



सत्यमेव जयते



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प्रोफेसर (डा.) बलराम भार्गव, पदम श्री

एमडी, डीएम, एफआरसीपी (जी.), एफआरसीपी (ई.), एफएसीसी,
एफएएचए, एफएएमएस, एफएनएएस, एफएएससी, एफ.एन.ए., डी.एस.सी.

सचिव, भारत सरकार

स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान विभाग
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय एवं
महानिदेशक, आई सी एम आर

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Department of Health Research
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भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान अनुसंधान परिषद

स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान विभाग

स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय
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D.O. No. /Head/ECD/Misc/COVID-19/2020

Dated, the 19th April 2020

Dear colleagues,

As you are aware that till the time we find curative remedy against COVID-19; most effective containment strategy has been Lockdown. All of you have demonstrated highest level of commitment for ensuring best possible implementation of lockdown till now. However, considering the long-term implications, clear instructions have been shared earlier by Union Secretary HFW wide DO. No. Z-21020/16/2020-PH dated 15.04.2020. For further empowering the decision making at State and district level, National Task Force for COVID-19 and the Epidemiology Expert Group constituted by ICMR were entrusted to develop scientific protocol for population based national sero-prevalence of COVID-19. This will be complementary to herculean efforts of State and central disease surveillance and overall COVID-19 response.

Accordingly, our national expert group of epidemiologists has finalized the protocol for use at district level. Survey will be conducted in 82 districts in 25 states (list is placed at **annexure I**). This list of districts is not restrictive and can be followed by any other districts also, if desired; subject to availability of their own resources including the testing kits.

I personally request your kind attention and further guidance to respective District Collectors to lead this important time bound survey using Rapid Antibody Test kits. We expect support for survey for travel, local movement and transport for identified survey staff (ICMR staff, supervision and monitoring staff), police protection (as and when needed), PPE (gloves and surgical masks for staff), lancet and cotton swabs etc. and biomedical waste management facility, local assistance by health staff. Sample size per district is 400; and survey can be completed within a day with 10 teams in a district, if preparation is done beforehand. Mobile application developed for this purpose by NIC will be used for data entry by the teams conducting the survey and analytical support will be provided by ICMR. Summary of requirement for support from districts (**annexure II**), important nodal contact persons/designations (**annexure III**) and simple instructions (**annexure IV**) are attached along with the

detailed protocol (**annexure V**). Simple video will also be shared for demonstration of Rapid Antibody Testing for field staff. Also, a PPT for demonstration of the mobile application will be shared over email to all districts.

To facilitate quality implementation of survey kindly consider to engage all ICMR institutes, Community Medicine department of all Medical colleges, Public Health Institutes (**IIPH, IPH, IHMR, SCTIMST etc**) and WHO-SMOs / TB / NTD Consultants for assistance at district level for monitoring the survey.

I request you to personally review the progress in this important task with Health Department and District Collectors so that further decision making can be based on local community based scientific evidences.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,



(Balram Bhargava)

Chief Secretaries (all States)

Cc: for necessary action :

1. Principal Secretary, Health (all States / UTs)
2. MD, NHM (all States / UTs)
3. Dr Henk Bekedam, WHO Representative to India
4. Director, All ICMR Institutes
5. Dr Sanjay Zodpey, President, IAPSM
6. Head of Community Medicine (All Medical Colleges)

Cc: for information to :

1. Ms Preeti Sudan, Secretary (Health & F.W.), MoHFW, Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi
2. Shri Sanjeeva Kumar, Special Secretary (Health), Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi
3. Ms Vandana Gurnani, AS & MD (NHM), Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi
4. Shri Luv Agrawal, Joint Secretary, MoHFW, Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi
5. Shri Vikas Sheel, Joint Secretary, (TB, Policy), MoHFW, Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi