HIGHLIGHTS

• Gap between two doses of Covishield vaccine extended from 6-8 weeks to 12-16 weeks based on recommendation of COVID-19 Working Group (Link)
• DCGI approves phase II/III clinical trial of COVAXIN in 2-18 ag group (Link)
• Government initiating steps to ramp up availability of Amphotericin B to fight Mucormycosis (Link)
• Anti COVID drug, 2-DG launched by Defense Minister & Health Minister (Link)
• National AEFI Committee submits report to MoHFW stating that bleeding and clotting events following COVID vaccination are miniscule in India (Link)
• Helpline for elderly ELDERLINE (14567) becomes operational in several states to address the sub-group’s problems during the pandemic (Link).
• Convalescent plasm removed from COVID-19 clinical management protocol (Link)
• Prime Minister interacts with State and District officials regarding COVID-19 situation and urges them to share best practices for utilization in different parts of the country (Link)

INDIA SITUATION

• India reported continuous decline in daily cases after reporting the highest number of cases (4,14,188) on 7 May 2021;

COVID-19: STATUS ACROSS STATES

• In the past week, as compared to previous week, 21states/UTs have shown a decrease in cases. Higher increase, among larger states was reported from Tamil Nadu (23%), Andhra Pradesh (9%) and Odisha (7%).
• In Chhattisgarh, Chief Minister has issued directives for constitution of a Pediatrics State Task Force in preparation for the third wave, for which experts have warned
• In Karnataka, Chief Secretary has issued guidelines for medical oxygen management, in line with which 24x7 state oxygen units will be supported by helplines at the state and district levels
• In Gujarat, guidelines have been issued regarding Mucormycosis which includes information on clinical features and management, prevention, vulnerable population, etc.
• In Odisha, State level committee has been constituted in response to the reported rise in incidence of Mucormycosis amongst COVID-19 patients

**WHO GLOBAL UPDATE**

• WHO advice to hospitals on how to ease pandemic pressure in Western Pacific region, details [here](#)
• Together with the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), other United Nations agencies and nongovernmental organizations, WHO/Europe has been working with Member States to ensure that refugees and migrants are included in national COVID-19 vaccine deployment plans as part of a commitment to universal health coverage and leaving no one behind, details [here](#)
• Egypt & Iraq receives second shipments of COVID-19 vaccines through the COVAX Facility, details here [1] [2]

**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
- 4000 oxygen concentrators have been sent to different States/ UTs according to the distribution plan WCO made in consultation with MOHFW
- WCO has carried out COVID-19 situational analysis for states that are witnessing high levels of surge in cases. Profile for Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Manipur and Uttarakhand shared with respective state authorities.
- WHO field representatives participated in meetings regarding COVID-19 surge, response, and vaccination chaired by Chief Ministers, Health Ministers, Chief and/or Health Secretaries, MDs – NHM, etc in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Puducherry, and Tamil Nadu

**COVID-19 vaccination**
- WCO is supporting monitoring of vaccination sessions across the country and continues to provide surge support for training, microplanning and monitoring
- Supporting Odisha with development of global e-tender for procurement of COVID vaccine
- Assessing vaccination status of hospitalized COVID-19 patients in Madhya Pradesh to evaluate vaccine effectiveness as per state request
- Supporting Rajasthan in framing SOPs for vaccination of government employees

**Contact Tracing, Containment and Surveillance**
- Country office continues to provide technical support for COVID-19 containment activities in Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh; and supporting house to house survey for ILI/SARI in UP and Rajasthan
- Advocating for strengthening ILI/SARI passive surveillance in Odisha in response to the surge in cases

**Information and Planning**
- Supporting Madhya Pradesh in development of guidance for management of pediatric cases of COVID-19 and cases of mucormycosis
• Supporting development of SOPs for COVID-19 management in tea gardens in Assam; and assisting training of District and Block Programme Management Unit officers on Public Health Social measures
• Assessed preparedness of Dedicated COVID Hospitals in select districts of Gujarat for impact of cyclone Tauktae
• Supporting planning for establishment of mobile kiosks in rural areas of Madhya Pradesh; and advocating for prioritization of teachers for vaccination

Essential Services
• Supporting Chhattisgarh and Jammu & Kashmir for roll out of Pneumococcal Vaccine (PCV)
• Contributing in sensitization efforts for surveillance of AFP/ MR/ DPT in Puducherry
• Supporting Puducherry and Telangana in strengthening and streamlining AEFI surveillance
• Continuing to provide support for orientation of state health officials regarding fever and rash surveillance in Maharashtra

As of 18 May 2021, India has tested more than 318 M samples. Tests include both, RTPCR and Rapid Antigen. India’s current test positivity rate (7DMA) is 17.6%.

India continued to drive Covid-19 vaccinations among various age group with preconditions, details [here](#).

Cumulative Coverage Report of Covid-19 vaccination (as on 18 May 2021, 07:00 AM)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>India</th>
<th>Beneficiaries vaccinated</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>1st Dose</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14,24,28,227</td>
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<tr>
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<td>12,67,201 in last 24 Hours</td>
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</tbody>
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IMPORTANT GUIDELINES THIS WEEK

• COVID-19 Vaccine Introduction and deployment Costing tool (CVIC tool)- Ver.2 [LINK]
• Preventing and mitigating COVID-19 at work [LINK]
• SOP on COVID-19 Containment & Management in Peri-urban, Rural & Tribal areas (by MoHFW) [LINK]

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

In case of any queries on COVID-19, call +91-11-23978046 or 1075 (Toll-free). State Helpline [here](#).
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