



राजेश भूषण, आईएएस
सचिव

RAJESH BHUSHAN, IAS
SECRETARY



भारत सरकार
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय
Government of India
Department of Health and Family Welfare
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

D.O No. Z.28015/30/2022-DMCell
17th March 2022

Dear Colleague,

As you are aware that after a rapid surge in cases due to the Omicron Variant, a consistent decrease in the number of new Covid-19 cases has been observed in India, in the past few days and required steps have been taken for resumption of economic and social activities by States/UTs.

2. Guidelines for graded resumption of economic activities was released by Ministry of Home Affairs on 25th February 2022 wherein the States were guided to resume the economic activities duly analyzing the local epidemiological situation (including positivity rates & bed occupancy), to decide on the relaxation/restriction measure. It is imperative that all the States/UTs must observe all precautions and not let the guard down while resuming the economic and social activities.

3. With a resurgence observed in Covid-19 cases across Southeast Asia & some countries of Europe, a High Level Meeting was chaired by Hon'ble HFM on 16th March 2022 wherein it was advised that States/UTs should focus on aggressive and sustained genome sequencing and intensified surveillance and keep an overall vigil on the Covid-19 situation. 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 Behavior.

4. States should also ensure that adequate number of samples are submitted to INSACOG network through Sentinel sites as per the protocol issued by National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), which is the Nodal Agency for INSACOG, to ensure timely detection of new variants while maintaining adequate testing as per the protocols for testing laid by ICMR. Effective surveillance by monitoring of emerging clusters of new cases, if any, testing as per norms and monitoring of ILI & SARI cases shall be taken up on a continued basis to ensure that no early warning signals are missed and spread of infection can be controlled.

5. It is also vital that States may ensure that all eligible persons are motivated to get vaccinated against COVID-19 as per the recent expansion of vaccination drive to young adults and precautionary doses for adults besides the completion of doses for all adults.

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6. The State machinery should create required awareness and ensure adherence to COVID Appropriate Behavior, i.e., wearing of face masks, maintaining physical distancing in all public areas/gatherings and practice of effective hand & respiratory hygiene.

7. I am sure with your continued support, we will be able to maintain the momentum and build on the progress made so far to maintain the pandemic situation under control.

8. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare will continue to provide requisite support to the States/UTs in the ongoing and collective efforts against COVID-19.

Harm Regards .

Yours sincerely



(Rajesh Bhushan)

**Additional Chief Secretary / Principal Secretary / Secretary (Health)
All States / UTs**