted. He also discussed about sewage sampling in NCT of Delhi.

(c) He mentioned that citizens must be prepared to celebrate the coming festivals in simple ways. A 3<sup>rd</sup> wave of Covid, most of the experts believe could be in October / November, 2021 which falls during the festival season. He emphasized that a narrative for celebrating festivals in a simple manner should be started, as festivals can easily reverse all our gains. Further, he emphasized that enforcement of Covid Appropriate Behaviour (CAB) must also continue.

(d) He mentioned that Kerala is, in all likelihood, following a mitigation strategy. He suggested that for Delhi, we should continue to follow a containment strategy.



11. Dr. Randeep Guleria, Director, AIIMS congratulated the NCT of Delhi for execution of the strategy on prevention and control of COVID-19 and observed that most of the points have already been covered. At present the daily cases are low and only very few beds are occupied and push for Covid Appropriate Behaviour must be continued. Referring to influenza cases in NCT of Delhi, he said symptoms of Covid and flu are similar and hence stressed to continue testing vigorously.

12. Prof. Balram Bhargava, DG, ICMR, observed that vaccination does not prevent disease. Hence use of masks by the community at large must be encouraged. Mass gatherings, by all means, must be discouraged. He suggested that if a gathering is to be permitted, prior vaccination should be enforced.

13. Dr. Sujit Kumar Singh, Director, NCDC congratulated the entire team of Officers / doctors of GNCT of Delhi for controlling the situation from 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 onwards in Delhi. Cases have been fewer than 100 for quite some time in Delhi and even three districts have reported zero cases. In six other districts, seven day cases are less than 20. He suggested that all these cases should be investigated. Referring to Shahdara district where the cases have risen from 21 to 82 in two week's period, he advised that this phenomenon may be investigated. On Delhi Metro, he observed that all doors are not opened and advised opening of all doors as this would need to lesser congestion. He also advised that all employees in the offices should be motivated to have vaccination.

14. Thereafter, Director of Education, Education Department, GNCTD made a presentation on the recommendation of Joint Committee of the Officers from Education and Health Departments, GNCT of Delhi regarding re-opening of schools. The Committee was constituted with following terms of reference:-

- i. Preparation of the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Parents, Students, Teachers / Other Staff of School and Heads of Schools.
- ii. To check the status of vaccination of Teachers and Other Staff of Schools and suggest measures to ensure 100% vaccination.
- iii. Suggest measures and procedures for Schools / Institutions to enforce SOP for an extended time frame.
- iv. Examine the possibility and suggest procedure for re-opening of schools in view of the fact that most of the school buildings are being used as Vaccination Centres and Ration Distribution Centres.





- v. To suggest on the academic activities in the school keeping in view the social, physical and emotional well-being of the students.
- vi. To suggest how to ensure that now schools activities are normalized and operationalized in view of the majority of the education staff and teachers being involved in the Covid Management.

15. Director, Education Department, GNCTD mentioned that based on the terms of reference, the Joint Committee of officers has recommended a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for re-opening of schools in NCT of Delhi which has been circulated among all DDMA members and other invitees for seeking further comments / advice. At this stage, the Chief Secretary, Delhi requested all the Experts to advise and give their valuable suggestions on the issue of re-opening of educational institutions in NCT of Delhi.

16. Prof. Balram Bhargava, DG, ICMR, stated that the SOP was well drafted but suggested to increase availability of liquid soaps at wash-basins. He advised that counseling on behaviour change should be part of the everyday curriculum. Random testing of staff and students should also be undertaken.

17. Sh. Krishna Vatsa, Member, NDMA also stated that SOP was well prepared. He suggested general IEC campaign at city level for parents and students. All parents should be informed through letters for following the SOP diligently. A school level committee of parents and school authorities may also be constituted for adhering to the SOP / guidelines on Covid Appropriate Behaviour.

18. Dr. V.K. Paul, Member, Niti Aayog, commended the SOP. He stressed that it was important to engage families of the children and staff through an IEC campaign. This will also help us if any surge happens. He suggested that alongwith senior classes, primary classes should also be considered for opening phase wise. He emphasized that if epidemiology changes than suitable measures would need to be taken quickly. Hence the situation in the area of each school needs to be continuously monitored.

