



## ABSTRACT

COVID-19 – Conduct of Study of effectiveness of BCG vaccine in Reducing Morbidity and Mortality in Elderly individuals (between 60-95 years) in COVID-19 Hotspots by ICMR – Permission – Granted – Orders – Issued.

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### HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (P1) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Ms.) No.238

Dated : 05.06.2020

Thiruvalluvar Aandu – 2051  
Saarvari, Vaigasi – 23.

Read :

From the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Director General, ICMR, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi, D.O.No.ECD/COVID-19/Misc./2020, Dated 28.05.2020.

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### ORDER :-

The Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has stated that currently there are no approved therapeutic strategies specifically for patients suffering from severe COVID-19. Deaths secondary to COVID-19 have also been on the rise. Evidence indicates that a major proportion of deaths reported have been in elderly patients as well as in patients who have co-morbid conditions like hypertension, cardiac disorders, COPD etc.

2. He has stated that Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is proposing a multi-centric study in 6 cities (Chennai, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Bhopal, Delhi and Jodhpur) to evaluate the effectiveness of BCG vaccine in reducing the morbidity and mortality in elderly individuals in COVID-19 hotspots in India. The study will be conducted over the next 6 months in elderly individuals between 60-95 years of age with an objective to reduce the severity, hospitalization and death due to COVID-19 disease following the administration of BCG vaccine.

3. It has further been stated that BCG has been administered to infants in India in the immunization program over the last 5 decades very safely. It is known to boost the innate immunity and this effect would protect the elderly in our country against the COVID-19 virus infection, thereby leading to a possible reduction in the deaths due to COVID-19 infection, which is the need of the hour.

4. The Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has therefore requested to approve and extend the full support and cooperation for the smooth conduct of this project titled "Effectiveness of BCG vaccine in Reducing

Morbidity and Mortality in Elderly individuals in COVID-19 Hotspots in India” in Tamil Nadu region and to provide BCG vaccine and COVID testing (Swab collection facility) from the State machinery for the conduct of this study.

5. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has furnished the approval of Institutional Ethics Committee, National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis. The Ethics Committee has approved the project with certain recommendations addressed.

6. The Government examined the request of the Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and accept the same. Accordingly, permission is accorded for conduct of Study of “Effectiveness of BCG vaccine in Reducing Morbidity and Mortality in Elderly individuals (between 60-95 years) in COVID-19 Hotspots in India” in Tamil Nadu, subject to ensuring that the recommendations of the Institutional Ethics Committee is duly addressed. BCG vaccine and COVID testing (Swab collection facility) be provided from the State machinery for the conduct of this study.

**(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)**

**BEELA RAJESH,  
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.**

To

The Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Director General, ICMR, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, V.Ramalaingaswami Bhawan, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi – 110 029.

Dr.Srikanth Tripathy, Director, ICMR – NIRT, Chennai.

Dr.Senthilraj, MD-NHM, Tamil Nadu.

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

**Copy to:**

The Chief Minister’s Office, Secretariat, Chennai – 600 009.

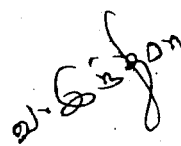
The Deputy Chief Minister’s Office, Secretariat, Chennai – 600 009

The Special Personal Assistant to Hon’ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Secretariat, Chennai – 600 009

The Private Secretary to Chief Secretary to Government, Secretariat, Chennai – 600 009

The Private Secretary to Secretary to Government, Health and Family Welfare Department, Secretariat, Chennai – 600 009

**// FORWARDED BY ORDER //**

  
**SECTION OFFICER.**