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AJAY BHALLA, IAS



गृह सचिव
Home Secretary
भारत सरकार
Government of India
नॉर्थ ब्लॉक/North Block
नई दिल्ली/New Delhi

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

27th January, 2022

Dear Administrator,

Kindly refer to the Ministry of Home Affairs' (MHA) Order of even number issued today, vide which MHA Order dated 27.12.2021 issued to ensure compliance to the normative framework for taking evidence based COVID-19 containment measures, has been extended upto 28.02.2022.

2. Due to the current COVID wave, led by the new variant, Omicron, there has been a steady increase in the number of COVID cases in the country and the active cases have increased to over 22 lakhs. Though a majority of active cases are recovering fast and a low percentage of cases are in hospitals, it is still a matter of concern that 407 districts in 34 States & UTs are reporting a positivity rate of more than 10%. Therefore, looking at the current trends of COVID virus, there is a need to exercise caution and vigilance.

3. In this background, I would like to reiterate that all the States/UTs must observe all precautions and not let the guard down. Based on the normative framework, mentioned in the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) D.O. letter dated 21.12.2021 and assessment of the situation, local/district administration should continue to take prompt and appropriate containment measures. Imposition and lifting of local curbs/restrictions should be dynamic and should be based on the case positivity and hospitalization status at the local level.

4. I would also like to emphasize that there should be continued focus on the five-fold strategy, i.e., Test-Track-Treat-Vaccination and adherence to COVID Appropriate Behaviour. The State enforcement machinery should strictly enforce the norms of COVID Appropriate Behaviour, i.e., wearing of face masks and maintaining safe social distancing in all public areas/gatherings. Further, States & UTs should continue to hold regular media briefings to disseminate the right information and to discourage any misinformation on new variants of concern.

5. I would, therefore, urge you to issue necessary directions to the districts and all other local authorities concerned, to take necessary measures for prompt and effective management of COVID-19, strict compliance with various advisories issued by the MoHFW on the new VoC and strict enforcement of COVID Appropriate Behaviour

With regards,

Yours sincerely,


(Ajay Bhalla) 27/01/2022

Administrators of all UTs