



DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

LEADING HEALTH, POPULATION AND FAMILY WELFARE STORIES OF THE DAY
Tuesday 20220602

Healthcare workers

Government preparing exhaustive database of healthcare workers

Portal will include all categories of healthcare professionals and mention the country where they wish to render their services (The Tribune: 20220602)

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/nation/government-preparing-exhaustive-database-of-healthcare-workers-399236>

Government preparing exhaustive database of healthcare workers

To project India as a global source in the health sector, the Centre is developing an online repository of all categories of healthcare professionals, including doctors, nurses and pharmacists that also mentions the country where they wish to render their services.

The portal, being developed by the National Health Authority (NHA) under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) as part of the government's 'Heal by India' initiative, is likely to be launched on August 15, official sources told PTI.

It will be voluntary for all healthcare professionals to provide their information to the portal and all steps are being taken to ensure data security. The personal information provided will be authenticated by UIDAI while registration details will be verified by the respective councils, the sources said.

"The portal will be ready by June 15 after which healthcare professionals will be able to register themselves in it.

"They will have the option to mention their preferred country where they want to work, languages they know, visa, country-specific qualifying exam details besides their usual background information," an official said.

It will enable a seamless experience for those accessing such information on the portal, the official added.

The healthcare professionals who can register themselves in the portal include practitioners of modern medicine as well as the traditional system of medicine, dentists, nurses, pharmacists and 56 categories of allied health professionals.

The NHA has already started collating data of healthcare professionals in collaboration with various regulatory bodies such as National Medical Commission, Dental Council of India, National Commission for Indian System of Medicine, National Commission for Homoeopathy, Indian Nursing Council, Pharmacy Council of India and National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions.

A Health Professional Registry for doctors from all systems of medicines and nurses developed by NHA is already in place. So far, 32,059 doctors and 3,527 nurses have registered on it and of them credentials of 15,531 doctors and 687 nurses have been verified. The data from this registry will also be sourced for the new portal, the official said.

"Once the portal goes live, external stakeholders such as patients and recruiters from India or abroad will be able to search for a required professional based on the speciality or system of medicine, languages known and the country they prefer work in," the official told PTI.

According to another official, despite recent efforts at standardized quantification, information on India's diverse health workforce is fragmented and unreliable.

There is currently no comprehensive official source on the health workforce data that cover all categories of related professionals in the country, the official said.

Information on only certain categories of professionals is currently maintained.

Monkeypox-

21-day surveillance of asymptomatic arrivals from monkeypox-reporting nations

Government has asked states to maintain caution and prepare ahead (The Tribune: 20220602)

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/health/21-day-surveillance-of-asymptomatic-arrivals-from-monkeypox-reporting-nations-399840>

With monkeypox cases rising in non-endemic nations, the government on Tuesday issued guidelines to states and UTs for case management asking for asymptomatic arrivals from countries reporting the disease to be observed for 21 days for the development of any potential symptoms. The disease presents itself between six and 21 days.

Samples from symptomatic cases would need to be collected upon arrival and sent to apex lab ICMR- National Institute of Virology Pune for confirmation. India has no reported case of monkeypox so far. The government has, however, asked states to maintain caution and prepare ahead.

WHO has confirmed transmission of monkeypox in non-endemic Europe with no epidemiological links to West or Central Africa where monkeypox is usually found.

Cases are being reported in endemic Cameroon, Central African Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Liberia, Nigeria, Republic of the Congo, and Sierra Leone and also non-endemic USA, UK Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Australia, Canada, Austria, Canary Islands, Israel and Switzerland.

“Asymptomatic travellers from outbreak, endemic or community transmission region be observed for the development of any signs and symptoms for 21 days post exposure. If signs and symptoms develop, collect specimens,” guidelines to states and UTs say.

A suspected case has been defined as a person of any age having a history of travel to affected countries within the last 21 days presenting with an unexplained acute rash and one or more of the following symptoms -- swollen lymph nodes, fever, headache, body aches, profound weakness.

Probable case is a person meeting the case definition for a suspected case, and one who has face-to-face exposure, including healthcare workers without appropriate personal protective equipment; direct physical contact with skin or skin lesions, including sexual contact; or contact with contaminated materials such as clothing, bedding or utensils is suggestive of a strong epidemiological link.

