



LAV AGARWAL, IAS
Joint Secretary

Tel. : 011-23061195
T/Fax : 011-23061842
E-mail : alav@ias.nic.in



भारत सरकार
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय
निर्माण भवन, नई दिल्ली - 110011

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE
NIRMAN BHAVAN, NEW DELHI - 110011

DO NO. T-18015/307/2020-IDSP
Dated the: 9th June 2022

Dear *Sir/Madam,*

COVID-19 pandemic in India, post the surge that was witnessed in the earlier part of this year, has now entered a new phase. The current epidemiology of COVID-19 in the country is characterized by a low but sustained incidence of mild cases with very low hospitalization and mortality rates.

2. This may be attributable to collective efforts put up by the Central and State Governments such as enhanced surveillance, focus on case management, high vaccination coverage that has supported country's COVID-19 management efforts.

3. Continuing with Union Ministry of Health & FW's efforts to provide technical guidance based on expert consensus to manage various facets of COVID-19 management in the country, an 'Operational Guidelines for Revised Surveillance Strategy in context of COVID-19' has been prepared to guide surveillance efforts in the country (copy enclosed). The same has also been made available on the website of Ministry of Health & FW.

4. These guidelines highlight the need to enhance focus on early detection, isolation, testing, and timely management of suspected and confirmed cases, while strengthening efforts to detect and contain outbreaks of new SARS-CoV-2 variants. These guidelines also call for close monitoring of long term epidemiologic trend of COVID-19 supported with the established genomic surveillance strategy under INSACOG network of laboratories. The long-term vision of these guidelines is to fully integrate COVID-19 surveillance within existing IDSP surveillance mechanism.

5. Guidelines cover routine COVID-19 surveillance activities being undertaken at Points of Entry and in the community, to be supplemented with (i) health facility as well as laboratory based surveillance as part of Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme and (ii) Whole Genome Sequencing to allow for timely detection of Variants of SARS-CoV-2. In addition, these operational guidelines also provide guidance on sewage / wastewater surveillance to provide early warning on the impending local surge of COVID-19.

6. In view of the above, it is requested that these 'Operational Guidelines for Revised Surveillance Strategy in context of COVID-19' may be widely circulated and disseminated down to the field level.

7. I request that all States/UTs shall make best use of these guidelines in this collective fight against the pandemic.

With regards

Yours sincerely

(Lav Agarwal)

- Addl. Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/Secretary (Health) of all States/UTs
- MD, National Health Mission of all States/UTs