

**GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
DISPUR: GUWAHATI**

No.HLA 301/2020/193

Dated 17th May, 2021

Minutes of the Video Conference chaired by Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam with Deputy Commissioners, Superintendents of Police etc of all Districts on COVID-19 Management on 16-05-21

Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam chaired a video conference with the Deputy Commissioners, Superintendents of Police, Health Department officials of all districts on 16-05-21 on management of COVID-19 pandemic in the state.

The video conference was attended by Shri Keshab Mahanta, Hon'ble Health Minister, Sri Jayanta Malla Baruah, Hon'ble MLA Nalbari, Director General of Police, Assam and other senior officials of Govt of Assam.

After a detailed discussion on the COVID status presented by Health Department, the following decisions were taken in the video conference:

1. The primary responsibility of the Government at this time is to tackle the COVID pandemic with full commitment. All Government officials shall therefore function along with the Health & Family Welfare Department as one unit.
2. The Deputy Commissioners and Superintendents of Police, being the heads of civil and police administration at District level shall lead from front and must be visible at all times in the fight against COVID. They must regularly visit COVID hospitals and containment zones and instil confidence in the public
3. Availability of COVID related medical services at odd hours, especially late night and in early morning hours and on public holidays is of great importance in reducing mortality. DCs and SPs shall ensure that health services during these odd hours are maintained with same intensity and responsiveness as in the daytime and shall make visits at odd hours also, to support the healthcare personnel and other front line workers engaged on duty.
4. At present, the availability of oxygen, ICU beds, medicine and other infrastructure for COVID management is sufficient to manage the current patient load. Hence, stress should be on giving quality care for the patient through timely testing, treatment and referral on 24x7 basis.
5. Considering the critical nature of many patients arriving at the hospitals, the initial/ first day emergency management of COVID patients in any Government hospital should not be paused for delay in making payment for medicines like Remdesivir in case of non-BPL patients. If necessary, the initial doses of payables medicines

shall be provided free of charge, irrespective of the financial status of the patient as saving lives is of paramount importance.

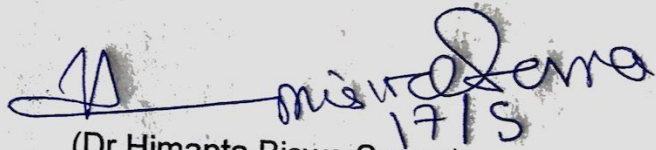
6. The districts shall ensure that against every 10 RAT tests, at least 3 RT-PCR tests are done without fail as RAT negative persons at times are detected in RT-PCR only resulting in spreading of the infection unknowingly. A minimum of 1 lakh tests per day shall be undertaken from 17th of May onwards across the State and a plan shall be shared with all the districts from Health Department.
7. Strengthening of the district and model hospitals, particularly in respect of oxygen pipelines, ICU units etc. should be given utmost importance, considering the possibility of a third wave of the pandemic. The Deputy Commissioners shall supervise the ongoing works and complete the works on emergency basis. In the meantime, it must be ensured that the facilities which have been built up, are fully utilized for the patients.
8. In view of high mortality among COVID positive patients from the age group of over 50 years, all such patients shall be kept in institutional isolation facility for at least the first few days, unless it is conformed that they are having suitable self-isolation facility at home.
9. After COVID positive persons are detected at testing centres, they shall not be allowed to travel in public transport for home isolation. Persons allowed for home isolation shall have to arrange own private vehicle or shall be allowed to go by special transportation facility arranged by the district administration. All districts shall plan and arrange for suitable transportation for COVID positive persons to be allowed to proceed for home isolation.
10. All districts shall ensure that COVID Care Centres provide treatment as per the relevant protocol notified by the Health department.
11. All patients undergoing home isolation shall be contacted through telemedicine without fail. All districts shall immediately strengthen telemedicine to services in order to monitor patients at regular intervals.
12. Deputy Commissions will declare micro containment zones promptly and if required, such zones could be declared even if the positivity rate is less than 10%, as a pre-emptive measure.
13. The COVID restrictions which are already in place should be strictly enforced and Superintendents of Police should ensure that curfew is not violated by anyone. Curfew shall be implemented firmly with polite explanation to the people that these are measures taken for saving valuable lives.
14. In line with policy of strict quarantine with a human heart, the poor and economically weak households who are in containment zones should be provided