A confirmed case is laboratory confirmed for monkeypox virus by detection of unique sequences of viral DNA either by polymerase chain reaction or sequencing.

Monkeypox is usually a self-limited disease with the symptoms lasting from 2 to 4 weeks.

Severe cases occur more commonly among children. In recent times, the case fatality ratio has been around 3 to 6 pc, guidelines said asking people to avoid contact with any material of the sick person.

About Monkeypox

Monkeypox (MPX) is a viral zoonotic disease with symptoms similar to smallpox, although with less clinical severity. Monkeypox virus primarily occurs in Central and West Africa. In 2003, the first monkeypox outbreak outside of Africa was reported in the US which was linked to contact with infected pet prairie dogs. These pets had been housed with Gambian pouched rats and dormice that had been imported into the country from Ghana. The disease is managed and has no specific treatment.

Monkeypox cases:

Monkeypox cases: 21-day check on incoming flyers

Monkeypox cases: 21-day check on incoming flyers (The Tribune: 20220602)

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/nation/monkeypox-cases-21-day-check-on-incoming-flyers-399904>

With monkeypox cases rising in non-endemic nations, the government on Tuesday issued guidelines to states and UTs for case management asking for asymptomatic arrivals from countries reporting the disease to be observed for 21 days for the development of any potential symptoms.

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The WHO has confirmed transmission of monkeypox in non-endemic Europe with no epidemiological links to West or Central Africa where Monkeypox is usually found.

ICMR : India fully prepared to deal with nose-bleed fever virus

Considering that the Crimean Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) has been detected here in the past and Iraq is reporting a jump in cases and deaths, the ICMR is geared up, having developed a surveillance protocol over the last decade, Dr Samiran Panda, Addl DG, ICMR, tells Anuradha Mascarenhas

Crimean Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF)

Why should a recent outbreak of a nosebleed-causing fever in Iraq worry us back in India? That's because the Crimean Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) has claimed 19 lives, according to the WHO, and it has been detected here in the past. (Indian Express: 20220602)

<https://indianexpress.com/article/lifestyle/health/icmr-india-fully-prepared-to-deal-with-nose-bleed-fever-virus-7948117/>

While India has been considered a hotspot for many emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, Dr Samiran Panda, additional Director-General, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), told The Indian Express that the Government was fully prepared to deal with any possible outbreak. The Pune- based Indian Council of Medical Research and the National Institute of Virology (ICMR-NIV) have done extensive research and surveillance in humans, animals and ticks to understand the disease burden and transmission dynamics, he added.

The fever is caused by a zoonotic virus, which, owing to its wide distribution and infectivity, can lead to high mortality rates. "Since 2011, the laboratory screening of CCHF for humans, animals and ticks has been under way. A state-of-the-art containment BSL-4 facility of ICMR at Pune in 2012 made it possible to quickly develop indigenous serological assays for diagnosis of IgM and IgG for humans and IgG for the livestock. These indigenous technologies not only helped in timely diagnosis of suspected CCHF cases but also in surveillance of CCHF in human, livestock and ticks in the country," senior ICMR scientists said.

WHAT IS THE VIRUS BEHAVIOUR?

CCHF was first identified in 1944 in the West Crimean region of the former Soviet Union. The virus was subsequently isolated in 1956 from a human carrier. It is a member of the genus, Orthonairovirus, family Nairoviridae. The average case-fatality rate is 30–50 per cent. This varies between 5 per cent and 80 per cent in various outbreaks. Humans contract it through infected tick bites or by coming into contact with infected blood or animal carcasses. The secondary infection in humans is due to close contact with secretions of the CCHF-infected patient, including blood, vomit, stool, urine and fluids.

The incubation period is short (3–14 days). The pre-haemorrhagic period is characterised by the sudden onset of fever, headache, myalgia, dizziness and further symptoms of pain in abdomen, diarrhoea, nausea and vomiting.

As far as cases from Iraq are concerned, severe bleeding, both internally and externally, especially from the nose, was observed among two-fifths of the deceased. These are typical symptoms of CCHF cases irrespective of the geographical region, Dr Panda said.

There is no specific treatment for CCHF. “Since no specific treatment is available, supportive treatment includes maintaining fluid and electrolyte balance, monitoring and replacement with platelets, fresh frozen plasma and erythrocyte preparations,” say scientists.

