

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
HEALTH MEDICAL & FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT**

Order No.132 /COVID-19/2020-21

Date:14 .10.2021

COVID INSTANT ORDER –132

Sub:- HMFWD-COVID19-certain guidelines for containment of covid19 - issued – reg.

Ref:- 1. DO.No. Z-28015/85/2021-DM cell dated 21.09.2021
2. GO Rt no.533 HMFWD(B2) dept. 13.10.2021

Government of India has communicated certain guidelines (enclosed) for covid management and also mentioned that Covid-19 still remains a grave and continuing public health challenge. GOI has also mentioned that 2nd surge of Covid-19 is still not over. Globally also, the surge in cases is being reported across multiple countries. This surge in cases has reinforced the importance of implementation of Covid Appropriate Behaviour (CAB) in addition to vaccination efforts.

2. Hence, there is a need for a continued focus on Prompt & Effective Containment Measures as well as Acceleration in the Pace and Coverage of Covid Vaccination to prevent any potential rise in number of cases.

3. In the coming months, various festivities such as Milad-un-Nabi, Deepavali, Christmas and New Year will follow one after the other till 31st December, 2021. This is a critical period as there may be a tendency to ignore COVID-safe behavior during festivals, resulting in large gatherings, events, fairs etc.

4. It is critical to enforce adherence to guidelines to allow festivities in a cautious, safe and Covid appropriate manner. Any laxity in implementation of Covid Appropriate Behavior could lead to serious consequences and can result in a surge in cases. It is imperative that districts focus on the following parameters closely.

Monitoring Matrix :

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

5. The present guidelines of GOI have also reiterated the advisories for Containment Framework and for putting restrictions to manage the spread of COVID-19 infection. District Collectors are directed to undertake containment measures in identified areas based on test positivity and strain on healthcare system.

6. Various types of gatherings shall be monitored and in case of violations of physical distancing and mask usage norms, necessary enforcement and penal actions should be taken.

7. Restrictions and relaxations shall be imposed and monitored based on weekly case positivity or a high bed occupancy (Oxygen and ICU beds) and restrictions if any shall be imposed without any delay besides continued focus on the five-fold strategy of **Test-Track-Treat-Vaccinate and adherence to COVID Appropriate Behaviour**.

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

I. Testing:

- To ensure availability of sufficient testing facilities across the district with particular focus on semi-urban and rural areas. Testing should be ramped up in areas reporting high number of cases, and/or increasing trend/ high positivity to aid early identification.
- To ensure sufficient RT-PCR testing kits are available to enable required level of testing across the district particularly during the festival season and adequate logistics planning accordingly.
- Undertake testing in areas with specific and vulnerable population to aid early detection.

II. Track:

- Active case search through formation of special teams.
- Effective contact tracing, their testing and monitoring of high risk contacts.

III. Treatment:

- Utilization of health infrastructure timely based on case trajectory in the district is crucial to avoid case fatality.
- Completion of PSA Plants in hospitals both Government and private on a mission mode including availability of medical gas pipeline (MGPS), and trained manpower.
- Availability of oxygen through oxygen cylinders and concentrators particularly in rural areas.
- Adequate availability of drugs in all COVID dedicated facilities including maintaining buffer stock of drugs.
- Availability of required health infrastructure in rural areas including Village level Covid care centres.
- Ensure the health infrastructure to manage paediatric Covid-19 cases vide Guidelines for Management of Covid-19 in Children.
- To monitor mutations, if any, districts shall send required number of samples as per the SOPs already issued for Whole Genome Sequencing to INSACoG Labs.

IV. Vaccination:

- Vaccination of eligible people to be accelerated with active survey and execution vaccination to all non vaccinated eligible people.
- Coverage of eligible second dose beneficiaries shall be prioritized.
- Optimal usage of allocated doses through minimal wastage.

V. Covid Appropriate Behaviour:

- Community engagement is a critical element of sustained COVID- 19 management.
- Effective IEC in local channels duly utilizing medical professionals and local influencers to promote Covid-safe festivities.
- Need to undertake effective communication with community on elements of COVID-appropriate behavior which includes use of masks/face covers, following physical distancing (2 metres distance) and practicing respiratory & hand hygiene.
- Need for monitoring the adherence to Covid Appropriate Behaviour and guidelines.
- Strict Implementing the penalties for violation of CAB

10. There should be strict adherence to limits (not more than 250) on gatherings linked with availability of space to ensure effective physical distancing.
11. District Collectors may engage volunteers to aid thermal screenings in public places and to enforce use of masks and physical distancing shall be considered. Closed circuit cameras installed in the commercial establishments shall be utilized to monitor compliance to physical distancing and use of mask.
12. Guidelines already issued with respect to malls, local markets, and places of worship, shall be strictly followed. Any violations of the guidelines shall entail imposition of necessary restrictions to avoid a spread of infection.
13. Districts shall closely monitor the case trajectories on a daily basis to identify any early warning signals and shall ensure imposition of local restrictions and adherence to COVID Appropriate Behaviour as a non-pharmaceutical intervention to control the spread of infection.
14. The District Collectors shall review the above activities on daily basis or more frequently as situation demands, for effective implementation of 5 fold strategy in covid management.



Principal Secretary to the Govt.

All District Magistrates & Collectors in the state
All Joint Collector(V, WS & Development) in the state
All DMHOs in the state