



ABSTRACT

Public Health and Preventive Medicine – Guidelines and constitution of a state level and District level technical committee for conducting audit of death due to Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI) including COVID-19 and suspected deaths due to COVID-19 – Orders – Issued.

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (P1) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Ms).No.196

Dated: 20.04.2020
Sarvari, Chithrai - 07
Thiruvalluvar Aandu – 2051.

Read:

From the Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, letter R.No.4736/ Epi/S4, dated:13.04.2020.

ORDER:

In the letter read above the Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine has stated that the COVID-19 outbreak is declared as Public Health Emergency of International Concern by the WHO. It is also declared as Pandemic that requires massive urgent efforts for control. In this regard, Government is continuously taking massive Public Health Control Measures to prevent and control COVID-19 in this state.

2. The Department has also initiated necessary precautionary and containment measures for managing this situation in this state. Dedicated isolation rooms / wards with appropriate infection prevention and control measures are established in all the major Government Hospitals to admit and treat any suspected or confirmed cases. In addition the department established state level and regional level quarantine facilities for prevention and control of COVID-19. The Department has also established sufficient number of COVID-19 testing laboratories in Government Medical Colleges and Private laboratories have also started testing for COVID-19. In spite of all these measures COVID-19 causes mortality of about 1% among the COVID-19 cases. The mortality in the COVID-19 positive cases with Co-morbid conditions like diabetes mellitus, COPD, Renal Diseases, hypertension, persons of above 50 years of age etc.,

3. The Government is taking several steps in preventing and controlling COVID-19 infection. List of COVID-19 positive cases admitted in hospitals both in

Public and Private as well as contact tracing are analysed at all levels. The close contacts are immediately quarantined and tested as per the protocols. All the patients presenting with Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI) and Influenza like Illness (ILI) are tested for COVID-19 in Government Institutions as well as Private Hospitals. All the districts are being equipped with testing laboratories and have facilities for lab confirmation either by RT-PCR or RDT.

4. COVID-19 diagnosis and clinical management protocols recommended by Government of India are widely disseminated to Government doctors and private doctors through IMA and IAP.

5. Despite all these efforts few deaths among COVID-19 and SARI cases occur. In some instances the circumstances leading to death and Medical cause of death could not be accurately determined for various reasons. Often, some deaths which are unrelated to COVID-19 are also reported as suspected COVID-19 deaths. Hence, it is necessary to ascertain the exact conditions which lead to direct cause of death in COVID-19 cases, in order to prevent the occurrence of such complications in future and also it will help to correctly identify the cause of death.

6. The Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine has further stated that it is pertinent to audit all the deaths attributed to COVID-19 and ascertain the Medical and Non-Medical Cause of death. It will help to understand the circumstances that lead to death and lapses if any, in prevention and case management. The valuable finding gained in the audit will help to develop strategies for improving the prevention and control measures and also for ensuring appropriate protocol based management of COVID-19 cases at all levels.

7. The Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine has therefore requested state level and district level committee may be constituted by the Government to conduct the death audit of all cases due to COVID-19.

8. After careful examination the Government have decided to accept the proposal of Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine and constitute the State Level and District Level Committees as detailed in the annexure I and II to this order to conduct audit on cases of deaths due to COVID-19 and review the report. A format of Death Audit report is also annexed to this order.

9. The functions of the District level and State Level Committees are as follows.

a. Functions of the District Level Committee

- The district committee will meet within two days of SARI death and complete the audit.

- The proceedings of the committee would be sent to DPH &PM on the same of the audit with copies to DMRHS and DME.
- This committee may interview the stake holders again to validate the information in the detailed information report, if required.
- The committee should confirm the cause of death and predisposing factors for the death.
- The committee would recommend the appropriate measures to be taken up to prevent future occurrence of such cases
- The Committee will review the implementation of measures taken up by the stakeholders on the earlier recommendations.

b. Functions of state level committee

The state level committee will frame the guidelines for audit of COVID-19 related deaths and necessary formats for death audits like verbal autopsy formats. The state level committee will scrutinize all the reports received from the DDHS /JDHS /Deans to review the quality of COVID-19 death audit and take necessary action. The committee will analyze the overall trend and factors that lead to COVID-19 related deaths and suggest measures to be implemented in preventing SARI/COVID-19 related deaths.

(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)

**BEELA RAJESH
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT**

To

The Director of Medical Education, Chennai – 600 010.

The Deans / Superintendent of Exclusive COVID-19 Hospitals

(through the DME / DM&RHS)

The Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Chennai – 600 006.

All District Collectors.

Copy to:

The Senior Personal Assistant to Minister (Health), Chennai – 600 009.

The Principal Private Secretary to Chief Secretary, Chennai – 600 009.

The Private Secretary to Secretary to Government,

Health and Family Welfare Department, Chennai – 600 009.

//FORWARDED BY ORDER//


SECTION OFFICER

Annexure I

G.O.(Ms)No.196, Health and Family Welfare Department dated:20.04.2020
District Level Committee

S.No	Designation of Official	Role
1.	Deputy Director of Health Services (Revenue District)	Member secretary and Convener
2.	Deans of the Medical College	Member
3.	Joint Director of Health Services	Member
4.	Deputy Director of Health Services of the Additional HUD	Member
5.	Professor of Medicine, Medical College hospital	Member
6.	One physician from district Headquarters Hospital	Member
7.	Professor of Pediatrics, Medical College hospital	Member
8.	One pediatrician from district Headquarters Hospital	Member
9.	Professor of Microbiology, Medical College hospital	Member
10.	Surveillance Medical Officer (SMO) - WHO	Member
11.	District Epidemiologist	Member
12.	District Public Health Microbiologist of the District Public Health Laboratory	Member
13.	District Entomologist/District Malaria Officer	Member
14.	Expert representative of Indian Medical Association	Member
15.	Expert representative of Indian Academy of Pediatrics	Member

BEELA RAJESH
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

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Olvi Lalpoom
 20/4/2020
SECTION OFFICER

Annexure – II
G.O.(Ms)No.196, Health and Family Welfare Department dated:20.04.2020
State Level Committee

S.No	Designation of Official	Role
1.	Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine	Chairperson
2.	Director of Medical Education.	Member
3.	Director of Medical and Rural health Services	Member
4.	Additional Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine (M&F), O/o DPH&PM	Member
5.	Joint Director, Epidemics O/o DPH&PM	Member Secretary and Convener
6.	Joint Director, Vector Borne Disease Control, O/o DPH&PM	Member
7.	Chief Entomologist, O/o DPH&PM	Member
8.	State Epidemiologist	Member
9.	Director, King Institute of Preventive Medicine and Research, Guindy.	Member
10.	Director, Institute of Child Health, Egmore, Chennai-8.	Member
11.	City Health Officer, Greater Chennai Corporation	Member
12.	Professor of Medicine, Physician, IMCU and Toxicology Unit, Madras Medical College Hospital	Member
13.	Deputy Director, State Public Health Lab, O/o the DPH&PM	Member
14.	Sub Regional Team Leader / Surveillance Medical Officer (SMO) - WHO	Member
15.	Expert representative from IMA	Member
16.	Expert representative from IAP	Member

17.	Expert representative from NIE	Member
18.	Any other expert special invitee	Member

BEELA RAJESH
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

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SECTION OFFICER 20/11/2020