Since it was first detected in Gujarat in 2011, a total of 128 cases and 54 deaths (CFR- 42 per cent) were reported from that state and Rajasthan. A survey by health authorities in Gujarat had then revealed a high proportion of the animal population positive for anti-CCHF IgG antibodies from 15 districts. This finding further led to studies to ascertain if there was a recent import/mutation of the virus.

According to a report, “Experiences of ICMR with tick-borne zoonotic infections,” published in the Indian Journal of Medical Research (March 2021), authors Dr D T Mourya, Dr Pragya Yadav and others found the virus existed consistently for 30 to 40 years as the ICMR-NIV continued molecular clock studies on various strains isolated from humans and tick vectors. The high prevalence of this virus in Gujarat between 2011-2014 resulted in 34 CCHF cases and 16 deaths. In 2014, samples from a suspected Viral Haemorrhagic Fever (VHF) patient from Veravilapur village, Sirohi district, Rajasthan, confirmed the spread of CCHF.

The ICMR-NIV team developed an indigenous kit for detection of CCHF antibodies in humans and animals. Scientists further tried to understand the prevalence of the disease and conducted a countrywide survey with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). It detected antibodies in samples from bovine, sheep and goats from 22 states and one Union Territory. The results showed the prevalence of the virus in all these areas.

In 2016, an Indian migrant worker, who returned from Muscat, Oman to Kutch, Gujarat, became the first imported CCHF case and carried a strain belonging to the Asia-1 IV group mingled with strains from Oman, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran. Another imported CCHF case from Dubai was identified in Thrissur, Kerala. In 2019, a maximum number of CCHF cases were detected in Gujarat and Rajasthan with a 50 per cent case fatality rate.

Cancer

Understanding the emotional and psychological impact of cancer on kids

Children require knowledge in order to handle procedures, cope with emotions, and exert some influence over their circumstances, says Anil Nair, CEO of St. Jude India ChildCare Centres(The Indian Express: 20220602)

<https://indianexpress.com/article/lifestyle/health/emotional-psychological-impact-kids-paediatric-cancer-health-7947282/>

paediatric cancers, childhood cancer, children battling cancer, children fighting cancer, emotional and mental impact of cancer on kids, health, cancers, indian express newsChildren's social and psychological makeup is impacted by the chronic stresses of cancer, including treatment-related discomfort. (Photo: Getty/Thinkstock)

For a parent, watching their child battle any form of cancer is a heartbreaking experience. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), unlike adult cancers, most paediatric cancers do not have a known cause and as such, there is also a lack of understanding concerning these childhood cancers.

Anil Nair, CEO of St. Jude India ChildCare Centres says blood cancers are the most prevalent cancers in children. “The most frequent is acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL), which is followed by high-grade lymphoma and myeloid leukaemia, both of which can be detected in particular conditions with certain genetic defects.

“Leukaemia is frequent in youngsters between the ages of one and five years. Bone cancer, eye cancer, liver cancer, and kidney cancer are also prevalent, among the other cancers,” he explains.

Nair believes there is a need to demystify paediatric cancer by understanding the challenges faced by kids. “Approximately 75 per cent of children may experience particular post-traumatic stress symptoms during or after therapy. Understanding the psychological impacts of continuous medications and therapies takes a lot of time, care, love, and sustained commitment from the family, relatives, friends, and society,” he says.

In the early stages of the survivor phase, a child may experience “various bodily changes”. Their social and psychological makeup is significantly impacted by the chronic stresses of paediatric cancer, including treatment-related discomfort, side-effects such as hair loss,

weight gain or weight loss, and physical deformities, along with recurrent absences from school, Nair explains.

He adds that a “negative self-perception of self-appearance is linked to social, and psychological impairment, low self-esteem, and symptoms of depression in children“.

So, what is the solution?

According to Nair, while discussing a cancer diagnosis may be challenging and stressful, it will “allow open and honest talks throughout treatment”.

“Children require knowledge in order to handle procedures, cope with emotions, and exert some influence over their circumstances. They need to know they are loved, supported, and surrounded by individuals who care about them.”