package containing essential food items etc. worth Rs 2,000/-. This assessment of the economic status need not only dependent only BPL status or NFSA card, but will be on the basis of economic difficulty faced need of such families. A notification shall be released in this regard by Revenue and Disaster management Dept in discussion with Health & Family Welfare Dept.

15. Considering the spread of COVID cases from one district to another, inter-District movement of people shall be temporarily suspended from 21st of May, 2021. This shall help in reducing the positive cases coming from outside a district.
16. In view of the importance of vaccination, all districts shall immediately notify an Addl. Deputy Commissioner as in charge for COVID vaccination in the district. He shall personally supervise the setting up of COVID Vaccination Centres (CVCs) and ensure that vaccination takes place smoothly and expeditiously with proper social distancing.
17. The CVCs shall be well maintained with pictures/posters of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, information on vaccines and general do's and don'ts related to COVID, for the benefit of vaccination beneficiaries.
18. Necessary steps shall be taken to provide drinking water to waiting beneficiaries in each CVC and other necessary services like sitting facility, sanitation etc shall be provided with the help of local administration. A maximum amount of Rs 3,000 shall be utilised by each CVC, depending up on the number of persons vaccinated from the centre on daily basis. The expenditure related to standardisation of CVCs and beneficiary services shall be provided by NHM/ DHS (FW) to the districts, as per the actual need.
19. Maintaining social distance, Rapid Antigen Test among vaccine beneficiaries' in some cases may be done
20. Further, the vaccinators and other staff, who are engaged in these CVC shall be provided timely refreshments including breakfast/lunch/tea as per the time of the day by the district administration.
21. Effective steps to avoid vaccine wastages should be ensured by all Deputy Commissioners. Those centres where vaccine wastage is more, shall be closed and such centres may be moved to urban/ COVID hotspot areas so that vaccines are optimally utilised.
22. The activities undertaken by the district administration/ health authority of the district shall be prominently shared in the social media (facebook, twitter etc) for better public visibility and for grievance redressal.

23. As the Government at Dispur is working 24x7 for tackling COVID pandemic, the districts also must ensure that 24x7 service is extended to the needy public by ensuring COVID service availability as well as visibility of responsible officials.
24. Minister, Health & Family Welfare and senior officials shall be in constant touch with all the districts and the instructions from Health Departments shall be given absolute priority as far as COVID management is concerned. The DCs and SPs shall attend Video Conferences organised by Health Department wherever required, without any further special orders.
25. Health & Family Welfare Department shall issue necessary SOPs for institutional isolation of 50 plus age group COVID positive patients and improvement of facilities in COVID Vaccination Centres immediately.
26. Detailed district specific review will be undertaken soon, particularly for districts where COVID case load trend is not encouraging.
27. First review will take place after 15 days.
28. NHM/ Revenue Disaster Management Department will place adequate fund for all districts immediately to implement the guidelines.
29. Any laxity in implementing orders shall be taken seriously and swift action will be taken against the failing officials.

The meeting ended with thanks from the chair.



17/5

(Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma)
Chief Minister, Assam
Dated 17th May, 2021

Memo No.HLA 301/2020/193

Copy to :

1. Chief Secretary, Assam
2. Director General of Police, Assam
3. Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Assam
4. Principal Secretary, Revenue & Disaster Management Department.
5. Principal Secretary, Home & Political Department.
6. All Deputy Commissioners
7. All Superintendents of Police
8. Mission Director, National Health Mission, Assam.
9. P.S. to Hon'ble Minister, Health & Family Welfare.
10. Any other concerned.

Principal Secretary to the Government of Assam
Health & Family Welfare