

GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI
DELHI DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

F.No.1(461)/DDMA(HQ)/Misc./COVID-19/Part file/2020/536

Dated: 31/12/2021

MINUTES OF THE 28th MEETING OF DELHI DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (DDMA) HELD THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCING ON 20.12.2021 (Monday) AT 11:30 AM UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF HON'BLE LT. GOVERNOR, DELHI

1. The 28th meeting of Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) chaired by Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Delhi to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic situation in NCT of Delhi was held on December 20, 2021 through Video Conferencing.
2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed all the participants and requested the Chief Secretary, Delhi to start the 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 Management of Covid-19 situation in Delhi in respect of Current situation & Trend Analysis of Covid Cases, Testing & Containment measures, Genome Sequencing, Health Systems Preparedness, Procurement of buffer stock of medicines, Bed escalation, Oxygen Preparedness, Enforcement of Covid Appropriate Behaviour, Vaccination and Way forward in GNCT of Delhi. A snap-shot of COVID-19 cases in Delhi vis-a-vis India was presented as under:-

Summary	India	Delhi
Total Cases	3,47,40,275	14,42,090
Total recovered/discharged/migrated	3,41,78,940	14,16,506
Total active Cases	83,913	484
Total number of deaths	4,77,422	25,100
Case Fatality Rate (in %)	1.37%	1.74%
Recovery Rate (in %)	98.38	98.23
Total Tests Done	66,41,09,365	3,19,42,026
Tests per million	4,91,205	16,81,159

4. It was stated that as far as testing in Delhi was concerned, it has consistently been ahead of the national average. A total of 16,16,429 tests per million of population have been carried out in Delhi compared to a national average of 4,72,077 tests per million population. However, in the last few days

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daily cases and active cases have increased to 86 & 484 respectively as on 18.12.2021 in GNCT of Delhi. Positivity ratio has also increased slightly and it has been in the range of 0.13% to 0.15% in the last few days. The daily tests of around 55000 remained high with an average of 87.97% being RT-PCR tests in the month of December, 2021, in a recent review meeting and in view of OMICRON cases, it has been advised to increase daily tests to over 70,000 tests per day. Monthly occupancy of bed capacity has been around 2% of total bed capacity. Only 2 deaths have been reported in the month of December, 2021.

Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department, GNCTD recalled that Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) has already been circulated and necessary orders as per levels of alert mentioned in the GRAP will come into force immediately. At present, the situation does not warrant issue of any orders as per GRAP as the present data on positivity rate, number of cases in the last 7 days and number of beds occupied in the last 7 days have been less than the level 1 of GRAP, is being closely watched.

5. On Genome Sequencing, Secretary (H&FW) informed that at 20, 02 and 13 samples have been detected with OMICRON variant at NCDC, ILBS and LNH respectively. The percentage of OMICRON cases have been found to be 11% of total Covid cases in the month of December, 2021.

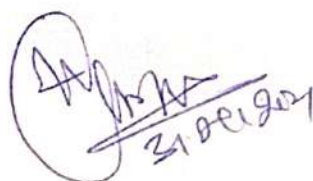
6. Thereafter, an overview of the status of the dedicated hospital Covid beds capacity as on 19.12.2021 was shared:-

Bed Capacity	19.12.2021		
	Total Capacity	Occupancy	Vacant
Dedicated Beds	8978	208 (2.32%)	8770 (97.68%)
Oxygenated Beds	8364	206 (2.46%)	8158 (97.54%)
ICU Beds	2788	60 (2.15%)	2728 (97.85%)
Ventilators	1378	12 (0.87%)	1366 (99.13%)

Secretary (H&FW), GNCTD also shared Covid beds escalation plan and informed that in case of need, 37,000 Covid beds would be available with 19,225 in Delhi Government hospitals, 3775 in Govt. of India hospitals and 14,000 in Private hospitals. Out of these 10,594 would be Covid ICU beds. Preparation for 2328 Covid Pediatrics beds and 903 Covid pediatrics ICU beds has also been put in place.

