



सत्यमेव जयते

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Government of India

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

SUMMARY OF GUIDELINES

COVID-19



HAND HYGIENE



SOCIAL DISTANCING



COUGH ETIQUETTES



STAY HOME



IF SICK, CALL DOCTOR



AVOID GATHERINGS
& TRAVELLING



HEALTHY DIET



YOGA & MEDITATION





डॉ हर्ष वर्धन Dr Harsh Vardhan

स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण, विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी व पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्री, भारत सरकार

Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Science & Technology and Earth Sciences Government of India

सबका साथ, सबका विकास, सबका विश्वास
Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas

MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues

Globally, COVID-19 has spread to more than 200 countries and has impacted several lives across the globe. India has also not remained unaffected. While our Government is taking stringent actions to contain the spread of COVID-19, including imposition of a nation-wide lockdown, it is also critical for each one of us to follow the protocols and take necessary measures and precautions to break the chain of transmission of the disease.

As part of COVID-19 mitigation efforts, the Government of India has issued several guidelines and advisories for assistance of the States, citizens and other stakeholders. A number of guidelines focusing on prevention, treatment, quarantine, isolation, testing strategy and inclusion of private laboratories, social distancing and lockdown have been issued by various Ministries and Departments.

To assist my esteemed senior colleagues in the Government, I have got compiled a compendium of such guidelines and advisories in a user-friendly format. This can be used on mobile phones, laptops and desktops.

To access the abridged contents of a subject from the index, the user may select ('click') the title of the said subject in the index. In case the user wants to access the actual text of guidelines/advisories/orders on the subject, a link to the source document has been provided at the bottom of abridged contents about the subject. On selecting ('clicking') on the 'source' hyperlink, the user will be able to retrieve the complete text of the document from the website.

A copy of the Compendium is attached herewith for your information and reference.

With warm regards,


(Dr. Harsh Vardhan)

कार्यालय: 348, ए-स्कंध, निर्माण भवन, नई दिल्ली-110011 • Office: 348, A-Wing, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi - 110011

Tele: (O) : +91-11-23061661, 23063513 • Telefax: 23062358 • E-mail: hfwminister@gov.in

निवास: 8, तीस जनवरी मार्ग, नई दिल्ली-110011 • Residence: 8, Tees January Marg, New Delhi - 110011

Tele: (R) : +91-11-23794649 • Telefax: 23794640

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1. **Epidemic Disease (Amendment) Ordinance 2020 for Protection of Members of Healthcare Service**

During the current COVID-19 pandemic, members of healthcare services have been subjected to stigmatization and ostracization and have been targeted and attacked by miscreants, thereby obstructing them from doing their duties. While this has deeply hurt their morale, at the same time, the entire effort at containment of COVID-19, has suffered due to this discriminatory attitudes towards the healthcare service personnel.

Since the situation is grave and the Parliament is not in session, the principal act of 'Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897' has been amended through promulgation of an Ordinance called 'Epidemic Disease (Amendment) ordinance 2020' by the Hon'ble President of India.

After section 2A of the principal act section 2B has been inserted stating that '*no person shall indulge in any act of violence against a healthcare service personnel or cause any damage or loss to any property during an epidemic*'.

Offences under the Ordinance have been made as cognizable and non-bailable. Commission of such acts of violence shall be punished with imprisonment for a term of three months to five years, and with fine of Rs.50,000/- to Rs.2,00,000/- which can be increased to imprisonment for a term six months to seven years and with fine of Rs.1,00,000/- to Rs. 5,00,000/- in case of grievous injuries.

[Source: Epidemic Disease \(Amendment\) Ordinance 2020](#)

2. **Exemption of Specific Services within the Category Already Allowed**

In continuation of Ministry of Home Affairs order No 40-3/2020-DM-I (A) dated 15th, 16th & 19th April 2020, the National Executive Committee has made some clarification regarding the social sector:

- Clause 8 (i) includes bed side attendant and care giver to senior citizens,
- Public utilities under clause 11 (v) on recharge facilities for prepaid mobiles, and
- supply of essential goods under clause 13 (i) about food processing units.

[Source: D.O. Letter Ministry of Home Affairs order No 40-3/2020-DM-I \(A\) 21.04.2020](#)

3. **Addition of Sub-clause to Consolidated Revised Guidelines**

In continuation with Ministry of Home Affairs order No 40-3/2020-DM-I (A) dated 15th, 16th & 17th April 2020, the National Executive Committee includes sub-clause (xi), (x) & (xi) under clause 6 'A' on agricultural activities; sub clause (xi), (xii) under clause 14 on commercial establishment; sub clause (iii), under clause 17 on movement of persons and clause 19 (v) on forest offices to Consolidated Revised Guidelines for strict implementation by Ministries/ Departments of Government of India and States/ UTs authorities.

[Source: Ministry of Home Affairs order No 40-3/2020-DM-I \(A\) 21.04.2020](#)

4. Measures Undertaken to Ensure Safety of Health Workers During COVID-19

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has taken several measures to ensure safety of health workers during COVID-19. This includes various measures associated with health resources, medical safety, timely payments, psychological support, training & capacity building, and life insurance cover.

Source: DO No. Z-20015/127/2019-ME. I (Pt. I) dated 20.04.2020

5. Guidelines to be Followed on Detection of Suspect/ Confirmed COVID-19 Case in a Non-COVID Health Facility

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has issued Guidelines on action to be taken on detection of suspect/ confirmed COVID-19 case in a non-COVID healthcare facility.

This document is intended for both (i) COVID-19 healthcare facilities (public and private) which are already receiving or preparing to receive suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients as well as (ii) Non-COVID healthcare facilities.

Whenever a non-COVID patient or any healthcare workers is suspected to have COVID like symptoms/ tests positive for COVID-19, the Hospital Infection Control Committee will come into action, investigate the matter, and suggest further course of action as described below.

When a positive COVID-19 patient is identified in a non-COVID health care facility, local health authorities should be informed about the case and the case should be transferred to isolation facility immediately. This should be followed by disinfection procedures at the facility and the ambulance. All contacts of this patient should be quarantined and followed up for 14 days. Their details must also be shared with the local health authorities. All close contacts (other HCWs and supportive staff) of the confirmed case should be put on Hydroxy-chloroquine chemoprophylaxis for a period of 7 weeks, keeping in mind the contraindications of HCQ.

Healthcare Worker (HCW) who is suspected to have COVID like symptoms/ tests positive for COVID-19 should be immediately taken off the roster. Rapidly do risk assessment of other HCWs and other patients that might have been exposed to the suspect HCW and put them under quarantine for 14 days (or earlier if the test result of a suspect case turns out negative). Their details must also be shared with the local health authorities and should be put on Hydroxychloroquine chemoprophylaxis for a period of 7 weeks, keeping in mind the contraindications of the HCQ.

It also recommends hospitals to have staffing plan in place including a contingency plan for such an event to maintain continuity of operations & services and to follow the disinfection procedures strictly.

Source: Guidelines Ministry of Health & family Welfare dated 20.04.2020

6. Strict Compliance of Lockdown Measures

In this order, attention has been drawn to clause 4(i) and (ii) of the Consolidated Revised Guidelines issued through MHA order No 40-3/2020-DM-I (A) dated 15th April 2020. It is reiterated to ensure strict compliance of the Consolidated Revised Guidelines and has issued directions to all concerned authorities for strict implementation, in letter and spirit, without any dilution and to ensure strict compliance of lockdown measures.

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7. **Standard Operating Protocol for Movement of Stranded Labour within the States and UTs**

Standard Operating Protocol for movement of stranded labour within the States and UTs has been issued by Ministry of Home Affairs for strict compliance by Ministries/ Departments of Government of India and States/ UTs authorities.

Due to spread of COVID-19 virus, workers employed in industries, agriculture and construction have moved from their respective places and are housed in relief shelter camps. Since additional activities outside the containment zone have been permitted with effect from 20th April 2020, these workers could be engaged in industries, manufacturing, construction, farming and MNREGA work.

Broadly the guidelines include that all migrant laborers are required to be registered and sent back to their place of work after screening and skill mapping. All directives issued under Consolidated revised Guidelines and measure of social distancing need to be strictly followed during travel and work. These SOP are for movement of labour within the State/ UT and do not allow movement of labour outside the State/ UT from where they are currently located.

[Source: Ministry of Home Affairs order No 40-3/2020-DM-I \(A\) 19.04.2020](#)

8. **Preventive Measures to be Taken by Ministries/ Departments of Government of India, States/ UT Governments for Containment of COVID-19**

With reference to the Consolidated Revised Guidelines issued by Ministry of Home Affairs vide order No 40-3/2020-DM-I (A) dated 16th April 2020, para 18(i), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has issued instructions to its employees to follow precautionary measures in order to contain the spread of COVID-19.

Use of reusable face-cover, proper sanitization of workplace, personal Hygiene, cough etiquettes, and social distancing measures are included in the preventive measures to be followed strictly. Employees developing symptoms should observe home quarantine

Further, Employees residing in notified containment zone will join office only when they are allowed to do so by the concerned local & State Government.

[Source: No. Z-28015/17/2020-Estt.I Ministry of Health & Family Welfare dated 19.04.2020](#)

9. **Advisory Against Spraying of Disinfectant on People for COVID-19 Management**

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has received many queries regarding the efficacy (if any) of disinfectants such as Sodium Hypochlorite spray used over individuals to disinfect them. The strategy seems to have gained a lot of media attention and is also being reportedly used at local levels in certain districts/ local bodies.

MoHFW has examined the merit of using disinfectants as spray over human body to disinfect them from COVID-19 and issued advisory that spraying of individuals or groups is NOT recommended

under any circumstances. Spraying an individual or group with chemical disinfectants is physically and psychologically harmful.

