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AJAY BHALLA, IAS



गृह सचिव
Home Secretary
भारत सरकार
Government of India
नॉर्थ ब्लॉक/North Block
नई दिल्ली/New Delhi

D.O. No. 40-3/2020-DM-I (A)

28th August, 2021

Dear Administrator,

Kindly refer to the MHA Order of even number issued today, vide which MHA Order dated 29.06.2021 issued for the implementation of targeted and prompt actions for COVID-19 management has been extended upto 30th September, 2021.

2. The overall pandemic situation at the national level now appears to be largely stable, except for the localised spread of virus in few States. Moreover, the total number of active cases and high case positivity in some districts continues to remain a matter of concern.

3. The State Governments/UT Administrations concerned, having high positivity in their districts, should take pro-active containment measures so as to effectively arrest the spike in cases and to contain the spread of transmission. It is important to identify warning signs of potential surges early on and to take appropriate measures to curb the spread. This would require a localized approach, as has been mentioned in Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) advisories dated 25.04.2021 and 28.06.2021.

4. State Governments/UT Administrations are further advised to take suitable measures to avoid large gatherings during the coming festive season and if required, impose local restrictions with a view to curb such large gatherings. In all crowded places, COVID Appropriate Behaviour should be strictly enforced. We need to continue focus on the five-fold strategy *i.e.* Test-Track-Treat-Vaccination and adherence to COVID Appropriate Behaviour, for effective management of COVID-19.

5. Enforcement of COVID-19 appropriate behavior is essential for tackling the pandemic on a sustained basis. Weekly Enforcement Data, received from States/UTs regarding wearing facemask in public, maintaining social distancing norms, imposition of fines etc., indicates a downward trend in enforcement. States and UTs are requested to augment their enforcement efforts for effectively checking transmission of the disease.

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6. The country has made significant progress in vaccination. The State Governments/UT Administrations should continue with their vaccination programme so as to inoculate maximum number of eligible persons.

7. Further, it must be ensured that areas having no virus or low virus transmission are adequately protected by progressively ramping up testing and other measures like ILI/SARI surveillance, market surveillance, etc. with strict enforcement of COVID Appropriate Behaviour.

8. I would, therefore, urge you to issue strict directions to the district and all other local authorities concerned, to take necessary measures for management of COVID-19. The officers concerned should be made personally responsible for any laxity in strict enforcement of COVID Appropriate Behaviour. I would also advise that Orders issued by the respective State Governments/UT Administrations/district authorities in this regard, should be widely disseminated to the public and to the field functionaries, for their proper implementation.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,


(Ajay Bhalla)

Administrators of all UTs