



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

Dear *Dr. Sandeep Bhatnagar,*

12<sup>th</sup> May, 2021

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 community involvement including key initiatives such as sewing of masks by local SHGs, distribution of relief packages for COVID infected families, intensive communication campaign for awareness generation, involvement of various stakeholders like Elected Representatives, teachers, ASHA workers etc as frontline workers, formation of quarantine centers and home isolation facilities, maintenance of sufficient sanitation to prevent spread of viral infection, and leveraging various Central and State Government welfare schemes for Covid Prevention measures.

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:

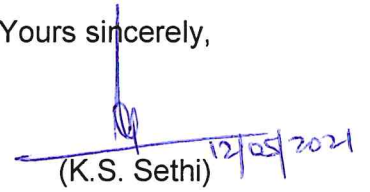
- Formation of Village Monitoring Committees (VMC)
- Training through short videos to be given to VMC.
- Ensure adherence to COVID appropriate behaviour at the worksites while implementing various works undertaken in GPs
- Send customized SMS or WhatsApp messages for reinforcing COVID appropriate behavior through bulk messaging or cascade WhatsApp groups.
- One stop call centre/ helpline/ WhatsApp for VMC members to reach out in case of emergency or any immediate requirement.
- Medical kits with essential medicines, oximeter, thermometer, Masks, Sanitisers etc., should be made available to the AWWs/ Trained SHG members.
- 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.
- The FFC Grants be utilized during the current fiscal period year 2020-21 for the purposes besides other basic services as outlined in the F.FC Guidelines and SFC/State Specific Guidelines.
- Important messages / instructions of the District administration should be sent to all VMC nodal person/ Sarpanch through WhatsApp.

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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,

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

Dr. Sandeep Bhatnagar,  
Secretary,  
PR Department,  
Govt. of Himachal Pradesh,  
Shimla, Himachal Pradesh.