

Record Note of the meeting held on 12/05/2021 on current COVID-19 situation in the State

Venue : Conference Hall, Ground Floor, CM Block

Date & Time : 12/05/2021 at 9:00 PM

Participants:

1. Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Health & Family Welfare, Assam.
2. Shri Keshab Mahanta, Hon'ble Minister, Health & Family Welfare, Assam.
3. Shri Taranga Gogoi, Hon'ble MLA.
4. Shri Samir K Sinha, IAS, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Assam.
5. Shri Anurag Goel, IAS, Principal Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department
6. Smt Krishna Gohain, IAS, Special Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department.
7. Smt Monalisa Goswami, IAS, Commissioner & Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department.
8. Dr. Lakshmanan S, IAS, Mission Director, National Health Mission, Assam
9. Shri Khanindra Choudhry, ACS, Addl. Secretary, Health & FW Department
10. Smt Jyotsna Medhi Patgiri, ACS, Joint Secretary, Health & FW Department
11. Shri A L Choudhury, ACS, Joint Secretary, Health & FW Department
12. Smt Pranati Mazumdar, ACS, Joint Secretary, Health & FW Department
13. Shri Saurabh Senapati, ACS, Deputy Secretary, Health & FW Department
14. Dr. Rathindra Bhuyan, Director of Health Services, Assam
15. Shri Munindra Ngatey, Director of Health Services (FW), Assam
16. Dr. Manoj Choudhury, Executive Director, National Health Mission, Assam.
17. Shri Pradip Timung, ACS, Additional Director of Health Services, Assam.
18. Shri Dhruvajyoti Borah, ACS, Addl. Director of Medical Education (Admin.)
19. Shri Kamaljit Talukdar, ACS, Deputy CEO, Atal Amrit Abhiyaan Society
20. Smti Pomi Baruah, ACS, Officer on Special Duty, National Health Mission
21. Dr. Achyut Ch. Baishya, Principal-cum-Chief Superintendent, GMCH.

The meeting was chaired by Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam.

After detail deliberations, the following decisions were taken –

1. Hon'ble Minister, Health & Family Department shall take daily review of COVID situation in the state along with department officials and take necessary decisions for management of COVID-19. Hon'ble Chief Minister shall review the COVID status every three days.
2. Health & Family Welfare Department will examine if a policy can be implemented for compulsory admission of COVID-19 positive patients in COVID Care Centres/ COVID Hospitals in case of patients above age of 50 or from weaker sections of the society if adequate Home Isolation facilities like separate attached bathroom is not available.
3. Telemedicine facility is to be upgraded in all aspects, so that every person in home isolation can be reached out. NHM shall take necessary steps to increase the capacity for telemedicine services.
4. Pulse oxymeters are to be provided to those patients in Home Isolation, who cannot afford to buy the pulse oxymeter.
An order for purchase of 50,000 pulse oxymeters is to be placed on GeM platform by National Health Mission immediately.
5. Health & Family Welfare Department will expeditiously process payment of pending bills of medical oxygen supplies which has been verified by the Principal– cum – Chief Superintendents of the Medical College Hospitals. If budget provision is not available, payment should be made by NHM & fund will be recouped to NHM later on.
6. Revenue & Disaster Management Department will issue notification allowing Health & Family Welfare Department/District Administration to paste posters on houses of COVID patients under Home Isolation. This notification will be issued urgently so that suitable instructions can be accordingly issued to Deputy Commissioners in the Video Conference scheduled to be held on 14/05/2021.



7. In view of the acute shortage of medical oxygen and the need to increase medical oxygen production in the State, the Empowered Group headed by Chief Secretary constituted for this purpose, will consider the necessity of granting reimbursement of electricity bills to medical oxygen producers for a period of one year as incentive to ramp up oxygen production.
8. In view of any impending Oxygen crisis, the Oxygen Empowered Committee is to convene a meeting to deliberate on issues such as free electricity to Oxygen plants/reimbursement etc and issue necessary notifications within 3 days.
9. Principal Secretary to Chief Minister will instruct Deputy Commissioner, Baksa and Superintendent of Police, Baksa to visit the medical oxygen plant being set up at Bhutan and submit a progress report on the medical oxygen plant.
10. In view of the increasing number of deaths of COVID-19 patients, Principal-cum-Chief Superintendent of Medical Colleges Hospitals will review the reasons for deaths every day with senior Faculty members. Minutes of such meetings would be sent to Government for scrutiny by the State Death Audit Board.
11. National Health Mission will ramp up IEC campaign/activities on COVID-19 patients on measures to be taken by COVID-19 patients (along with household members) in home isolation. Responsibility of neighbours should also be highlighted.
12. Health Department shall undertake 1 lakh tests per day every day except Saturdays / Sundays until the COVID situation improves in the state. 15,000 RTPCR tests/per day are to be done.
13. 20,000 tests shall be undertaken in Guwahati city from 17th May, 2021 onwards with house to house testing, especially in containment zones and also susceptible areas like markets, depots, parking zones etc. District administration Kamrup Metro shall ensure that necessary arrangements for testing shall be undertaken without fail.
14. NHM will place order for 50 lakh RAT test kits at approved rates, so that there is no shortage of kits at any time.
15. Mobile RTPCR testing arrangements shall be made to cover the distant areas. NHM may engage vendors as approved by GOI or available in the GeM portal following necessary procedures, at the earliest.



