

**Record note of the meeting on the COVID-19 situation of the State**

Date and time: 21/04/2021 at 4:00 PM

Venue : Conference Hall, CM's Block, Assam Secretariat

**Participants:**

1. Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, Hon'ble Minister, Health & Family Welfare etc., Assam.
2. Shri Samir K Sinha, IAS, Principal Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department
3. Shri Anurag Goel, IAS, Principal Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department
4. Shri Pritam Saikia, IAS, Commissioner & Secretary, Education Department.
5. Smt Krishna Gohain, IAS, Special Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department.
6. Smt Monalisa Goswami, IAS, Commissioner & Secretary, Health & F.W. Department.
7. Shri Raj Chakravorty, Commissioner & Special Secretary, PW (Bldg.) Department.
8. Shri Munna Gupta, IPS, Commissioner of Police, City.
9. Shri Biswajit Pegu, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup (Metro) District.
10. Shri Khanindra Choudhury, ACS, Addl. Secretary, Health & FW Department.
11. Smti Jyotshna Medhi Patgiri, ACS, Joint Secretary, Health & FW Department.
12. Smt Pranati Mazumdar, ACS, Joint Secretary, Health & FW Department
13. Prof. (Dr.) Anup Kr. Barman, Director of Medical Education, Assam
14. Dr. Rathindra Bhuyan, Director of Health Services, Assam
15. Shri Munindra Ngatey, ACS, Director of Health Services (FW), Assam
16. Shri A Borgohain, Chief Engineer, PWD (Bldg.).
17. Shri Pradip Timung, ACS, Additional Director of Health Services, Assam.
18. Shri Dhrubajyoti Borah, ACS, Addl. Director of Medical Education (Admin.)
19. Shri Saurabh Senapati, ACS, Deputy Secretary, Health & FW Department.
20. Dr. Manoj Choudhury, Executive Director, National Health Mission, Assam.
21. Shri Kamaljit Talukdar, ACS, Deputy CEO, Atal Amrit Abhiyaan Society
22. Smti Pomi Baruah, ACS, Officer on Special Duty, National Health Mission
23. Dr. Achyut Ch. Baishya, Principal-cum-Chief Superintendent, Gauhati Medical College & Hospital.

24. DrAnhijit Sharma, Superintendent, Gauhati Medical College Hospital.

25. Shri AbhijitBaruah, CMD, Premier Cryogenics Ltd.

26. Officers of Education/ PW Department.

The meeting was chaired by Hon'ble Minister, Health & Family Welfare, Education, PWD etc.

After detailed deliberations, the following decisions were taken:

**1. Three models of expansion of bed capacity for COVID patients:**

It was noted that during the current wave, a large number of cases are expected. It was also noted that while a large majority may remain asymptomatic, some cases would require hospitalization with oxygen/ ventilator support etc. Given the infrastructure available in the Government sector, it is considered instructive to devote top priority to the patients requiring such support.

It was also noted that private sector hospitals may also shoulder some part of the responsibility.

In this backdrop, three models are being adopted:

**1.1.** Strengthening & expansion of existing Government COVID hospitals.

**1.2.** Conversion of (a) existing suitable Government CHCs/ PHCs to COVID hospitals to increase available bed capacity & (b) permanent buildings/ structures to COVID Care Centres.

**1.3.** Partnership between private hospitals and private hotels whereby hotels become extension of the hospital. Asymptomatic and mild symptomatic patients are preferably sent by the hospital authorities to the hotel with which it has tied up and the symptomatic / critical patients are kept by the hospital authorities within their own premises.

The responsibility of providing all medical care including medical professionals, para- medics, equipment, medicines, oxygen and other support in the hotel shall be the responsibility of the hospital concerned. The hotel will provide house- keeping services as well as food for the patients etc. apart from the accommodation.

The rates for different categories of hotels shall be fixed by the Govt. in consultation with both the Associations.

Government will issue detailed guidelines in this regard.

