

Date: 29.04.2020

Note for record of State Response Team review meeting on SOP for persons entering Meghalaya, COVID 19 tracking app, testing facilities and contact tracing in urban areas held at NHM Conference Room. Chaired by Shri. Sampath Kumar, Commissioner & Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare.

#### **Discussion on COVID 19 tracking app and HMS for COVID-19**

- The working of COVID 19 tracking app was presented by NHM and it was noted that the app can serve the dual purpose of contact tracing as well as registration of persons who enter the state post May 3rd, 2020.
- It was informed that this app can be accessed by all districts and IDSP teams. RBSK teams are currently using this app and this can prove effective for active surveillance.
- There is a need to assess effectiveness of IVRS as people have been observed to be pressing the wrong buttons; Dr. Margaret suggested that IVRS may be replaced by the COVID 19 tracking app to ensure uniformity and no duplication of data.
- The Commissioner and Secretary suggested that the COVID-19 HMS may be termed as Electronic Health Record System (EHRS) by Meghalaya. This can be expanded to the entire healthcare system both public and private sector.

#### **Discussion on Contact tracing in urban areas**

While in rural areas, the constitution of Community Covid Management team has already been initiated for not only contact tracing but also to provide assistance to Covid 19 affected individuals and families, it was observed that contact tracing was proving to be quite a challenge in the urban areas, especially in terms of conducting door-to-door visits. With regard to this, the following suggestions were made:

- Local containment teams to conduct home visits for those under home quarantine
- The Commissioner & Secretary suggested that IDSP can allot one person to all headmen for the purpose of data collection in urban areas
- It was also suggested that assistance may be sought from Shillong Municipal Board for contact tracing in urban areas
- It was decided that a separate discussion will be held on contact tracing plan for urban areas wherein a system will be put in place to serve the purpose

#### **Finalising Standard Operating Procedure for persons entering Meghalaya**

- The SOP for persons entering Meghalaya post May 3rd was finalised in the meeting with NHM with inputs from the Commissioner & Secretary
- It was clarified that facility for spot registrations of persons who enter the state without registering will also be put in place by districts.
- Protocol for Home Quarantine will be handed to each and every person entering the state
- It was suggested that orders need to be issued by the Health Department for deploying manpower for screening people at the entry points. 6 hour shift for each batch of persons was recommended

#### **Discussion on COVID 19 testing**

- A suggestion was made to put in place mobile sample collection facilities for COVID 19 tests
- Sample collection centre at MATI Corona Care Centre (CCC), Shillong needs to be upgraded

- It was suggested that a helpline number, preferably 108 may be called by any person who may wish to be counselled after being discharged from quarantine/isolation centres
- The Commissioner and Secretary suggested Dr. Phira to have test results of all not under institutional quarantine.
- It was informed that two TrueNat COVID 19 testing machines are arriving in state and hospitals need to be identified to place these machines. It was suggested that one testing machine should ideally be kept in Tura Civil Hospital while the other could be kept at Pasteur Institute, Shillong (or) Civil Hospital, Shillong.
- Dr. Margaret suggested that Meghalaya should share COVID 19 data at ICMR portal for maintaining a central database

### Key decisions

1. **It was decided that a discussion will be held on contact tracing plan for urban areas wherein suggestions will be invited for putting a system in place to serve the purpose.** It was suggested that Dr. Bhattacharya, NEIGRIHMS, DC, Shillong, Director of Urban Affairs and CEO, Shillong Municipal Board among other stake holders may be invited for the meeting
2. Local containment teams will conduct home visits in urban areas as part of active surveillance.
3. It was suggested that one TrueNat Covid 19 testing machine should ideally be kept in Tura Civil Hospital while the other could be kept at Pasteur Institute, Shillong (or) Civil Hospitals, Shillong.
4. Sample collection centre at MATI Corona Care Centre needs to be improved
5. Orders to be issued by the Health Department for deploying manpower for screening people at the entry points. 4 hour shift for each batch of persons was recommended.
6. COVID 19 tracking app can be used for registration as well as contact tracing. Possibility of exporting existing data from Nic into the tracking app was suggested to be explored.

(Sd/-Sampath Kumar, IAS)

Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya,  
Health & Family Welfare Department

**Memo No.Health.94/2020/Pt./27-A,**

**Dated Shillong, the 30<sup>th</sup> April,2020.**

### Copy to :-

- 1.Private Secretary to Chief Secretary for kind information of the Chief Secretary.
- 2.The Commissioner & Secretary, Health & F.W.Department.
- 3.The Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya, Health & Family Welfare Department.
4. The Deputy Commissioners,East Khasi Hills, Shillong/West Khasi Hills, Nongstoin/Ri Bhoi District, Nongpoh/ West Jaintia Hills District,Jowai/West Garo Hills District, Tura / East Garo Hills District,Williamnagar/South Garo Hills District, Baghmara/North Garo Hills, Resubelpara/South West Garo Hills, Ampati/East Jaintia Hills, Khliehriat/South West Khasi Hills, Mawkyrwat.
5. The Director of Health Services (MI)/(MCH & FW)/(Research),Meghalaya,Shillong.
6. Joint Director of Health Services (MCH & FW) I/c IDSP,Meghalaya,Shillong.
7. District Medical & Health Officer, East Khasi Hills, Shillong/West Khasi Hills, Nongstoin/Ri Bhoi District, Nongpoh/ West Jaintia Hills District,Jowai/West Garo Hills District, Tura / East Garo Hills District,Williamnagar/South Garo Hills District, Baghmara/North Garo Hills, Resubelpara/South West Garo Hills, Ampati/East Jaintia Hills, Khliehriat/South West Khasi Hills, Mawkyrwat.

By Order etc.,

Deputy Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya,  
Health & Family Welfare Department