

I/17689/2020

Information and Public Relations Department, Punjab

- Health Ministers of four States share best practices to contain COVID-19
- Agree upon need to scale up tracing and testing
- Punjab to launch rapid testing drive to screen 1 million people -Punjab Health Minister
- Says modalities being worked out for large scale manufacture of PPE kits in Punjab

Chandigarh, April 9:

Health Ministers of Punjab, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Puducherry through video conference late last evening, shared best practices adopted in their states to contain the spread of covid-19.

Each State/ UT shared its strategy and apprehending future spike in COVID cases agreed upon the need to scale up tracing and testing.

Mr Balbir Singh Sidhu, Health Minister Punjab appraised his counter parts that Punjab has ramped up testing capacity ten-fold with the procurement of requisite machines.

Punjab intends to launch a rapid testing drive aiming to screen one million people said he. Gearing up for this, acquisition of 10 lakh Rapid Testing Kits (RTK) has been approved by the Punjab Cabinet and order for requisition of one lakh kits from ICMR has been placed. Besides, testing capacity of Viral Research Diagnostic Labs (VRDL) in Government Medical Colleges at Patiala and Amritsar has been increased. Approval for testing at GMC Faridkot, DMC and CMC Ludhiana has also been sought from Government of India, he added.

Punjab Health Minister informed that modalities are being worked out for manufacturing PPE kits at Ludhiana which once operational would enable Punjab not just to meet its own requirement but would have sufficient kits to supply to other states.

During the VC, some of the Health Ministers suggested setting up of testing facility at every district headquarters, in case of exponential growth in covid-19 cases. However, Punjab is expected to cope up the situation with Gol's approval to rope in GMC Faridkot, DMC and CMC Ludhiana, said Balbir Singh Sidhu.

So far, Influenza like Illness (ILI) cases or those with international travel history or the contacts of covid-19 patients are being screened but

asymptomatic cases being found positive in different parts of the country, is an alarming phenomena which calls for better preparation, agreed all.

Besides others, the Video Conference was attended by Mr. Manish Tewari, Mr Shashi Tharoor (both Member Parliament) as well as Padma Bhushan, Mr. Sam Pitroda.

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I/17796/2020

District Public Relations Office, S. A. S. Nagar

- District Administration prepares contingency plan
- Ropes in higher educational institutions
- Reserves 5000 beds for quarantine purpose

S. A. S. Nagar, April 9:

"The District Administration has prepared a contingency plan to quarantine potential patients in case of geometric increase in subsequent stages of pandemic." This was disclosed by the Deputy Commissioner Mr. Girish Dayalan after presiding over a meeting with representatives of various higher educational institutions in the district.

Soliciting their support in the hour of crisis, the Deputy Commissioner said that as of now the administration has ample quarantine facilities but an acute spike may require segregation of COVID -19 positive patients. Patients from densely populated areas or slums can't be home quarantined so to check the spread of contagion, it necessary to earmark places where they can be made to stay, said he.

In line with this, the District Administration has tied up with Chandigarh University who has provided a dedicated 1000 bed isolation facility. Similarly, in the hour of need to minimize the response time , administration has sought support from higher education institutions to reserve their vacant hostels for quarantine purpose.

The symptomatic cases would be quarantined in various hospitals while the asymptomatic cases need to be quarantined away from home so as to ensure that the community spread doesn't take place, said he.

The Deputy Commissioner exhorted the educational institutions to share information about the vacant hostel rooms with the District Administration, conceding to which they furnished the approximate number of rooms/halls/classrooms that could be used as a quarantine facility, on the spot. Bed space for nearly 4000 patients was assured.

Apart from this, on the behest of the District Administration they assured continuation of kitchen/mess and laundry services to the inmates.

On the occasion, while appreciating SAS Nagar Administration's initiative to plan well in time, Dr. Anshu Kataria, spokesperson, Joint Action Committee

(JAC) and President, Punjab unaided Colleges Association (PUCA) said that all the 1600 Unaided colleges of Punjab are with the government in this pandemic and Joint Action Committee (JAC) would give around 3000-3500 beds in Mohali District for the isolation facilities as and when required, in the nearby colleges.

Mr. Charanjit Singh Walia, Director, JAC and President Nursing colleges Association said that all the Nursing Colleges along with Management Staff and students is with the Government and whenever required Nursing students can work as health workers, after receiving proper training for the same.

Representatives from SVIET, Doaba, Rayat Bahra, Dolphin, Indo Global, Universal, PGC Lalru, SUS Tangori, Quest College, Swami Parmanand Group along with other educational institutions were also present during the meeting.

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I/17701/2020

District Public Relations Office, S. A. S. Nagar

Common Service Centres distribute social security pensions via village level entrepreneurs

S. A. S. Nagar, April 9:

The Common Service Centres (CSC), today distributed social security pensions in various villages of the District including siswan, jhanjeri, and Hoshiarpur.

Disclosing this, the DM, CSC Mr. Shaminder Singh said that the pensions included the old age pensions, widows and destitute children pensions, dependent children, and pensions for differently abled. The pensions were distributed to approximately 25 houses in these villages.

He also divulged that the pensions were distributed through digi pay mode. It is part of the commitment to provide social security benefits to the people at their doorsteps.

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District Public Relations Office, S. A. S. Nagar

One more positive case from Jawaharpur

House to house survey on in nearby villages

S. A. S. Nagar, April 9:

The district saw another corona virus positive case emerging in early morning from Jawaharpur village. With this the total positive cases has gone up to 37 in the district.

The DC Girish Dayalan said that house to house survey is on in the nearby villages and Mukandpur, Devi Nagar and Haripur Kurha have been sealed.

He also said that extensive contact tracing and sampling is on.