



THE ADMINISTRATION OF UNION TERRITORY OF LADAKH
Disaster Management Relief, Rehabilitation &
Reconstruction Department
(State Executive Committee, Ladakh Disaster Management Authority)

Tele/Fax: 01982-255567, 01982-255568; e-mail: ladakhdivcom@gmail.com

Subject: - COVID-19 Management - Guidelines/instructions -reg.

Order No: - 43-DM (UTL) of 2021,
Dated: - 31.01.2022.

In exercise of the powers conferred under section 24 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 and in compliance to the order of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) vide Order No.40-3/2020-DM-I (A) dated: 27.01.2022, the State Executive Committee, Ladakh Disaster Management Authority, for the effective control of COVID-19, hereby directs continuation of Order no. 38-DM (UTL) of 2021 dated: 30.12.2021, (copy enclosed) with the following modifications in para (i) and para (iii) of General instructions, till 28.02.2022 in the Union territory of Ladakh.

General Instructions

Para (i): All passengers arriving in Ladakh both by air and road are advised to get themselves tested for COVID-19, not earlier than 72 hours before their arrival in Ladakh from ICMR approved test laboratories. The tourists arriving in Ladakh both by air and road must have a negative RT-PCR report not older than 72 hours. Such person(s)/tourists who is/are without a valid COVID-19 test report of not older than 72 hours before their arrival will undergo mandatory COVID-19 RTPCR/RAT test as mandated by the administration; and shall be quarantined at quarantine center or place of stay, at his/her own expenses till the time they are declared Covid negative. However mandatory production of a negative RTPCR report not older than 72 hours before arrival into Ladakh may be exempted for such visitors who have been inoculated with both the doses of COVID-19 vaccine and 15 days have elapsed since the date of second dose, provided such visitor has no clinical symptoms of COVID-19. The District Administrations - Leh & Kargil, will put in place a reliable and verifiable system in consultation with the Health Department for the purpose.

Para (iii): All Labours arriving in Ladakh both by air and road are advised to come through contractor(s) or labour agencies with COVID-19 test report of 72 hours before their arrival in Ladakh from ICMR approved test laboratories. Such labourers who arrive in Ladakh, without any COVID-19 test report shall be turned back at the cost of contractors/mates at the point of entry.

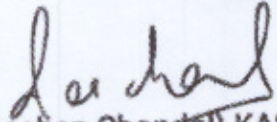
Sd/-
(Saugat Biswas), IAS
Member Secretary,
State Executive Committee,
Ladakh Disaster Management Authority.

No:-DMRRRR/UTL/SOP/COVID-19/2020/ 268-88

Dated: - 31.01.2022

Copy for information to the:-

1. Principal Secretary, Health & ME, Ladakh
2. Joint Secretary, Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh, Ministry of Home Affairs, GoI
3. Joint Secretary, Disaster Management, Ministry of Home Affairs, GoI
4. Additional DGP, Ladakh
5. Divisional Commissioner, Ladakh
6. Secretary Civil Aviation/Tourism/Information Department, Ladakh
7. Deputy Commissioner, Leh/Kargil
8. Sr. Superintendent of Police, Leh/Kargil
9. Director, Health & Medical Education, Ladakh
10. All Heads of the Departments, UT of Ladakh
11. Chief Medical Officer, Leh/Kargil
12. OSD with the Lieutenant Governor for information of the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor.
13. Pvt. Secretary to Advisor to the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor for information of the Advisor.
14. Pvt. Secretary to the Chairman/Chief Executive Councilor, LAHDC Leh/Kargil for information of the Hon'ble CECs.
15. Director, KBR Airport, Leh.
16. District Informatics Officer, (NIC), Leh for uploading on the UT Ladakh website.
17. Assistant Director Information, Leh/Kargil for necessary action.
18. President Hotel/Guest House owners Association, Leh/Kargil.
19. All heads of religious organizations of Leh/Kargil.
20. Order/Stock file. (w.2.s.c).


