Union Health Secretary and Member NITI Aayog chair High Level meet to review the COVID19 Status and Public Health Measures taken by Punjab and Chandigarh

State/UT advised to efficiently implement “Test, Track, Treat, Vaccinate” Strategy

Increased testing, effective contact tracing, strict containment, intensification of vaccination drive, and enforcement of physical distancing measures to be the pivot of this Strategy

Posted On: 31 MAR 2021 8:26PM by PIB Delhi
On the front of testing, the State and UT were asked to-

1. Effectively implement the “Test, Track and Treat” strategy; to escalate testing till the positivity comes down below 5%.
2. Significantly increase testing in all districts with a minimum of 70% RT-PCR tests and use of Rapid Antigen Tests as screening tests in densely populated areas as well as areas where cluster of cases are reported.
3. Mandatorily subject those who have tested negative in Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) to RT-PCR test.

Regarding the vaccination, the State/ UT were advised to ensure-

1. Priority vaccination of the eligible population groups in districts reporting higher cases. Transfer unused vaccine doses from one district to another for optimum utilization of available vaccine doses.
2. No sedimentation of vaccine to take place at any level of cold chain storage.
3. Maximum utilisation of vaccination capacity in the public and private sector health facilities.
4. There is no shortages of vaccination at the State/UT level. The Centre is regularly reviewing vaccine stock, and vaccine doses will be continually replenished by the Centre based on the consumption level of the States/UTs.

Regarding surveillance and containment, Punjab and Chandigarh were also advised the following:

1. All district officers and the local administration to refocus on effective house-to-house surveillance to identify active cases with focus on timely testing, prompt contact tracing and swift isolation so as to break the chain of transmission.
2. Identify clusters, focus stringent implementation of micro-containment zone approach.

The Principal Secretaries (Health) of Punjab and Chandigarh along with DCs of the highly affected districts such as Amritsar, Ludhiana, SBS Nagar, and Jalandhar shared their feedback on the activities being undertaken in the districts to break the chain of transmission; preparation of hospital infrastructure; clinical treatment protocols in hospitals to reduce mortality; and awareness campaigns in the State/UT.

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