

March 29, 2021

HIGHLIGHTS

- Ministry of Home Affairs issues revised guidelines for effective control of COVID-19; States/ UTs to strictly enforce Test-Track-Treat protocol (Link)
- Director, National Centre for Disease Control states that 771 variants have been found in the country through genome sequencing so far, and includes strains from UK, South Africa, and Brazil (Link)
- Union Minister of Health asserts communication strategy for COVID-19 vaccine is prepared to address vaccine hesitancy among population (Link)
- Centre rushes high level multi-disciplinary teams to Chhattisgarh & Chandigarh to assist with COVID-19 control & containment measures (Link)
- Union Health Secretary chairs high level meeting with 12 States and UTs reporting surge in cases (<u>Link</u>)
- Maharashtra, Punjab, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu report a rise in cases, and account for 81% of daily new cases (Link)
- As on 25 March, India stands second in the world in terms of the number of vaccine doses administered (<u>Link</u>)
- India crosses a landmark milestone of over 6 crore vaccine doses administered (<u>Link</u>)

INDIA SITUATION

WHO Situation Update

India

12,039,644 Confirmed Cases 161,843 Total Deaths

South East Asia Region 14,763,395 Confirmed Cases 218,604 Total Deaths (As on 30 March 2021)

World

126,890,643 Confirmed Cases 2,778,619 Deaths

- As of 29 March 2021, India reported a total of 12,039,644 confirmed cases and 68,020 confirmed cases within the past 24 hours. There is continued surge of cases. Cases per million is 8,594 and a total of 161,843 deaths have been reported, details <u>here</u>.
- Five states, namely, Maharashtra, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu are contributing more than 54% of total cases.
- About 90% of affected districts reported one or more than one COVID-19 case in last seven days
- In the past week, India has reported 1,876 deaths, of which the highest were in Maharashtra (782) followed by Punjab (366) and Chhattisgarh (126). Punjab has reported highest CFR (2.9%).

COVID-19: STATUS ACROSS STATES

In the past week, as compared to previous week, 31 states have shown an increase in cases.





March 29, 2021

- In **Chandigarh UT**, a ban was placed on all public gatherings for Holi, and no clubs, hotels or restaurants were allowed to host any ceremonial gathering on the occasion
- In **Himachal Pradesh**, a "no mask no service" policy has been mandated, in line with which only those with face covers/ masks will be allowed to enter public places like hospitals, temples, schools, offices, etc
- In Punjab, all educational institutes, other than medical and nursing colleges will remain closed till March 31

WHO GLOBAL UPDATE

- International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Maritime Organization (IMO), International Organization for Migration (IOM) and World Health Organization (WHO) has issued a joint statement on prioritization of COVID-19 vaccination for seafarers and aircrew, details <u>here</u>
- Global COVAX Facility has notified that deliveries of COVID-19 vaccines produced by the Serum Institute of India (SII) to lower-income economies will face delays during March and April as the Government of India battles a new wave of COVID-19 infections, details <u>here</u>
- WHO Medical Product Alert refers to falsified COVID-19 Vaccine identified as "BNT162b2" detected in Mexico in February 2021 and recently confirmed as falsified to the WHO, details <u>here</u>
- Global leaders unite in urgent call for international pandemic treaty, details <u>here</u>

WHO COUNTRY UPDATE

Coordination

- WCO continues to provide technical support to MoHFW, NCDC, ICMR and NDMA at the national level and through task force/control rooms at the state and district level in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Puducherry
- Participated in review meetings regarding COVID-19 surge, response, and vaccination chaired by Chief Ministers, Health Ministers and/or Health Secretaries in Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka and Punjab
- Participated in a meeting to prepare launching of IHIP chaired by Health Secretary, Uttarakhand
- Continues to attend weekly review meeting of COVID Intensive Vaccination Committee chaired by Lieutenant Governor in **Puducherry**
- Participated in the expert committee meeting chaired by Chief Secretary in **Tamil Nadu** and presented COVID-19 situation data and vaccination monitoring indicators