(Deachen Chondol) KAS,
Under Secretary,
Disaster Management,
Relief, Rehabilitation &
Reconstruction Department.



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Reconstruction Department.
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Subject: - COVID-19 Management - Guidelines/instructions -reg.

Order No: - 38-DM (UTL) of 2021,
Dated: - 30.12.2021

Whereas, the National Disaster Management Authority, (NDMA) vide Order No.40-3/2020-DM-I(A) dated: -27.12.2021 has directed all the States/UTs authorities to consider implementation of normative frameworks for COVID-19 for taking evidence-based containment measures at district/local level, as conveyed vide Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) DO No. Z.28015/318/21-EMR dated 21.12.2021

Now, therefore, under the directions of the aforesaid orders of NDMA, GoI and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 24 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, the State Executive Committee, Ladakh Disaster Management Authority hereby directs that compliance to the aforesaid MoHFW advisory dated 21.12.2021 (**Annexure – I**) be enforced in the Union Territory of Ladakh for effective control of COVID-19, **until 31.01.2022** with the following COVID-19 containment guidelines.

General instructions:

- (i) All passengers arriving in Ladakh both by air and road are advised to get themselves tested for COVID-19, not earlier than 96 hours before their arrival in Ladakh from ICMR approved test laboratories. **The Tourists arriving in Ladakh both by air and road must have a negative RT-PCR report not older than 96 hours.** Such person(s)/Tourists who is/are without a valid COVID-19 test report of not older than **96 hours** before their arrival will undergo mandatory COVID-19 RTPCR/RAT test as mandated by the administration; and shall be quarantined at quarantine center or place of stay, at his/her own expenses till the time they are declared Covid negative. However mandatory production of a negative RTPCR report not older than 96 hours before arrival into Ladakh may be exempted for such visitors who have been inoculated with both the doses of COVID-19 vaccine and 15 days have elapsed since the date of second dose, provided such visitor has no clinical symptoms of COVID-19. The District Administrations - Leh & Kargil, will put in place a reliable and verifiable system in consultation with the Health Department for the purpose.
- (ii) Notwithstanding the above {para (i) of General Instruction}, the District Magistrates may make RTPCR test/RAT for Covid-19 mandatory for visitors coming into Ladakh by road or air depending upon the necessity.

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- (iii) All Labours arriving in Ladakh both by air and road are advised to come through contractor(s) or labour agencies with COVID-19 test report of **96 hours** before their arrival in Ladakh from ICMR approved test laboratories. Such labourers who arrive in Ladakh, without any COVID-19 test report shall be turned back at the cost of contractors/mates at the point of entry.
- (iv) Incoming passenger(s) who is/are declared suspects in the Aarogya Setu app will mandatorily be home quarantined for 14 days. In case, they develop any symptoms, they shall inform the District Surveillance Officer of the respective district immediately. Such persons will be administered a COVID-19 test by the District Surveillance Officer and till such time their test report is declared negative, they will have to stay under home quarantine along-with other family members.
- (v) Any person(s) reported with severe COVID-19 symptom will be isolated by the District Administration along with their contacts irrespective of the mode of travel.
- (vi) Persons arriving in Ladakh on official duty or duty which entails visiting offices or coming in contact with large number of people, or tourists, must strictly follow COVID-19 precautionary measures such as hand sanitization, social distancing, wearing of face mask at all times during the course of their stay in Ladakh. In case, they develop any symptoms, they shall inform the District Surveillance Officer of the respective districts immediately. Such persons will be administered a COVID-19 test by the District Surveillance Officer and till such time their test report is declared negative, they will have to stay under mandatory quarantine.
- (vii) The personnel of Defense and Central Armed Police Forces returning to duty by road or special flights are exempted from the above provisions and shall be allowed to proceed to their respective Units/Formations for necessary quarantine as per their internal procedures.
- (viii) All offices and workplaces in the Union Territory shall be sanitized on daily basis and in accordance with the SOP of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare issued from time to time. Every Officer/Official/Employee will maintain sanitization facility outside their rooms and waiting areas, for each and every visitor and ensure compulsory wearing of face masks by each visitor. The office in-charge/head of the office will nominate an officer/official/employee by formal orders for ensuring that such hand sanitization and mask compliance by every visitor visiting their offices is ensured. Every office will ensure thermal temperature screening at the gate.
- (ix) All Hotels and other hospitality services will follow the SOP of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India issued from time to time. Hotel/Guest house that accept bookings for guests (irrespective of their mode of arrival) will maintain details of guests with entire travel history,

