

Annexure 'F'

MINUTES OF THE 2ND EXPERT COMMITTEE MEETING FOR ANTICIPATED 3RD WAVE held on 31.5.2021 from 3pm onwards in the Conference hall, next to Office of Dean, GMC

As per Order No. 23/20/2014-I/PHD/Part IV(a)/1098 dated 21.5.2021 by Additional Secretary (Health) Shri Vikas S N Gaunekar, and as per Addendum Order dated 26.5.21 by US (Health) Gautami Parmekar, the **2nd Meeting of the Expert Committee (EC)** for the anticipated 3rd wave of COVID Pandemic was held on 31.5.2021. 15 Members attended the Meeting, whereas 2 Members (Dr. Virendra & Dr. Oscar) were granted Leave of absence.

At the outset, the Chairman welcome all the Members and highlighted the main issues as per the Agenda for the Meeting. After detailed discussion amongst all the Members, the following decisions were taken by the Expert Committee:

1. In view of the 189 hotspots presently identified by the 183rd ASA Surveillance Report submitted by Dept of PSM in various areas of Goa, the EC Members unanimously decided to recommend to the State Task Force Steering Committee to ensure **implementation of all the measures for containment & management of covid-19 in rural & peri-urban areas**, as per the SoP dated 16.5.21 issued by the MoHFW, Gov.
2. The EC Members deliberated on the **revised estimates of vulnerable under 18 population and re-assessed the requirements of infrastructure, manpower, equipment & medicines and need to upscale the infrastructure** to meet the demands of the pandemic, incl Covid Care Centres for children/mothers. It was decided that for a worst case scenario of 30% positivity among under 18 children, in continuation with the decisions taken in the 1st EC Meeting, there is a need to make a provision for 1,300 Pediatric beds in various hospitals/health centres/covid care centres of Goa (atleast 400 of which should be oxygenated beds), 150 PICU beds (only 36 available presently) and atleast 50 beds dedicated for covid out of 101 NICU beds available in Goa, 60 PICU beds (incl 10 NICU beds) and 2 wards of 30 beds each were previously proposed at GMC in the new Super Specialty Block.
3. EC Members recommended to commence a sentinel surveillance **serological study among under 18** at GMC & District Hospitals to assess the percentage of children already infected with covid-19 (Action by: HoD Microbiology & Medicine, GMC, Dr Ira at Hospicio & Dr Chetna at NGIDH)
4. Chairman announced that **Genomic surveillance for covid variants** shall be commenced at GMC through Microbiology Department at NIV Pune as well as through visiting Faculty of GMC, Dr. Ashwin Dalal at CDIED

(Centre for DNA Fingerprinting & Diagnostics) Hyderabad. (Action by: HoD Microbiology & Dr. Utkarsh Betodkar, IDSP)

5. **Vaccination recommendations:** (a) *Procurement of vaccines:* Dr. Dhanesh added that IAP is capable of procuring the COVID vaccines on behalf of all the Pediatricians in Goa and conducting vaccination sessions for all eligible beneficiaries, including adults. (b) *Additional groups under beneficiaries:* EC Members decided that Lactating mothers who are 45 days post-partum (to avoid risk of post-natal thrombo-embolism) having children upto 2 years of age (as per documentary evidence of Birth certificate / vaccination card) and young persons aged 18-44 years with documented comorbidities (Diabetes, Heart disease, Hypertension, Kidney Failure, Cancers, Immunosuppressed state) should be offered the covid vaccinations as priority groups. (Action by: DHS)
6. **Training:** Dr. Ira that at South Goa District Level conducted sensitization of about 100 Pediatricians, Doctors, Nurses & Counselors. Dr Chetna had scheduled similar training at NGDH on 1.6.21 and Dr. Maria informed that she shall commence competency based training for Short Post Doctors at GMC w.e.f. coming Monday.
7. EC Members discussed about the **Home Management Program from PORTEA** for low risk patients. Dr. Dhanesh (IAP Goa President) suggested that if the PORTEA Program is accepted by the Government, they should take the IAP Members from Goa on board and they too should receive the fees towards each person who is monitored / counselled.

There being no further discussion, Meeting ended with vote of thanks by Chairman


Prof Dr. S. M. Bandekar

CHAIRMAN

To: All Members of the Expert Committee

C.c. to:

1. Dean, GMC
2. Director, DHS, Goa
3. OSD, Hon. Chief Minister, Govt of Goa
4. PA, Health Minister, Govt of Goa
5. Secretary (Health), PHD, Govt of Goa
6. U S (Health), Gautami Parmekar