

**GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA**

No: HFW/345/PRS/2021-22

Karnataka Government Secretariat  
Vidhana Soudha  
Bengaluru dated: 22.12.2021

**CIRCULAR**

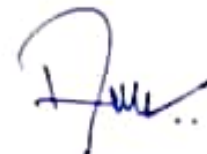
**Subject: Enhancing Surveillance and designating Contact Tracers and Quarantine watchers in the context of Detection of Omicron cases in Karnataka: Regarding**

**Reference:** Discussion with the nodal officers of State COVID-19 war room and State COVID-19 Surveillance unit.

Currently, about 300 COVID cases are being reported daily in Karnataka and the Test Positivity Rate (TPR) has been around 0.25% to 0.30% for some time. The new Variant of Concern (VoC) - Omicron is spreading rapidly across the Globe and some cases are reported in India and Karnataka too, which is a cause of concern. As on date, 19 such Omicron cases have been detected and if left unchecked, may trigger a spike in number of new infections.

In this context, to sustain the gains achieved so far in surveillance, containment efforts and to make best efforts to prevent occurrence of the third wave of COVID infections in the State, it is necessary to trace, track and quarantine the primary and secondary contacts of COVID-19 positive persons, more effectively. The Primary & Secondary Contacts (PC/SC) are to be identified within 24 hours of reporting of COVID positive case. The Primary Contacts should be tested on 1<sup>st</sup> day and again on 8<sup>th</sup> day and home quarantined for 7 days from date of COVID positive reporting. Similarly the international travelers from high risk countries need to be quarantined for seven days from the date of their arrival, until the follow-up and repeat RTPCR test on 8<sup>th</sup> day. Once the PC / SC also test positive, they are to be treated and managed as per the State COVID protocol.

At present the Health care personnel viz Public Health Inspecting Officers (PHIO – Male & Female), Community Health Officers (CHOs) and ASHAs or such other persons who are doing these activities of Contact Tracing, Quarantine Watch & Home Isolation Watch shall continue to do them. The districts and BBMP shall post dedicated and full time persons separately for Contact Tracing and Quarantine / Home Isolation watch immediately. *The tracing, tracking and quarantine activity conducted, has to be reported in the Contact Tracing Application and Quarantine Watch Application, which shall be activated, with necessary re-orientation to all the staff from BBMP & district health authorities.*



Further, all Covid-19 positive persons need to be triaged by Medical Officer - PHC and team on ground as per prevailing instructions (physical triaging). Over and above this, tele-triaging (over phone) shall be re-initiated at State level and triaging information would be recorded in Index application (BBMP) and State Line List (Rest of the districts).

Wherever necessary and to match the demand on ground, further additional teams to carry out the above mentioned activities, have to be deployed by the BBMP / district administration in consultation with the State nodal officers.

Central War Room (CWR), BBMP along with zonal & assembly constituency level war rooms and all District War Rooms need to be re-activated and made fully functional to closely monitor and supervise the activities.

The integrated Testing App shall be rolled out on pilot basis in BBMP area and if found feasible would be considered for a larger roll out.

With a view to be well prepared to handle any anticipated spike in covid cases and respond effectively, BBMP and District authorities are instructed to ensure the compliance of the above instructions.



(T.K. Anil Kumar)

Principal Secretary to Government,  
Govt of Karnataka  
Dept. of Health & Family Welfare

To:

1. The Nodal officers, COVID-19 war room and COVID-19 Surveillance.
2. The Commissioner, Health & F W Services, Bengaluru
3. Special Commissioner Health, BBMP
4. The Mission Director NHM, Bengaluru.
5. The Director HFWS, Bengaluru
6. The Deputy Commissioners of all districts
7. CEO, ZP of all districts
8. The District Health and Family Welfare officers of all districts
9. The District Surveillance Officers of all districts

Copy submitted for kind information,

1. The Chief Secretary, GoK
2. The Chief Commissioner – BBMP, Bengaluru
3. PS to Hon'ble Minister for HFW and Medical Education.