**2. Creation of additional ICU beds in view of the increase in COVID cases :**

**2.1.** Following additional ICU units will be set up :

**2.1.1.** 25 bed ICU Unit (non-COVID) at GMCH old building for Neurosurgery & CTVS purposes.

- 2.1.2. 30 bed COVID ICU Unit at second floor of Emergency Department block, GMCH.
  - 2.1.3. 30 bed COVID ICU Unit at Kalapahar hospital.
  - 2.1.4. 30 bed COVID ICU Unit at Singimari Model Hospital
  - 2.1.5. 50 bed COVID ICU Unit at Dhirenpara Hospital which is to be notified as COVID hospital
- 2.2. Medical gas pipeline will be installed in Moina Khurung hospital.
  - 2.3. In view of the extreme urgency of the COVID situation, PWD will treat this Record Note as Go-ahead from Health & Family Welfare Department and initiate all formalities/ works immediately on a war footing.
  - 2.4. The procurement of the required equipment will be carried out by Principal cum Chief Superintendent, GMCH under the aegis of the Hospital management Society at approved rates discovered by DME, Assam. Fund required for this purpose will be provided as loan from Assam Arogya Nidhi fund, and this will be later recouped by Government as grants in aid.
  - 2.5. PWD will explore the feasibility of setting up makeshift ICU units in consultation with medical team of GMCH, and make a detailed presentation within 3 days.
- 3. Other decisions**
- 3.1. Dhirenpara Hospital will be notified as COVID hospital. No new admission will take place from 22/04/2021 and the existing patients will be shifted to GMCH.
  - 3.2. On the pattern of last year, sixty Screening Centers will be made functional to cover all wards of Guwahati including the existing 31 centers. DHS will provide laboratory technicians for running the centers and, if required, laboratory technician from outside Guwahati will be deployed at these centers. Principal, GMCH will provide intern doctors at each centre.
  - 3.3. Presently, 1925 (GoA procured 625 and GoI provided 1300) oxygen concentrators (5 LPM) are available in various health institutes. Additional 500 oxygen concentrators will be obtained either under CSR initiatives or by procurement.
  - 3.4. One crore doses of COVAXIN has been ordered from Bharat Biotech. Another order for additional one crore doses of vaccines will be placed with Serum Institute of India with funding support from Assam Arogya Nidhi/ Government grants-in-aid.
  - 3.5. The nursing staff deployed for vaccination and COVID tests should be separate and not diverted for other purposes.

3.6. In order to ensure that the bed capacity in GMCH etc. is optimally utilized, the possibility of attaching hotels with GMCH etc. will be explored whereby asymptomatic/ mildly symptomatic patients will be accommodate in the hotels under medical care and supervision of GMCH. There will be transfer of patients between hospital and a hotel, depending on the clinical condition.

Food, housekeeping etc. will be the responsibility of the hotel.

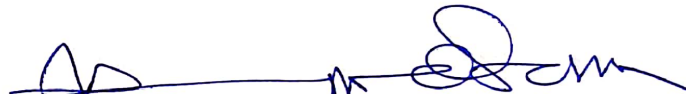
The medical care would be free of cost for the patient but other expenses like accommodation, food etc. would be borne by the patient themselves.

In such an arrangement, the staff of the hotels would be treated Front Line Workers and will be vaccinated.

3.7. The 104 services will be enhanced and telemedicine service will cover vaccination aspects also.

3.8. In view of the limited oxygen production capacity in Assam and the overall scarcity of oxygen in the country, Shri AbhijitBaruah, CMD, Premier Cryogenics Ltd. and Coordinator(Assam), All India Industrial Gases Manufacturers' Association (AIIGMA) will explore the possibility of setting up a 50 MT/day Oxygen production plant in Assam on fast track basis. He will submit a proposal inclusive of any financial and administrative support from Government required, for consideration.

3.9. Education Department will authorise Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup(M) to close down all educational institutes in the district, in case the number of new COVID cases in the district exceeds 1000in a day. In such a situation, hostels will be vacated. This authorization will be valid till 4<sup>th</sup>May 2021.



(Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma)

Minister, Health & Family Welfare etc., Assam

Dated Dispur the April, 2021

Memo No. No.HLA.301/2020/184 -A

Copy to:

1. Principal Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department.
2. Special Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department.
3. Commissioner & Secretary, Health & F.W. Department.
4. Commissioner & Secretary, Education Department
5. Commissioner of Police, City.
6. Commissioner & Special Secretary, PW (Bldg.) Department.
7. Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup (Metro)/ Kamrup
8. Addl. Secretary/ Joint Secretary/ Deputy Secretary, Health & FW Department.

9. Mission Director, NHM, Assam/ Director of Medical Education/ Director of Health Services/ Director of Health Services (FW), Assam
10. Executive Director, National Health Mission, Assam.
11. Addl. Director of Medical Education (Admin.)/ Additional Director of Health Services (Admin.), Assam.
12. Officer on Special Duty, National Health Mission, Assam
13. Deputy CEO, Atal AmritAbhiyaan Society
14. Principal-cum-Chief Superintendent/ Superintendent, All Medical College Hospitals.
15. Shri AbhijitBaruah, CMD, Premier Cryogenics Ltd. and Coordinator(Assam), All India Industrial Gases Manufacturers' Association (AIIGMA).
16. P.S. to Hon'ble Minister, Health & Family Welfare, Assam.
17. Any other concerned.



Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Assam  
Health & Family Welfare Department