अजय भल्ला, भा.प्र.से. AJAY BHALLA, IAS



गृह सचिव Home Secretary भारत सरकार Government of India नॉर्थ ब्लॉक/North Block नई दिल्ली/New Delhi 29th June, 2021

D.O. No. 40-3/2020-DM-I(A)

Dear Chief Secretary,

Kindly refer to MHA Order of even number issued today for the implementation of targeted and prompt actions for COVID-19 management, as conveyed by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) advisory dated 28th June, 2021.

- 2. With the decline in the number of active cases, many States and UTs have started relaxing restrictions. As advised in my earlier D.O. letter No. 40-34/2020-DM-I(A) dated 19th June, 2021, the process of relaxing restrictions should be carefully calibrated; and prompt and targeted actions need to be implemented by the States and UTs in line with the advisory of MoHFW.
- 3. States/UTs should closely monitor case positivity and bed occupancy on regular basis, taking district as an administrative unit. On witnessing any early sign of increase in case positivity and higher bed occupancy, necessary action should be taken for containment and upgradation of health infrastructure. For districts identified with high positivity and higher bed occupancy, States/UTs may consider imposing restrictions.
- 4. States/UTs shall also regularly monitor districts with higher number of active cases per million population, as it is an important indicator to predict need for upgrading health infrastructure and logistics, so that early and prompt action can be taken in this regard.
- 5. There should be a continuous focus on the five-fold strategy for effective management of COVID-19 *i.e.* Test-Track-Treat-Vaccination and adherence to COVID appropriate behaviour.
- 6. As has been emphasized in previous MHA Orders and advisories, adherence to COVID appropriate behaviour is crucial to guard against any surge in infection. To reiterate, COVID appropriate behaviour includes mandatory use of masks, hand hygiene, following physical/social distancing (2 gaj ki doori) and proper ventilation of closed places. While easing restrictions, it must be ensured that there is no let up in adherence to COVID appropriate behaviour.

7. I would, therefore, urge you to issue directions to district and all other authorities concerned, to take necessary measures as advised by MoHFW in their letter dated 28th June, 2021 for management of COVID-19. I would also advise that Orders issued by the respective State Governments/UT Administrations/district authorities in this regard, should be widely disseminated to the public and to the field functionaries, for their proper implementation.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Ajay Bhalla)

Chief Secretaries of all States