19. Sh. Kamal Kishor, Member, NDMA also observed that SOP was good but suggested that it must be ensured that staff of school bus and vans are vaccinated. He also suggested that schools should use open areas for lunch as mask are removed at such times. Overcrowding in vans should be prevented. It may emphasized that special children with special needs would need to be catered too appropriately.



20. Dr. Randeep Guleria, Director, AIIMS stated that the SOP for re-opening of schools was also good and suggested mapping of school and link with epidemiological data. He advised that display of Do's and Don'ts prominently on Covid Appropriate Behaviour.
21. Dr. Sujit Kumar Singh, Director, NCDC also suggested that opening of primary schools should also be considered in a phase wise manner after due learning.
22. Hon'ble Dy. Chief Minister of Delhi suggested a staggered plan for opening of schools in NCT of Delhi. He said that alongwith 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> classes of schools, colleges / higher educational institutions should also be opened up with similar SOP.
23. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi stated that it was very satisfying to note that number of Covid cases have been very low for quite some time. Many states have already opened schools. He observed that economic activities have been opened and therefore, education system also need to be brought on track.
24. The Chief Secretary of Delhi recapitulated the views by the Expert group and summed up that there was general consensus on the need of opening of the schools and colleges in NCT of Delhi. He stated that opening of schools with classes 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> may be considered in the 1<sup>st</sup> stage and opening of other lower classes may be decided later. A feedback on opening of senior classes would also be available to take a more informed decision. On vaccination of teachers, Chief Secretary, Delhi recalled that due to long period of waiting between 1<sup>st</sup> dose and in the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose, 50% teachers have been fully vaccinated, although more than 95% of government school teachers have been vaccinated with at least one dose. He enquired whether teachers / staff with both doses of vaccination are to be allowed or vaccination with single dose will also be allowed. Dr. V.K. Paul, Member, Niti Aayog observed that one dose of vaccine, along with use of masks, should be enough but as far as possible only those with full two doses be preferred. The Chief Secretary, Delhi also stated that a state level dashboard will be setup to have consultation with parents on day to day basis. He further reiterated that focus will remain on surveillance, testing, tracking, treatment (TTT), ILI, SARI and genome sequencing.
25. After detailed deliberations in accordance with the advice of the experts Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Delhi emphasised on the need to maintain continued vigil, strict enforcement of COVID appropriate behaviour along with adherence to the strategy of Test, Track & Treat. The Health Department was advised to prioritize vaccination and take all necessary steps to ensure adequate availability of medical/ hospital infrastructure and oxygen in case of any increase in Covid cases. In the wake of the upcoming festival season it was suggested that citizens should be adequately sensitized about the need to strictly adhere to all covid protocols to prevent any resurgence of infection.






As regards opening of schools it was agreed to by all the members that in the first instance classes 9-12 may be opened subject to strict adherence of the SOPs prepared for the schools by the Education Department. Hon'ble Lt. Governor emphasized that adequate school preparedness, strict enforcement of SOPs and daily monitoring should be undertaken to avoid any instance of spread of infection in schools. Hon'ble Lt. Governor recalled that some COVID cases have been reported in the schools of other States and therefore abundant precaution at levels should be taken. Hon'ble LG called upon all stakeholders to maintain continued vigil and caution and to work in close coordination with each other for effective management of the possible challenges that may lie ahead.

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

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to the chair.

  
13.9.21  
(K S Meena, IAS)  
Spl. CEO (DDMA)


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Dated: 13/09/2021

**Copy to:-**

1. Secretary to Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Delhi.
2. 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 (Power), GNCTD.
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. ACS (Home), GNCTD/ State Nodal Officer, GNCTD.
14. ACS (H&FW), GNCTD.
15. Pr. Secretary (Revenue), GNCTD.
16. Prof. Balram Bhargava, DG-ICMR, Govt. of India.
17. Sh. Krishna Vatsa, Member, NDMA, GoI.
18. Sh. Kamal Kishore, Member, NDMA, GoI.
19. Dr. Randeep Guleria, Director, AIIMS.
20. Dr. Sujit Kumar Singh, Director, NCDC.
21. Sr. System Analyst, Revenue Department, GNCTD for uploading the Minutes of Meeting on the DDMA website.

  
13.9.21

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