16. NHM and DHS FW, to take necessary steps for ensuring social distancing with the assistance of Home Guards/ volunteers in the COVID Vaccination Centres across the state through the concerned DC/SP. Provisions for drinking water, proper seating arrangements and sanitization at the CVCs shall be ensured by the districts through active supervision of the Deputy Commissioner of the district. Overall, the CVC shall provide vaccination in a COVID appropriate environment without overcrowding and people friendly manner and necessary funds per CVC shall be calculated and dispersed by DHS FW/NHM.
17. COVID-19 seems to be more prevalent in urban and semi-urban areas. Hence, vaccination thrust should be in these areas.
In case of vaccination centres where vaccine wastage is more than the national average, such centres should be closed down and shifted to locations where there is more demand for vaccines.
18. All efforts shall be taken to procure more vaccines through state funds along with constant follow up with Government of India for vaccine for the 45 plus age group.
19. Imposition of containment zones cause particular difficulty to various poor and disadvantaged sections of society. Last year, there was a provision for providing a package of essential food stuffs/items of value of Rs 2000 per household to a family during the containment/quarantine period to mitigate the difficulty. NHM should consider reintroducing a similar system for disadvantaged sections of society.
20. Every DC shall ensure proper upkeep of the CCCs including quality of medical care, hygiene and sanitation, quality of food etc. and provide responsible officials for day to day management of CCCs.
21. All Medical Colleges hospitals shall reactivate their Social Media pages (including Facebook, twitter etc) within 2 days so as to facilitate the patients and public to place their grievances/suggestions to get instant relief. The Principals of Medical Colleges shall notify an Officer responsible for maintenance of Social Media platforms of the institution and also to ensure time response to the public comments & posts.



22. The meeting appreciated the 4-Corps of Indian Army for setting up the 50 bed unit with oxygen beds and ICU facilities in Tezpur Medical College Hospital, within a very short time.

Principal Secretary to Chief Minister will request GOC, 4 Corps to setup a similar 100 bedded unit at Assam Medical College Hospital, Dibrugarh and a 60 bedded unit with oxygen bed facilities at Tinsukia COVID hospital.

23. MD, NHM informed that present stock of Remdesivir is adequate for 12-14 days as per current requirement in the state, which is around 1000 doses per day.

Keeping in mind the situation, NHM will procure 50000 doses of Remdesivir from manufacturers through negotiations if required, which will be beyond the allocation made by Government of India.

24. Hon'ble Chief Minister directed that the microbiology laboratory for COVID-19 testing in Lakhimpur Medical College Hospital, should be functional within 3 days. Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur and Executive Director, NHM will take necessary steps accordingly.

25. Principal Secretary Health & Family Welfare Dept informed in the meeting that the representative of DRDO has visited two different locations in Guwahati for establishing a 300 bedded facility (100 ICU beds + 200 Oxygen supported beds) and have suggested Sarusajai Stadium near the Nabin Chandra Bordoloi Indoor stadium. Further, the Director general Life Science, DRDO on telephonic discussion informed that the proposed amount of 19.70 Cr is non-negotiable as expenditure shall be as per actuals only with pending amount being refunded to the state government. Only after signing of MoU and placement of funds, DRDO can start the works. The proposed 300 bedded facility at Dibrugarh shall be considered after the completion of facility at Sarusajai.

Considering the increasing number of COVID cases requiring oxygen and ICU support, Hon'ble Chief Minister directed MD NHM to complete the procedures of signing the MoU and placement of required funds from available funds with NHM on emergency basis within 13.05.21 so that the works can start immediately.

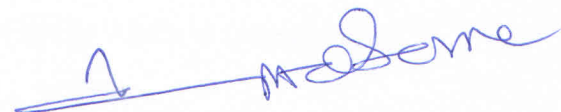


26. Hon'ble Chief Minister felt that PW(Bldg.) Department needs to execute works on a war footing similar to the pace of 4Corps.

Principal Secretary to Chief Minister will call Commissioner & Special Secretary, PW(Bldg.) Department and ask him to complete all COVID related works in a more cohesive and expeditious manner.

27. Smti. Monalisa Goswami, Commissioner & Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department will resume the responsibilities given to her last year in respect of controlling Japanese Encephalitis and ensure availability of adequate medical facilities, IEC etc.

28. A video conference with all Deputy commissioners and Superintendents of Police is to be organized on 14-05-21 to discuss various Covid management issues.



(Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma)

Chief Minister, Assam

Memo No. HLA 270/2020/Pt/ 89-A

Dated Dispur 13th May 2021

Copy to:

1. Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Assam.
2. Principal Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department
3. Commissioner & Special Secretary, PW (Bldg.) Department.
4. Special Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department.
5. Commissioner & Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department.
6. Chief Executive Officer, Assam Disaster Management Authority, Dispur.
7. Mission Director, National Health Mission, Assam
8. All Deputy Commissioners.
9. All officers, Health & Family Welfare Department
10. Director of Medical Education, Assam.
11. Director of Health Services, Assam.
12. Director of Health Services (FW), Assam.

13. Director of Medical Education/ Addl. Director of Medical Education (Admin.), Assam
14. Executive Director, National Health Mission, Assam
15. Principal-cum-Chief Superintendent, Medical College & Hospital (All)
16. P.P.S to Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam
17. P.S. to Hon'ble Minister, Health & Family Welfare
18. P.S. Hon'ble MLA, Naharkatia LAC.
19. Any other concerned.



Principal Secretary to the Government of Assam
Health & Family Welfare Department