Minutes of Emergency nCoV Public Health Preparedness Meeting  
Union Territory of Puducherry

Date & Time : 28.01.2020, 11.00 am.
Venue : NHM Training Hall, Directorate of Health.
Agenda : Public Health Preparedness review in response to nCoV outbreak in China.

An Emergency meeting was convened by the Director of Health Puducherry to review the Public Health preparedness in the UT to identify people at risk for nCoV, Isolate, observe and manage cases/suspected cases of nCoV. Head OF Offices from District Hospital, JIPMER, State Medical College, Government Women and Child Hospital, Surveillance Medical Officer WHO, Government Chest Clinic and Hospital, Chief of Government Pharmacy, representatives from IDSP and all Private Medical Colleges participated.

Director Health Welcomed the participants, Deputy Director Health briefed on the current nCoV situation and measures taken by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) in response to the novel corona Virus outbreak in China.

Director Health briefed on the problem statement, presence of positive cases in neighboring countries porous borders and returning of Kerala students from China as potential risks for transmission. He emphasized that it is important to strengthening Surveillance at entry points and at Out Patient Departments by ascertaining and recording travel history from China for all patients reporting with Upper Respiratory Tract Infections as an exercise to strengthen Surveillance.

It was decided that Institutions conduct CMEs to sensitize their health care professionals/staff and share minutes of the same with Director Health and IDSP SSU. This has to include basics on safe Donning and Doffing of PPE Kits.

It was decided that all Health care professionals and staffs sensitized on nCoV, in District hospitals and institutions screening patients with upper respiratory tract infections for travel/contact history with nCoV cases to commence in casualty, Emergency, Medicine, Paediatrics, ENT and O&G OPDs.

Private Medical College hospitals directed to step up their isolation and ARDS management facilities to manage All suspected cases detected at their institutions.

Identified isolation facility for the Government is Government Hospital for Chest Diseases GHCD, Gorimedu. 6 to 8 beds made available for observe moderately ill SARI/ILI cases. Lab confirmation support to be provided by JIPMER.

Indentified Tertiary care Hospital Severely ill ARDS cases requiring respiratory intervention from government facilities to be referred to JIPMER. JIPMER requested to send a report on hospital preparedness for nCoV. Severely ill ARDS cases reporting to Private Institutions to managed at that institution only.

Similarly Mahe and Yanam districts to identify nearest Tertiary care institutions to refer severely ill ARDS cases. Sensitization of health care staff/professions planned for these districts and Karaikal through Video Conference from Head Quarters.
All private hospitals directed to dedicate 5 beds each for meeting out this emergency situation.

Risk communication: IEC activities decided to be strengthened by sensitizing and encouraging public for self reporting if they have traveled to China and develop respiratory signs and symptoms to the nearest Health care facility, Government/Private. Press release through Director Health to sensitize and re-assure public.

Alert on passengers arriving from China has been activated through IDSP network and APHO/PHOs. Director Health mentioned travel agencies can also to looped in to strengthen information flow.

24 hours Call centre facility established at IGGGHPGI Casualty 0413 2336050, 9 – 18.45 hrs at IDSP 0413 233644.

Identified nodal person for infectious diseases Dr. J.Ramesh, HoD Medicine, IGGGHPGI.

Nodal persons for all Government and Private Medical College hospitals identified and Whatsapp group created for instant dissemination of information.

Samples for suspected cases of nCoV collected and packaged by the institutions as per NIV Pune Guidelines and submitted to JIPMER from where samples are to be sent to NIV Pune for lab confirmation. Results to be shared with Director Health, SSU – IDSP and respected institutions. Other routine diagnostic workup to be done at the laboratories of the respected institutions.

All hospitals directed to stock sufficient medicines to handle Gram positive bacterial infections and maintain ample stocks of masks, gloves and gowns apart from PPE Kits for infection prevention.

It was decided that suspected cases of SARI/ILI with travel history provided with masks to contain transmission of infection.

All Government institutions directed to stock minimum of 200 PPE Kits to face an emergency due to nCoV. All tertiary care institutions advised to review their capacity to handle Sever ARDS cases in terms of infection control practices, Ventilators etc and re-orient the concerned professionals and staffs.

It was decided that duty medical professionals and staffs in high risk OPDs may be provided with masks till the alert is withdrawn.

If any passenger/suspected case turns positive, then they have to referred to JIPMER for speciality care.
Logistics: As an emergency preparedness measure, all institutions asked to procure VTMs, and additional N95 Respiratory masks and PPE kits from funds available with them.

PPE kits and N 95 masks have already been distributed to all tertiary care and medical College hospitals in the UT, requirements have been requested to Government facilities.

Separate OPD to fast tract screening of Respiratory cases for nCoV suggested in the future if need arises.

Updates:
All stake holders advised by the Director (Health) to frequently access the following websites for current information on nCov and related updated by WHO.

www.mohfw.gov.in &
https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019

Stocks availability in DHFWS, Puducherry:

PPE Kits 100 nos
N95 Masks 1800 nos

Supply order for 1950 N95 masks and 7500 triple layer masks has been placed by CGP.

Director (Health)/ Mission Director

Copy to:
1. The OSD to Hon’ble Lieutenant Governor, Govt. of Puducherry, Puducherry
2. The PS to Hon’ble Chief Minister, Govt. of Puducherry, Puducherry
3. The PS to Hon’ble Health Minister, Govt. of Puducherry, Puducherry
4. The PS to Secretary Health, Chief Secretariat, Govt. of Puducherry, Puducherry
5. The PS to District Collector, Puducherry / Karaikal
6. The Regional Administrator, Mahe / Yanam
7. The Secretary (H&FW), MoHFW, GOI, New Delhi
8. The National Programme Officer, IDSP, NCDC, New Delhi.
9. The Nodal Officer – Infectious Diseases, IGGGH&PGI, Puducherry
10. The Medical Superintendent, IGGGH&PGI / RGGW&CH, Puducherry
11. The Director, IGMC&RI / JIPMER, Puducherry
12. The Airport Authority of India, Puducherry
13. The Surveillance Medical Officer, WHO, Puducherry
14. The Regional Director, MoHFW, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

Copy submitted to:
1. The Secretary (Health), Chief Secretariat, Puducherry