COVID-19 vaccination

- High level oversight during vaccination is provided by WHO teams at district and state levels
- WCO is supporting monitoring of vaccination sessions across the country and continues to provide surge support for training, microplanning and monitoring
- WCO continues to support assessment of private hospitals in **Kerala** to enrol them as COVID-19 vaccination centres

Contact Tracing, Containment and Surveillance

- Country office continues to provide technical support for COVID-19 containment activities in **Uttar Pradesh**
 - provided supportive supervision to monitor contact tracing; identify containment zones and sharing regular feedback with government health officials on regular basis



March 29, 2021

• Supporting **Punjab and Andhra Pradesh** with response to recent surge in new COVID-19 cases across multiple states

Essential Services

- Efforts to strengthen VPD surveillance and immunization are underway in Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and Puducherry
- Supporting Puducherry and Tamil Nadu with sensitization efforts for surveillance of AFP/ MR/ DPT
- Supporting Andhra Pradesh, Chandigarh UT, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Telangana, in planning and implementation of Intensified Mission Indradhanush 3.0
- Supporting Andhra Pradesh, Chandigarh UT, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Ladakh, Lakshadweep, Puducherry, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, and Uttrakhand in conduction of training program on Integrated Disease Surveillance Program-Integrated Health Information Platform (IDSP-IHIP)
- Supporting Haryana for National Immunization Day for Polio
- Supporting assessment of Guntur Medical College-Microbiology Department as part of laboratory supported DPT surveillance strengthening in **Andhra Pradesh**

As of 29th March 2021, India has tested more than 241 M samples. Tests include both, RTPCR and Rapid Antigen. Most of the large states are ramping RTPCR tests. India's current test positivity rate (7DMA) is 5.33% and rising.



GUIDELINES THIS WEEK

- Case for private sector support: The ACT-Accelerator [LINK]
- Operational considerations to expedite genomic sequencing of GISRS surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 [LINK]
- 55th report of the WHO Expert Committee on Specifications for Pharmaceutical Preparations [LINK]
- COVID-19 School Infection Prevention and Control and Preparedness Assessment Tool* [LINK] (*Recent publication from National Centre for Disease Control)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT



March 22, 2021

HIGHLIGHTS

- Prime Minister exhorts Chief Ministers of multiple states to increase the number of vaccination centers and to scale up RT-PCR tests (Link)
- Union Health Secretary calls on States to optimally use COVID-19 vaccine and to reduce vaccine wastage drastically (<u>Link</u>)
- Maharashtra, Punjab, Karnataka, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh continue to record a steep rise in cases, and account for over 80% of daily new COVID-19 cases (Link)
- Center closely monitoring and actively engaging with States/UTs regarding surge of COVID-19 cases (Link)
- Union Health Secretary urged state of Uttarakhand to employ stringent measures to control the spread of COVID-19 during Kumbh Mela (Link)
- India records a milestone in COVID-19 vaccination with administration of over 4 crore vaccine doses (<u>Link</u>)
- Centre writes to States/UTs to increase the interval between two doses of COVISHIELD to 4-8 weeks from initial 4-6 weeks (Link)
- India crosses a key milestone in universal primary healthcare as it reaches its target of operationalizing 70,000 Ayushman Bharat – Health and Wellness centers ahead of time (Link)

INDIA SITUATION

- As on 21 March, India has reported 159,755 COVID-19 deaths with case fatality ratio (CFR) of 1.38%. Maharashtra has reported highest number of COVID-19 deaths (53,300) followed by Tamil Nadu (12,590) and Karnataka (12,432), details <u>here</u>.
- In the past week, India has reported 1,148 deaths, of which the highest were in Maharashtra (489) followed by Punjab (228) and Kerala (101). Punjab has reported highest CFR (3.0%) followed by Maharashtra (2.2%), Sikkim (2.2%) and West Bengal (1.8%). details <u>here</u>.
- More than 85% of affected districts reported one or more COVID-19 case in last seven days

COVID-19: STATUS ACROSS STATES

In the past week, as compared to previous week, 31 states have shown an increase in cases. The states/UTs with decrease in cases during last week are Nagaland, Kerala, Meghalaya & Manipur.



