

Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

Situation Update Report – 8

March 22, 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

- 23 states/UTs including New Delhi have issued orders allowing only essential services to operate in 75 districts with confirmed COVID-19 cases until 31 March 2020. The focus is on closure of all activities except essential services such as hospitals, telecom, pharmacy, provision stores.
- PM Modi called for 'Janata curfew' on 22 March from 7 AM-9 PM, urging people to stay home except those in essential services, enforcing public-led social distancing interventions.
- In consultation with medical professionals, detailed advisory has been issued for all health establishments to avoid non-urgent hospitalization and minimize elective surgeries.
- Allaying concern of the logistics for COVID-19 management particularly masks and hand sanitizers, Government has notified an Order under the Essential Commodities (ECs) Act, 1955 to declare these items as Essential Commodities up to 30 June.
- No scheduled international commercial passenger aircraft shall take off from any foreign airport for any airport in India, after 0001 hrs GMT of 22 March 2020 till 0001 hrs GMT of 29 March 2020.
- All train services suspended till 31st March 2020 including sub urban rail services, metro rail services and interstate passenger transport. Good trains may continue to operate for facilitating availability of essential commodities.
- These restrictions are temporary but considered critical to break the chain of transmission. States have been requested to ensure that while such measures are being taken, necessary steps must be ensured to minimize discomfort to the poor and vulnerable sections of the society.

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

India

360 Confirmed
7 Deaths
23 States/UTs

South-East Asia

979 confirmed
38 deaths

Globally

266 073 confirmed
11 184 deaths

WHO RISK ASSESSMENT

Globally - Very High

INDIA SITUATION

As on 22 March 2020 06.30 PM, a total of 360 COVID-19 cases (319 Indian Nationals and 41 Foreign Nationals) have been reported from 23 States/UTs across India.

Cases:

Maharashtra (67) Kerala (52) Delhi (29) Uttar Pradesh (27) Karnataka (26) Rajasthan (24) Telangana (22) Haryana (21) Punjab (21) Gujarat (18) Ladakh (13) Andhra Pradesh (5) Chandigarh (5) Jammu & Kashmir (4) Madhya Pradesh (4) Tamil Nadu (7) West Bengal (4) Uttarakhand (3) Bihar (2) Himachal Pradesh (2) Odisha (2) Chhattisgarh (1) Puducherry (1)

Deaths:

Maharashtra (2) Delhi (1) Bihar (1), Gujarat (1), Karnataka (1) Punjab (1)

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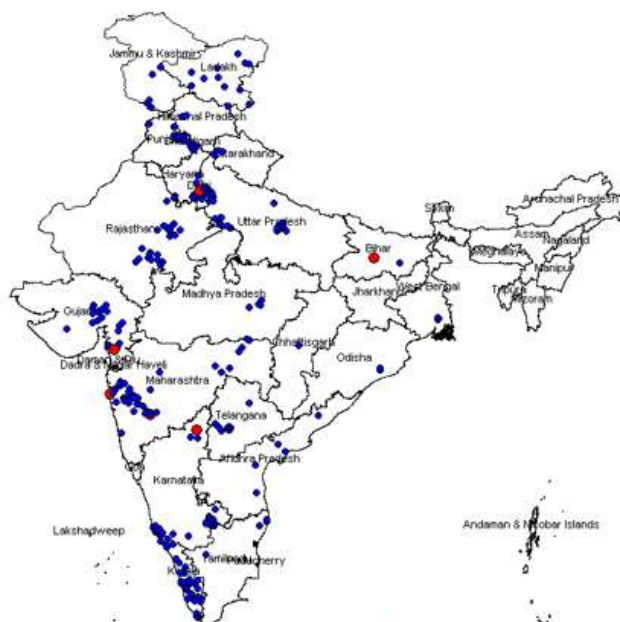
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COVID-19 cases – India

(as on 22/03/2020, 06:30 PM)

State	Total Cases	Death
Maharashtra	67	2
Kerala	52	
Delhi	29	1
Uttar Pradesh	27	
Karnataka	26	1
Rajasthan	24	
Telangana	22	
Haryana	21	
Punjab	21	1
Gujarat	18	1
Ladakh	13	
Andhra Pradesh	5	
Chandigarh	5	
Jammu & Kashmir	4	
Madhya Pradesh	4	
Tamil Nadu	7	
West Bengal	4	
Uttarakhand	3	
Bihar	2	1
Himachal Pradesh	2	
Odisha	2	
Chhattisgarh	1	
Puduchery	1	
Total	360	7



Source: <https://www.mohfw.gov.in/>

Location of cases within states is shown as per district information available

1 dot represent one case or death

● 7 - Death
● 353 cases

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Hon'ble PM Narendra Modi made a public appeal to encourage public participation in the response towards COVID-19 by observing a 'Janata curfew' on 22 March from 7 AM-9 PM. At 5 PM, all citizens have been asked to participate in showing solidarity and appreciation for health workers by clapping. All states have issued appropriate instructions for all children below 10 years of age and all citizens above 65 years (except for public representatives/government servants/medical professionals) to remain at home and avoid mass gatherings, unless there is a medical reason and essential services requirement.