He adds that good nutrition is important to fight cancer. “In India, the five-year net survival rate for children with cancer is now 30-40 per cent. When comprehensive care is offered — including diet — the survival rate increases to 70 per cent. Proper diet during treatment decreases side effects and treatment difficulties, leads to fewer delays, increased survival odds, and protection against infection.”

Why you mustn't ignore symptoms like fatigue, irritability, and inflammation

"Following fad diets and consuming fast food can lead to the deficiency of this vital vitamin," said Dr Sanjal Nagarkar(Indian Express: 20220602)

<https://indianexpress.com/article/lifestyle/health/vitamin-b-12-deficiency-teenagers-symptoms-causes-treatment-diagnosis-7936306/>

how to fight fatigue, how to overcome lethargy, how to overcome tiredness, why am I feeling so tired, indianexpress.com, indianexpress, fatigue, lethargy, hydrate, how to stay hydrated, dietitian tips, tips to overcome lethargy,Here's how you can overcome extreme fatigue. (Source: Getty Images/Thinkstock)

Just like vitamin D, low levels of B12 is also becoming common in people of all age groups, especially teenagers. It is essential to note that insufficient vitamin B12 levels can cause various serious complications such as anaemia, low-grade inflammation, fatigue, tiredness, cognitive health problems, difficulty in walking, numbness, or tingling in the hands, legs, or feet.

Hence, it is imperative to monitor ones vitamin B 12 levels at regular intervals to check if it is in the normal and recommended range of 160 to 950 picograms per milliliter (pg/mL), or 118 to 701 picomoles per liter (pmol/L).

Dr Sanjal Nagarkar, general physician, Apollo Spectra Pune said that B12 deficiency is one of the most neglected problems. “One can become low on vitamin B12 when the body does not absorb or store enough of the vitamin, or one doesn’t get enough amount of it,” she said while stressing that vitamin B 12 is essential to make red blood cells, also for nerve function.

Sensations like numbness or tingling in the hands, feet, or legs, inability to walk, anaemia, inflamed tongue, inflammation in the body, cognitive health problems, fatigue, irritability, poor appetite, low muscle tone, depression, vomiting, diarrhoea, hyperpigmentation, seizures, delayed growth, poor motor development, and tiredness.

iron deficiency day, iron deficiency day 2019, world iron deficiency day, world iron deficiency day 2019, deficiency day, deficiency day 2019, deficiency day news, deficiency day quotes, deficiency day images, iron deficiency day theme, deficiency day theme 2019, deficiency day 2019 theme, It is important to recognise the many symptoms associated with this widespread, but neglected, health condition. (Photo: Getty Images/Thinkstock)

What causes it?

“Deficiency of vitamin B 12 is increasing due to diet fads, and fast food intake,” mentioned Dr Nagarkar.

Consult the doctor without any delay. He/she will advise you to take a test to ascertain your B12 level. “Then, you will be suggested to take B12 in the form of a supplement or injection. Your treating doctor will direct you regarding how much and how to take it,” said Dr Perna Agarwal, Manager Technical Operation Apollo Diagnostic Pune.

vitamin B 12 deficiency, what to know about vitamin B 12 deficiency, how to correct vitamin B 12 deficiency, indianexpress.com, indianexpress, symptoms vitamin b 12 deficiency, Vitamin B12 is a critical vitamin that your body needs for a variety of important activities. It is abundant in animal products, fortified meals, and dietary supplements. (Source: Getty Images/Thinkstock)

Dairy products, almonds, salmon, chicken, eggs, mackerel, tofu, mushrooms, and tuna have enough vitamin B12 and can be consumed after consulting an expert. But, also note that high levels of B12 can also be harmful to health. So, follow the instructions given by the doctor.

“Timely detection of B12 deficiency and prompt treatment can help teenagers to avoid severe complications like neurologic issues and blood disease by improving/her growth and development,” Dr Agarwal said.

Woman becomes pregnant while already pregnant, gives birth to twins; know more about superfetation (Indian Express: 20220602)

"Usually, the thin layer of the endometrial line doesn't let another foetus enter the already developing embryo, but in rare cases, it successfully penetrates and starts developing."