WHO Situation Update

India

11,599,130 Confirmed Cases 159,755 Total Deaths

South East Asia Region 14,245,791 Confirmed Cases 215,325 Total Deaths

World 122,524,424 Confirmed Cases 2,703,620 Deaths



March 22, 2021

- In Haryana, State police has launched a two-week campaign to promote COVID appropriate behaviors; under this campaign those found without masks will be provided one for free
- In Madhya Pradesh, weekend lockdown has been imposed in three cities namely, Bhopal, Indore, and Jabalpur
- In **Punjab**, schools and anganwadi centers have been closed due to the surge in number of cases

WHO GLOBAL UPDATE

- COVID-19 highlights urgent need to reboot global effort to end tuberculosis; thus, building up health systems so everyone can get the services they need to fight against TB, details <u>here</u>
- WHO Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety (GACVS) COVID-19 subcommittee on safety signals related to the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine has concluded that the vaccine (including Covishield) continues to have a positive benefit-risk profile, with tremendous potential to prevent infections and reduce deaths, details <u>here</u>
- New research from WHO and partners shows that the COVID-19 pandemic is severely affecting the quality of care given to small and sick newborns, resulting in unnecessary suffering and deaths, details <u>here</u>

WHO COUNTRY UPDATE

Coordination

- WCO continues to provide technical support to MoHFW, NCDC, ICMR and NDMA at the national level and through task force/control rooms at the state and district levels
- Attended high level COVID-19 review meetings in Assam, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh
- Participated in COVID-19 response and vaccination review meeting chaired by Health Secretary in Jammu and Kashmir

COVID-19 vaccination

- High level oversight during vaccination is provided by WHO teams at district and state levels
- WCO continues to support training/retraining of vaccinators and other vaccination team members
- WCO is supporting monitoring of vaccination sessions across the country and continues to provide surge support for training, microplanning and monitoring
- WCO has deployed two officials in Mandi and Kangra regions in **Himachal Pradesh** to support COVID-19 vaccination drive, and to strengthen monitoring and surveillance for routine immunization and VPD
- Advocating for an increase in session sites in Nagaland
- WCO continues to support assessment of private hospitals in **Kerala** to enrol them as COVID-19 vaccination centres

Contact Tracing, Containment and Surveillance

- Country office continues to provide technical support for COVID-19 containment activities in Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh
- In **Uttar Pradesh**, to identify ILI/SARI symptoms, a total of 31,544,836 houses have been covered and 162,017 symptomatic identified with the support of WHO field teams

Essential Services

• Efforts to strengthen VPD surveillance and immunization are underway in Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu



March 22, 2021

- Supporting Punjab and Tamil Nadu in strengthening and streamlining AEFI surveillance
- Supporting Chandigarh, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra in planning and implementation of Intensified Mission Indradhanush 3.0
- Supporting Chandigarh, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Laskhwadeep in conduction of training program on Integrated Disease Surveillance Program-Integrated Health Information Platform (IDSP-IHIP)

As of 21st March 2021, India has tested more than 233 M samples. Tests include both, RTPCR and Rapid Antigen. Most of the large states are ramping RTPCR tests. India's current test positivity rate (7DMA) is 3.48%.