7. Secretary (H&FW), GNCTD informed that total 32 types medicines have been identified for treatment of Covid-19. Buffer stock for the use of hospitals of GNCTD is to be procured. One month buffer stock of most of the Covid-19 medicines are available. It was also informed that the Cabinet has also cleared the proposal for procurement of essential medicines which will further augment the buffer stock.

8. Secretary (H&FW), GNCTD presented an update on Medical Oxygen Infrastructure in Delhi. It was informed that a total 98 PSA Plants with total capacity of 130.7 MT are either installed or in the process of being commissioned. Total 83 PSA plants have already been commissioned. 15 PSA plants will be commissioned by 15th January, 2022. These 15 PSA plants are



essentially international donor plants and their equipments has to come from abroad. Commissioning of these plants have been delayed due to transport bottlenecks. It was informed that as on 18.12.2021 LMO storage tanks capacity of 790 MT have been installed with buffer reserve of 421 MT. Oxygen capacity of 217 MT cylinders (with Medical institutions) and Cylinders Reserve of 6000 (D type) has also been developed. Further, 2 cryogenic bottling plants with capacity of 12.5 MT will be commissioned this week with capacity to refill 1400 jumbo cylinders in 24 hours.

9. Secretary (H&FW), GNCTD informed that more than 2.48 crores of vaccine doses have been administered as on 18th December, 2021 in Delhi. 1st dose has been administered to 146.65 lakhs beneficiaries (98.9% of eligible population) and 2nd dose administered to 101.68 lakhs beneficiaries (69.3% of eligible population). Stock of vaccine as on 18th December, 2021, was 32.75 lakh doses.

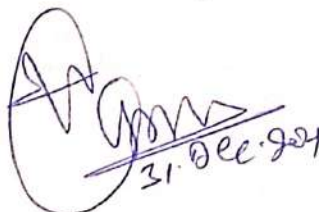
10. After the presentation, Chief Secretary, Delhi requested the views of experts.

11. Dr. Randeep Guleria, Director, AIIMS observed that surge of cases due to OMICRON variant has been noticed all over the Europe. However, these cases have mild symptoms with lesser severity of disease. He emphasized vigilance at community level and advised stricter enforcement of Covid Appropriate Behaviour. Enforcement activities should be raised in view of the forthcoming Christmas and New Year festivities. Dr. Randeep Guleria, Director, AIIMS reminded that hospitals are using beds for non-Covid cases and conversion of a non-Covid bed to a Covid bed takes time of 10-14 days. Therefore, while preparing the bed capacity this factor should be kept in mind. Dr. Randeep Guleria, Director, AIIMS further advised that all patients with mild and low symptoms should be tested.

12. Prof. Balram Bhargava, DG-ICMR, stated that OMICRON variant is very transmissible but does not cause severe disease. He observed that the general understanding was that children would also get infected. He advised preparation for elderly, wearing of N-95 masks and stressed the need to enforce Covid Appropriate Behaviour in the community. He reminded that treatment for the OMICRON variant remained same. However, if any, district or area reports surge in cases, Containment Zones should be immediately created. Motivation level of Health Care workers and enforcement staff should be kept at high level.

At this stage, the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Delhi mentioned that Delhi has already vaccinated 99% of eligible population with 1st dose of vaccination and nearly 70% with 2nd dose of vaccination. He also recalled that Sero Survey has shown Covid antibodies in 90% of the population. He wanted to know as to how much vaccine is effective against OMICRON and whether booster dose is required. Prof. Balram Bhargava, DG-ICMR stated that vaccines protect from severe disease and deaths but do not fully protect infections. On booster dose, he stated that Govt. of India is examining this issue.

13. Sh. Kamal Kishore, Member NDMA emphasized that public awareness may be continued with stricter compliance of Covid Appropriate Behaviour by the administration.



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14. Dr. Sujit Kumar Singh, Director, NCDC advised a close watch on the Covid situation. Proper surveillance of all positive cases should be kept by the Districts. He stated that one OMICRON case has been reported in District Shahdara, where the patient had no contact with any international traveller. He stressed the need to launch a proactive IEC campaign emphasizing that people should not rush to hospitals as the OMICRON infection has a very low severity. Home Isolation has worked quite well in Delhi and a clear policy in this regard should again be firmed up. He advised strict enforcement of Covid Appropriate Behaviour by the Administration with special random checking at gatherings.

15. Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi, GNCTD observed that in the last few days Covid cases have been rising and nearly 100 cases were reported yesterday. As per reports out of those only 11% are only OMICRON cases. He wanted to know as to what are the possible reasons for recent rise of Covid cases. He also asked whether oxygen demand was also likely to be similar to the April-May, 2021. Dr. Sujit Kumar Singh, Director, NCDC stated that OMICRON infections have been reported in only 13% cases with mild symptoms. In South-Africa, some rise in hospitalization cases has been seen but in UK, hospitalization has not increased. Out of 82,000 cases, hospitalization has been needed only in 1000 cases. He observed that the two variants are different in nature and various scenarios are still emerging but we have to be careful. He advised that all positive cases be genome sequenced. Dr. Randeep Guleria, Director, AIIMS recalled that the oxygen requirement increased rapidly during 2nd wave as we had more sick patients. Moreover, the quantity of oxygen given to the patients was more. Prof. Balram Bhargava, DG-ICMR said that rising Delta cases may not be serious as large part of population has been vaccinated with at least one dose. However, elderly population needs to be protected.

16. Chief Secretary, Delhi summed up the deliberations and expressed that the following actions would be taken:

- a) OMICRON cases have largely been reported among the persons who have come from international travel. Symptoms have been mild and hospitalization has not been necessitated. Patients can recover in home isolation. He advised Pr. Secretary (H&FW) and Divisional Commissioner, GNCTD to invigorate home isolation mechanism that was put in place as in the previous surge.
- b) To continue media campaign for public awareness. Public to be informed that they should get themselves tested even with mild symptoms.
- c) District Magistrates and Police to increase enforcement action for ensuring Covid Appropriate Behaviour. Random checking in market places and other crowded public places.
- d) Spl. Branch to come up with information where violation of Covid Appropriate Behaviour is rampant.
- e) Number of daily RT-PCR tests to be enhanced.
- f) Preparedness and special measures for flights coming from UAE. Most OMICRON cases reported from UAE travellers.

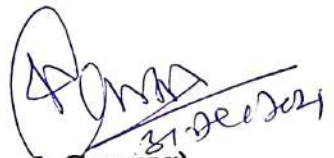


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17. After detailed discussions with the experts, it was decided to follow the strategy of test, track and treat with special emphasis on enforcement of Covid Appropriate Behaviour, close monitoring of home isolation cases, strict surveillance and IEC campaign to reiterate strict adherence of COVID protocols by all especially in wake of year and festivities. Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Delhi advised the Officials of Health Department to undertake vaccination in a mission mode and to ensure adequate availability of medicines, beds, oxygen & manpower to effectively manage any emerging situation. He also advised all stake holders to maintain extra vigil and to work in close coordination with each other to successfully overcome any possible challenge.

18. 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.


(Kuldeep Singh Gangar)
Spl. CEO (DDMA)

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Dated:

Copy to:-

1. Secretary to Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Delhi.
2. Secretary to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, GNCTD.
3. Secretary to the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi.
4. Dr. V.K. Paul, Member, NITI Aayog, GoI.
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. ACS (Power), GNCT of Delhi.
9. General Officer Commanding (HQ), Delhi Cantt. Area, Delhi.
10. Commissioner of Police, GNCT of Delhi.
11. The Addl. Secretary (Policy and Plan), NDMA, Ministry of Home Affairs, GOI.
12. ACS (UD) & Director, Local Bodies, UD Department, Delhi Secretariat, Delhi.
13. ACS (Home) / 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.
18. Sh. Kamal Kishore, Member NDMA.
19. Dr. Randeep Guleria, Director, AIIMS.
20. Dr. Sujit Kumar Singh, Director, NCDC.
21. Director, Education Department, GNCTD
21. SIO, NIC with the request to make necessary arrangement for Video Conferencing.


(Kuldeep Singh Gangar)
Spl. CEO (DDMA)