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ensure daily screening of all their guests and report any guest who is symptomatic to the District Surveillance Officer. Daily reports of screening will be submitted to the District Surveillance Officer by every Hotel/Guest house of both the Districts in a devised format to be circulated by the respective District Magistrates.

- (x) The owners of Hotels/Guest houses/Home stays must also ensure social distancing, availability of hand sanitizer at their lobbies, restaurants, lawns and business centers and ensure frequent sanitization of common areas and spaces. The District Administration of the respective Districts shall get these facilities inspected periodically.
- (xi) All shops, restaurants (including in hotels) including barber-shops, saloons and beauty parlors, will follow the SOPs of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India issued from time to time. The District Magistrates will ensure regular inspections of shops/barbershops/restaurants/kitchens of restaurants etc.
- (xii) There shall be regulated parking on roads of bazaars, market areas by the respective District Administration to prevent congestion and ensure social distancing.
- (xiii) Schools/educational institutes shall mandatory follow the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), regarding health and safety precautions issued by School Education Department/Higher Education Department from time to time.
- (xiv) Swimming pools being used for training of sportspersons shall mandatory follow Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), regarding health and safety precautions issued by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, GoI.
- (xv) Cinemas/theatres/multiplexes shall mandatory follow the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), regarding health and safety precautions as per SOP issued by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, GoI.
- (xvi) Entertainment parks and similar places shall mandatory follow the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), regarding health and safety precautions issued by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), GoI.
- (xvii) Business to Business (B2B) Exhibitions shall mandatory follow the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), regarding health and safety as per SOP issued by the Department of Commerce, GoI.
- (xviii) Religious places/places of worship will follow the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) as per the precaution issued by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW).
- (xix) Social/ religious/ academic/ entertainment/ educational/ cultural/sports/ religious gathering/political functions and other congregations will be

permitted outside the containment zones up to a ceiling of 25 persons only or 50% of the hall capacity, whichever is less in case of indoor spaces and such gathering will be permitted up to a ceiling of 50 persons or 50% of the capacity of the space with social distancing, whichever is less in case of open space, only with the prior permission of the respective District Magistrates. Wearing of face masks, maintaining social distancing, provision of thermal scanning and use of hand wash or sanitizer will be mandatory. However as a matter of abundant caution, no mass gatherings should be allowed in areas identified as containment zones and in districts reporting **more than 5% of case positivity**. Gatherings with advance permission and limited people (as per local context) may be allowed only in districts reporting a **positivity rate of 5% or below**. These gatherings shall also be monitored and in case of violation of physical distancing and mask usage norms, necessary enforcement and penal actions should be taken.

- (xx) Marriages (attended by up to 50 persons) and funerals/last rites (attended by up to 20 persons) may be allowed outside the containment zone with the prior permission of the respective District Magistrates. Public transport (buses, taxis or any other authorized vehicle of public transport) will ply with a maximum of only 50% of its capacity as and when they are allowed to ply by respective DDMA, Leh and Kargil.
- (xxi) The District Magistrates based on their assessment of the situation in their respective districts may impose night curfew, weekend curfew and other restrictions with a view to contain the spread of COVID-19.
- (xxii) The District Magistrates shall take all necessary measures to promote COVID-19 appropriate behavior within their respective Districts and shall also ensure strict enforcement of wearing of face masks, hand hygiene and social distancing norms. They shall also take necessary steps to regulate crowds in markets, public transport and various gatherings as per SOPs issued by MoHFW, GoI.