GUIDELINES THIS WEEK

- Interim recommendations for the use of the Janssen Ad26.COV2.S (COVID-19) vaccine [LINK]
- Background document on the Janssen Ad26.COV2.S (COVID-19) vaccine: Background document to the WHO Interim recommendations for use of Ad26.COV2.S (COVID-19) vaccine [LINK]
- A guide to contracting for health services during the COVID-19 pandemic [LINK]

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT



March 15, 2021

HIGHLIGHTS

- India's total Active Caseload has reached 2,19,262 (as on 15 March), comprising 1.93% of the total Positive Cases. The national Recovery Rate is 96.68%. (Link).
- Maharashtra, Punjab, Karnataka, Gujarat, and Tamil Nadu continue to report surge in daily cases (<u>Link</u>)
- Union Health Minister asserts the necessity to maintain COVID appropriate behavior even after vaccine is available (Link)
- Close to 3 crore vaccine doses administered in India as part of the world's largest vaccination drive (<u>Link</u>)
- India registers a new landmark in COVID-19 vaccination with highest single day vaccination of over 20 lakh doses (Link)
- Center closely monitoring and actively engaging with States/UTs facing surge of COVID-19 cases (Link)
- Member (Health), NITI Aayog announces that Covaxin is now allowed for restricted use in emergency situation in public interest (Link)
- Union Health Minister inaugurates multiple facilities at AIIMS Bhopal (Link)

INDIA SITUATION

WHO Situation Update

India 11,385,339 Confirmed Cases 158,725 Total Deaths

South East Asia Region 13,949,629 Confirmed Cases 212,900 Total Deaths (As on 16 March)

World 119603761 Confirmed Cases 2,649,722 Deaths

- As of 15th March 2021, India reported 26,291 confirmed cases over the past 24 hours and 11,385,339 confirmed cases cumulatively. There is surge of cases since last few days. Cases per million is 8,126 and a total of 158,725 deaths have been reported, details <u>here</u>.
- Among Indian states Maharashtra reported the highest number of cases (more than 2.3 million) followed by Kerala (more than 1 million) and Karnataka (960,272). Five states, namely, Maharashtra, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu are contributing more than 53% of total cases.

COVID-19: STATUS ACROSS STATES

In the past week, as compared to previous week, 27 states have shown an increase in cases; however, 9 State have witnessed decrease in cases.





March 15, 2021

- In **Madhya Pradesh**, 'Roko-Toko Abhiyaan' has been launched to urge people to wear a mask, in line with state issued detailed order for COVID-19 prevention and control
- In **Punjab**, Chief Secretary has ordered that school teachers eligible for vaccination must be vaccinated as front line workers on priority
- In **Rajasthan**, instructions have been issued to increase sampling in schools, religious places, railway stations, bus stands, etc.

WHO GLOBAL UPDATE

- ACT-Accelerator releases prioritized strategy and budget for 2021 to change the course of the evolving COVID-19 pandemic, details <u>here</u>
- WHO has listed the COVID-19 vaccine Ad26.COV2.S, developed by Janssen (Johnson & Johnson), for emergency use in all countries and for COVAX roll-out, details <u>here</u>
- COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund marks first anniversary; it is an innovative platform to enable private companies, individuals and other organizations to contribute directly to WHO's efforts to prevent, detect, and respond to COVID-19 around the world, details <u>here</u>

WHO COUNTRY UPDATE

Coordination

- WCO continues to provide technical support to MoHFW, NCDC, ICMR and NDMA at the national level and through task force/control rooms at the state and district levels
- Participated in COVID-19 review meeting in **Delhi** which was attended by Health Secretary, Additional Chief Secretary, and Principal Secretary Health
- Attended meeting chaired by Chief Secretary regarding ramping up COVID-19 vaccination in **Karnataka**; and continue to regularly attend review meeting regarding COVID-19 response and vaccination, chaired by Health Minister
- Participated in COVID-19 response and vaccination review meetings chaired by Health Secretary in **Tamil** Nadu