[Source: Advisory Against Spraying of Disinfectant, MoHFW, 18th April 2020](#)

10. COVID-19 Testing Strategy for India

ICMR has issued strategy for COVID-19 testing to be used across the country. It states where Real-Time PCR (RT-PCR) test is to be used. It further informs the testing strategy to be adopted in hot spots.

[Source: COVID-19 Testing Strategy, MoHFW, 18th April 2020](#)

11. Review of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Policy for Curbing Opportunistic Takeovers/ Acquisitions of Indian Companies due to the Current COVID-19 Pandemic

The Government of India has reviewed the extant FDI policy for curbing opportunistic takeovers/ acquisitions of Indian companies due to the current COVID-19 pandemic and amended para 3.1.1 of extant FDI policy as contained in Consolidated FDI Policy, 2017. The document gives detail of amended version of para 3.1.1 of FDI policy as contained in Consolidated FDI Policy, 2017 and states that the above decision will take effect from the date of FEMA notification.

[Source: Review of FDI Policy, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, 17th April 2020](#)

12. Updated Containment Plan for Large Outbreaks of COVID-19

Updated Containment Plan for Large outbreaks of COVID-19 has been brought. In alignment with strategic approach, this document provides action that needs to be taken for containing a large outbreak. The objective of this plan is to stop the chain of transmission thus reducing the morbidity and mortality.

The document broadly include geographic quarantine & its action plan; Surveillance; Laboratory support; Hospital care; Clinical management; Psychosocial support; Pharmaceutical interventions; Non-Pharmaceutical interventions; Material Logistics; Risk communication; Information Management; Capacity building; Financing of containment operations; Scaling down of operations in larger outbreak of COVID-19.

[Source: Updated Containment Plan for Large Outbreaks, MoHFW, 17th April 2020](#)

13. Consolidated Revised Guidelines on the Measures to be taken by Ministries/ Departments of Government of India, States/ UT Governments for Containment of COVID-19

With reference to the Consolidated Revised Guidelines issued by Ministry of Home Affairs vide order No 40-3/2020-DM-I (A) dated 15th April 2020, para 18(i), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has issued instructions to the its employees that MoHFW and its autonomous/ subordinate offices will function normally without any restrictions. All employees coming to office must use reusable face cover. Employees residing in notified containment zone will join office only when they are allowed to do so by the concerned State Government.

[Source: No Z. 28015/17/2020-Estt-I MoHFW, 16th April 2020](#)

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14. MHA Order Dated 16th April 2020 on Consolidated Revised Guidelines

In continuation of Ministry of Home affair Order No 40-3/2020-DM-I (A), dated 15th April, 2020, Chairman, National Executive Committee has ordered to include following in the Consolidated revised guidelines for strict implementation by Ministries/ Departments of Government of India and States/ UTs authorities:

- Sub clause (viii) under clause 6 'A' on agricultural and horticultural activities
- Sub clause (iii) under clause 6 'C' on Plantation
- Sub clause (v) & (vi) under clause 7 on Financial Sector
- Clause 6 (i) on construction activities in rural areas

[Source: MHA Order No. 40-3/2020-DM-I\(A\), 16th April 2020](#)

15. Consolidated Revised Guidelines on the Measures to be Taken by Ministries/ Departments of Government of India and States/ UTs Authorities for Containment of COVID-19 in the Country

The document highlights the activities which will remain suspended due to extension of the lockdown period till 3rd May 2020. It also mentions the additional activities which may be allowed after 20th April 2020 to mitigate hardship to public. Before operating these Relaxations State/ UT/ District Administration should ensure preparatory arrangement regarding social distancing in workplace factories, establishment and other requirements are in place.

[Source: MHA Order No. 40-3/2020-DM-I\(A\), 15th April 2020](#)

16. Advisory in view of COVID-19 Infection - Guidelines to be Followed at CGHS Wellness Centre/ Units

In view of the COVID-19 infection, Ministry of health & Welfare has issued Guidelines to be followed at CGHS Wellness Centre/ Units. All Additional Directors, CGHS of Cities/ zones have been directed to take necessary action to ensure implementation of the guidelines.

[Source: MoHFW Advisory in view of COVID-19 Infection, Office Order Z.15025/18/2020/DIR/CGHS, 15th April 2020](#)

17. Food Hygiene and Safety Guidelines for Food Business during COVID-19 Pandemic

The document describes the guidelines for employees/food handlers working in food establishments to prevent spread of COVID-19. It highlights the responsibility of food business owner, personal hygiene of food handlers and practice of social distancing in details, cleaning and sanitation of food related infrastructure. The document also speaks about packaging and transporting of food. It also provides information to consumers.

At the end it describes the protocol to be followed in the event of COVID-19 positive results in respect of an employee, visitor or customer.

[Source: Food Hygiene and Safety Guidelines for Food Business during COVID-19 Pandemic, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, 15th April 2020](#)

18. Extension of Lockdown

In pursuance of the announcement of Hon'ble Prime Minister and on the directions of the National Disaster Management national Executive committee has issued the directions Ministries/ Departments of Government of India and States/ UTs authorities that the lockdown measures

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stipulated in Consolidated Guidelines of MHA for containment of COVID-19 pandemic in country will continue to remain in force up to 03rd May 2020.

Source: Letter for Strict Implementation of Lockdown Order during Extended Period, MHA D.O.No. 40-3/2020-DM-I(A), 14th April 2020

19. Advisory on Feasibility of Using Pooled Samples for Molecular Testing of COVID-19

ICMR has issued advisory on feasibility to use the pooled samples for screening. A pooled testing algorithm involves the PCR screening of a specimen pool comprising multiple individual patient specimens, followed by individual testing (pool deconvolution) only if a pool screens positive. As all individual samples in a negative pool are regarded as negative, it results in substantial cost savings when a large proportion of pools tests negative.

Source: Advisory on Feasibility of Using Pooled Samples for Molecular Testing of COVID-19, MoHFW, 14th April 2020

20. Guidance Note: Enabling Delivery of Essential Health Services During the COVID-19 Outbreak

The COVID-19 outbreak has placed unprecedented demands on our health system; our health facilities and workforce are currently inundated with lot of activities related to controlling the pandemic. In doing so, there is a risk that essential health services which communities expect from the health system may get compromised.

Focusing on COVID-19 related activities, and continuing to provide essential services, is important to minimize an increase in morbidity and mortality from other health conditions. Particular attention needs to be paid to the delivery of essential health care for specific population sub-groups, while ensuring the safety of health workers.

Detailed guidelines have been issued to States and Union Territories to deliver essential health services during the COVID-19 outbreak. The document includes basic principles categorized by health systems elements, and guidance on the essential services with details. All states need to identify essential services that will be prioritized for service delivery.

First part of the document is about health system approach in terms of reorganization of service delivery, Human Resource, Ensuring supplies of medicines and diagnostics, Program management, Finance and Accountability.

The second part the document provides details of services to be made available in relation to Reproductive, Maternal, New Born, Child and Adolescent Health services; Communicable Diseases like Vector Borne Diseases, Tuberculosis, Leprosy, Viral Hepatitis and HIV; Non-Communicable Diseases like Hypertension, Diabetes and other NCDs like COPDs; Dialysis and Cancer Treatment services; Care for elderly/ disabled and palliative care patients; Blood disorders; and Emergency and Critical care Services.

Source: Enabling Delivery of Essential Health Services During COVID-19, MoHFW, 14th April 2020

21. Clarification Regarding the Activities Specifically Permitted by MHA

Home Secretary, Government of India has issued clarification to states and Union Territories regarding the activities specifically permitted by MHA which have the potential of creating shortages of essential commodities.

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Clarifications have been issued regarding:

- Interstate and intrastate movement of all trucks and other goods carrier vehicle with one driver and one additional person is allowed as long as driver is carrying a valid driving license irrespective of nature of cargo or any further permit or approval.
- Empty trucks, goods carriers should also be allowed to operate while on way to pick up good or returning after completing delivery as long as they have valid documents like road permit, driving license.
- Facilitating movement of truck drivers and cleaner from residence to location of truck,
- Facilitating to-and-fro movement of workers from home to place of work in respect of permitted industrial and commercial activities,
- Railways, airport, seaport and custom to ensure issue of passes to their workers,
- State and UT government to ensure issue of passes in respect of workers engaged in manufacture of permitted categories,
- MSMEs engaged in manufacture of essential items like wheat flour, pulses, edible oils should be allowed to freely function,
- Warehouses and cold storage should be allowed to freely function, with movement of trucks.

Source: Guideline on Movement of Persons and Vehicles, MHA D.O.No. 40-3/2020-DM-I(A), 12th April 2020

22. Provision of Necessary Police Security to Doctors and Medical Staff

MHA issued directions to the Chief Secretaries, administrators, DG Police of all States & UTs, and Commissioner of Police Delhi to take necessary action as per the directions of the Supreme Court:

The Supreme Court issued directions to the Govt. of India, respective State & Union Territories and respective police authorities to provide necessary police security to doctors and medical staff in hospitals, and places where COVID-19 patients/ suspected patients/ those quarantined are housed.

Source: MHA D.O.No. 11034/01/2020-IS-IV, 11th April 2020

23. Containment Plan for Large Outbreaks: Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

In alignment with strategic approach, this document provides action that needs to be taken for containing a large outbreak. The actions for mitigation phase will be dealt separately under a mitigation plan. The objective of this plan is to stop the chain of transmission thus reducing the morbidity and mortality.

The document broadly include geographic quarantine & its action plan; Surveillance; Laboratory support; Hospital care; Clinical management; Psychosocial support; Pharmaceutical interventions; Non-Pharmaceutical interventions; Material Logistics; Risk communication; Information Management; Capacity building; Financing of containment operations; Scaling down of operations in larger outbreak of COVID-19.

