PUNJAB COVID-19 RESPONSE

Initiatives and Policy Measures

AS ON 16th May 2020
Punjab was the First State in the Country to impose a curfew, even before the National Lockdown. Since then, the State Government has taken several measures to manage the pandemic and its implications.

4 High Level Committees set up to interface with the Central Government and provide guidance to the departments on Strategy and Implementation

1. COVID Care Centre and Private Sector Participation Committee
2. Health Sector Response and Procurement Committee
3. Committee on Augmenting Human Resources and Capacity Building
4. Goods Transport Committee
SOME IMPORTANT DECISIONS

1. Punjab among the **first few states in India** to approve Plasma treatment for critical COVID-19 patients in hospitals. All major Medical Colleges of the state now part of an ICMR project.

2. Punjab was the **first to conduct pool testing** trials in GMC Amritsar and GMC Patiala on **15 April**. Current capacity for pooled testing is **2000 samples per day** (approx.) **7435 total pooled samples tested** as on 10 May 2020.

3. Government of Punjab constituted a **Task Force for Strategy on easing restrictions imposed due to Lockdown**.

COVID-19 Public Health Strategy in Punjab

**5 PILLARS**

1. Political & Administrative Commitment
2. Preparedness
3. Surveillance (Trace-Test-Treat Principle)
4. Capacity Building
5. Intersectoral Coordination

**REGULAR SURVEILLANCE FOR EARLY DETECTION**

1. Surveillance of ILI (Influenza Like Illness)
2. Surveillance in Large Outbreaks
3. Surveillance in Cluster Areas

**IEC ACTIVITIES**

A State Public Health Advisory Group under the Chairpersonship of Dr K. K. Talwar constituted with the State Epidemiologist as the Convener.
Regular Surveillance

Punjab has initiated surveillance for ILI (Influenza like illness) in the community to identify any person having flu like symptoms at the earliest.

Regular Surveillance for early detection are supervised by Rapid Response Teams (RRTs). Tracking and screening of high suspect cases have been done.

4 areas in the State had >15 cases and have been classified as large outbreak areas. Details in table.

Survey in Large Outbreak Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Confirmed Cases</th>
<th>Population Screened</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SAS Nagar</td>
<td>Village Jawaharpur, Dera Bassi</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>4381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pathankot</td>
<td>Sheikhan Mohalla</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>24002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patiala</td>
<td>Kacha Patiala, Book Market &amp; Kailsah Colony</td>
<td>53 (17+36)</td>
<td>33733 (1613+32120)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New Grain Market</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jalandhar</td>
<td>Old sabzi Mandi, Jattpura, Mitha Bazar, Pucca bagh, Neela Mahal</td>
<td>114 (83+31)</td>
<td>26608 (10354+16254)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Danishmanda, Dasgmesh nagar, Basti gujjyan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Approximately 1.98 lac persons in 63 areas which have shown clusters (2 or > 2 cases) have also been screened by RRTs and samples of suspected cases being taken.
The GMC Amritsar and Patiala got approved in March 2020 for RT-PCR COVID19 testing with a capacity of 40 tests/day. The current capacity of Govt. Facilities is 1200/day.

From 4 tests per million population on March 16th to 1395 tests per million population on May 12th.
### COVID-19 Treatment Facilities

**3-tier arrangement** for managing suspects and treating confirmed COVID-19 cases, as per the Containment Plan issued by the Government of India

#### LEVEL 1
- **COVID CARE CENTRES**
  - Asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic cases
  - 27,700 beds across districts
  - 12,000 Beds being made operational in phase 1

#### LEVEL 2
- **COVID HEALTH CENTRES**
  - Mild to moderately symptomatic cases
  - 5000 beds operationalized.
    - 1000 on standby
  - All facilities have been put into place

#### LEVEL 3
- **COVID HOSPITALS**
  - Severely symptomatic and Critical Care patients
  - COVID ICU Beds – 1916 (Govt. 1006 and Pvt. 910)
COVID Health Centers

Level II are hospital beds with oxygen supply.

The preparedness of the facilities has been divided in two phases.

Phase 1 - 2456 Beds
Phase 2 - 2159 Beds
At present, the bed strength in 3 Govt. Medical Colleges, Private Medical Colleges and Private Hospitals is total of **1,916**
Flu Corners

Flu corners are set ups in the Hospitals to screen all suspected cases of respiratory tract infections or cases presenting symptoms similar to those of coronavirus.

These serve as the first points of contact for these patients and ensure that movement of such cases is restricted in order to prevent the spread of the disease.

Flu corners have been running in all the districts of Punjab.

As on 20th April, Punjab has set up 228 Flu Corners (22 in District Hospitals, 42 in Sub-Divisional Hospitals, 16 in Public Health Centers, 145 in Community Health Centers, and 3 in Govt. Medical Colleges) with sample collection facility in 111 Flu Corners.