COVID-19 vaccination

- High level oversight during vaccination is provided by WHO teams at district and state levels
- WCO continues to support training/retraining of vaccinators and other vaccination team members
- WCO is supporting monitoring of vaccination sessions across the country and continues to provide surge support for training, microplanning and monitoring
- WCO continues to support assessment of private hospitals in **Kerala** to enrol them as COVID-19 vaccination centres
- On the request of Principal Secretary Health, WCO personnel in **Gujarat** prepared concept note to initiate study to assess impact of vaccine

Contact Tracing, Containment and Surveillance

- Country office continues to provide technical support for COVID-19 containment activities in Andhra **Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh**
 - provide supportive supervision to monitor contact tracing; identify containment zones and sharing regular feedback with government health officials on regular basis



March 15, 2021

• In Uttar Pradesh, to identify ILI/SARI symptoms, a total of 31,515,912 houses have been covered and 161,519 symptomatic identified with the support of WHO field teams

Essential Services

- Efforts to strengthen VPD surveillance and immunization are underway in Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Puducherry, and Tamil Nadu
- Held MR and AFP surveillance workshops and facilitated review meetings to strengthen immunization in **Puducherry**
- Supporting Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Punjab in strengthening and streamlining AEFI surveillance
- Supporting Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Kamataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Telangana in planning and implementation of Intensified Mission Indradhanush 3.0
- Supporting Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, and Puducherry in conduction of training program on Integrated Disease Surveillance Program-Integrated Health Information Platform (IDSP-IHIP)
- Supporting **Puducherry** in facilitating lab supported DPT Surveillance

India's current test positivity rate (7DMA) is 2.87%. A total of 703,772 tests reported on 15th March 2021.



RECENT GUIDELINES

- WHO Living guideline: Drugs to prevent COVID-19 [LINK]
- COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan Operational Planning Guideline [LINK]
- Monitoring COVID-19 vaccination: Considerations for the collection and use of vaccination data [LINK]

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT



March 10, 2021

HIGHLIGHTS

- New phase of COVID-19 vaccination will now take a demand-driven rather than supply driven approach, asserts Chairperson, Empowered Group of COVID-19 vaccination (Link)
- Union Health Minister receives his first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and appeals to all those eligible to take the vaccine and negate any rumors related to it (Link)
- States/UTs urged to utilize 100% capacities of private hospitals functioning as COVID Vaccination Centers (<u>Link</u>)
- Phase 3 Clinical Trial of COVAXIN, developed by ICMR & Bharat Biotech, shows 81% efficacy (Link)
- Maharashtra, Kerala, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, and Karnataka continue to report surge in daily cases (Link)
- Centre rushes high level public health teams to Maharashtra and Punjab to assist in COVID-19 control and containment measures in view of recent surge in cases (Link)
- COVID-19 vaccination drive initiated at Election Commission of India headquarters for its officers and staff (Link)

INDIA SITUATION

WHO Situation Update

India

11,244,786 Confirmed Cases 157,930 Total Deaths

South East Asia Region 13 759 594 Confirmed Cases 211 182 Total Deaths

World 116 521 281 Confirmed Cases 2589 548 Deaths

- As of 09 March 2021, India reported 11,244,786 confirmed cases. There is slight surge of cases since the past few days. A total of 157,930 deaths have been reported details <u>here</u>.
- Five states, namely, Maharashtra, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu are contributing more than 50% of total cases

COVID-19: STATUS ACROSS STATES

Over the last week, 24 out of 36 states and UTs have shown an increase in cases as following:





March 10, 2021

- In Maharashtra, lockdown in five districts of Amravati division, and night curfew in Pune has been extended
- In Rajasthan, night curfew has been imposed in 13 districts given the surge in number of cases
- In **Tamil Nadu**, guidelines on COVID-19 Prevention and Control have been issued by the Directorate of Public Health in light of upcoming assembly elections

WHO GLOBAL UPDATE

- On behalf of COVAX Facility, WHO signed an agreement for the administration of no-fault compensation programme for the 92 AMC countries and economies without need to resort to law courts. This is the first and only vaccine injury compensation mechanism operating on an international scale, details <u>here</u>
- WHO has placed into the public domain the status of COVID-19 vaccines for within WHO EUL/PQ evaluation process. details <u>here</u>

WHO COUNTRY UPDATE

WHO Country Office for India (WCO) works closely with MoHFW, in responding to COVID-19 and roll out of evidence -based interventions including Covid19 vaccination at the national, state and district level.

