

ਦਫ਼ਤਰ ਡਿਪਟੀ ਕਮਿਸ਼ਨਰ, ਮਾਨਸਾ।
(ਫੁਟਕਲ ਸ਼ਾਖਾ)

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ਪਿੱਠ ਅੰਕਣ ਨੰਬਰ 4406 - 4416 ਫਸ/ਫਕ -1

ਮਿਤੀ, ਮਾਨਸਾ 23.03.2021

ਇਸ ਦਾ ਇੱਕ ਉਤਾਰਾ :-

1. ਸੀਨੀਅਰ ਕਪਤਾਨ ਪੁਲਿਸ, ਮਾਨਸਾ
2. ਵਧੀਕ ਡਿਪਟੀ ਕਮਿਸ਼ਨਰ (ਜ), ਮਾਨਸਾ
3. ਵਧੀਕ ਡਿਪਟੀ ਕਮਿਸ਼ਨਰ (ਵਿਕਾਸ), ਮਾਨਸਾ
4. ਉਪ ਮੰਡਲ ਮੈਜਿਸਟਰੇਟ, ਮਾਨਸਾ/ਬੁਢਲਾਡਾ/ਸਰਦੂਲਗੜ੍ਹ,
5. ਸਿਵਲ ਸਰਜਨ, ਮਾਨਸਾ,
6. ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਕੰਟਰੋਲਰ, ਖੁਰਾਕ ਸਿਵਲ ਸਪਲਾਈਜ ਅਤੇ ਖਪਤਕਾਰ ਮਾਮਲੇ, ਮਾਨਸਾ
7. ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਸਿੱਖਿਆ ਅਫਸਰ (ਸੈਕੰ:ਸਿੰ:), ਮਾਨਸਾ
8. ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਸਿੱਖਿਆ ਅਫਸਰ (ਐਲੀ:ਸਿੰ:), ਮਾਨਸਾ
9. ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਪ੍ਰੋਗਰਾਮ ਅਫਸਰ, ਮਾਨਸਾ

ਪਾਸ ਅਗਲੀ ਲੇੜੀਂਦੀ ਕਾਰਵਾਈ ਹਿੱਤ ਭੇਜਿਆ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਜੀ।

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ਵਾ: ਡਿਪਟੀ ਕਮਿਸ਼ਨਰ,
ਮਾਨਸਾ।

2000. ਜਿਸ ਵਿੱਚ ਮਾਨਸਾ ਸਿੱਕਾ ਮਾਮਲਾ
ਜੀ. 10221/03884
ਮਿਤੀ 24/3/21
ਉਸਦੇ 2 ਖੁਰਾਕ ਸਿਵਲ ਸਪਲਾਈਜ ਅਤੇ ਖਪਤਕਾਰ ਮਾਮਲੇ ਤੇ ਸੰਬੰਧਿਤ
2021 ਵਿੱਚ ਭੇਜਿਆ ਜਾਵੇ।
ਮਿਤੀ 24/3

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Sent copy to ANK 14/11/20
& our COMS & CS.
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Agree

Minutes of the meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister, Punjab through Video Conferencing on 19.3.2021 at 11.30 a.m. to review the emerging situation of COVID-19 and its management and vaccination programme.

List of participants is attached at Annexure.

Chief Secretary welcomed the Chief Minister and briefed him about the management of COVID as under:

- i. During the last one year, incidence in Punjab has remained relatively low. The state has consistently remained at 18th position amongst all the states in India in terms of the number of COVID cases. Though death rate has been a matter of concern yet at 206 deaths per million population, we compare well against Delhi at 542 and Maharashtra at 431.
- ii. Following the test-track-treat strategy, we have ramped up the COVID testing to 30,000 tests per day with 90% being the gold standard RT-PCR. Even when the number of COVID cases dropped, we ensured around 20,000 COVID tests/day. Our tests/million always remained above the national average.
- iii. We were tracing over 10 contacts per case. While we initially set up Isolation facilities in hospitals, as our understanding of the disease and its psychological and social impact improved, we started allowing home isolation. However, we brought in a professional agency to monitor the Home Isolation cases to ensure their proper care. We also prepared and delivered Home Isolation kits with Thermometers, Pulse oxymeters and medicines etc. to each COVID patient. In case of serious patients, we ensured the best treatment at Government hospitals, while encouraging private hospitals to use the latest techniques and reserve adequate beds for COVID patients. We were the first to introduce High Flow Nasal Canula, which proved much more beneficial than that of ventilators for COVID patients, gave free of cost drugs costing even Rs.1 lakh in the market, and introduced latest practices with the support of national and international medical experts.

