

F. No. Z.28015/30/2020-EMR
Government of India
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Directorate General of Health Services
(EMR Division)

Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated the 29th July, 2020

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has issued the Containment Plans for managing small clusters and large outbreaks of COVID-19 which are available on the website of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (<https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/Containmentplan16052020.pdf> and <https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/UpdatedContainmentPlanforLargeOutbreaksofCOVID19Version3.0.pdf>).


However, some States have experienced continuing outbreaks in some containment zones (CZs) and buffer zones (BZ) (encircling the CZs), keeping them under lockdown for over months. In such cases, to have another period of 28 days, to de-notify such CZs brings hardships to its residents. Hence some States have requested to review the same.

It is noted that such continuing outbreaks in CZ/ BZs, reflect less than satisfactory active surveillance, contact tracing, testing and inadequate adherence to home isolation guidelines. Hence to avoid such situation, the CZ needs to be redefined, surveillance strengthened and testing increased many-fold.

In view of the hardships faced by residents, States having such CZs with prolonged lockdowns, may opt for the following:

- i. The surveillance operations will be scaled down if no laboratory confirmed COVID-19 case is reported from the containment zone for at least 14 days after the last confirmed case has been isolated and all the contacts of the confirmed case have been followed up for 14 days.
- ii. De-notification of the containment zone will be done 14 days after discharge of last confirmed case (instead of 28 days).
- iii. However, the surveillance for ILI/SARI and their rigorous testing will continue in the de-notified containment and buffer zones. If further positive cases emerge in the de-notified containment or buffer zone, the area will again be declared as containment zone and the containment process shall begin afresh.
- iv. The city/district/state will be declared free from the disease outbreak only after 28 days have passed since the last confirmed case has tested negative by RT-PCR.

This issues with the approval of Union Secretary (Health)


(Dr. P. Ravindran)
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To,

1. Addl. Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/Secretary (Health) of all States/Union Territories Administration

Copy to:

1. Secretary (H), MoHFW
2. OSD (H), MoHFW
3. DGHS, MoHFW
4. JS (LA)