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2. Guiding Principles

- i. Monitoring of cases by District Magistrates in their respective districts be done on a regular basis. Necessary action for containment and health infrastructure up-gradation be done, by further micro analysis based on cluster of cases at the district level.
- ii. Case positivity calculated based on total positive cases vis-à-vis samples tested during the week, to be considered as one of the prime indicators of spread of infection in the district. District level containment measures and restrictions shall be put in place, if the **test positivity is 10% or more in the last one week OR if the bed occupancy is 40% or more on oxygen supported or ICU beds.**

- iii. The districts need to analyze bed occupancy oxygen and ICU beds vis-a-vis availability of health infrastructure to ensure that it doesn't get overwhelmed. It is important to emphasize on up-gradation of health infrastructure and district shall plan such upgrades after having duly analyzed the case trajectory on a regular basis.
- iv. Restriction and relaxation shall be imposed and monitored based on weekly case positivity or a high bed occupancy (Oxygen and ICU beds) and restrictions if any shall be imposed without delay and for a minimum to 14 days besides continued focus on the **fivefold strategy** of **Test-Track-Treat-Vaccinate** and **adherence to Covid Appropriate Behavior**.
- v. Any laxity in implementation of Covid Appropriate Behavior could lead to serious consequences and can result in a surge in cases. It is important that the districts shall diligently follow the **five pillars of Covid -19 Management** i.e "**Test-Track- Treat- Vaccinate and adherence to Covid Appropriate Behavior.**"

➤ **Test**

- a) To ensure availability of sufficient testing facilities across the UT with particular focus on rural areas. For timely detection, Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) shall be made available in rural and remote areas. Testing should be ramped up in areas reporting high number of cases, and/or increasing trend/high positivity to aid early identification.
- b) To ensure sufficient RT-PCR machines and RAT kits to enable required level of testing across the two districts particularly during the whole festival season and adequate logistics planning accordingly.
- c) Undertake testing in areas with specific and vulnerable population to aid early detection.

➤ **Track**

- d) Containment Zones shall be clearly delineated as per the guidelines issued by MoHFW based on cluster to contain spread of infection.
- e) Active case search through formation of special team in containment zones.
- f) Effective contact tracing, their testing and monitoring of high risk contacts.

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➤ **Treat**

- g) Upgradation of health infrastructure based on case trajectory in the district is crucial to avoid case fatality.
- h) Availability of oxygen through oxygen cylinders and concentrators particularly in rural areas.
- i) Adequate availability of drugs in all Covid dedicated facilities including maintaining buffer stock of drugs.
- j) Availability of required health infrastructure in rural as per the SOP on Covid-19 Containment & Management in Rural, Peri-Urban & Tribal Areas dated 12 June, 2021.
- k) Similarly, upgrading health infrastructure to manage pediatric Covid-19 cases vide Guidelines for Management of Covid 19 in Children.
- l) Undertaking upskilling/reskilling of medical staff and fields functionaries on latest Clinical Management Protocol and availability of sufficient trained manpower in all Covid dedicated facilities.
- m) To monitor mutations, the Health Department shall send required number of samples as per the SOPs already issued for Whole Genome Sequencing to INSACoG Labs.

➤ **COVID Appropriate Behavior:**

- n) Community engagement is a critical element of sustained Covid 19 management.
- o) Effective IEC in local language duly utilizing medical professionals and local influencers to promote Covid safe festivities.
- p) Need to undertake effective communication with community on elements of Covid appropriate behavior which includes use of masks/face covers, following physical distancing (2 gaj ki doori) and practicing respiratory & hand hygiene.
- q) Need for monitoring the adherence to Covid Appropriate Behavior and guidelines.
- r) The **National Directives for Covid 19 Management** as specified in **Annexure II**, shall be strictly followed throughout UT Ladakh.