Source: Containment Plan for Large Outbreaks, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 11th April 2020

24. **Social Stigma Associated with COVID-19**

Public health emergencies during outbreak of communicable diseases may cause fear and anxiety leading to prejudices against people and communities, social isolation and stigma. Such behaviour may culminate into increased hostility, chaos and unnecessary social disruptions.

Cases have been reported of people affected with COVID-19 as well as healthcare workers, sanitary workers and police, who are in the frontline for management of the outbreak, facing discrimination on account of heightened fear and misinformation about infection.

There is an urgent need to counter such prejudices and to rise as a community that is empowered with health literacy and responds appropriately in the face of this adversity. Accordingly, all responsible citizens are advised to understand and follow the guidelines.

[Source: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare on 8th April 2020](#)

25. **Guidelines for Dialysis with Reference to COVID-19 Infection**

Chronic kidney disease stage-5 (CKD-5) patients on dialysis [maintenance haemodialysis (MHD) or continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis (CAPD)] are also vulnerable group because of their existing comorbidities, repeated unavoidable exposure to hospital environment and immunosuppressed state due to CKD-5. These patients are therefore not only more prone to acquire infection but also develop severe diseases as compared to general population.

Patients on regular dialysis should adhere to prescribed schedule and should not miss their Dialysis sessions to avoid any emergency dialysis.

The document provides General Guidelines for dialysis unit, dialysis patients and disinfection and disposal practices in dialysis unit. Guidelines are for haemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis.

[Source: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare on 7th April 2020](#)

26. **Guidance Document on Appropriate Management of Suspect/ Confirmed Cases of COVID-19**

A series of measures have been taken by both the Central and State Governments to break the chain of transmission. One among these is to isolate all suspect and confirmed cases of COVID-19. However, as the number of cases increases, it would be important to appropriately prepare the health systems and use the existing resources judiciously. Available data in India suggests that nearly 70% of cases affected with COVID-19 either exhibit mild or very mild symptoms. Such cases may not require admission to COVID-19 blocks/ dedicated COVID-19 hospitals. It is important to put in place mechanisms for triaging and decisions making for identification of the appropriate COVID-19 dedicated facility for providing care to COVID-19 patients.

The purpose of this document is to put in place such SOPs to ensure optimal utilization of available resources and thereby providing appropriate care to all the COVID-19 patients. This will ensure that available hospital beds capacity is used only for moderate to severe cases of COVID-19. The SOPs specified hereafter also

Specify the different types of facilities to be set up for various categories of COVID-19 cases.

[Source: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Directorate General of Health Services EMR Division on 7th April 2020](#)

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27. **COVID-19 Testing Laboratories Approved and Supported by ICMR as on 7th April 2020**

Total Government laboratories approved and supported by ICMR (provided diagnostic kits or reagents) are 139 in number (and 3 collection sites). The list is enclosed.

Source: Indian Council of Medical Research Department of Health Research Date: 07/04/2020

28. **Railways Meet Half of the Initial Target in a Quick Time**

In order to supplement the national efforts in combating COVID-19, Indian Railways has put all its might and resources behind national efforts. In a short span of time, it has achieved almost half the initial task of 5,000 coaches by being able to convert 2,500 coaches. With the conversion of around 2,500 coaches, 40,000 isolation beds are now ready for contingency

Source: Ministry of Railways, PIB ID: 1611539 on 6th April 2020

29. **DST Supported Healthcare Start-up Developing Rapid Test for Detection of COVID-19**

The Department of Science & Technology has funded 'Module Innovations', a Pune based healthcare start-up working on point of care diagnostics to build up on its platform technology for rapid diagnosis of diseases to develop a product for detecting COVID-19 with a 10 to 15 minute test.

Using the proven concept from its flagship product USense, Module is now developing nCoVSENSEs (TM) which is a rapid test device for detection of antibodies that have been generated against the COVID-19 in the human body.

Source: Ministry of Science & Technology, PIB ID: 1611604 on 6th April 2020

30. **Check Urgently the Virus of Misinformation on COVID-19: Vice President**

Vice President of India, Shri M Venkaiah Naidu has described the spread of misinformation, especially on social media, as a "virus" that needs to be checked.

Superstitions and hearsay cannot be allowed to weaken our assault on Novel coronavirus. He stressed on the need for understanding among all religious groups that social distancing norms cannot be taken lightly. Finally, Safety of the front-line warriors, especially medical professionals, is absolutely essential.

Source: Vice President's Secretariat PIB ID: 1611547 on 6th April 2020

31. **Guidelines for Quarantine Facilities**

This document provides guidelines for setting up of quarantine facilities during the current COVID-19 outbreak. The scope of this document is to cover the procedures required for

- Physical infrastructure/Functional Services requirement at quarantine facilities
- Procedure for medical monitoring of contacts, reporting formats

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- Protocol for referrals of suspects/ Symptomatic and isolation of symptomatic if required temporarily
- Infection control practices by medical personnel, supporting staffs and catering staffs etc.

Source: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, NCDC on 5th April 2020

32. Advisory on use of Homemade Protective Cover for Face & Mouth

We are aware that social distancing and personal hygiene are keys to prevent COVID-19 infections. Certain countries have claimed benefits of homemade face cover for the general public. Such homemade face cover is a good method for maintaining personal hygiene. Such usage certainly will help in maintaining overall hygienic health conditions.

Therefore, it is suggested that such people who are not suffering from medical conditions or having breathing difficulties may use the handmade reusable face cover, particularly when they step out of their house. This will help in protecting the community at large.

This face cover is not recommended for either health workers or those working with or in contact with COVID-19 patients or are patients themselves as these categories of people are required to wear specified protective gear.

Source: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, PIB ID: 1610960 on 4th April 2020

33. Advisory to Start Rapid Antibody-based Blood Test for COVID-19

Government of India has issued advisory to start rapid antibody-based blood test for COVID-19 for areas reporting clusters (containment zone) and in large migration gatherings/ evacuee centres.

All symptomatic Cases of Influenza Like Illness (ILI) in above areas to be tested at facility using rapid antibody tests. Any surge in cases to be brought to the notice of Surveillance Officer/CMO for additional investigation. All symptomatic ILI persons should be advised home quarantine for 14 days.

Source: Indian Council of Medical Research, on 4th April 2020

34. MHA Writes to States/UTs to Ensure Smooth Disbursal of Money to Beneficiaries of PM-GKY During 21-day Lockdown to Fight COVID-19

Secretary, Union Ministry for Home Affairs (MHA) has written to all States/UTs requesting them to take all necessary measures to ensure smooth disbursal of money to the beneficiaries of PM-GKY, while observing norms of social distancing. The concerned Departments of State Government/UT Administration, District authorities and field agencies may be informed about the guidelines for strict compliance.

Source: Ministry of Home Affairs, PIB ID 1610329 on 2nd April 2020

35. MHA Writes to States/UTs to Take Measures to Fight Fake News in order to Prevent Panic Among People and Spread of COVID-19 in India

Secretary, Union Ministry for Home Affairs (MHA), has written to all States/UTs to take effective measures to fight Fake News. It has been communicated that the Government of India is creating a web-portal for people to verify facts and verified news promptly. States/UTs have been requested to create a similar mechanism at their level for issues relating to them.

Source: Ministry of Home Affairs, PIB ID 1610146 on 2nd April 2020

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36. Parcel Trains Providing Big Boost to Transportation of Essential Commodities

Indian Railways has planned 10 routes for Time Tabled Parcel Trains and tentative 18 new routes are planned for Special Parcel Trains to keep supply chains running

So far, Indian Railways has loaded 30 Special Parcel Trains to various destinations all over the country Indian Railways has also been running Parcel trains for Milk and Food Products as per demand of customers Railways all geared up to meet the demands of State Governments for Parcel Trains for short distance movement within the State Staff Manning these operations braving all challenges in COVID-19 lock down times to ensure citizens don't feel shortage of essential goods.

[Source: Ministry of Railways, PIB ID 1610205 on 2nd April 2020](#)

37. PM Interacts with CMs to Bolster Efforts to Tackle COVID-19

Prime Minister outlined that the common goal for the country is to ensure minimum loss of life. In the next few weeks, testing, tracing, isolation and quarantine should remain the areas of focus. He highlighted the necessity of maintaining supply of essential medical products, availability of raw material for manufacture of medicines and medical equipment. He said it is necessary to ensure availability of separate, dedicated hospital facilities for COVID-19 patients. To increase the availability of doctors, he asked the States to tap into the resource pool of AYUSH doctors, organize online training and utilize para-medical staff, NCC and NSS volunteers.

Prime Minister further said it is pertinent to maintain peace and law & order across the country. He added that COVID-19 has attacked our faith and belief and is threatening our way of life. He appealed to the leaders to reach out to community leaders and social welfare organizations at state, district, town and block levels to build up a united front based on community-approach in the battle against the pandemic.

[Source: Prime Minister's Office, PIB ID 1610246 on 2nd April 2020](#)

38. Dr. Harsh Vardhan visits Dr. RML and Safdarjung Hospitals

The Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Dr. Harsh Vardhan today visited Dr. RML and Safdarjung Hospitals to personally take stock of preparedness to overcome COVID-19.

After having inspected the working of these centres, the Health Minister expressed satisfaction over the pace of screening process. Keeping in view the emerging requirement of isolation beds, Dr Harsh Vardhan stated that the Trauma Centre at Dr RML Hospital will function as dedicated COVID-19 isolation ward.

Saluting the committed and focused hard work of the doctors, and other healthcare professionals in the country, he stated that the country is proud of our dedicated health professionals.

