

North Block, New Delhi-110001  
Dated 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2021

## ORDER

Whereas, an Order of even number dated 29<sup>th</sup> June 2021, was issued to ensure compliance to the containment measures for COVID-19, as conveyed *vide* Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) DO No. Z.28015/85/2021-DM Cell dated 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2021, which was further extended for a period upto 30.09.2021 *vide* Orders of even number dated 28.07.2021 and 28.08.2021;

And whereas, considering the need to prevent any potential rise in number of cases in view of the upcoming festive season in the country, MoHFW *vide* DO No. Z.28015/85/2021-DM Cell dated 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2021, has issued an advisory to all States and Union Territories (UTs), for a continued focus on ‘Prompt & Effective Containment Measures’ as well as ‘Acceleration in the Pace and Coverage of COVID Vaccination’;

Whereas, in exercise of the powers conferred under section 6(2)(i) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 (DM Act), National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has directed the undersigned to issue an Order, for containment of COVID-19 in the country;

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers, conferred under Section 10(2)(l) of the DM Act, the undersigned, hereby directs the State/ UT Governments and State/ UT Authorities to consider implementation of Prompt & Effective Containment Measures, as conveyed *vide* aforesaid MoHFW advisory dated 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2021, as per **Annexure-I**, until 31.10.2021. States/ UTs, will take the necessary measures, under the relevant provisions of the DM Act. It is further directed that:

- (i) The National Directives for COVID-19 Management, as specified in **Annexure II**, shall continue to be strictly followed throughout the country.
- (ii) All the District Magistrates shall strictly enforce the above measures. For the enforcement of social distancing, State/ UT Governments may, as far as possible, use the provisions of Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) of 1973.
- (iii) Any person violating these measures will be liable to be proceeded against as per the provisions of Section 51 to 60 of the DM Act, besides legal action under Section 188 of the IPC, and other legal provisions as applicable.

  
Union Home Secretary  
and, Chairperson, National Executive Committee (NEC)

To:

1. The Secretaries of Ministries/ Departments of Government of India
2. The Chief Secretaries/Administrators of States/Union Territories  
(As per list attached)

**Copy to:**

- i. All Members of the National Executive Committee
  - ii. Member Secretary, National Disaster Management Authority



राजेश भूषण, आईएएस  
सचिव

**RAJESH BHUSHAN, IAS**  
SECRETARY



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-28015/85/2021-DM Cell  
21<sup>st</sup> September 2021

As you are aware, the Govt. of India has been issuing Guidelines and Advisories from time to time to the States/UTs to assist their efforts in containing the on-going Covid pandemic. Attention is specifically drawn to the letter issued on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 wherein Union Health Ministry had advised States to keep a “strict vigil” and take steps so as to curb spike in Covid cases. On 21<sup>st</sup> February 2021, 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021, all States were advised not to lower their guard, enforce Covid Appropriate Behaviour (CAB) and to follow effective surveillance strategies in respect of potential super-spreader events. Vide D.O. No. Z-28015/85/2021-DM Cell dated 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021, a framework based on district-wise positivity rate and bed occupancy rate was provided to the States wherein the States could initiate local containment measures primarily focused on restricting inter-mingling of people on the basis of this framework. This framework was reiterated by Ministry of Home Affairs vide their Order No.40-3/2020-DM-I(A) dated 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021. Further, vide D.O no. Z-28015/01/ASH/2021-EMR dated 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021, States were advised to ensure prompt action on the framework referred to in earlier letters and to ensure surge surveillance for Variant of Interest (VOI) and Variant of Concern (VOC). Important action points for regular follow up at State/UT level has also been reiterated by Cabinet Secretary’s D.O letter No. 272/2/1/2021-CAB.III dated 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021 addressed to all Chief Secretaries.

2. Covid-19 still remains a grave and continuing public health challenge in our country. While the country is witnessing a sustained decline in the number of daily cases as well as daily deaths but the 2<sup>nd</sup> surge of Covid-19 is still not over. Globally also, the surge in cases is being reported across multiple countries. This surge in cases has reinforced the importance of implementation of Covid Appropriate Behaviour (CAB) in addition to vaccination efforts.

3. Amidst the rise in new cases of Covid-19 across the globe and even with the consistent decline in India’s 2<sup>nd</sup> surge, India has 3.09 lakh active cases and is still reporting daily cases as high as 30,000. Hence, there is a need for a continued focus on **Prompt & Effective Containment Measures** as well as **Acceleration in the Pace and Coverage of Covid Vaccination** to prevent any potential rise in number of cases.

contd..2/-

4. In the coming months, various festivities will follow one after the other till 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021.