Pregnancy

Pregnancy Here's what to know about superfetation (Source: Getty Images/Thinkstock) (Indian Express: 20220602)

<https://indianexpress.com/article/lifestyle/health/us-woman-pregnant-while-already-pregnant-twins-superfetation-condition-risk-7946729/>

In a rare case, a US woman became pregnant while being already pregnant, and gave birth to twins within a span of six minutes. After suffering three miscarriages following the birth of her first child, the 30-year-old woman from Texas reportedly had this 'miracle' pregnancy. In medical terms, the condition is called superfetation — in which a new pregnancy occurs during an initial pregnancy within days or weeks after the first one, according to Healthline.

In another recent case, a woman from California got pregnant while she was already pregnant — resulting in the birth of twin babies. The woman had earlier agreed to be a gestational surrogate mother for a Chinese couple but soon found out that she was pregnant with non-identical twins. Tests showed that both children had two different sets of parents.

In general, ovulation in women gets restricted right after she conceives, and reopens only after the prevailing pregnancy cycle gets a closure. Also, certain hormonal changes do not allow another embryo to develop. But in some rare cases, ovulation remains open for few days after women conceive. If, during this period (within 10 days), such women have sexual intercourse, then there is a possibility of the occurrence of another foetus and its development. It is more like additional ovulation, explained Dr Ruby Sehra, senior consultant, gynaecology, Sri Balaji Action Medical Institute.

Agreed Dr Surabhi Siddhartha, consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist, Motherhood Hospital Kharghar and said that in such cases, two sperms fertilise with the ova. Having intercourse after pregnancy test is positive in the ovulation cycle can lead to such cases, and there is no way to prevent this condition.

Also Read |Should you freeze your embryo? A gynaecologist explains

She added, "Usually, the thin layer of the endometrial line doesn't let another foetus enter the already developing embryo, but in rare cases, it successfully penetrates through it and starts developing. Hence children born out of such condition are twins but not identical."

pregnancy Can you get a double pregnancy? (Source: Pixabay)

Is there any risk to mother or child?

Although this is a rarest of a rare condition, which hardly involves any risk for the mother, there is a high risk of having a premature baby, according to Dr Sehra. It may be due to the fact that while one baby may be ready to be born, the other one might be at the developing stage in the womb.

What measures can one follow?

“Opt for a safer pregnancy. This means that supportive medications owing to both pregnancies need to be taken and the woman should be closely monitored because of the double weight of the pregnancies,” explained Dr Surabhi. Especially, couples choosing to be parents through surrogacy should be more aware of its safe procedure,” mentioned Dr Sehra.

Newborns

Foetus found inside newborn’s stomach in Bihar; know about the rare condition

It is a rare congenital entity with an incidence of 1 in 5,00,000 births, said Dr Priya Deshpande (The Indian Express:20220602)

<https://indianexpress.com/article/lifestyle/health/foetus-newborn-stomach-in-bihar-rare-condition-causes-diagnosis-7945196/>

newbornThe infant had an inflammation near his tummy (Source: Pixabay)

In a rare case, a foetus was found to be developing within the stomach of a 40-day-old newborn in Bihar’s Motihari. A medical oddity, the condition has been diagnosed as ‘Foetus in Fetu’ — a rare rare congenital anomaly — which was diagnosed after the infant had an inflammation near his tummy due to which he was unable to urinate correctly. The newborn then underwent surgery and was reportedly in a stable condition.

“It is a rare congenital condition with an incidence of 1 in 5,00,000 births. It is a monozygotic twin where the parasitic twin develops inside the body of a host twin. Most of the cases are diagnosed before 18 months of age,” said Dr Priya Deshpande, consultant, Maternal Foetal Medicine, Motherhood Hospital, Kharghar.

Where is it found?

It is found most commonly in the retroperitoneum, the tissues in the abdominal wall. Atypical locations like skull, sacrum have also been reported in literature. Majority of cases appear in infancy, said Dr Deshpande. Fetus in fetu, most commonly, presents as a single parasitic foetus, however, multiple fetuses have also been reported, explained Dr Deshpande.

baby, NICU care, health, newborn, indian express Surgical treatment for fetus-in-fetu is curative (Photo: Getty/Thinkstock)

Diagnosis

Diagnosis is often made preoperatively with ultrasonography, plain radiography, computed tomography (CT), or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

Surgical treatment for fetus-in-fetu is curative since it is currently considered a benign disease.