[Source: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, PIB ID 1610703 on 2nd April 2020](#)

39. Railways Ramps Up In-house Production of Masks and Sanitizers

In continuation of the measures taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19, Indian Railways is making all out efforts to supplement the health care initiatives of Government of India. In this direction Indian Railways is producing Masks and Sanitizer in-house in its all Zonal Railways, Production Units and PSUs.

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Till 1st April 2020 Indian Railways has produced a total of 2,87,704 masks and 25,806 litres of sanitizer in its Zonal Railways, Production Units and PSUs.

[Source: Ministry of Railways, PIB Release ID 200961 on 2nd April 2020](#)

40. Updates on COVID-19

Various actions have been initiated by Government of India along with the States/UTs for the prevention, containment and management of COVID-19 in the country. These are being regularly monitored at the highest level.

Hon'ble President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind discussed the status of preparedness, the role of civil society/voluntary organisation/private sector and the role of the Red Cross with focus on vulnerable sections to contain the spread of the COVID-19 in a video conference.

Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, while addressing the nation today morning, appreciated that the country has shown unprecedented discipline and collective spirit during these uncertain times of crisis. He reiterated the importance of Social Distancing and urged every citizen to help implement the lockdown.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare appealed to the patients and their families, not to create hurdles in the work of doctors and other health workers.

[Source: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, PIB ID 1610749 on 3rd April 2020](#)

41. Domestic Cargo Flights Strengthen India's Fight Against COVID-19

Ministry of Civil Aviation is undertaking continuous efforts at policy level and ground level to add substantially in the country's fight against COVID-19. The cargo delivered to various parts of the country includes COVID-19 related reagents, enzymes, medical equipment, testing kits & PPE, masks, gloves & other accessories of HLL & cargo requisitioned by State/UT Governments and postal packets.

[Source: Ministry of Civil Aviation, PIB ID 1610990 on 4th April 2020](#)

42. DRDO Develops Sanitization Enclosures and Face Shields

In the ongoing efforts against COVID-19 pandemic, Defense Research Development Organization (DRDO) has designed full body disinfection chamber called as Personnel Sanitizations Enclosure (PSE) which is a walk-through enclosure designed for personnel decontamination. It has also developed face protection mask for health care professionals handling COVID-19 patients. Its lightweight construction makes it convenient for comfortable wear for long duration.

[Source: Ministry of Defence, PIB ID 1611116 on 4th April 2020](#)

43. Dr. Harsh Vardhan Visits LNJP Hospital

The Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Dr. Harsh Vardhan today visited Lok Nayak Jaiprakash Narayan Hospital to take stock of preparedness to overcome COVID-19. After a detailed review and inspection of the various wards and premises of the Hospital, the Health Minister expressed satisfaction & commended working of the departments and appreciated the dedication and hard work of the frontline health workers deployed there. He also suggested to

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install a system of Tele-Medicine / Tele consultation for those patients who were availing of services in the hospital.

On the issue of stigma against doctors and the frontline health personnel, he stated that the Home Ministry has taken cognizance of such incidents and advised the authorities to take stringent action under National Security Act.

[Source: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, PIB ID 1611039 on 4th April 2020](#)

44. DRDO Develops Bio-suit with Seam Sealing Glue to Keep Health Professionals Fighting COVID-19 Safe

Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has developed a bio suit to keep the medical, paramedical and other personnel engaged in combating COVID-19 safe from the deadly virus. Scientists at various DRDO laboratories have applied their technical know-how and expertise in textile, coating and nanotechnology to develop the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) having specific type of fabric with coating.

[Source: Ministry of Defence, PIB ID: 1610429 on 2nd April 2020](#)

45. DST-SERB Announces First Set of Approved Projects to Combat COVID-19 & Related Respiratory Infections

In view of increasing the load of CoVID-19 infections in India, the Department of Science and Technology-- Science and Engineering Board (DST-SERB) announced several special research projects calls to urgently ramp up national R & D efforts against the epidemic. The first set of 5 projects has been selected by DST-SERB, which will be supported for further development into implementable technologies.

[Source: Ministry of Science & Technology, PIB ID: 1610399 on 2nd April 2020](#)

46. FCI Ensures Uninterrupted Food Grain Supplies Across the Country During the Lockdown due to COVID-19 Outbreak

Even in this challenging operational environment, FCI is able to meet the increasing demand of food grains by gearing up the pace of supply of wheat and rice throughout the country mostly by Rail. 58 rail rakes loaded on 02nd April takes the figure to total of 410 rakes moved carrying about 11.48 LMT food grains since lockdown began on 24th March.

[Source: Ministry of Science & Technology, Release ID: 200944 on 2nd April 2020](#)

47. Indian Railways Maintains its Freight Corridors Fully Functional

Indian Railways continues in its endeavour to ensure availability of essential commodities through its freight services during the nationwide lock down due to COVID-19. In order to ensure the timely delivery of essential commodities for citizens and goods vital for energy & infrastructure sector, Indian Railways has maintained its freight corridors fully functional in spite of the COVID-19 lockdown and has been successful in meeting the needs of both the households sector and industry. During last 3 days Railways delivered 7195 wagons of Food grains, 64567 wagons of coal, 3314 wagons of steel and 3838 wagons of petroleum. Total 143458 wagons of freight were loaded in the last three days.

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48. MHA Blacklists 960 Foreigners

Under the directions of Union Home Minister, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has blacklisted 960 foreigners, present in India on tourist visas, for their involvement in Tablighi Jamaat activities.

[Source: Ministry of Home Affairs, PIB ID 1610456 on 2nd April 2020](#)

49. MHA Issues an Addendum to Lays Down SOPs for Transit of Foreigners Stranded in India

Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has issued an addendum to the guidelines, and subsequent addendums, to all ministries/ Department regarding the nationwide lockdown to fight Corona Virus. The addendum lays down SOPs for transit of foreigners stranded in India and release of quarantined persons after being tested COVID-19 negative.

[Source: Ministry of Home Affairs, PIB ID 1610509 on 2nd April 2020](#)

50. MHA Writes to States to Widely Publicize the Penal Provisions Regarding Violations of Lockdown Measures to Fight COVID-19

Union Home Secretary has written to all States to widely publicize among the authorities and public, the penal provisions under the DM Act and IPC regarding violations of lockdown measures, to fight COVID-19. It has been stressed that strict action must be taken by authorities on violators of lockdown measures.

[Source: Ministry of Home Affairs, PIB ID 1610308 on 2nd April 2020](#)

51. MHA Requests States/ UTs to Implement Lockdown Measures in Letter and Spirit to Fight COVID-19

Union Ministry for Home Affairs (MHA) had issued consolidated guidelines on lockdown measures to be taken by the Ministries/Departments of Government of India and States/UTs Governments/Administrations, so as to break the chain of transmission of the COVID-19 in the country.

It was observed that some States/UTs are allowing exceptions beyond what has been permitted under lockdown measures, as contained in Consolidated Guidelines issued by MHA under DM Act 2005.

In pursuance of this observation, Union Home Secretary, has written to all State Chief Secretaries and UT Administrators requesting them to strictly implement lockdown measures in letter and spirit, by exercising their powers under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, to fight COVID-19.

[Source: Ministry of Home Affairs PIB ID: 1610032 on 1st April 2020](#)

52. Advisory for Human Resource Management of COVID-19

This document provides guidance to the state on the human resource that can be mobilized for COVID-19 management along with possible role assignments and their training requirements.

Source: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Training Resources for COVID-19 Management

53. Revised Guidelines on Clinical Management of COVID-19 by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare as on 31st March 2020

Revised Guidelines for clinicians taking care of hospitalized patients of COVID-19 on Clinical Management have been issued as a reference document for interim guidance on management of patients, particularly for severe acute respiratory illness and critically ill. This document is intended for clinicians taking care of hospitalized adult and paediatric patients of COVID-19.

It is not meant to replace clinical judgment or specialist consultation but rather to strengthen clinical management of these patients and provide to up-to-date guidance. Best practices for COVID-19 including IPC and optimized supportive care for severely ill patients as considered essential. This document aims to provide clinicians with updated interim guidance on timely, effective, and safe supportive management of patients with COVID-19, particularly those with severe acute respiratory illness and critically ill.

AIIMS, New Delhi is running a 24x7 helpline to provide support to the treating physicians on clinical management. The helpline number is 9971876591.

Source: Revised Guidelines on Clinical Management of COVID-19, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

54. DARPG's National Monitoring Dashboard on COVID-19 Grievances Launched

The National Monitoring Dashboard was developed and implemented at <https://darpg.gov.in> where COVID-19 related grievances received in CPGRAMS with all Ministries/ Departments and States/ Union Territories are monitored on priority basis by a technical team of DARPG. The National Monitoring Dashboard was developed by DARPG in pursuance of the recommendations of the Empowered Group of Officers 10 constituted under the Disaster Management Act 2005 on Public Grievances and Suggestions to ensure timely implementation of COVID-19 Response Activities.

Source: Ministry of Personnel, Public & Pension, PIBID: 1609860 on 1st April 2020

55. Indian Railways Continues to Provide Food to Needy People

Indian Railways continues to provide bulk cooked food with paper plates for lunch and food packets for dinner to needy people through base kitchens of IRCTC with the help of RPF, GRP, commercial departments of Zones, State Governments and NGOs.

Indian Railways continues to provide food to needy people during lock down due to COVID-19. It has distributed about 1.4 Lakh cooked meals from 28th March. IRCTC kitchens have prepared more than 1 lakh of these cooked meals. In addition to playing a leading role in food distribution, RPF provides about 38600 meals from its own resources.

