



DO No. M-11015/141/2020-FD

12th May, 2021

Dear *Ms. Uma Mahadevan,*

Please refer to DO letter of even no. dated 28th April, 2021 from Secretary, Panchayati Raj regarding various prevention and mitigation measures against Covid-19 pandemic to be implemented by the Rural Local Bodies in the States. The feedback information submitted by the States on the various measures taken up has been perused at our end.

It is observed that your State has undertaken various significant measures in this regard like reviving institutional mechanisms such as GPTF, capacity building of the members of community by utilizing tools such as YouTube Live, formation of Village Monitoring Committees (VMCs), Training VMCs through short videos, formation of quarantine centers and home isolation facilities, formation of one stop call centre / helpline, maintenance of sufficient sanitation to prevent spread of viral infection, leveraging various Central and State Government welfare schemes for Covid Prevention measures, utilization of Finance Commission Grants for Covid mitigation measures and proper communication of instructions from District Administration to the VMC Nodal persons/Sarpanches.

It is suggested that the State may take up the following additional measures as well, as suggested in the MoPR advisories sent to the States at various points of time, if not already being carried out:

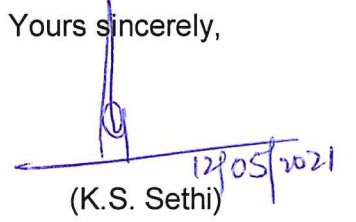
- Initiation of an intensive communication campaign for awareness of rural communities on the nature of COVID infection and preventive measures
- Ensure adherence to COVID appropriate behaviour at the worksites while implementing various works undertaken in GPs
- Send customized SMS or WhatsApp messages for reinforcing COVID appropriate behavior through bulk messaging or cascade WhatsApp groups.
- The information on availability of testing, hospital beds etc. should be tracked and displayed digitally on real-time basis to facilitate effective utilization of available infrastructure by the rural citizens.
- Digital display on availability of testing centers/vaccination centers, doctors, hospital beds etc. should be made by utilizing the IT infrastructure in the Panchayat offices, schools, Common Service Centers etc.
- Wherever possible, GPs may improvise households as home quarantine locations, where maximum of the asymptomatic COVID positive cases can be managed. Additionally they may also set up specific quarantine/isolation centers for the needy and returning migrant laborers. In consultation with the Health Dept, the Panchayats may be designated to facilitate vaccination drives to ensure maximum coverage of eligible population.

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The detailed report of the consolidated actions taken as above and also including any other additional best practices implemented, along with photographs / short videos etc may be provided to this Ministry at the earliest for compilation and records.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely,



12/05/2021
(K.S. Sethi)

Ms. Uma Mhadevan,
Principal Secretary,
PR Department,
Govt. of Karnataka,
Karnataka.