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- iv. After bringing the problem under control by the end of the last year, we are again seeing a surge for the last one month.
- v. From a low of around 200 cases daily and deaths in single digit, we have gone to around 2,000 cases per day, and the deaths are also increasing.
- vi. However, we are fully prepared to deal with the second wave. We have adequate RT-PCR capacity, and will increase Rapid Antigen Tests in view of the rising positivity.
- vii. We have also identified the well-functioning hospitals where serious cases are best handled. We have advised such hospitals to restore the COVID beds and postpone elective surgeries. We are confident that with renewed efforts supported by the people and sustained over the next 2 weeks, we will again bring the situation under control.

2. Principal Secretary Health & Family Welfare (PSHFW) apprised about the current COVID situation and the steps taken as under:

- i) As of now, there are 13,320 active cases as on 17th March which was less than 2,000 cases in the month of February.
- ii) Positivity has risen from less than 2% in the month of February to 5.41% between 11 – 17th March.
- iii) Case Fatality Rate has, however, come down from 2.3 between 18-24 February to 1.7 between 11-17 March, 2021.
- iv) Contact tracing has been ramped up. There is need to further increase the contact tracing as well as COVID testing of the contacts so traced.
- v) Sufficient beds are available at L2 and L3 healthcare facilities, bed occupancy in L2 in Government healthcare institutions is 11.76% and in private healthcare institutions is 21.29%. Similarly, the bed occupancy in L3 in Government healthcare institutions is 45.16% and in private healthcare institutions is 6.47%.

- vi) The State has sent 863 samples for genome sequencing out of which the results of 92 samples have been received. Two samples have been found positive for N440K variant while one sample was found positive for UK variant (Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar) but this sample was from a UK returned passenger, who was isolated.
- vii) About 48% HCWs and 53% FLWs have got first dose of vaccine while about 1.47 lac general population have been inoculated. HCWs and FLWs are also getting second dose of vaccine.
- viii) 80 minor, eight serious and 16 severe AEFI cases were reported out of which, except one all have been discharged. Remaining one case is also being regularly monitored by the specialist doctors.

3. PSHFW further apprised that the department has taken the following steps for management of COVID pandemic:

- a) Testing increased to more than 30,000 tests per day
- b) Limit on social gathering – maximum 100 for indoor and 200 for outdoor events
- c) All schools and Anganwadi Centres closed
- d) More containment & micro-containment zones identified
- e) 100% testing in micro-containment zones
- f) Night curfew imposed in nine districts from 9 pm to 5 am
- g) Police enforcing COVID protocols by challaning COVID protocol offenders
- h) COVID Vaccination Centres (CVCs) increased in Public hospitals and also in Private hospitals – 697 Public hospitals (including three Medical Colleges) and 388 Private hospitals (including five private Medical Colleges)
- i) Home Isolation Tele-Monitoring Agency was again engaged to monitor home isolated patients w.e.f. 18.3.2021
- j) Vaccination on all seven days a week

4. Principal Secretary Medical Education & Research (PSMER) intimated that the three Medical Colleges are fully prepared to manage critically ill COVID patients. Sufficient RT-PCR testing capacity is available to ramp up testing. He further suggested that the travel time of COVID samples from the hospitals to the Labs need to be reduced and the crowd management at the public COVID Vaccination Centres needs to be done as per COVID guidelines.

5. Health & Family Welfare Minister apprised that the department is taking all steps to ensure management of COVID pandemic and vaccination of the eligible categories of people. He suggested that COVID protocols need to be enforced more vigorously, there is need to put more restrictions on social gatherings and adequate steps need to be taken in view of the coming procurement season, Holla Mohalla and Vaisakhi celebrations.

