HIGHLIGHTS

- MoHFW deployed central teams to Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh to assist in response against COVID-19 (Link)
- Union Health Secretary engaged with health officials of six States/UT exhibiting high surge, caseload and fatality (Link)
- Vice President calls for special care and support to elderly during pandemic and to reorient the health system to address specific needs of geriatric population (Link)
- Health Secretary in a press conference advised on adopting COVID Appropriate Behaviors for all citizens including recovered patients (Link)
- Government of Japan committed JPY 50 billion (Approximately INR 3500 crores) as official development assistance loan to India for COVID-19 crisis emergency response (Link)
- Ministers from Australia, India, and Japan underscored the necessity and potential to enhance supply chains resilience in Indo-Pacific region for COVID-19 (Link)

INDIA SITUATION

As on 7 September 2020, 08:00 IST there were 882,542 active cases, 3,25,0429 recovered, and 71,642 deaths in India. Various calibrated and focused actions within the umbrella strategy of TEST, TRACK and TREAT have enabled early identification of cases through aggressive and wide scale testing details here.
WHO GLOBAL UPDATE

- WHO is developing the COVID19: Health Services Learning Hub, a web-based platform for sharing of experiences and best practices, details here.
- COVID-19 Partners Platform, developed collaboratively by WHO and the United Nations Development Coordination Office (UN DCO), is the first digital platform where governments, UN agencies, and partners can plan and coordinate together in one place, in real-time, for an acute event, details here.
- 78 high- and upper-middle countries and economies have confirmed their participation in the COVAX Facility, and the number is growing as updated by WHO DG in the recent press briefing., details here.

WHO COUNTRY UPDATE

WHO Country Office for India (WCO) continues to work closely with MoHFW, on preparedness and response measures including epidemiological assessment, surveillance, testing, case management, containment and research activities for COVID-19 at the national, state and district level.

- **Co-ordination:** WCO continues to provide technical advice and support to MoHFW, EMR Division and NCDC. WCO advised NDMA officials on unlock 4.0 strategy, strengthening surveillance and testing in Delhi.
- **Essential Health Services:** Field teams across all states continue to support resumption of essential health services such as routine immunization (RI), AFP and VPD surveillance, activities for measles rubella (MR) elimination, TB detection and treatment, Hypertension Control and NTD activities
  - WCO supported the Annual Regional Review for Family Planning for North region - 8 states/UTs (Jammu Kashmir, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Chandigarh, Ladakh, Uttarakhand and Delhi).
- **Contact Tracing, Containment and Surveillance:** WCO continues to support contact tracing and containment activities, as of 5 September in Uttar Pradesh - a total 21,688,605 houses have been covered by teams to identify ILI/SARI symptoms and 27,088 symptomatic identified. On request of government of UP, WCO team completed verification of contact tracing done between 18-30 August, findings shared and appreciated by district and state authorities.
  - WCO is also supporting revision of COVID-19 management approach with focus on increasing the COVID Care Centers and testing facilities in several States.
- **Risk Communication:** UNDP-WHO organized a collaborative webinar session on ‘stigma and discrimination’ for the State and District level officials. At the State level, Health Minister of Punjab presided over the meeting and over 400 officials participated.
- **Laboratory testing:** Overall, India has tested 4,95,51,507 samples to date with 7,20,362 samples tested on 1.09.20, reported by ICMR. WCO is providing support to ICMR for revising quarantine and testing policy – an updated testing strategy has been released which includes the following (Link):
  a. Testing for Routine surveillance in containment zones and screening at points of entry
  b. Testing for Routine surveillance in non-containment areas
  c. Testing in Hospital Settings including choice of Test (in order of priority)
  d. Testing on demand (with freedom for State Governments to decide simplified modalities)
### ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES THIS WEEK

1. WHO published guidance for clinicians and health care decision-makers on the use of corticosteroids in patients with COVID-19 [Link](#)
2. WHO Latest information about COVID-19 and immune response : Epi Win series [Link](#)
3. MoHFW released the following technical documents for COVID-19 response during the week:
   a. SOP on preventive measures to be followed while conducting academic examinations to contain spread of COVID-19 [Link](#)
   b. Advisory on strategy for COVID-19 testing in India [Link](#)
   c. Containment and Surveillance Manual for Supervisors in Containment Zones [Link](#)
   d. Manual for Surveillance Teams for Containment Zones [Link](#)

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

In case of any queries on COVID-19, call +91-11-23978046 or 1075 (Toll-free). State Helpline here.
WHO Country Office for India I Telephone number: +91-11- 66564800 I Email: wrindia@who.int