

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-19/2020/1856-79 Dated:29 October, 2020

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DDMA HELD THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCING ON
23.10.2020 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 October 23, 2020 through Video Conferencing under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Lt. Governor. List of participants is enclosed. The meeting of DDMA had been last held on 06.10.2020, 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 so far by all stakeholders in handling the COVID-19 situation and stressed that continued all out efforts need to be made to contain positivity and mortality in close coordination with inputs from experts particularly in view of the ongoing festive season and approaching winter season.

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 recent trends captured and observations on the same. The situation of Delhi vis-à-vis India was presented. At present, the Recovery Rate of Delhi stands at 90.88% in comparison to the national figure of 89.53%. The tests per million for Delhi stands at 2,221,122 which is thrice the national figure. The Case Fatality Rate (CFR) in respect of Delhi at 1.79% too is now reaching close to the national figure of 1.51%.

4. The recent trend of daily cases and active cases for the period 06.10.2020 to 22.10.2020, testing status, testing statistics etc. were also presented. The peak of second surge of COVID-19 was observed on 16.09.2020 when 4473 positive cases were recorded. Since then, there was a discernible decline in the next four weeks. However, recently, the number of daily cases has again started inching up and from a low of 20535 active cases as on 12.10.2020, the same has arisen to 25237 cases as on 22.10.2020. The testing levels in Delhi have remained constant with nearly 60,000 daily tests on an average basis. Within this, the



number of RT-PCR tests has seen a significant increase to 16795 tests on 21.10.2020 vis-à-vis 9103 tests on 05.10.2020. The number of contacts traced per active case has also gone up to 13.1 during the month of October, 2020. Significantly, the percentage of active cases within containment zones has increased from 15-20% earlier to 35% now. It was also shared that special emphasis continues to be given to the home-isolation strategy and only four deaths in last 3.5 months among home isolation cases have taken place. Moreover, the number of deaths within 72 hours of hospitalization has also been reduced from 57.37% in June to 26.5% in October. Further, it was informed that in pursuance of the revised testing strategy recommended by the Expert Committee, saturation testing in workplaces has been carried out and a total of 5823 tests have been conducted in 51 workplaces.

5. Pr. Secretary (H&FW) also briefed about the comprehensive low cost multi-pronged IEC campaign that has been launched w.e.f 07.10.2020 and the efforts made so far. Continuous awareness is being spread through slots on FM Radio/TV and advertisement in the Print Media including Vernacular Media. Various innovative methods have also been deployed by the Districts to spread awareness about COVID appropriate behavior like bike rallies, cyclothons etc. Customized IEC campaigns for the rural and urban areas have been initiated. Special emphasis on IEC outreach at religious places is being made. The status of consultations with Ramleela and Durga Puja organizing committees was also shared. It was heartening to note that there has been a level of general restraint w.r.t celebration of festivities on a voluntary basis. An outline of the enforcement measures too was shared.

6. Thereafter, an overview of the status of the hospital beds and the trend of hospital occupancy vis-à-vis active cases was also shared. The oxygen capacity and consumption details were also shared and the position currently is comfortable. 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 15,713 are currently available and a gap of 4891 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. The anticipated enhancement of beds in the private hospitals would be subject to the outcome of pending litigation in the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi as well as on need basis. Pr. Secretary (H&FW) further apprised that the proposed escalation blueprint indicated by the Central Government hospitals would be shared with the Ministry of H&FW, Govt. of India with the request to ensure that the same is made available with complete readiness as it was done in the month of June too during the first surge which helped GNCTD to comfortably tackle the challenge. DDMA was also informed that Central Government has sanctioned PSA Oxygen Concentrator plants for 8 Delhi Govt. hospitals in the first phase, which shall be a big boost for the infrastructural set-up of oxygen facilities in Delhi.

7. After the presentation, worthy Chief Secretary requested the experts to provide their valuable guidance.



8. Dr. Paul commended the efforts made so far but added a word of caution. He suggested for enhancing the efforts for quarantining the contacts till the same are confirmed negative for COVID-19. He advised to further increase the number of contacts traced per positive case. He also recommended that in case of every positive case, it should be enquired whether he/she had recently engaged in any group activity and if so, intensive efforts to track all the members of that group activity must be made so as to test and quarantine each of them before they are confirmed negative. Finally, he advised for a stronger push to the IEC outreach by way of appeals from political leadership to dissuade any sort of community or group celebration of festivities.

9. Thereafter, Dr. Guleria too endorsed the views of Dr. Paul. He further advised for an intensive drive in marketplaces to check for violations of COVID-appropriate behavior. He also suggested to keep a close eye on the occupancy levels of ICU beds as well as number of deaths which still remain a cause of concern.