Coordination

- WCO continues to provide technical support to MoHFW, NCDC, ICMR and NDMA at the national level and through task force/control rooms at the state and district level in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Puducherry
- WCO teams contributed to review meetings on covid19 response and vaccination in Karnataka Puducherry, Tripuraand Assam
- Participated in COVID-19 review meeting chaired by Health Minister, **Mizoram** to finalize modifications of entry rules to the state and related SOPs

COVID-19 vaccination

- WCO continues to support training/retraining of vaccinators and other vaccination team members
- Assisted trainings regarding COWIN-2.0 launch in Puducherry and Telangana
- Supporting assessment of private hospitals in **Kerala** to enroll them as COVID-19 vaccination centers
- WCO and UNICEF jointly trained more than 260 NPSP surveillance medical officers on covid-19 vaccination communication. They will be supporting states/UTs and districts in communication for covid-19 vaccination

Essential Services

- Efforts to strengthen VPD surveillance and immunization are underway in Chhattisgarh, Puducherry, and Tamil Nadu
- Held MR and AFP surveillance workshops and facilitated review meetings to strengthen immunization in **Puducherry and Karnataka**
- Supporting Assam, Karnataka, Puducherry, and Tamil Nadu in strengthening and streamlining AEFI surveillance
- Supporting Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, and Telangana in planning and implementation of IMI 3.0
- Supporting Assam, Maharashtra, Puducherry, and Rajasthan in conduction of training program on Integrated Disease Surveillance Program-Integrated Health Information Platform (IDSP-IHIP)



March 10, 2021

Intra-Action Review

• The Government of **Uttar Pradesh** has embarked on WHO guidance for conducting State COVID-19 Intra-Action Review (IAR) to understand the critical opportunities for learning and improvement to better respond to the COVID-19 outbreak in the State.



GUIDELINES THIS WEEK

- 1. WHO Monitoring COVID-19 vaccination (LINK)
- 2. WHO draft landscape of observational study designs on the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccination (LINK)
- 3. WHO draft landscape and tracker of COVID-19 candidate vaccines (LINK)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT



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HIGHLIGHTS

- Registration for next phase of COVID-19 Vaccination on Co-WIN2.0 portal now open at <u>www.cowin.gov.in</u> (Link)
- Prime Minister takes first dose of COVID-19 vaccine (<u>Link</u>)
- Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Gujarat report an upsurge of new COVID-19 cases (Link)
- Cabinet Secretary reviews surge in COVID-19 cases in Telangana, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, and West Bengal (<u>Link</u>)
- Centre rushes multi-disciplinary high level central teams to States/UTs witnessing surge in cases (Link)
- Union Minister for Small and Medium Enterprises inaugurates COVID-19 vaccination and Aatmanirbhar Bharat awareness Campaign (Link)
- Participation of the private sector in COVID-19 vaccination is being systematically scaled up (<u>Link</u>)

WHO Situation Update

India 11 124 527 Confirmed Cases 157 248 Total Deaths

South East Asia Region 13 559 358 Confirmed Cases 208 588 Total Deaths

World 114 121 645 Confirmed Cases 2 534 974 Deaths

- Union Health Secretary, and Chairman (Co-WIN) co-chair meeting regarding COVID-19 vaccination of age-appropriate groups with health secretaries of States and UTs (Link)
- India's cumulative COVID-19 vaccination coverage has crossed 1.34 crore (Link)

INDIA SITUATION

As of 02 March 2021, India reported 11,124,527 confirmed cases. 12,286 confirmed cases reported on 02 March 2021. Cases per million is 7,940 and a total of 157,248 deaths have been reported, details <u>here</u>.