Source: Ministry of Railways, PIBID: 1609963 on 1st April 2020

56. What Do We Know and What Do We Need to Know About Novel Corona Virus?

Many things about Novel Corona virus are spreading rapidly through social media, what's app and the Internet. Some of these could be true, but many of the information are baseless. At a time when the coronavirus epidemic is spreading across the world, it is important to know about some facts related to this deadly virus. This includes information about the COVID-19.

[Source: Ministry of Science & Technology, PIBID: ID: 1609842 on 1st April 2020](#)

57. PIB Sets Up COVID-19 Fact Check Unit

Press Information Bureau (PIB) has set up a portal, COVID-19 Fact Check Unit, which will receive messages by email and send its response in quick time. PIB will also release a daily Bulletin at 8 pm every day to inform regarding Government's decisions and developments and progress on COVID-19.

[Source: Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, ID: 1610111 on 1st April 2020](#)

58. Don't Disseminate Unverified News Capable of Causing Panic: SC to Media

The Supreme Court of India has directed the Media, including print, electronic and social media, to maintain a strong sense of responsibility and ensure that unverified news capable of causing panic is not disseminated.

[Source: Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, PIB ID: 1609887 on 1st April 2020](#)

59. TIFR Initiative to Spread Awareness on COVID-19

To dispel the myths and provide a basic scientific understanding of the public health measure behind the pandemic Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) come out with a package of engaging and illuminating communication materials.

[Source: Ministry of Science & Technology, PIB ID: 1609797 on 1st April 2020](#)

60. FCI Ramps Up Food Grain Supplies Across the Country During the Lockdown due to COVID-19 Outbreak

Food Corporation of India (FCI) is ensuring uninterrupted supply of wheat and rice throughout the country during the lockdown period. FCI is fully prepared to meet not only the food grain requirement under National Food Security Act but is also prepared for any additional demand. on 31.03.2020, FCI has 56.75 Million MT (MMT) of Food Grains (30.7 MMT Rice and 26.06 MMT Wheat). Total 352 rakes have moved carrying about 9.86 LMT food grains since the lockdown began on 24th March.

[Source: Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution PIB ID: 1610089 on 1st April 2020](#)

61. Advisory for Quarantine of Migrant Workers by Ministry of Home Affairs as on 31st March 2020

Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has issued advisory for migrant workers. They will remain at their regular place of work/local residence within the city. They will not be evacuated either by their employer/landlord.

Action to this effect and to address other related issues will be taken by local administration as per advisories being issued by Ministry of Home Affairs.

As some of the migrant workers have already moved in groups and either reached their destination or are on their way, the health actions would be based on the locations where migrant workers are currently located.

[Source: The detailed guidelines can be seen at MOHFW site dated 31.3.20](#)

62. India Calls for Further Enhancing Affordable Access to Medicines and Facilitating Easier Movement of Health Professionals Across National Borders

India has called for working towards creating a global framework for further enhancing affordable access to medicines for fighting pandemics and facilitating easier movement of health professionals across national borders by upholding multilateral commitments to meet current challenges.

The Trade and Investment Ministers of the G20 and guest countries have decided to keep their markets open and ensure smooth and continued operation of the logistics networks.

India will support the availability and accessibility of essential medical supplies and pharmaceuticals at affordable prices, on an equitable basis, where they are most needed, and as quickly as possible, including by encouraging additional production through incentives and targeted investment, according to national circumstances.

[Source: Press Release ID: 1609470, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Posted On: 31st MAR 2020 12: 40 PM by PIB Delhi](#)

63. Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) India COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project

Republic of India will implement the Covid-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness project, with the involvement of the following Ministries/Agencies/Units: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC). The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (hereinafter the Bank) has agreed to provide financing for the Project.

[Source: MOHFW: India COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project \(PI 73836\)](#)

64. No Shortage of Medicines to Combat COVID-19 Outbreak by Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers

A Central control room [011-23389840] has been set up in the Department, which is working from 8 AM to 6 PM. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has set up another control room

[Helpline No. 1800111255], which functions round the clock. The Control rooms deals with issues related to queries/complaints and messages dealing with COVID-19 outbreak as well as coordination of transport and other logistic services related to drugs and medical devices.

Source: Press Release ID: 1609588 of Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India, Posted On: 31st MAR 2020 5:10PM by PIB Delhi

65. Release of CSR Funds to Fight COVID-19 by Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers

In view of the urgent need to fight COVID-19 pandemic, Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers Shri D. V Sadananda Gowda has urged all the profit making PSUs under his ministry to donate part of their CSR funds to Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM CARES) with the primary objective of dealing with any kind of emergency or distress situation.

Source: Press Release ID: 1609467 of The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Posted On: 31st MAR 2020 11:41AM by PIB Delhi

66. Sixty-Two Lifeline Udan Flights Operated During the Five-day Period from 26th to 30th March 2020, Transporting Over 15.4 Tons of Essential Item for COVID-19

Sixty-two Lifeline Udan flights have been operated during the five-day period from 26th to 30th March 2020, transporting over 15.4 tons of essential medical supplies like reagents, enzymes, medical equipment, testing kits, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), masks, gloves and other accessories.

Cargo hubs have been established at Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Kolkata. 45 out of the 62 flights have been operated by Air India and Alliance Air; other carriers are Indian Air Force (IAF) and Pawan Hans.

Source: Press release ID: 1609659, The Ministry of Civil Aviation, Posted On: 31st MAR 2020 7:14PM by PIB Delhi

67. Empowered Group of Officers for CPGRAMS Portal for COVID-19.

The Empowered Group of Officers 10 constituted under the Disaster Management Act 2005 on Public Grievances and Suggestions to ensure timely implementation of COVID-19 Response Activities met on March 31, 2020 and took the following decisions to identify problem areas and delineate policy, formulate plans and strategize operations and take necessary steps for time bound implementation of decisions.

In pursuance of this objective the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances shall set up a technical team comprising of 5 officials for preparation of daily reports on COVID-19, comprising of a summary and list of suggestions and grievances received/ disposal status on the CPGRAMS portal.

Source: Press Release ID: 1609552, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Posted On: 31st MAR 2020 3:57PM by PIB Delhi

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68. Updates on COVID-19 by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

The prevention, containment and management of COVID-19 in the country are being monitored at the highest level and various actions have been initiated in collaboration with the States. Hon'ble Prime Minister is regularly monitoring and reviewing the situation with top officials of the concerned Ministries/Departments and States/UTs Update as on 31st March 2020 18:29 IST have been released by MoHFW.

[Source: PR ID: 1609627, MOHFW, Posted On: 31st MAR 2020 6:29PM by PIB Delhi](#)

69. Indian Railways Ready to Modify 20,000 Coaches which can Accommodate up to 3.2 lac Possible Beds for Isolation Needs for COVID-19

As part of COVID-19 preparedness, it has been decided by Indian Railways that it would be prepared to modify 20000 coaches into quarantine/ isolation coaches to augment the quarantine facilities being created in the country. In this connection consultations were held with Armed Forces Medical Services, Medical Department of various Zonal Railways, and Ayushman Bharat, Ministry of Health, Government of India. Five Zonal Railways have already prepared prototypes for the quarantine/ isolation coaches.

These modified 20000 coaches can accommodate up to 3.2 lac possible beds for isolation needs. Work on modification of 5000 coaches, which are to be converted initially into quarantine/ isolation coaches has already started. These 5000 coaches would be having capacity to accommodate up to 80000 beds. One coach is expected to have 16 beds for isolation.

Five Zonal Railways have already prepared prototypes for the quarantine/ isolation coaches.

[Source: Press Release ID: 1609528, Ministry of Railways, Posted On: 31st MAR 2020 2:59PM by PIB Delhi](#)

70. Inclusive Guidelines for Protection and Safety of Divyangjan During Emergency Health Situations due to COVID-19 by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment

Implementation of Comprehensive Disability Inclusive Guidelines for Protection and Safety of Divyangjan during Emergency health situations due to COVID-19 –Issue of passes to care givers, NGO/ PwDs.

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has written to the State Commissioners for Persons with Disabilities of all States/UTs for the implementation of the guidelines issued by the DEPwD on 26th March, 2020, for protection and safety of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) (Divyangjan) during the emergency health situations due to Pandemic COVID-19 . They have been directed to Issue passes to Care Givers, NGOs/PwDs and streamline issue so that there is no delay in providing necessary support to Divyangjan.

They are also requested to sensitize local law enforcement authorities in this regard (Police/SDM etc.). DEPwD has asked them to ensure that PwD COVID-19 patients are not turned away from hospitals and health care institutions.

[Source: Press Release ID: 1609587, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Posted On: 31st March 2020 5:08PM by PIB Delhi](#)

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71. Ministry of Tourism Launches 'Stranded in India' Portal to Help Foreign Tourists Stuck in Various Parts of India

The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, has launched a portal "strandedinindia.com" to act as a support network for foreign tourists stuck in various parts of the country.

The portal strandedinindia.com consists of the following information that the foreign tourists can reach out to for help:

- Comprehensive information around COVID-19 helpline numbers
- Information around Ministry of External Affairs
- Information around state-based/regional tourism support infrastructure
- Support section to extend help to the ones in need

Source: Release ID: 1609489, Ministry of Tourism, Posted On: 31st March 2020 1:09PM by PIB Delhi

72. Cargo Flights to Carry Medical Supplies to Eastern and Southern Parts of the Country and Private Airlines to Carry Out Critical Supply Operations

The Cargo flights were operated to carry medical supplies to Southern, eastern and north eastern regions on 30th March 2020 as Lifeline 1- Air India flight on its route Mumbai-New Delhi-Bengaluru-Mumbai; and Lifelines 2- IAF flight from Hindon – Dimapur – Imphal – Guwahati.