As on 12.05.2020
The Government of Punjab has operationalized 5 helpline numbers in addition to individual district emergency response helpline numbers for citizens to access support and services from the Government.

Everyday, data from all these numbers is analyzed to show the type of calls, resolutions provided, geography and demography of the callers to aid evidence-based decision making.

**Single Emergency Helpline for anyone in distress**
- 20,000 calls received per day (avg.) majority of which are related to COVID-19 and police assistance
- 112

**Ambulance service for medical emergency**
- 8900 calls received per day (avg.)
- 108

**Health emergency number**
- 7400 calls received per day (avg.)
- 104

**Dial a Doctor (launched on 31 March 2020)**
- 200 calls received per day (avg.)
- 1800

**Helpline for essentials services**
- 14,000 calls received per day (avg.)
- 1095

As on 12.05.2020
Protocols

1. Guidelines and Checklists for Establishing and Operationalizing COVID Care Centres

2. Guidelines for Handling, Treatment and Disposal of Waste Generated during Treatment/Diagnosis/Quarantine of COVID-19 Patients

3. Guidelines for cleaning soiled bedding, towels and clothes from patients with COVID 19

4. Tertiary Care Hospitals Protocol for COVID-19
Advisories Issued [1/2]

1. Advisory for the People Involved in Frequent Interstate/Intrastate Movement
2. Advisory on Maintaining Hygiene and Sanitization of State Transport Undertakings
3. Advisory on Maintaining Hygiene and Sanitization of Sewa Kendras and their Staff
4. Advisory for the Special Care of Elderlies/Senior Citizens
5. Advisory on Maintaining and Ensuring the Safety of Food and Other Essential Household Items
6. Advisory on Maintaining the Hygiene and Sanitization of Shops
7. Advisory on the Use of Air-Conditioning in Residential/Commercial/Hospital Settings
Advisories Issued [2/2]

8. Advisory on Maintaining Hygiene and Sanitization of Bank Spaces and their Staff

9. Advisory on Safe Farming Operations (Procurement and Marketing)

10. Advisory on Maintaining Hygiene and Sanitization of Public/Private Sector Industries and Staff

11. Advisory on Maintaining Hygiene and Sanitization while Carrying-out Works Under MNREGA

12. Advisory on Maintaining Hygiene and Sanitization of Office Spaces and Staff

13. Advisory on Maintaining Hygiene and Sanitization at Petrol Pumps

14. Advisory on Maintaining Hygiene and Sanitization of Plying Goods Vehicles and Drivers/Workers
COVA Punjab

1st Mobile App in India, launched on 9th March 2020, with geotagging and geofencing features

11 States requested Punjab for access to the App and its features

20 Lac+ downloads; Available on iOS AppStore and Android PlayStore

Find nearest COVID patient

Geofencing of quarantined individuals

Contact tracing of positive cases

Report mass gathering

Real time dashboard and analytics

Order grocery and essential goods
IT Initiatives

1. To ensure smooth operations in Mandis during the procurement weeks under COVID, Punjab developed a unique centralized automated, logic-based tech platform to **issue e-Passes to farmers.** All movement in the Mandis were managed online.

2. A dedicated dashboard - [corona.punjab.gov.in](http://corona.punjab.gov.in) to analyse the trend and pattern of cases including prediction of future hotspots which to help authorities to take timely decisions

3. A platform - [covidhelp.punjab.gov.in](http://covidhelp.punjab.gov.in) for people who want to go to their home states from Punjab and those wanting to return

4. Punjab has launched **telemedicine & telecounselling initiatives** for general patients other than COVID to get their consultation done from home with the empaneled doctors/counselors through video call.

5. Deployed **UiPath RPA BOT** to extract district specific information from the email, coming from more than 20 district authorities. The BOT saves the information in respective district folder.
Punjab has initiated a **mass awareness campaign** to educate and inform its citizens across all the channels (*Radio, TV, Social Media, Print Media*) about this disease.

**eSanjeevani** (Online OPD), a CDAC Mohali’s flagship integrated telemedicine solution was implemented across the state to connect with a network of senior doctors over video conferencing.

**Video Conferencing Solutions** are being leveraged to facilitate Work from Home for the staff along with important webinars and VCs by the CM and other administrative staff.