6. Medical Education & Research Minister apprised that the three Medical Colleges are taking appropriate actions to ensure proper management of critically-ill COVID patients. The department is motivating more HCWs to get vaccinated.

7. Thereafter, Deputy Commissioners of 11 districts namely Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Patiala, Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar, Amritsar, Hoshiarpur, Kapurthala, Ropar, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar, Fatehgarh Sahib and Moga which have shown increased positivity and, therefore, cause of concern for rapidly growing infection were asked to share the steps taken for management of COVID pandemic as well as increasing uptake of COVID vaccine.

8. Deputy Commissioners, Commissioners of Police and Sr. Superintendents of Police of these districts apprised about the current COVID situation in their districts, vaccination of the priority age group, positivity trends in their districts, local level super-spreader events and their management, opening up of more public & private healthcare facilities for COVID vaccination and also suggestions regarding further restrictions on social gatherings and enforcement of COVID protocols which were taken due note of.

9. Director General of Police apprised the Chief Minister that the Police is enforcing the COVID protocols and in this process, they have issued more than 27,000

challans and collected more than Rs.1.5 crore as fine. The DGP suggested that restrictions on social gatherings may further be imposed, house gatherings may also be restricted to maximum of 10, public dealings in Government offices may be restricted, public transport may be allowed with less occupancy and persons not wearing masks may be got tested rather than issuing challans.

10. Dr K.K. Talwar, Adviser Health & Medical Education to the Government of Punjab highlighted the issue of increased positivity having been seen in the younger age group of less than 30 years of age. He further apprised that the Experts' Group is meeting daily at 7.30 pm to discuss the COVID management protocols in which critical care experts from the Government Medical Colleges, Health & Family Welfare department, PGIMER, AIIMS, USA, UK and private hospitals participate. However, some private hospitals do not participate which needs to be ensured. Dr Talwar further suggested that educational institutions except Medical & Nursing may be closed for two weeks and elective surgeries in hospitals providing Covid care may also be postponed by two weeks. He further suggested that we must remember people who died due to COVID by paying tribute to them through one hour silence including off-roading vehicles, on any day of the week. He also suggested addressing the issue of vaccine hesitancy through Information & Public Relations department by appropriate IEC campaign.

11. Food & Civil Supplies Minister apprised the Chief Minister that the procurement season is going to start from 1st April but owing to the increased positivity, the number of procurement centres will have to be increased. He suggested that the procurement season may be deferred for about 10 days to ensure that all arrangements are put in place for smooth procurement. He further requested the Chief Minister to take up the issue of extension in the PM Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana with the Prime Minister of India.

12. The Chief Minister expressed his concern about the increasing trends in positivity. **After detailed deliberations, the following directions were given:**

- a) For the 11 seriously affected districts namely Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Patiala, Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar, Amritsar, Hoshiarpur, Kapurthala, Ropar,

Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar, Fatehgarh Sahib and Moga, following restrictions shall be applied:

- i. Night curfew from 9 pm to 5 am. Industries and essential services shall be allowed to function but otherwise, all restrictions shall be enforced strictly.
- ii. No social, cultural or political gatherings and related functions shall be allowed in these 11 districts from 21st March, 2021. For funeral / cremations/weddings, the number of attendees shall be restricted to 20.
- iii. In-person public dealing in these 11 districts shall be restricted in all Government offices. Online and virtual modes for grievance redressal shall be encouraged. Citizens to be encouraged to visit offices only for essential services. Concerned departments shall issue instructions for limiting appointments per day for registries etc.
- iv. Cinemas, multiplexes, restaurants, malls, etc. shall remain closed on Sundays though home deliveries will be allowed subject to night curfew.

The situation would be again reviewed after 2 weeks.