Cargo flights are operated to carry medical supplies like ventilator, masks, Bipaps, ICMR kits, consignment of Ministry of Textiles etc. to Southern, eastern and north eastern regions of the country.

A dedicated Medical Air Cargo related website has been launched and is functional. In addition to Air India and Alliance Air flights, Private airlines such as Indigo, Spice jet and Blue Dart are also operating flights.

Source: Ministry of Civil Aviation, Press Release ID: 1609459 on 31.3.2020

73. Ayurveda's Immunity Boosting Measures for Self-care During COVID-19

Ministry of AYUSH recommends the self-care guidelines, supported by Ayurveda literature and scientific publications for preventive health measures and boosting immunity with special reference to respiratory health.

The important immunity boosting measures to be undertaken during dry cough/sore throat are drinking warm water, regular yoga practice, consuming herbal food, nasal application, steam inhalation etc.

Some simple Ayurveda Procedures are also recommended to be followed to the extent possible as per individual's convenience.

Source: Ayush Press Release ID: 1609524 on 31st MAR 2020 2:31PM by PIB Delhi

74. **AYUSH Ministry Urges Diligence in Claims and Initiates Work for Scientific and Evidence-based Solutions to Fight COVID-19**

Ministry of Ayush has set up an online channel on its website for receiving suggestions based on scientific explanations and proposals on therapies and procedures prepared based on standard scientific guidelines that could restrain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, or to manage the disease.

The Ministry has accordingly invited inputs from AYUSH practitioners and AYUSH institutions (institutions may include colleges/ universities, hospitals, research institutes, AYUSH manufacturers, AYUSH associations etc.). The inputs can be submitted on the Ministry's website at the following link: <http://main.ayush.gov.in/covid-19> (If the link doesn't work when you click on it, you may copy the same and paste in the address bar of your web browser)

Source: AYUSH Press Release ID: 1609523 dated 31st March 2020 2:29 PM by PIB Delhi

75. **Essential Technical Features for Ventilator by DRDO for COVID-19**

Technical Committee of DRDO shall identify the essential technical features for ventilators for COVID-19, which shall be put on the website of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and HLL Lifecare Ltd. The same have been received from Director General Life Sciences, DRDO

Some of the salient specification is, the machine should be turbine/compressor based and should have Invasive, non-invasive and CPAP features. The machine should have continuous working capacity for 4-5 days.

Source: DRDO guideline dated 31.3.2020

76. **Handling Public Grievances in Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India for COVID-19**

Sh. Sudhir Kumar, Joint Secretary has been nominated as **Nodal Officer** for handling public grievances pertaining to COVID-19. Contact details are as follows:

Phone Number: 011-23063585

Email ID: kumars14@nic.in

Source: Office Memorandum, file no.C.13015/03/2020-PG, MoHFW, W& PG Section, dated 31st March 2020

77. **Utilization of 44,000 Youths Trained Under Healthcare Sector by Deendayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojna (DDG-GKY)**

The Ministry of Rural Development has written to Chief Secretary of all States/ UTs to utilize the services of youth (Approx. 44,000), who have been trained in Health Care Sector under DDG-GKY to augment the front-line health workers to deal with challenges of COVID-19 epidemic.

Source: DO NO. J-17060/223/2016-DDUGKY(e350864), Ministry of Rural Development documents dated: 30.03.2020

78. **Availability of PPE Kits, N95 Masks and Ventilators**

In order to meet the requirement of PPE, masks and ventilators, factories producing these items are working round the clock and ordinance factories are trying to produce personal protection equipment for medical personnel. Ministry of Textiles and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

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have been working together in this endeavour and orders for 21 lakh PPE coveralls have been placed on them.

As of now, 3.34 lakh PPEs are available in various hospitals across the country and about 60,000 PPE kits have already been procured and supplied by Government of India. N95 masks are being manufactured by two domestic producers. They can supply 50,000 masks per day at the moment but are ramping up capacities to make 1 lakh masks per day within the next week.

[Source: PIB Release ID: I609263 MoHFW 30th March 2020 3:45PM by PIB Delhi](#)

79. Training Resources for COVID-19 Management

Appropriate capacity building of all level of healthcare workers for COVID-19 has been arranged and detailed information, facilitator's guides and other related material is available in this document. Field surveillance staff like ASHA, ANM, Aanganwadi workers, NCC cadets and other volunteers and field supervisory staff like PHC staff have also been included for training. Besides this training is also available for laboratory staff, persons involved in Clinical Management in COVID-19 treatment facilities including Intensive care facility.

[Source: Training Resources for COVID-19 Management, MoHFW, 30th March 2020](#)

80. Minding Our Minds During the COVID-19

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has issued an advisory for maintaining proper mental health under current lockdown situation which may generate sense of social isolation, fear and anxiety. It consists of few advices for handling rumour, social isolation and emotional problems. Few tips to identify possibility of mental health problem have also been provided.

Help and support from their families and other care givers is vital for persons with mental illness. Health helplines can provide support but, in addition to regular intake diet, prescribed medication and regular physical activity & daily routine, keeping engaged and positive is essential to maintain good mental status in the difficult times which may allow winning the battle more easily.

[Source: MoHFW advisory](#)

81. Indian Railways Getting Ready to Provide Medical Support to National Efforts in Fighting COVID-19

In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19, Indian Railways is making an all-out effort to supplement the health care efforts of Government of India.

Indian Railways getting ready to provide medical support to National efforts in fighting COVID-19 in a big way. Railway Coaches are being modified, as Isolation coaches, to be made available in the event of contingency. Initially 5000 coaches have been planned. More than 6500 hospital beds of Railways to be made available as prescribed medical specifications.

[Source: Ministry of Railways, PIB Release ID: I609312 dated 30th March 2020](#)

82. Government Ensures Cargo Flight Operations for Medical Supplies to Various Parts of the Country

The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) is coordinating with state Governments for supply of medical equipment and related essential items needed for protection against and testing of COVID-19. Based on requirements received from various states on urgent basis, the senior officials of the Ministry coordinate with supply agencies for providing required material which can be further transported to the desired destinations. Air India and Alliance Air flights are being operated to carry out the necessary supply operations across the country.

The information sharing, answering of queries and the work at ground is going on round the clock for delivering the supplies to the destinations in a timely manner so the efforts to fight the COVID-19 are multiplied and supplemented.

Source: The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), Govt. of India Press Release ID-1609195 Posted On: 30th March 2020 10:43AM by PIB Delhi

83. ICMR Advisory for Procurement of Reagents for Labs doing Real Time (RT)-PCR of Throat and Nasal Swab for Diagnosis of COVID-19

In order to ensure uninterrupted supply of reagents for COVID-19 testing, ICMR requested each state to identify a nodal officer to coordinate with the State Resident Commissioner stationed at Delhi for procurement /supply of reagents/primers/probes and other related supplies to respective ICMR recognized labs for the diagnosis of COVID-19 in their states.

All Private Labs and select Government labs not supported by ICMR will procure all reagents of their own.

Source: Indian Council of Medical Research Department of Health Research dated 30.03.2020

84. Guidelines on Disinfection of Common Public Places Including Offices

The corona virus even though survives on environmental surfaces, gets easily inactivated by chemical disinfectants. Environmental cleaning /decontamination of common places like indoor areas, outdoor areas and public toilets are essential in areas reporting COVID-19.

The Indoor areas including office spaces should be sanitized every evening after office hours or early in the morning before the rooms are occupied with proper use of protective equipment by the worker.

Outdoor areas have less risk than indoor areas due to air currents and exposure to sunlight. These include bus stops, railway platforms, parks, roads, etc. Cleaning and disinfection efforts should be targeted to frequently touched/contaminated surfaces.

Sanitary workers must use separate set of cleaning equipment for toilets (mops, nylon scrubber) and separate set for sink and commode). They should always wear disposable protective gloves while cleaning a toilet.

The Guidelines also highlights Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) use by Sanitary workers, preparation of 1% sodium hypochlorite solution.

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85. Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Transporting a Suspect/ Confirmed Case of COVID-19

This SOP is applicable to current phase of COVID-19 pandemic in India (local transmission and limited community transmission), wherein as per plan of action, all suspect cases are admitted to isolation facilities. These procedures are meant to guide and be used for training ambulance drivers and technicians in transporting COVID-19 patients. The cleaning and decontamination protocols given here in the guidance note need to be strictly followed.

All surfaces that may have come in contact with the patient or materials contaminated during patient care (e.g., stretcher, rails, control panels, floors, walls and work surfaces) should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected using 1% Sodium Hypochlorite solution

The 102 ambulances should not be used for corona patients and should only be used for transporting pregnant women and sick infants.

[Source: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare \(DGHS-EMR\) dated 29.03.2020](#)

86. Health Advisory for Elderly Population of India during COVID-19

Elderly people are at a higher risk of COVID-19 infection due to their decreased immunity and body reserves, as well as multiple associated comorbidities like diabetes, hypertension, chronic kidney disease and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Also, course of disease tends to be more severe in case of elderly resulting in higher mortality.

Elderly persons are advised to stay at home, take proper nutrition, take prescribed medicines regularly, follow proper hygiene and monitor health. In case of any new problem consult doctor or call helpline.

[Source: For more details see MoHFW advisory dated 29th March 2020](#)

87. Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package - Insurance Cover for Healthcare Workers Update to Include Private Healthcare Workers

In continuation of the previous announcement on 26 March 2020, Package of Insurance for Health workers fighting COVID-19 the following conditions has been clarified:

It will provide an insurance cover of Rs. 50 lakhs for ninety (90) days to a total of around 22.12 lakh public healthcare providers. Community health workers are included in the scheme, who may have to be in direct contact and care of COVID-19 patients and who may be at risk of being impacted by this. It will also include accidental loss of life on account of contracting COVID-19.