Post-COVID recovery

Choppy waters: On India's post-COVID recovery (The Hindu: 20220602)

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/choppy-waters-the-hindu-editorial-on-indias-post-covid-economic-recovery/article65484604.ece>

The economy's post-COVID recovery is far from complete; spurring consumption is the key

India's gross domestic product (GDP) is reckoned to have grown 8.7% while the Gross Value Added (GVA) rose 8.1% in 2021-22, as per national income estimates released on Tuesday. Coming on the back of the sharp decline in economic activity due to the COVID-19 lockdowns in 2020-21, when GDP crashed 6.6% and GVA by 4.8%, the latest numbers show India is emerging out of the tunnel of pandemic-induced woes. The overall GDP and GVA have indeed recovered from pre-pandemic levels, but only just, by 1.5% and 2.9%, respectively. Remember that growth had already been on a steady decline through 2019-20 even before the lockdowns of 2020 — with GDP growing just 3.7%. The Government's assertion that the data establish a 'full economic recovery' is not entirely true. For one, it is not a V-shaped recovery, with GVA from job-creating sectors (trade and hotels) still 11.3% below 2019-20's low levels. This has kept the services sector, as a whole, in line with pre-COVID levels, not above. While GVA from industry is up 6.7% over 2019-20, another job creating sector, construction, is up only 3.4%, while mining has grown a meagre 1.9% over the two-year period. Manufacturing lifted the industry GVA, growing 9.3% from 2019-20 levels, but there are cracks on that front — the January to March 2022 quarter (Q4 of 2021-22) recorded a 0.2% contraction, year-on-year. Overall GDP growth slipped to a four-quarter low of 4.1% in Q4, down from 5.4% in Q3, evoking flashbacks of the 2019-20 slowdown and raising concerns about the trajectory going forward.

With reluctant demand, supply-chain and input cost woes hurting manufacturing, agriculture (that grew at a five-quarter high of 4.1%) and public administration services (whose growth dipped to 7.7% from 16.7% in Q3) lifted the Q4 numbers amid slower growth in Services and Mining over Q3, and a mild 2% uptick in Construction. A recovery in investment demand,

helped by the Government's capital spending, is a silver lining, but the lingering concern is that consumption remains troubled, and unless it recovers, private investments will remain aloof as will sustainable high growth. Private final consumption expenditure grew 7.9% in 2021-22, but it was just ₹1.2 lakh crore or 1.4% over 2019-20. Worse, as inflation flared up, households' consumption growth has steadily dropped through 2021-22, growing a mere 1.8% in Q4. Price rise, combined with higher interest rates, could squeeze middle class disposable incomes and dampen consumption further. Yes, India is the fastest growing major economy and likely to remain so in 2022-23. But the rising tide in the past year has not been enough to lift all boats stranded in the detritus of the pandemic and the slowdown that preceded it. The waters are choppy with war and recession worries in the developed world.

COVID-19 surge

Mumbai braces for possible COVID-19 surge (The Hindu: 20220602)

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/mumbai/mumbai-civic-body-on-alert-as-covid-19-cases-rise-in-city/article65483475.ece>

Photo used for representational purpose only. File

Photo used for representational purpose only. File | Photo Credit: The Hindu

Mumbai registered 506 new cases on May 31 while the State recorded 711 cases

As new COVID-19 cases in Mumbai cross the 500 mark, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) administrator Iqbal Singh Chahal issued directions on Wednesday to increase testing on a war footing, especially with monsoon around the corner.

Asking all departments of the civic body to be prepared, Mr. Chahal said jumbo field hospitals must be kept adequately staffed and on alert from now. The Malad jumbo COVID centre has to be put to use on priority, if hospitalisation increases in the coming days.

Mumbai Civic body budget focuses on Infrastructure spending, health

He has asked for testing labs to be pro-active and fully staffed, while drive for vaccination in the 12-18 years category and booster doses is pushed harder.

The new COVID patient graph in Mumbai, and in the State itself, is on rise. Mumbai registered 506 new cases on May 31 while the State recorded 711 cases. Mumbai recorded 318 new patients on May 30 and 375 on May 29.