10. Next, Prof. Bhargava advised to maintain high levels of vigil due to the upcoming challenges of not just celebration of festivals but also the rising pollution levels, onset of marriage season as well as the expected return of substantial number of persons after the Bihar elections.

11. Sh. Kamal Kishore, Member, NDMA stated that the persons who test negative by RAT should be mandatorily advised to not become complacent and continue monitoring their health for any COVID-related symptoms for next few days.

12. Hon'ble CM thanked the experts for their valuable advice. He 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.

13. After this, the worthy Chief Secretary mentioned the agenda item of the Transport Department, GNCTD of allowing inter-state buses to enter in Delhi and operate from ISBTs. Hon'ble LG directed that the frequency of trips should be decided on a reciprocal basis vis-à-vis other states. Further detailed SOPs for operation of ISBTs along with necessary and adequate infrastructure for testing and quarantine facilities needs to be in place at ISBTs before starting operations. The concerned Authorities should ensure strict adherence of SOPs and all laid down protocols for management of COVID 19. The proposal was accordingly approved by DDMA

14. Hon'ble Minister of Transport, GNCTD also highlighted the need to revise the current norm of a ceiling of 20 persons to be seated in buses in GNCTD, in view of the consequent queuing at bus stops and increased commute time. Hon'ble LG advised that matter may be examined in light of the laid down norms of social distancing for COVID 19 management.




15. Thereafter, the worthy Chief Secretary summed up the deliberations and outcomes achieved so far. He apprised that in accordance with the directions of Hon'ble Prime Minister in his review, GNCTD has achieved an optimal number of daily RT-PCR testing while at the same time remaining sensitive to the stipulation laid down by experts that the turnaround time does not exceed 24 hours. He also informed that for the few cases where the results are being reported beyond the prescribed 24 hours, the Health Department is taking up the matter with the laboratories concerned so that such instances do not recur. Further, as directed by Hon'ble Prime Minister, the percentage of follow-up RT-PCR tests of symptomatic negative RAT cases has gone up from a meager 10-15% to more than 90%. He further assured that the recommendations of Dr. Paul w.r.t tracking of any group activity by positive cases as well as quarantining the contacts shall be ensured. He also mentioned that tremendous work has been done by the district administrations in conjunction with NCDC in the area of containment zones which has resulted in the percentage of cases from containment zones rising from 15-20% to almost 35%. Chief Secretary also stated that the intensive drive in marketplaces to check violations of COVID-appropriate behavior would be carried out. Lastly, he requested GOC (HQ), Delhi area to share data w.r.t contact tracing of their positive cases with the concerned district authorities.

16. Finally, Hon'ble Lt. Governor appreciated the efforts made so far by all departments in the fight against COVID-19. He cautioned that we cannot let our guard down as the threat is not over yet. He advised and emphasized on continuous and coordinated action to combat COVID 19 with regular monitoring and feedback from experts while undertaking extensive IEC activities to ensure COVID appropriate behavior by all. Hon'ble LG further suggested that a detailed review with experts of the COVID situation and strategy to be undertaken after 2 to 3 weeks to determine the way forward.

17. The members of Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) also resolved to ratify decisions / orders issued in view of exigency.


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


(Ravi Dhawan, IAS)
Spl. CEO, DDMA

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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)/Nodal Officer, GNCT of Delhi.
9. Director, Local Bodies, UD Department, Delhi Secretariat Delhi
10. Ms. Arti Ahuja, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GOI.
11. Commissioner of Police, GNCT of Delhi.
12. Addl. Secretary (Policy and Plan), NDMA, MHA, Govt. of India.
13. General Officer Commanding (HQ), Delhi Cantt. Area, Delhi
14. Pr. Secretary (Home), GNCTD.
15. Pr. Secretary (H&FW), GNCTD.
16. Pr. Secretary (Revenue), GNCTD.
17. Secretary-cum-Commissioner, Transport, GNCTD
18. Prof. Balram Bhargava, DG-ICMR, Gol.
19. Sh. Krishna Vatsa, Member NDMA
20. Sh. Kamal Kishore, Member NDMA
21. Dr. Randeep Guleria, Director, AIIMS
22. Dr. P. Ravindran, Addl. DDG (DGHS) & Director EMR, MoHFW, Gol
23. Dr. Sujit Kumar Singh, Director, NCDC.
24. Sh. K. S. Meena, Spl CEO (DDMA, HQ), GNCT of Delhi


Spl. CEO, DDMA