States have activated necessary provision for infectious disease management as provided under Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897. Furthermore, under the Disaster Management Act, the States/UTs can now draw funds from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), in addition to the funds from the state government and the NHM. Ministry of Home Affairs has issued detailed guidelines to States/UTs in this regard. To ensure effective and seamless coordination between the Centre and the States, 30 nodal officers of the level of Joint Secretary and above have been drawn from various Ministries to liaison, coordinate and help the States with respect to anything that is required from the Government of India.

High level Group of Ministers (GoM) is constantly reviewing the status of cases in India and implementing steps taken by the Government of India across states. A detailed advisory on social distancing measures has been issued to stop or slow down the rate and extent of disease transmission. In consultation with professional associations, detailed advisory has been issued for all health

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institutions to avoid non-urgent hospitalization and minimize elective surgeries. This is to avoid hospital related infections to the vulnerable and prepare hospitals effectively for meeting current and future challenges posed by COVID-19.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) is regularly evaluating quarantine facilities and preparedness regarding hospital management such as OPD blocks, availability of testing kits, personal protective equipment (PPEs), medicines, and adequate isolation wards. All public hospitals have been directed to ensure adequate availability of protective gear for all healthcare workers.

Ministry of Pharma and Consumer Affairs has issued advisory to take necessary action to regulate price for masks, sanitizers, and other health related logistic material and to facilitate their availability in all hospitals and to people at large. Youth and citizens are urged to become volunteers to support the government's ongoing efforts in management of COVID-19. Advisory has also been issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) citing preventive measures to be taken by all employees of Ministries/ Departments to control the spread of COVID-19.

It is obligatory for all hospitals (Government and Private), Medical officers in Government health institutions and registered Private Medical Practitioners including AYUSH Practitioners, to now notify COVID-19 affected person (as defined by MoHFW) to concerned district surveillance unit. All practitioners have been advised get the self-declaration forms (from MoHFW) who, within their knowledge, have patients with travel history of COVID-19 affected countries as per the guidelines and/or fall under the case definition of COVID-19 (suspect/case).

WHO GLOBAL UPDATE

- The United Nations Foundation and the Swiss Philanthropy Foundation have created the solidarity fund to support WHO and partners in a massive effort to help countries prevent, detect, and manage the novel coronavirus – particularly those where the needs are the greatest.
- The first vaccine trial has begun just 60 days after the genetic sequence of the virus was shared by China. WHO and its partners are organizing a large international study, called the Solidarity Trial, in many countries to compare different treatments.
- WHO and Global Citizen launched #TogetherAtHome, a virtual, no-contact concert series to promote physical distancing and action for global health.

WHO COUNTRY SUPPORT

WHO Country Office for India (WCO) has been working closely with MoHFW, on preparedness and response measures for COVID-19, including disease surveillance, laboratory and research protocols, risk communications, training on infection prevention and control (IPC) and cluster containment plan, surveillance and tracking of travelers.

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Co-ordination and Partnership

WHO has initiated dialogue with FICCI regarding aspects for engagement of the private sector for COVID-19 response as representatives of India's business and industry. WHO together with UNICEF is supporting MoHFW in crafting evidence-based multi-media communication campaigns that would focus on different aspects such as preventive measures, busting myths, equipping the masses with information on guidelines, advisories, testing labs, etc.

State Level Response

- Trainings on COVID-19 conducted in more than 564 districts and ongoing in remaining districts.
- State Rapid Response team activated in 33 states and Epidemic act enforced in 31 states.
- Closure of educational institutes/ cinema halls initiated in 35 states.
- Designated hospitals identified in 35 states.
- Restrictions for mass gatherings enforced in 33 states.
- Mock drill conducted in 10 states (Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Odisha, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand)
- Mass quarantine facilities identified in 25 states.
- In Uttar Pradesh, 2463 suspects are under surveillance– 2410 at home quarantine and 53 in institutional isolation
- No cases have been reported from any of the 7 North Easter states. In Assam Health Minister reviewed the preparedness at Guwahati Airport. Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland have enforced the Epidemic Act in their states.
- Odisha Government is ready with 540 bed isolation bed across the state. The state has released an advisory to all religious institutions to manage religious congregations
- In response to the first case, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister reviewed the district preparedness with all District collectors and Superintendent of Police and Health minister chaired the core group meeting with concerned departments.
- Helpline number for COVID-19 activated in all states

Risk Communication

To increase access to reliable information, WHO has partnered with WhatsApp and Facebook to launch a WHO Health Alert messaging service. This service will provide the latest news and information on COVID-19, including details on symptoms and how people can protect themselves.