Assistant Municipal Commissioners (AMCs) in charge of wards must review the status of war rooms to ensure they are fully equipped with staff, medical teams and ambulances. They must take daily reviews of COVID situation in their wards and make strong intervention wherever required. Private hospitals have also been asked to be on alert.

AMCs have been directed to visit jumbo hospitals in their jurisdictions to ensure they are monsoon ready with de-watering pumps, structural stability certification, fire safety mechanisms, house keeping, catering, paramedical and medical staff and oxygen plants.

Health Ministry issues norms to tackle monkeypox (The Hindu: 20220602)

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/ministry-issues-guidelines-to-manage-monkeypox/article65480698.ece>

“Monkeypox is a viral zoonotic disease with symptoms similar to smallpox, although with less clinical severity,” said a Health Ministry official.

“Monkeypox is a viral zoonotic disease with symptoms similar to smallpox, although with less clinical severity,” said a Health Ministry official. | Photo Credit: Reuters

The Ministry confirms that there are no reported cases as on date of the disease in India

India needs to be prepared to tackle cases of monkeypox in view of the increasing reports of cases in non-endemic countries, the Union Health Ministry said on Tuesday while issuing ‘Guidelines on Management of Monkeypox Disease’.

It confirmed that there are no reported cases as on date of monkeypox disease in India.

Monkeypox kills 9 in Congo; first death in Nigeria in 2022

“We are maintaining a close watch on the situation. Monkeypox (MPX) is a viral zoonotic disease with symptoms similar to smallpox, although with less clinical severity,” said a Health Ministry official.

He added that monkeypox had been reported as endemic in several central and western African countries such as Cameroon, Central African Republic, Cote d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Liberia, Nigeria, Republic of the Congo, and Sierra Leone. “However, cases have also been reported in certain non-endemic countries — USA, United Kingdom, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Australia, Canada, Austria, Israel, Switzerland etc.,” said the Ministry.

Natural reservoir

Stating that the natural reservoir of the virus is yet unknown, the Ministry has said that certain rodents (including rope squirrels, tree squirrels, Gambian pouched rats, dormice) and non-human primates are known to be naturally susceptible to monkeypox virus. The incubation period (interval from infection to onset of symptoms) of monkeypox is usually from 6 to 13 days, but can range from 5 to 21 days, and the period of communicability is 1-2 days before the rash until all the scabs fall off/get subsided.

Editorial | Paying a price: On monkeypox outbreak

Suspected cases include a person of any age having a history of travel to affected countries within the last 21 days presenting with an unexplained acute rash and one or more of symptoms, including swollen lymph nodes, fever, head/body ache and profound weakness.

The Ministry said that a patient should be closely monitored for the appearance of symptoms, including pain in the eye or blurring of vision, shortness of breath, chest pain, difficulty in breathing, altered consciousness, seizure, decrease in urine output, poor oral intake and lethargy, during the period of isolation and nearby healthcare facility/ specialist must be contacted immediately in case of need.

Daily monitoring

As per the Guidelines, contacts should be monitored at least daily for the onset of signs/symptoms for a period of 21 days (as per case definition) from the last contact with a patient or their contaminated materials during the infectious period.

A confirmed case of monkeypox is virus confirmed by a laboratory by detection of unique sequences of viral DNA either by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and/or sequencing. All the clinical specimens should be transported to the Apex Laboratory of ICMR-NIV (Pune) routed through the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) network of the respective district/State.

Watch | What is the monkeypox virus?

The Guidelines on Management of Monkeypox Disease include epidemiology of the disease, including host, incubation period, period of communicability and mode of transmission; contact and case definitions; clinical features and its complication, diagnosis, case management, risk communication, guidance on Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) including use of personal protective equipment.

The guidelines stress on surveillance and rapid identification of new cases as key public health measures for outbreak containment, mandating need to reduce the risk of human-to-human transmission. It explains the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) measures, IPC at home, patient isolation and ambulance transfer strategies, additional precautions that need to be taken care of and duration of isolation procedures.

Health Ministry

Health Ministry issues norms to tackle monkeypox (The Hindu: 20220602)

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-records-2338-new-covid-19-cases-19-deaths/article65478493.ece>

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It confirmed that there are no reported cases as on date of monkeypox disease in India.

Monkeypox kills 9 in Congo; first death in Nigeria in 2022

“We are maintaining a close watch on the situation. Monkeypox (MPX) is a viral zoonotic disease with symptoms similar to smallpox, although with less clinical severity,” said a Health Ministry official.

He added that monkeypox had been reported as endemic in several central and western African countries such as Cameroon, Central African Republic, Cote d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Liberia, Nigeria, Republic of the Congo, and Sierra Leone. “However, cases have also been reported in certain non-endemic countries — USA, United Kingdom, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Australia, Canada, Austria, Israel, Switzerland etc,” said the Ministry.

Natural reservoir

Stating that the natural reservoir of the virus is yet unknown, the Ministry has said that certain rodents (including rope squirrels, tree squirrels, Gambian pouched rats, dormice) and non-human primates are known to be naturally susceptible to monkeypox virus. The incubation period (interval from infection to onset of symptoms) of monkeypox is usually from 6 to 13 days, but can range from 5 to 21 days, and the period of communicability is 1-2 days before the rash until all the scabs fall off/get subsided.

Suspected cases include a person of any age having a history of travel to affected countries within the last 21 days presenting with an unexplained acute rash and one or more of symptoms, including swollen lymph nodes, fever, head/body ache and profound weakness.

The Ministry said that a patient should be closely monitored for the appearance of symptoms, including pain in the eye or blurring of vision, shortness of breath, chest pain, difficulty in breathing, altered consciousness, seizure, decrease in urine output, poor oral intake and lethargy, during the period of isolation and nearby healthcare facility/ specialist must be contacted immediately in case of need.

Daily monitoring

As per the Guidelines, contacts should be monitored at least daily for the onset of signs/symptoms for a period of 21 days (as per case definition) from the last contact with a patient or their contaminated materials during the infectious period.

A confirmed case of monkeypox is virus confirmed by a laboratory by detection of unique sequences of viral DNA either by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and/or sequencing. All the clinical specimens should be transported to the Apex Laboratory of ICMR-NIV (Pune) routed through the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) network of the respective district/State.

Watch | What is the monkeypox virus?

The Guidelines on Management of Monkeypox Disease include epidemiology of the disease, including host, incubation period, period of communicability and mode of transmission; contact and case definitions; clinical features and its complication, diagnosis, case management, risk communication, guidance on Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) including use of personal protective equipment.

The guidelines stress on surveillance and rapid identification of new cases as key public health measures for outbreak containment, mandating need to reduce the risk of human-to-human transmission. It explains the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) measures, IPC at home, patient isolation and ambulance transfer strategies, additional precautions that need to be taken care of and duration of isolation procedures.

India records 2,338 new COVID-19 cases

India records 2,338 new COVID-19 cases, 19 deaths (The Hindu: 20220602)

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-records-2338-new-covid-19-cases-19-deaths/article65478493.ece>

A health worker inoculates a school student with a dose of 'Corbevax' vaccine during a vaccination drive held for children in the age group of 12-14, as a preventive measure against Covid-19 coronavirus at a school in Bengaluru. File

A health worker inoculates a school student with a dose of 'Corbevax' vaccine during a vaccination drive held for children in the age group of 12-14, as a preventive measure against Covid-19 coronavirus at a school in Bengaluru. File | Photo Credit: AFP

India's active coronavirus caseload increased by 185 in 24 hours

India recorded 2,338 new COVID-19 infections in a day that took its case tally to 4,31,58,087 while the number of active cases rose to 17,883, according to Union Health Ministry data updated on May 31.

The death toll climbed to 5,24,630 with 19 more people succumbing to the viral disease, the data updated at 8 a.m. stated.

According to the ministry, active cases comprise 0.04 per cent of the total infections and the national COVID-19 recovery rate was 98.74 per cent.

Beijing, Shanghai ease COVID restrictions as outbreaks fade

India's active caseload increased by 185 in 24 hours. The daily positivity rate was 0.64 per cent and the weekly positivity rate was recorded at 0.61 per cent, the data showed.

A total of 85.04 crore tests to detect COVID-19 have been conducted so far of which 3,63,883 were carried out in the last 24 hours.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,26,15,574, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.22 per cent.

The total number of vaccine doses administered in the country so far has exceeded 193.45 crore.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16. It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19.

The country crossed the grim milestone of two crore COVID-19 cases on May 4 and three crore on June 23 last year.