Private hospital staff/ retired/volunteer/ local urban bodies/contract/daily wage/ ad-hoc/outourced staff requisitioned by States/ Central hospitals/autonomous hospitals of Central/States/UTs, AIIMS & INIs/ hospitals of Central Ministries can also be drafted for COVID-19 related responsibilities and will be covered subject to numbers indicated by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

The insurance provided under this scheme would be over and above any other insurance cover being availed of by the beneficiary.

[Source: Press Information Bureau Release ID: |60904|: 29th MAR 2020 5:14PM by PIB Delhi](#)

88. **ICMR Guidelines for Use of Commercial Kits for Nasal/ Throat Swab-based Diagnosis of COVID-19**

Currently, RT-PCR kits for diagnosis of COVID-19 have been procured by ICMR-NIV from USA. but now ICMR has allowed procurement and commercial use of kits approved by US FDA EUA/CE IVD, directly after due approval from DCGI and intimation to ICMR. In addition, ICMR has established a fast-track mechanism for validation of non-US FDA EUA/CE IVD approved kits at ICMR NIV. ICMR NIV has completed evaluation of 17 non- US FDA EUA/CE IVD kits.

[Source: ICMR Guidelines for use of commercial kits for nasal/throat swab-based diagnosis of COVID-19 in India, 28th March, 2020](#)

89. **Continuity of Minimum Support Services to Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) during the Lockdown Period**

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has urged the Ministry of Home Affairs to ensure minimum support services to Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) during the lockdown period.

It is urged in the letter that the law enforcement authorities in the States/UTs have been instructed to take immediate steps to issue passes to the caregivers/maids of Persons with Disabilities on priority basis. The local police have to give priority to demands of Persons with Disabilities.

[Source: Press release ID 1608757 by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment Posted On: 28th March 2020 12:33PM by PIB Delhi](#)

90. **GeM Initiatives for Procurement of Goods and Services by Government Departments in the Fight Against COVID-19**

Government e-Marketplace (GeM) has taken a number of initiatives in the fight against COVID-19 Pandemic for quick, efficient, transparent and cost-effective purchases in this hour of need.

A new dedicated page <https://gem.gov.in/covid19>, for purchasing medical and allied supplies has been created. The World Bank has increased procurement threshold at GeM for COVID-19 Response Project, from \$ 1 Lakh to \$ 1 Million.

A list of categories for medical supplies and categories for auxiliary supplies is also annexed.

[Source: For more details see Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Press release ID: 1608752, 28th March 2020](#)

91. **Preliminary Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) India COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project**

As part of the Fast Track COVID-19 Response Program I, the proposed India COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project is a four-year project with US\$ 1 billion from the World Bank's COVID19 Fast-Track Facility. The priority areas identified under the project is to build on the GOI's response to date and are informed by international best practice and WHO's Guidance Note on COVID-19 emergency response; (ii) The GOI's Draft COVID-19 Containment Plan; WHO COVID-19 Country Preparedness & Response Note (February 2019); World Bank Fast Track COVID-19 Facility Board Paper; Best Practices from China (Policy Notes on Lessons Learned from SARS and Other Outbreaks); and summary of Core Lessons from Bank Health Emergency Operations.

[Source: Stakeholder Engagement Plan \(SEP\) India COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project \(PI73836\) 27th March 2020](#)

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92. SOP for Reallocation of Residents/ PG Students and Nursing Students as Part of Hospital Management of COVID-19

In order to handle manpower shortage, if need arises, an SOP has been prepared to rope in residents doctors, dental surgeons and even nurses to increase availability of health care providers at various health facilities designated for COVID-19, as per their expertise and after appropriate training .

[Source: MoHFW F.No. V-16020/73/2020-INI-I dated 27.03.2020](#)

93. CGHS Reimbursement of OPD Medicines: Special Sanction in View of COVID-19

In view of the guidelines for social distancing issued in relation to COVID-19, CGHS beneficiaries getting medicines for chronic diseases may purchase medicines based on the prescription held, till 30th April 2020, irrespective of non-availability certificate from CGHS and submit the medical reimbursement claim. The idea behind the measures is that beneficiary need not visit the wellness centre.

[Source: Office order MoHFW, Directorate General of CGHS, No. Z.15025/12/2020/DIR/CGHS, dated 27th March 2020](#)

94. Setting-up Task Force by Department of Science & Technology (DST) for Mapping of Technologies by Start-ups on COVID-19

DST has set up a COVID-19 Task force consisting of representatives from DST, Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Start-up India and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) for mapping of technologies from R&D labs, academic institutions, start-ups, and MSMEs to fund nearly market-ready solutions in the area of diagnostics, testing, health care delivery solutions, and equipment supplies. Some of these solutions include masks and other protective gear, sanitizers, affordable kits for screening, ventilators and oxygenators, data analytics for tracking, monitoring, and controlling the spread of outbreak through AI and IOT based solutions.

[Source: PIB Delhi press release, ID-1608329 Ministry of Science and Technology Posted on 26th March 2020 4:21 PM](#)

95. Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana - Insurance Cover for Healthcare Workers and Relief Package for Poor People

Finance Minister announces Rs 1.70 Lac Crore relief package under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana for the poor to help fight the battle against Corona Virus and Insurance scheme for health workers fighting COVID-19 in Government Hospitals and Healthcare Centres

- Insurance cover of Rs 50 Lakh per health worker fighting COVID-19 to be Provided under Insurance Scheme
- 80 crore poor people will get 5 kg wheat or rice and 1 kg of preferred pulses for free every month for the next three months
- 20 crore women Jan Dhan account holders to get Rs 500 per month for next three months
- Increase in MNREGA wage to Rs 202 a day from Rs 182 to benefit 13.62 crore Families
- Ex-gratia of Rs 1,000 to 3 crore poor senior citizen, poor widows and poor disabled

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- Government to front-load Rs 2,000 paid to farmers in first week of April under existing PM Kisan Yojana to benefit 8.7 crore farmers
- Central Government has given orders to State Governments to use Building and Construction Workers Welfare Fund to provide relief to Construction Workers

Source: Press Information Bureau Government of India, Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India dated 26th March 2020

96. Gazette Notification Sale of Hydroxychloroquine

Central Government is satisfied that drug 'Hydroxychloroquine' is essential to meet the requirements of emergency arising due to pandemic COVID-19. Therefore in exercise of the powers conferred by the Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940, the Central Government has directed that sale by retail of any preparation containing the drug Hydroxychloroquine shall be in accordance with the conditions for sale of drugs specified in Schedule H1 to the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945.

Source: For more information see Gazette Notification below: CG-DL-E-26032020-218927, G.S.R. 219(E) 26th March 2020

97. Doorstep Delivery of Drugs in the Public Interest

The Central Government has made provision for delivery of drugs to consumers directly at doorsteps, from person registered under the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945, within the same revenue district, on production of valid prescription. The drugs are supplied on production of prescription physically or through email and a bill is generated through e-mail.

Source: Gazette notification G.S.R. 220(E)F.No. 18-04/2020-DC dated 26th March 2020

98. Emergency Control Office in the Ministry of Textile for Monitoring and Facilitating Supply of Materials for COVID-19

The Ministry of Textiles has set up an Emergency Control Room under the supervision of Special Secretary, Shri. P. K. Kataria to monitor production and supply of medical textiles (N-95 mask, Body Coveralls and melt blown fabric) which are required in connection with COVID-19.

Along with senior level officers, field officers are also appointed in emergency control room to take stock of the situation at ground level.

The contact details of all the officers have been shared for addressing the problem related to supply of medical textiles.

Source: F.No. 8/4/2020-R&D(Pt), Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India, 25th March 2020

99. Advisory on Activities to be Undertaken Under the FNHW Component of DAY NRLM in Response to COVID-19 Outbreak

In order to ensure proper awareness generation about COVID-19 outbreak and to enable the SHG members to be better prepared to manage themselves in the current scenario, as well as to support in amelioration of the difficulties being faced by the disadvantaged sections of the society, SRLMs are advised to consider activities through community institutions under DAY-NRLM and issue directions accordingly. All the activities undertaken by SRLMs must follow Advisories issued by MoHFW including advices regarding social distancing, mass gathering, or any other Advisory issued

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by the state with regard to COVID-19 outbreak. All the Staff and members shall follow preventive measures as specified by the MoHFW on COVID-19.

Source: Page 20: FNHW Integration- Suggestive activities – COVID-19/24.03.2020

100. Role of Frontline Workers in Prevention & Control of COVID-19

As you know a new respiratory disease called COVID-19 is spreading across the world. India has also reported cases from states and the government is trying to contain the spread of the disease.

All frontline workers play a major role in preventing spread and control of corona virus disease. The role includes Spread key messages in the community about measures to prevent the infection and take actions for early detection and referral of suspected COVID-19 cases.

Source: NHM, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

101. Guidelines for Handling, Treatment and Disposal of Waste Generated During Treatment/ Diagnosis/ Quarantine of COVID-19

In order to deal with COVID-19 pandemic, State and Central Governments have initiated various steps, which include setting up of quarantine centres/ camps, Isolation wards, sample collection centres and laboratories.

Following specific guidelines for management of waste generated during diagnostics and treatment of COVID-19 suspected / confirmed patients are required to be followed by all the stakeholders including isolation wards, quarantine centres, sample collection centres, laboratories, ULBs and common biomedical waste treatment and disposal facilities, in addition to existing practices under BMW Management Rules, 2016.