ICMR COVID-19 testing strategy

WHO is working with ICMR to ensure country-appropriate testing strategy is in place without burdening the health system. As per the latest ICMR guidance laboratory testing will be offered when prescribed by a qualified physician (*when advised as per the guidance issued*). The strategy is reviewed by a National Task Force and updated periodically. The latest revised strategy was issued on 20 March 2020. In addition, the network of labs equipped to test COVID-19 have been expanded to over 100, in total.

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States are assessing the availability of medical services including testing, quarantine and measures needed scale them up to meet all possible contingencies. States have been advised to earmark facilities fully dedicated to managing the COVID-19 cases only. Currently, there is no evidence of community transmission of COVID-19 and the disease is primarily reported in individuals with travel history to the affected countries or close contacts of positive cases. Hence the ICMR strategy recommends the following testing protocols: -

1. Caution:
 - All asymptomatic individuals who have undertaken international travel in the last 14 days: - They should stay in home quarantine for 14 days and tested only if they become symptomatic (fever, cough, difficulty in breathing).
 - All family members living with a confirmed case should be home quarantined
2. Whom to test:
 - All symptomatic contacts of laboratory confirmed cases
 - All symptomatic health care workers.
 - All hospitalized patients with Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (fever AND cough and/or shortness of breath).
 - Asymptomatic direct and high-risk contacts of a confirmed case should be tested once between day 5 and day 14 of coming in his/her contact.
 - Direct and high-risk contact include those who live in the same household with a confirmed case and healthcare workers who examined a confirmed case without adequate protection as per WHO recommendations.
3. What samples to collect: oropharyngeal and/or nasopharyngeal swabs

Guidelines Issued

1. Guidelines on Clinical Management of COVID-19 triage (early recognition of patients), implementation of IPC measures has been revised and updated.
2. Guidelines for Dead Body Management towards standard precautions, infection prevention and control measures, handling of the body and environmental disinfection.
3. India has revised IPC Guidelines for COVID-19 dated 9 March 2020.
4. Guidelines have also been issued for Private Sector Laboratories Intending to Initiate COVID-19 Testing including Sample Collection, Packaging and Transportation for Novel Coronavirus
5. COVID-19 resources online training course are now available in the official WHO languages on OpenWHO - an interactive, web-based, knowledge-transfer platform offering free online courses to improve the response to health emergencies. Resources under development include courses in Hindi as well.

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TRAVEL ADVISORY

As per GoM aligned with steps taken by the Government of India, so far including travel restrictions and advisories already in place, new restrictions in place include: -

- No scheduled international commercial passenger aircraft shall take off from any foreign airport for any airport in India, after 0001 hrs GMT of March 22, 2020 till 0001 hrs GMT of March 29, 2020. Only maximum travel time of 20 hours is permissible for commercial passenger aircraft to land in India.
- As such, no incoming scheduled international commercial passenger aircraft shall be allowed to disembark its passengers *on Indian soil* (Foreigner or Indian) after 2001 hrs GMT of March 22, 2020 (*i.e. 0131 hrs IST of March 23, 2020).
- It is to be highlighted that these are temporary measures to restrict the spread of COVID-19 and will be reviewed by the Government.

All international passengers entering India are required to furnish duly filled self-declaration form to Health Officials and Immigration officials and undergo Universal Health Screening at the designated health counters at all Points of Entry.

Instructions have been issued to all major and minor shipping ports for dealing with novel coronavirus. The format of the Maritime Declaration of Health is as per the International Health Regulations 2005, issued by World Health Organization which has also been adopted by International Maritime Organization.

All train services suspended till 31st March 2020 including sub urban rail services and metro rail services. Good trains may continue to operate for facilitating availability of essential commodities. Interstate passenger transport also to be suspended till 31st Mar 2020. All travel restrictions are temporary but considered critical to break the chain of transmission.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND ADVICE FOR THE PUBLIC

For any queries related to health, people may contact Ministry of Health & Family Welfare 24*7 helpline number (+91-11-23978046) or email at (ncov2019@gmail.com).

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