

File No.HMF04-23/16/2021-CAO

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
HEALTH MEDICAL & FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT

Order No.134 /COVID-19/2020-21

Date:29.11.2021

COVID INSTANT ORDER –134

Sub: HMFWD-COVID19-Reporting of cases of new variant B.1.1.529 and other variants of concern(VOC) and variants of interest(VOI)- certain guidelines for active surveillance - Orders issued – reg

Ref: 1. D.O. No.25/S(HFW)/C Variant/2021 dtd.25th November 2021 from Secretary , MOHFW GOI

In the reference cited, The Government of India have issued alert notice that new Variants of Concern/Variants of Interest (VoCs/Vols) are being reported in certain countries and reiterated the directions issued for proper sample collection and send the same for Whole Genome Sequencing activity as per the guidelines issued in sending samples to designated laboratories of Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) and National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) Government of India in its letter cited reported that multiple cases of a COVID-19 variant B.1.1.529 have been reported in Botswana, South Africa , UK and Honk Kong. This variant is reported to have a significantly high number of mutations, and thus, has serious public health implications for the country, in view of recently relaxed visa restrictions and opening up of international travel.

It is therefore, imperative that all international travellers travelling from and transiting through the countries mentioned as at risk (1. Countries of Europe including UK, 2. South Africa 3. Brazil 4. Bangladesh 5. Botswana 6. China 7. Mauritius 8. New Zealand 9. Zimbabwe 10. Singapore 11. Hongkong 12. Israel) are subjected to rigorous screening and testing, as per MoHFW Guidelines. The contacts of these international travelers must also be closely tracked and tested as per MoHFW guidelines.

Hence, the Districts Collectors are requested to ensure the following activities:

1. Intensified awareness Programs on the covid appropriate behavior shall be taken among all categories of people and District Collectors are requested to conduct meetings with all stake holders to ensure that CAB(covid appropriate behavior) guidelines are adhered to.
2. The District Health Education & extension wing under DMHO and District Public

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relation officers(DPRO) shall collectively work to provide IEC on covid appropriate behavior through print, electronic and social media and continuous awareness activities in the districts shall be taken up.

3. All the eligible persons shall be vaccinated by 15th December 2021 for at least one dose .The district vaccination teams shall take up drives by going to each house to complete 100% vaccination of 1st dose.

4. The District collectors of Anathapuram, Nellore and Guntur shall establish help desks at international airports of Bangalore, Chennai and Hyderabad respectively. These medical teams at help desks in coordination with Airport authorities and local health department shall ensure that all the travelers whose residence is in AP. and who arrived /transited from the countries at risk are tested for RTPCR by the local health officials on arrival at these airports.

A. If any traveller is found positive, they shall coordinate with the local administration to ensure isolation at respective places.

B. If they are found negative, such travelers complete residential details shall be collected and advised to maintain home quarantine in their respective residences. They shall be advised not to use public transport and shall arrange private travel. The complete details shall be submitted to state IDSP wing and in turn, the details shall be sent to respective district IDSP wings by the state IDSP.

C. The District IDSP wing shall communicate the details of the travellers to the respective Medical Officers and ANMs to ensure they maintain strict home quarantine. After 7 days arrival they shall be subjected to RTPCT test again.

D. If found positive in the covid test, their samples shall be sent for Genome sequencing and they shall be managed at Home isolation or treated at covid Hospital as the case may be.

E. All covid management activities of contact tracing, testing and isolation shall be followed.

5. In case of the international travelers from all other countries whose residence is in AP their full details (complete local address) shall be collected at airport and the same shall be sent to state and respective district IDSP teams. Further, they shall be subjected to RTPCR test at airport.

A. If the travellers are found positive, they shall be isolated in the respective home districts and their samples shall be sent for gene sequencing at designated labs.

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B. All covid management activities such as contact tracing, maintenance of home quarantine/isolation, symptoms observation, vital recording and symptomatic treatment shall be followed.

6. The wearing of mask shall be strictly implemented among all citizens and Rs100/- fine shall be imposed . Further, all the commercial establishments shall follow the instructions issued in adhering to Covid Appropriate behavior and any violation noticed, they may be closed for two days and fine of Rs 25000/- may be imposed.

7. All family functions what so ever shall be restricted to a maximum of 500 members in a staggered manner and they shall follow all covid appropriate behavior.

8. The Village and mandal surveillance teams should collect samples from all the international travellers who arrived to their villages in the recent past. On confirming positive, the DMHO should send such positive samples collected from international travellers to the designated gene sequencing labs to find out any new strains.

9. The DMHOs of Chittoor Krishna, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, Kadapa and Kurnool districts shall establish the help desks at airports for proper screening of foreign travellers arriving through connecting domestic flights.

10. All DMHOs are directed to establish help desks at Railway stations in their districts for facilitating international travelers coming by trains after disembarking at airports outside the state for RTPCR tests.

Guidelines for samples for genome sequencing are available at https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/INSACOGGuidanceDocumentdated1_5July2021_1_final.pdf . The district Surveillance Officers must establish close coordination with their designated/tagged IGSLs for expediting results of genomic analysis, so that necessary public health measures may be undertaken in case presence of VOCs/Vols is reported by the INSACOG network.



Principal Secretary to the Govt. HMFV dept.

To
All District Magistrates & Collectors in the state
All DMHOs in the state
All Principals of Government Medical Colleges in the state

List of Countries from where travellers would need to follow additional measures on arrival in India, including post-arrival testing (Countries at-risk)

(Updated as on 26th November 2021)

1. Countries in Europe including The United Kingdom
2. South Africa
3. Brazil
4. Bangladesh
5. Botswana
6. China
7. Mauritius
8. New Zealand
9. Zimbabwe
10. Singapore
11. Hong Kong
12. Israel