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- vi. Some of the strategic areas of intervention focusing on **containment, test, track, surveillance, clinical management, vaccination and Covid Appropriate Behavior** to be taken up are as follows:

➤ **Containment**

- s) Imposition of night curfew, strict regulation of large gatherings, curtailing numbers in marriages and funeral, restricting numbers in offices, industries, public transport etc. In cases of all new clusters of Covid positive cases, prompt notification of "Containment Zones", "Buffer Zones" should be done, strict perimeter control of containment zone as per the extant guidelines must be ensured. All cluster samples must be sent to INSACOG Labs for Genome Sequencing without delay.

➤ **Testing and surveillance**

- t) Testing as per ICMR & MoHFW guidelines, door to door case search, testing of all SAR/ILI and vulnerable/co-morbid people, ensuring right proportion of RT-PCR test in total tests being conducted daily, contact tracing of all covid positive persons & their timely testing, utilizing the access to "AIR SUVIDHA" Portal by District Surveillance officers to monitor the international passengers who has arrived in the districts

➤ **Clinical Management:**

- u) Ensure stringent enforcement of home isolation as per the extant guidelines: customized kit for person undergoing home isolation, their regular monitoring through call centers as well as home visits etc. This will be very critical activity in days to come specially to ensure that persons under home isolation don't spread the virus to others in view of its higher transmissibility.

➤ **Community engagement and Covid Appropriate Behavior:**

- v) Ensure advance engagement and information so that there is no misinformation or panic. Transparent communication on hospital and testing infrastructure availability, regular press briefings etc. Participation of community backed by strict enforcement is necessary for ensuring covid appropriate behavior.

➤ **Vaccination:**

- w) UT-wide vaccination of eligible age groups may be accelerated
- x) Coverage of eligible second dose beneficiaries shall be prioritized.
- y) Optimal usage of allocated doses through minimal wastage.
- z) Ensure 100% coverage of left out first and second dose eligible beneficiaries in an accelerated manner.

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3. **Strict Adherence to the prescribed SOPs:**

- i. All activities have been permitted outside Containment Zones and SOPs have been prescribed for various activities. These include: movement by passenger trains; air travel; metro trains; schools; higher educational institutions; hotels and restaurants; shopping malls, multiplexes and entertainment parks; yoga centers and gymnasiums; exhibitions, assemblies and congregations, etc.
- ii. The SOPs, as updated from time to time, shall be strictly enforced by the authorities concerned, who shall be responsible for their strict observance.

4. **Local Restrictions:**

- i. The District Magistrates, based on their assessment of the situation, may impose local restrictions at district/ sub-district and city/ ward level, with a view to containing the spread of COVID- 19 by ensuring compliance on the focused containment measures as mentioned in MoHFW advisory vide DO no: Z.28015/318/21-EMR dated 21.12.2021. (**Annexure I**)
- ii. There shall be no restriction on inter-State and intra-State movement of persons and goods including those for cross land-border trade under treaties with neighbouring countries. No separate permission/ approval/ e-permit will be required for such movements.

5. **Protection of vulnerable persons:**

- i. Persons above 65 years of age, persons with co-morbidities, pregnant women, and children below the age of 10 years are advised to take necessary precautions.

6. **Use of Aarogya Setu:**

- i. Use of Aarogya Setu may continue on best effort basis on compatible mobile phones. This will facilitate timely provision of medical attention to those individuals who are at risk.

7. **Strict enforcement of the guidelines:**

- i. The District Magistrates shall strictly enforce the above guidelines/ measures.
- ii. For the enforcement of social distancing, the District Magistrates may, as far as possible, use the provision of section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code. (Cr.PC) of 1973.

8. **Penal provisions:**

- i. Any person violating the above guidelines/measures will be liable to be proceeded against as per the provision of section 51-60 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, besides, legal action under Section 188 of IPC and other legal provisions as applicable.

9. **Rigorous Surveillance of International Passengers:**

- i. Considering the emergence of highly mutant Covid-19 variant i.e B.1.1.529, named Omicron cases in few countries of Africa. It is essential that rigorous surveillance of international arrivals from countries designated as '**At Risk**' is done. Past travel details of passengers coming through international flights should be reviewed and the protocol provided by the MoHFW shall be strictly ensured including testing on disembarkation of international travelers coming from '**At Risk**' countries and to send all positive samples for genome sequencing for INSACOG Labs in a prompt manner.

10. **Enhanced Testing:**

- i. Strengthening of testing infrastructure and strictly implement the testing guidelines.

11. **Monitoring of Hotspots:**

- i. Continued monitoring of Hotspots with intensive testing and sending of positive samples quickly to genome sequencing to designated INSACOG labs.

12. **Ensuring prompt dispatch of samples for Genome Sequencing:**

- i. Contact of international travelers must be closely tracked and tested as per MoHFW guidelines and the sample resulting positive are to be sent to designated INSACOG Genome Sequencing Laboratories (IGSLs), as per the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) Guidance Document.

13. **Regular Press Briefing for promoting Covid Appropriate Behavior & Vaccination:**

- i. To regularly address the concerns of community through press briefings, so that the community is well informed regarding the measures undertaken and advised to follow measures like Covid Appropriate Behavior & getting vaccination.

Sd/-
(Saugat Biswas), IAS

Member Secretary,
State Executive Committee,
Ladakh Disaster Management Authority.

No:-DMRRR/UTL/SOP/COVID-19/2021/ 9095-9117

Dated: - 30 .12.2021

Copy for information to the:-

1. Principal Secretary, Health & ME/Revenue Department, Ladakh.
2. Joint Secretary, Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh, Ministry of Home Affairs, GoI.
3. Joint Secretary, Disaster Management, Ministry of Home Affairs, GoI.
4. Additional Director General of Police, Ladakh.
5. Commissioner/Secretary, GAD/R&B/H&UD/School Education Department Ladakh.
6. Divisional Commissioner, Ladakh.
7. Administrative Secretary, PDD/YS&S Department, Ladakh.
8. Secretary, Information/Higher Education/Social Welfare Department, Ladakh.
9. Secretary, Tourism/Labour & Employment Department, Ladakh.
10. Deputy Commissioner, Leh/Kargil.
11. Sr. Superintendent of Police, Leh/Kargil.
12. Director, Health & Medical Education, Ladakh.
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23. Order/Stock file. (w.2.s.c).

Deachen S
30.12.21
Deachen Chondol
Under Secretary
DMRRR, Ladakh.



राजेश भूषण, आईएएस
सचिव

RAJESH BHUSHAN, IAS
SECRETARY



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Annexure-I

भारत सरकार
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय
Government of India
Department of Health and Family Welfare
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

D.O.No.Z.28015/318/21-EMR
21 December, 2021

Dear Colleague,

This is regarding the measures that need to be taken in view of initial signs of surge in cases of Covid-19 as well as increased detection of the Variant of Concern (VoC), 'Omicron' in different parts of the country.

2. In this context kindly recall this Ministry's earlier guidance shared with States/UTs on multiple occasions regarding the recommended strategies for containment and restrictions, keeping the District as a unit.

3. At the **district level** there should be constant review of emerging data regarding the population affected by COVID-19, geographical spread, hospital infrastructure and its utilization, manpower, notifying Containment Zones, enforcement of perimeter of containment zones etc. This evidence should be the basis for effective decision making at the district level itself. Such a strategy ensures that infection is contained at the local level itself before it spreads to other parts of the state.

4. The main elements of the framework to be used by States and UTs to facilitate decision making at the District Level are as follows:

- i) Test positivity of 10% or more in the last one week
OR
- ii) Bed occupancy of 40% or more on oxygen supported or ICU beds

In case any one of these parameters are met in any District, district level containment measures and restrictions may be put in place forthwith. Equally important, the restrictions must be strictly enforced.

5. Based on current scientific evidence, the VOC Omicron is at least 3 times more transmissible than the Delta VOC. Besides, the Delta VOC is still present in different parts of the country. Hence, even greater foresight, data analysis, dynamic decision making and strict & prompt containment action is required at the local and district level. The decision making at the State/UT and district level must be very prompt and focussed.