(Action by: Deptt of Home)

- b) For the entire state, it shall be ensured that:
- i. All educational institutions, other than medical and nursing colleges will remain closed till 31st March, 2021.
 - ii. Restriction of 50 % capacity in cinema halls and not more than 100 persons in a mall at any time.
 - iii. There should be adequate stocks of medicines, availability of manpower and resources at healthcare facilities.
 - iv. Bed capacity for COVID patients in L2 & L3 hospitals to be ramped up. Elective surgeries shall be postponed/ deferred till 31st March 2021.
 - v. Referral mechanism to L3 facilities must be in place and functional.
 - vi. COVID Monitors should be appointed at every establishment and office - the names and numbers of these Monitors should be

available with the District Administration. They shall be responsible for ensuring following of COVID Appropriate Behaviour at their Organizations. The Departments of Labour; Excise and Taxation and other departments must assist the Deputy Commissioners to enforce these instructions.

- vii. The strategy of micro-containment and containment zones where there are evident clusters must be re-enforced and monitored strictly.
- viii. One hour of silence will be observed across the State every Saturday starting from March 27 from 11 AM to 12 PM in memory of those who lost their lives to COVID. No vehicle shall ply at this time.

(Action by: All Deputy Commissioners; Department of Home; Department of Health & Family Welfare; Department of Medical Education & Research; Department of Labour; Department of Excise & Taxation; Department of Higher Education; Department of Technical Education; Department of School Education.)

c) Vaccination: Our vaccination numbers are also quite low. We must immediately take the following steps:

- i. Ramp up IEC activities to urge all eligible to take the vaccine by especially publicizing the benefits of the same and the fact that these vaccines are safe. All elected and local leaders must make efforts to reach out to the public and address vaccination hesitancy. Community participation through Lok Sanjhedari should also be reorganised and mobilised to address vaccination hesitancy and COVID appropriate behaviour.
- ii. We must ensure proactive reaching out to and coverage of all frontline workers. This must include all those who provided essential services or were on COVID duty during the curfew and the lockdown.
- iii. Those registered private facilities that have not administered a single dose must be reviewed and all private hospitals encouraged to participate in the vaccination drive. Rates to take the vaccine in

private healthcare institutions must be publicized and overcharging should not be permitted.

- iv. All private and govt health facilities must offer hassle free vaccination services for at least 8 hours daily, 7 days a week till March 31. There should be no requirement of a separate certificate if a person brings the medical record regarding co-morbidities.

(Action by: All Deputy Commissioners; Department of Health & Family Welfare; Department of Medical Education & Research; Department of Information & Public Relations)

d) Testing:

- i. We need to ensure that our testing per day reaches 35,000. We must especially focus on potential super spreaders- Government employees, teachers in educational institutions, etc. must be tested routinely.
- ii. RAT testing should be stepped up along with RTPCR testing.
- iii. Contact tracing and testing must go up to 30 per positive person. The CPTOs must personally monitor this task.

(Action by: All Deputy Commissioners; Department of Health & Family Welfare; Department of Medical Education & Research)

e) Other efforts:

The recruitments of specialists/ superspecialists should immediately be completed by the Department of Medical Education & Research.

(Action by: Department of Medical Education & Research)

- f) Food procurement for the Rabi season shall commence from 10th April 2021 instead of 1st April and due precautions keeping in mind COVID appropriate protocols shall be worked out.

(Action by: Deptt of Home, all Deputy Commissioners; ACS Development; Department of Food & Civil Supplies)

g) Strict enforcement is key to success

- i. To enforce compulsory wearing of Face Masks, which is the only way to break the transmission chain of the COVID virus, the Police and the Health authorities to take all those moving around and

loitering in public areas, and on the roads and streets, without Face Masks, to the nearest RT-PCR Testing Facility to ensure that they are not asymptomatic COVID cases.

- ii. People must keep social activity in their houses to the bare minimum for the next two weeks to break the transmission chain. Not more than 10 visitors should be entertained in homes.
- iii. Appeal be made to all political parties and their leaders to keep their gatherings within the prescribed numbers ie 50% of capacity subject to maximum of 100 in closed and 200 in open spaces.

(Action by: All Deputy Commissioners; Department of Home; Department of Information & Public Relations; Department of Health & Family Welfare; Department of Medical Education & Research)

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.