Source: WCO COVID-19 Dashboard reported using MoHFW data as on 15 February 2021, 08:00 IST (GMT+5:30)



March 01, 2021

WHO GLOBAL UPDATE

- The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (Gavi) and WHO, as coleads of the COVAX initiative for equitable global access to COVID-19 vaccines, alongside key delivery partner UNICEF, published COVAX's first round of allocations., details <u>here</u>.
- Recognizing the central importance of sustainable oxygen supply alongside therapeutic products such as dexamethasone for the treatment of COVID-19, the Access to COVID Tools Accelerator Therapeutics pillar (co-led by Unitaid and Wellcome), is taking a new role to coordinate and advocate for increased supply of oxygen, in partnership with a WHO-led consortium, COVID-19 Oxygen Emergency Taskforce, details <u>here.</u>

WHO COUNTRY UPDATE

WHO Country Office for India (WCO) continues to work closely with MoHFW, in responding to COVID-19 and roll out of Covid19 vaccination at the national, state and district level.

- **Coordination:** WCO continues to provide technical support to MoHFW through JMG (Joint Monitoring Group) at the national level and through task force/control rooms at the state and district level.
- COVID-19 vaccination: The next phase of COVID-19 vaccination started for those over 60 years of age 45 and above with specified co-morbid conditions.

As per the provisional report by <u>MoHFW</u> **25 Lakh** potential beneficiaries registered on the Co-Win portal, of which **24.5 Lakh** are citizens and the rest are Healthcare Workers and Frontline Workers. A total of **1,47,28,569** vaccine doses given.

- High level oversight is being provided for vaccination sessions by WHO teams at district and state levels
- WCO is supporting monitoring of vaccination sessions across the country and continues to provide surge support for training, microplanning and monitoring.
- WCO is tracking trainings and formation review meetings of States and district task forces and providing daily update to MOHFW on progress of vaccination.
- WCO is also supporting counselling sessions targeting vaccine hesitancy amongst healthcare workers
- **Contact Tracing, Containment and Surveillance:** WCO continues to provide technical support for COVID-19 surveillance and containment activities.
 - WCO provides supportive supervision to monitor contact tracing; identify containment zones and sharing regular feedback with government health officials on regular basis.
 - In Uttar Pradesh, to identify ILI/SARI symptoms, a total of 31,484,005 houses have been covered and 159,487 symptomatic identified with the support of WHO field teams
 - WCO is supporting Maharashtra with response to recent surge in COVID-19 cases
- Essential Services: WCO continues to support provide support for maintaining essential health services.
- Laboratory testing: To date, India has tested more than 217,000,000 samples. Tests include both, RTPCR and Rapid Antigen. Most of the large states are ramping RTPCR tests. India's current test positivity rate (7DMA) is 2.02%. A total of 759,283 tests reported on 02 March 2021, details at ICMR.



March 01, 2021

COVID-19 STATUS ACROSS STATES AND DISTRICTS



ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES THIS WEEK

- 1. MHA guidelines for surveillance, containment and caution States/UTs to strictly enforce them (LINK)
- 2. MoHFW FAQs on COVID 19 vaccine for Healthcare providers and Frontline workers (LINK)
- 3. MoHFW Guidelines on Preventive Measures to Contain Spread in Yoga Institutes &9 Gymnasiums (LINK)
- 4. MoHFW SOP on preventive measures in Hotels and other Hospitality Units (LINK)
- 5. MoHFW SOP on preventive measures in shopping malls (LINK)
- 6. MoHFW SOP on preventive measures training institutions, higher educational institutions (LINK)
- 7. MoHFW SOP on preventive measures in religious places/places of worship (LINK)
- 8. WHO Living guideline: Drugs to prevent COVID-19 (LINK)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT