HIGHLIGHTS

- Centre rushes high level team to Maharashtra to support the State in implementation of effective public health interventions for Zika (Link)
- Centre reviews COVID-19 situation in 10 states reporting surge of COVID-19 cases (Link)
- Vice President urges scientific fraternity to expedite the development of COVID vaccine for children (Link)
- Union Minister of Health organizes online workshop with officials of Press Information Bureau (PIB), Bureau of Outreach and Communication (BOC), Doordarshan (DD), All India Radio (AIR), and NHM on crisis communication on COVID-19 (Link)
- Union Minister of Health digitally inaugurates whole genome sequencing national reference laboratory for antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and new BSL 3 laboratory (Link)
- Prime Minister interacts with representatives of religious and social organizations on COVID-19 (Link)

INDIA SITUATION

In India, for the last several weeks, daily cases are plateauing around 30-40,000. In comparison to previous week (15-21 July), less than 40% of districts have shown an increase in new cases during last week.

COVID-19: STATUS ACROSS STATES

In the past week (22-28 July), as compared to previous week (15-21 July), twelve states have shown an increase in cases while twenty-three states have shown a decline in cases. Higher decline has been reported from D&N Haveli (-59%), A&N Islands (-36%), Punjab (-29%) and Bihar (-27%).
In Delhi, the government has approved the Medical Oxygen Production Promotion Policy aimed at improving oxygen availability in the State.

In Gujarat, Commissioner of Health has issued a letter exhorting all districts to ensure vaccination of all teaching and non-teaching staff in educational institutes on priority.

In Madhya Pradesh, schools have been reopened for classes 9th to 12th standard, however, online classes will also continue as before.

WHO GLOBAL UPDATE

- The Independent Panel on evaluation of COVID-19 Pandemic Preparedness and Response voiced elevating political leadership for Pandemic Preparedness and Response with the UN General Assembly, details here
- WHO initiates “Health Workforce in COVID-19 Action Series: Time to Protect, and Invest. Together”. The episodes are designed to spark knowledge sharing, dialogue, and partnerships that generate value for countries in defining actions and strategies to sustain their responses and to put in place architectures that increase health security and systems capacity, details here
- WHO and other key partners signed a letter of intent to address the global imbalance of manufacturing capacity for COVID-19 vaccines, details here
- Multilateral Leaders Task Force on COVID-19 Vaccines, Therapeutics, and Diagnostics for Developing Countries issued Joint statement following its second meeting; it urges governments to reduce or eliminate barriers to the export of vaccines and all materials involved in their production and deployment, details here
- WHO and ASEAN joined hands with FIFA to launch #ReachOut campaign for better mental health, details here

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.
- WHO field offices participated in meetings on current response, third wave preparations, vaccination; chaired by Chief Ministers, Health Ministers, Chief and/or Health Secretaries, MDs – NHM, etc in Arunachal Pradesh, Kerala, Manipur, Puducherry, and Tamil Nadu.

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 is supporting Nagaland in orientating them to guidelines on COVID-19 vaccination for pregnant women; and its roll-out.

Contact Tracing, Containment and Surveillance
- Provided supportive supervision to monitor contact tracing; identify containment zones and sharing regular feedback with government health officials on regular basis in Nagaland and Uttar Pradesh

Information and Planning
- Assisting Tamil Nadu with deep dive study regarding decline in immunization coverage.
- Supporting mask compliance study in West Bengal.

RCCE
- Supporting sensitization of religious leaders and CSOs regarding COVID-19 in Tamil Nadu.
Essential Services

- Efforts to strengthen VPD surveillance and immunization are underway in Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana.
- Supporting Karnataka, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana in strengthening and streamlining AEFI surveillance.
- Supporting Chhattisgarh, Delhi, and Telangana with fever and rash surveillance.
- Supporting launch of PCV vaccine in Punjab, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana.

As on 3 August, India has tested more than 460 million samples. Tests include both, RTPCR and Rapid Antigen. India’s current test positivity rate (7DMA) is 2.4%.

Testing - National Level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Daily Tests</th>
<th>Test positivity rate 7DMA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jul 2020</td>
<td>2.5M</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 2020</td>
<td>3M</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 2020</td>
<td>3.5M</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 2020</td>
<td>2.2M</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 2020</td>
<td>1.8M</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 2020</td>
<td>1.6M</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 2021</td>
<td>1.4M</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 2021</td>
<td>1.2M</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 2021</td>
<td>1M</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 2021</td>
<td>0.8M</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2021</td>
<td>0.6M</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 2021</td>
<td>0.4M</td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 2021</td>
<td>0.2M</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Cumulative Coverage Report of COVID-19 vaccination (as on 4 August 2021, 07:00 AM)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beneficiaries vaccinated</th>
<th>1st Dose</th>
<th>2nd Dose</th>
<th>Total Doses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Dose</td>
<td>37,80,90,597</td>
<td>10,71,95,973</td>
<td>48,52,86,570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Dose</td>
<td>50,30,316 in last 24 Hours</td>
<td>12,23,425 in last 24 hours</td>
<td>62,53,741 in last 24 Hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IMPORTANT GUIDELINES/TECHNICAL PUBLICATIONS THIS WEEK

- Health financing for the COVID-19 response [LINK]
- Social isolation and loneliness among older people: advocacy brief [LINK]
- Interim recommendations for use of the ChAdOx1-S [recombinant] vaccine against COVID-19 (AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine AZD1222 Vaxzevria™, SII COVISHIELD™) [LINK]
- Holding gatherings during the COVID-19 pandemic: WHO policy brief [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