Source: Central Pollution Control Board, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change on 24th March 2020

102. Addendum to Guidelines Dated 24.03.2020, on Revised Exemption to Lockdown by Ministry of Home Affairs

This order allow exemption to pay and account offices , financial advisers and field officers, Reserve bank of India and its regulated financial markets, petroleum products and supply chain, forest staff, people handling cargo operations at airports and railway stations, coal mining activities, officers and staff resident commissioners based in Delhi and customs clearance at ports , airports and land borders, workers required to operate and maintain zoo, nurseries, wildlife, firefighting in forests, watering plantations to work during lockdown.

Patrolling and their necessary transport movement, social welfare department staff for operations of home for children, disabled, senior citizens, destitute women, widows, observation homes and pensions service are also exempted.

Source: No. 40-3/2020-DM-I (A), MHA, Govt. of India, dated 25.03.2020;
Original Order no.40-3/2020-D dated 24.03.20

103. MoHFW – Guidelines on Rational Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) guidelines describes components of PPE are goggles, face-shield, mask (Triple layer medical mask and N-95 Respirator mask), gloves, coverall/gowns (with or without aprons), head cover and shoe cover along with their specifications.

The PPEs are to be used based on the risk profile of the worker at different settings like immigration counters, customs and airport security, isolation facility of APHO, hospital setting, in-patient services and emergency department.

Doctors, nurses & other health staff working in ICU, attending to severely ill patients and in laboratories are exposed to high risk and should protect themselves with full complement of PPE. Doctors/ nurses during interview & clinical examination in holding area/ Isolation facility of APHO/ PHO are exposed to moderate risk and will require N-95 mask. Whereas persons working at Immigration Counters, customs and airport security are exposed to lower risk and a triple layer mask may be sufficient to protect them.

It also emphasizes that PPEs are not alternative to basic preventive public health measures such as hand hygiene, respiratory etiquettes; maintaining a distance of at least 1 meter and following the laid down protocol for disposing off PPEs which must be followed at all times.

[Source: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Directorate General of Health Services \[Emergency Medical Relief\]](#)

104. Fast Track Approval for Indian COVID-19 Testing Kits for Commercial Use

ICMR has established a fast-track mechanism for validation of non-US FDA EUA/ a CE IVD test kit and has recommended two RT-PCR (Reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction) test kits for use in ICMR approved government and private Laboratories. These kits can be used directly after due approval from DCGI and intimation to ICMR.

[Source: ICMR Press Release 23rd March 2020](#)

105. ICMR - Guidelines for COVID-19 Testing in Private Labs

The laboratory should be NABL accredited for real-time PCR assay for RNA virus.

Test should be conducted only when prescribed by qualified physicians as per the ICMR guidelines for COVID-19 testing

Sample preferably be collected from home to avoid contact with people.

Only real time PCR based assays recommended should be used.

Reporting protocol to be followed as laid down in guidelines.

The Cost of testing should not exceed Rs. 4,500/-. However, ICMR encourage free or subsidized testing in this hour of Public Health Emergency.

[Source: F.No. Z .280 | 5/23/2020/EMR 21.03.2020 issued by MoHFW](#)

106. ICMR - Revised Strategy of COVID-19 Testing in India

Currently testing is undertaken for following people:

- i. All asymptomatic individuals who have undertaken international travel in the last fourteen days:
 - They should stay in home quarantine for 14 days.

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- They should be tested only if they become symptomatic (fever, cough, difficulty in breathing)
- All family members living with a confirmed case should be home quarantined
- ii. All symptomatic contacts of laboratory confirmed cases.
- iii. All symptomatic health care workers.
- iv. All hospitalized patients with Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (fever AND cough and/or shortness of breath).
- v. Asymptomatic direct and high-risk contacts of a confirmed case should be tested once between day 5 and day 14 of coming in his/her contact.

Source: Indian Council of Medical Research, Department of Health Research, Version 3, dated 20/03/2020

107. CGHS Guidelines in View of Corona Virus (COVID-19) Infections – Issue of Medicines

To ensure safety of high-risk group for COVID-19, medicines for chronic diseases can be issued/indented in CGHS wellness centres for a period of three months through authorized representative. The high-risk groups are:

- Elderly beneficiaries aged 60 years and above
- Beneficiaries undergoing Immuno-suppressant treatment like organ transplant, chemotherapy, etc.
- Un-controlled diabetes/decompensated cardiac status
- Any other illness compelling stay at home.

Source: Office order MoHFW, Directorate General of CGHS, No. Z.15025/12/2020/DIR/CGHS, dated 20th March 2020

108. Extending the Last Date of Filing Unified Annual Return Under 8 Labour Laws for Year 2019 Up To 30th April 2020 Regarding COVID-19

The Filing of Unified online Annual Returns for the year 2019, under 8 Acts and 10 Central Rules were to be filed from 1st January to 1st February 2020. For the year 2019 a total of 30,420 Annual Returns so far have been received on Shram Suvidho Portal.

In, view of the spread of Novel Corona Virus, the last date of filing of Annual Returns for the year 2019 is extended up to 30th Apr 2020. You're therefore requested not to take any legal action for non-filing of Annual Returns for the year 2019 against the establishments and further requested to disseminate this information to all the establishments under your territorial jurisdiction for compliance and necessary action.

Source: F.No.14 (112)/2013/Coord-IT Cell, Government of India Ministry of Labour & Employment dated 20.03.2020

109. Relaxations of Submission of Notices, Returns and Other Forms Under Mines Act 1952 Due to COVID-19

Submission of notices, returns and other forms, Under the Mines act 1952, which were due for March & April 2020 has been extended for a period of 1 month from respective due dates

Source: No. DGMS/GENERAL/355, 20.3.2020 of Ministry of Labour and Employment

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110. Ensuring Availability of Mask, Gloves and Sanitizers by Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers

To ensure uninterrupted supply of Mask, Gloves and Sanitizers and to facilitate the procurement, a list of manufacturers has been prepared by National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) and is shared with all State Governments with request to coordinate to maintain a seamless availability of these items..

Source: D.O. dated 20th March 2020, F. No. 37001/2020/ Div. III/ NPPA, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Department of Pharmaceuticals, Govt. of India

111. CGHS Guidelines for COVID-19

In view of shortage of staff, all leaves for the staff, permissions/ requests to visit abroad are cancelled.

People with Chronic Diseases are being issued medicines for a period of '3' months. Beneficiaries are encouraged for online appointment system to reduce the waiting time.

For awareness of people visiting wellness centres, the Medical Officers are advised to educate and advice the beneficiaries as per the guidelines of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and display awareness material.

Special attention is needed for cleanliness of the wellness centre.

Source: Office order MoHFW, Directorate General of CGHS, No. Z.15025/12/2020/DIR/CGHS, dated 18th March 2020

112. Relaxations of ESI contribution under ESI Act due to COVID-19

The provision of regulation 31 shall be read as 45 days instead of 15 days for the contribution payable for the month of February and March 2020 only.

ESI contributions for month of February 2020 and March 2020 can be filled and paid up to 15th April 2020 and 15th May 2020 instead of 15th March 2020 and 15th April 2020 respectively.

Source: No. P-11/14/Misc./1/2019-Rev. dated 16.03.2020 of ESIC

113. MoHFW – Guidelines on Dead Body Management

Guidelines are provided for Standard Precautions to be followed by health care workers while handling dead bodies of COVID-19 are to follow standard infection prevention control practices. The personnel handling the body may follow standard precautions (surgical mask, gloves). For transportation the body is secured in a body bag, exterior of which is decontaminated. Environmental cleaning and disinfection of surfaces is to be done with 1% Sodium Hypochlorite solution. Autopsy should be avoided, and embalming of body should not be allowed.

At the crematorium/ Burial Ground, the Crematorium/ burial Ground staff should be sensitized that COVID-19 does not pose additional risk.

Source: For more details, see MoHFW (EMR Division) guideline 15th March 2020

114. Restriction on International Passenger Traffic Through Land Check Posts in View of the Spread of COVID-19

Advisory stating that all type of passenger movements through all the Immigration Land Check Posts located at India-Bangladesh, India-Nepal, India-Bhutan and India-Myanmar borders will be suspended w.e.f. 00:00 hours, 15th March 2020 and at India-Pakistan border w.e.f. 00:00 hours 16th March 2020 till further order. Advisory also stated few exceptions for the borders listed above.

[Source: Restriction on International Passenger Traffic Through Land Check Posts, MoHFW, 14th March 2020](#)

115. Consolidated Travel Advisory for COVID-19: 11th March 2020

More than 100 countries across the world now have reported cases of COVID-19. Travel advisories had been issued by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare from time to time. This consolidated advisory includes guidelines about visa, quarantine, avoiding non-essential travel, self-monitor their health and follow required do's and don'ts as detailed by the government. Further advisory is issued about international traffic through land borders will be restricted to designated check posts with robust screening facilities.

It also advised that all international passengers entering into India are required to furnish duly filled self-declaration form in duplicate (including personal particulars i.e. phone no. and address in India) (as annexed) to health officials and immigration officials and undergo universal health screening at the designated health counters at all points of entry.

[Source: Consolidated Travel Advisory for COVID-19, MoHFW, 11th March 2020](#)

116. Consolidated Travel Advisory for COVID-19: 6th March 2020

In view of the evolving situation of COVID-19 across the world and in India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has issued travel advisories from time to time. The issued travel advisories have been consolidated.

Indian citizens are advised to refrain from travel to China, Iran, Republic of Korea, Italy and Japan, and are advised to avoid non-essential travel to other COVID-19 affected countries.

Further advisory regarding visa restrictions, compulsory certification of having tested negative for COVID-19, universal screening, self-declaration, exemptions, health measures to be followed at all times while returning back to India, and what to do if a traveller feels sick during his/her journey, or within 28 days after return from COVID-19 affected areas.

[Source: Consolidated Travel Advisory for COVID-19, MoHFW, 6th March 2020](#)