**Other Actions**

The first manufacturer of PPE in Punjab was approved on 27 March 2020. On date there are **50 PPE kit manufacturers** and **4 N95 masks manufacturers** approved by Government of India.
SUCCESS STORY

S.B.S. Nagar was the first hotspot in Punjab. It currently has one of the highest recovery rates among all districts. No new case was reported in the district for 28 continuous days.*

- **Effective Mechanisms put in place for Self-Reporting.**
- **Decentralized Approach.**
- **Strong community support**
- **Team** of Sarpanches, Sector Magistrates, SHOs, Tehsildars, Police & DC Office formed
- **Youth Volunteers** engaged.
- **Patrolling parties** per 10 villages.
- **Strong Public Information Campaign.**
- **Grievance Redressal Mechanism.**

*New cases have been reported since April 24, 2020

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**Cluster Containment**
15 villages were contained as per Containment plan and around 30,000 persons were Home Quarantined.

**Door to door Survey in 15-villages**
Extensive searching/monitoring of Symptomatic/suspected cases in the villages by SMO/RRT through ASHA door to door survey. 100% houses covered in 15-villages.

**Extensive Contact Tracing**
All contacts (both high risk and low risk) quarantined and put on surveillance. All confirmed cases were isolated and provided medical care.

**System to identify Symptomatic persons**
Each flu-like symptoms case reported by any screening source is reported to the SMO and visited by RRT. RRT then gives feedback to SMO for further action. SMOs compile all such cases and send to District level Committee twice a day. Committee consists of Medical, Civil and Police officials.
Emergency measures to combat Coronavirus menace. Punjab Cabinet approves notification to set up Flu Corners in all Govt and Pvt hospitals.

On CM's directives, Finance Department released ₹296 crore on account of social security pensions to 24.70 lakh beneficiaries for Jan & Feb 2020.

4 Committees to deal with Covid-19 management - Health Sector Response & Procurement; Lockdown Implementation; Media & Comm.; Agriculture & Food.

Government of Punjab has released ₹150 Cr for relief works and ₹50 Cr for medical equipment.

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**Timeline of COVID-19 Response in Punjab [1/3]**

- **Emergency Measures**
  - March 2
  - March 9
  - March 21

- **Social Security Relief**
  - March 22

- **Committees**
  - March 29

- **Relief Fund**
  - April 3
  - April 6

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**COVA App**

“COVA” mobile app launched to sensitize people about precautions from Novel Corona Virus.

**Lockdown**

Punjab Govt. orders State-wide Lockdown. Section 144 imposed from March 23 to 31 to combat Covid-19 Pandemic.

**Disaster Res. Fund**

 ₹53.43 crore released to DCs to immediately tackle any exigency arising out of Covid-19 crisis.
Timeline of COVID-19 Response in Punjab [2/3]

**Mandi Board Comm.**
- 30-member control room set-up at the Mandi Board for support during the ensuing wheat harvesting and marketing season, set to begin on April 15

**Exit Strategy TaskForce**
- 15-member multi-disciplinary task force set up to formulate exit strategy for gradual relaxation of curfew/lockdown in Punjab, will submit report in 10 days

**Tackle Dom. Violence**
- Punjab Police has formulated a detailed strategy to tackle such cases, with daily action taken reports to be submitted by the DSP for Crime Against Women (CAW)

**Group of Experts**
- Mr. Montek S. Ahluwalia heads 20-member expert group to formulate Punjab's post-covid revival strategy. Initial report to be submitted on July 31

**Testing Capacity**
- Punjab Govt. led by Chief Minister ramped up its testing capacity by 10 times with procurement of 5 RTPCR and 4 RNA extraction machines (with automation)

**Procurement Infra**
- Infrastructure of 3691 purchase centers including 153 main yards, 280 sub yards, 1434 purchase centers besides adding 1824 yards of rice mills created

**Telemedicine**
- Telemedicine services in 300 Health and Wellness Centres to provide ‘Comprehensive Primary Health Services’ on door-steps of people in rural areas)
Govt of Punjab imposed curfew in all 22 districts, however, essential facilities, including MNREGA works, allowed to continue/start

Compulsory institutional quarantine, for both positive and negative cases coming from other states

Govt of Punjab decides to provide subsidy up to 50% on purchase of machinery to help farmers to tackle the problem of labour scarcity amid COVID

Punjab Government has spent more than ₹6 Cr to fund movement of migrants to their states till now

Govt of Punjab appointed Vice-Chairperson and 4 Non-Official members of the State Commission for Protection of Child Rights

Grant of ex-gratia compensation (Rs. 50 lakhs) to the dependant members/legal heirs of employees, who die in harness while on Government duty

State-wide Curfew

Compulsory Quarantine

Machinery Subsidy

Movement of Migrants

COVID Help Regn.

Child Rights in COVID

Compensation

Timeline of COVID-19 Response in Punjab [3/3]

April 26

April 29

April 30

May 4

May 5

May 10

May 13

Online registration for people who want to return to Punjab from other states and countries- http://covidhelp.punjab.gov.in
Thank You