Date	Festival
7 <sup>th</sup> October – 14 <sup>th</sup> October	Navratri
15 <sup>th</sup> October	Dussehra
19 <sup>th</sup> October	Milad Un-Nabi/Eid-e-Milad
24 <sup>th</sup> October	Karwa Chauth
4 <sup>th</sup> November	Diwali
5 <sup>th</sup> November	Govardhan Puja
6 <sup>th</sup> November	Bhaiya Dooj
10 <sup>th</sup> November	Chhath Puja
19 <sup>th</sup> November	Guru Nanak Jayanti
25 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas
31 <sup>st</sup> December	New Year's Eve

5. This is a critical period as there may be a tendency to ignore COVID-safe behavior during festivals, resulting in large gatherings, events, fairs etc. It is **critical to enforce adherence to guidelines to allow festivities in a cautious, safe and Covid appropriate manner**. Any laxity in implementation of Covid Appropriate Behavior could lead to serious consequences and can result in a surge in cases.

6. MoHFW vide its letter dated 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and subsequent advisory issued by MHA on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021 had already issued detailed instructions on **Containment Framework** and for putting restrictions to manage the spread of COVID-19 infection. **Districts were directed to undertake stringent containment measures in identified areas based on test positivity and strain on healthcare system.**

Criteria	Threshold
<b>Test positivity</b>	Test positivity of 10% or more in the last one week
<b>OR</b>	
<b>Bed occupancy</b>	Bed occupancy of more than 60% on either oxygen supported or ICU beds

7. 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% case positivity**. Gatherings with advance permissions 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 violations of physical distancing and mask usage norms, necessary enforcement and penal actions should be taken.

8. Restrictions and relaxations 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 any delay and for a **minimum period of 14 days** besides continued focus on the **five-fold strategy** of Test-Track-Treat-Vaccinate and adherence to COVID Appropriate Behaviour.

9. To safely navigate through the festive season without any adverse consequences in the form of infection outbreak, it is important that States **continue to diligently follow the five pillars of COVID-19 Management** i.e. "Test-Track-Treat-Vaccinate and adherence to COVID Appropriate Behavior".

**1. Testing:**

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

**2. Track:**

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

**3. Treat:**

- Upgradation of health infrastructure based on case trajectory in the district is crucial to avoid case fatality.
- Completion of PSA Plants in hospitals both Government and private on a mission mode including availability of medical gas pipeline (MGPS), and trained manpower.
- Availability of oxygen through oxygen cylinders and concentrators particularly in rural areas.
- Adequate availability of drugs in all COVID dedicated facilities including maintaining buffer stock of drugs.

- Availability of required health infrastructure in rural areas as per the SOP on Covid-19 Containment & Management in Rural, Peri-Urban & Tribal Areas dated 18th June 2021.
- Similarly, upgrading health infrastructure to manage paediatric Covid-19 cases vide Guidelines for Management of Covid-19 in Children.
- 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.
- The available funds under Emergency COVID Response Package II shall be promptly leveraged for upgrading the health infrastructure.
- To monitor mutations, if any, States shall send required number of samples as per the SOPs already issued for Whole Genome Sequencing to INSACoG Labs.

#### **4. Vaccination:**

- State-wide vaccination of eligible age groups may be accelerated.
- Coverage of eligible second dose beneficiaries shall be prioritized.
- Optimal usage of allocated doses through minimal wastage.

#### **5. Covid Appropriate Behaviour:**

- Community engagement is a critical element of sustained COVID-19 management.
- Effective IEC in local language duly utilizing medical professionals and local influencers to promote Covid-safe festivities.
- 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.
- Need for monitoring the adherence to Covid Appropriate Behaviour and guidelines.

10. Necessary directions need to be issued adequately in advance by the State governments for practicing caution during the upcoming festival season.

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11. There should be strict **adherence to limits on gatherings linked with availability of space** to ensure effective physical distancing. Use of volunteers to aid thermal screenings and to enforce use of masks and physical distancing shall be considered. Closed circuit cameras may also be utilized to monitor compliance to physical distancing and use of mask.
12. Guidelines already issued with respect to malls, local markets, and places of worship, as available on MoHFW website dated 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021 and 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020 shall be strictly followed at the district level. Any violations of the guidelines shall entail imposition of necessary restrictions to avoid a spread of infection.
13. As an abundant caution, States can continue with night curfews, weekend curfews and other restrictions to highlight that COVID is still not over and to influence adherence to COVID-appropriate behavior.
14. States shall closely **monitor the case trajectories across all districts on a daily basis** to identify any early warning signals and shall ensure imposition of restrictions and adherence to COVID Appropriate Behaviour as a non-pharmaceutical intervention to control the spread of infection. It is important that these guidelines are reiterated and ensured by the State Governments amongst all concerned for effective follow up in a mission mode approach to maintain the gains made so far in COVID-19 management and avoid any resurgence of cases.

Yours sincerely,

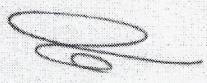
Sd/-  
(Rajesh Bhushan)

**To :Chief Secretaries/Administrators of all States/UTs**

Copy to : Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/Secretary, Health - All States/UTs

Copy for information to:-

1. Cabinet Secretary, Cabinet Sectt., Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi.
2. Home Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, North Block, New Delhi

  
(Rajesh Bhushan)

## NATIONAL DIRECTIVES FOR COVID-19 MANAGEMENT

1. **Face coverings:** 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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