6. The template above provides a normative framework. However, based on the **local situation** and population characteristics such as density etc., and keeping in mind the higher transmissibility of Omicron, States/UTs can take containment measures and restrictions **even before these thresholds** are reached.

7. Some of the **strategic areas of intervention** focusing on containment, test, track, surveillance, clinical management, vaccination and Covid Appropriate Behaviour to be taken up are as follows:

A -**Containment**: imposition of night curfew, strict regulation of large gatherings, curtailing numbers in marriages and funerals, restricting numbers in offices, industries, public transport etc. In case of all new clusters of Covid positive cases, prompt notification of "Containment Zones", "Buffer Zones" should be done, strict perimeter control of Containment Zone as per extant guidelines must be ensured. All cluster samples must be sent to INSACOG Labs for Genome Sequencing without delay.

B- **Testing and surveillance**: testing as per ICMR and MoHFW guidelines, door to door case search, testing of all SARI/ILI and vulnerable/co-morbid people, ensuring right proportion of RT-PCR tests in total tests being conducted daily, contact tracing of all Covid positive persons & their timely testing, utilizing the access to "AIR SUVIDHA" Portal by State Surveillance Officers (SSOs) & District Surveillance Officers (DSOs) to monitor the international passengers who have arrived in their States & Districts etc.

C- **Clinical Management**: increase bed capacity, other logistics like ambulances, mechanism for seamless shifting of patients, availability and operational readiness of oxygen equipments, buffer stock of drugs to be ensured by prompt utilization of Emergency Covid Response Package (ECRP-II) funds released by Central Government & other available resources etc. The existing National Clinical Management Protocol remains unchanged for Omicron.

Ensure stringent enforcement of home isolation as per extant guidelines. This would include among others: customized kit for persons undergoing home isolation, their regular monitoring through call centers as well as home visits etc. This will be a very critical activity in the days to come specially to ensure that persons under home isolation do not spread the virus to others in view of its higher transmissibility.

D- **Vaccination**: ensure 100% coverage of left out first and second dose eligible beneficiaries in an accelerated manner. Special focus to be given to those districts where the first & second dose coverage is less than the national average. The door-to-door vaccination campaign need to be strengthened.

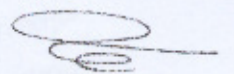
E- **Community engagement and Covid Appropriate Behaviour**: Ensure advance engagement and information so that there is no misinformation or panic, transparent communication on hospital and testing infrastructure availability, regular press briefings etc. Participation of community backed by strict enforcement is necessary for ensuring Covid Appropriate Behaviour.

8. Kindly activate the War rooms/EOCs and keep analyzing all trends and surges, no matter how small and keep taking proactive action at the district/local level.

Regular reviews with field officers and proactive action in this regard will definitely control the spread of infection and flatten the curve.

Warm Regards.

Yours sincerely



(Rajesh Bhushan)

Chief Secretary/Administrator of all States / UTs

NATIONAL DIRECTIVES FOR COVID-19 MANAGEMENT

1. **Face covering:** Wearing of face cover is compulsory in public places; in workplaces; and during transport.
2. **Social distancing:** Individuals must maintain a minimum distance of 6 feet (2 gaz ki doori) in public places.

Shops will ensure physical distancing among customers.

3. **Spitting in public places** will be punishable with fine, as may be prescribed by the State/ UT local authority in accordance with its laws, rules or regulations.

Additional directives for Work Places

4. **Work from home (WfH):** As far as possible the practice of WfH should be followed.
 5. **Staggering of work/ business hours** will be followed in offices, work places, shops, markets and industrial & commercial establishments.
 6. **Screening & hygiene:** Provision for thermal scanning, hand wash or sanitizer will be made at all entry points and of hand wash or sanitizer at exit points and common areas.
 7. **Frequent sanitization** of entire workplace, common facilities and all points which come into human contact e.g. door handles etc., will be ensured, including between shifts.
 8. **Social distancing:** All persons in charge of work places will ensure adequate distance between workers and other staff.
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