

WORKSHOP FOR MEDIA
ON
A (H1N1) INFLUENZA

18 August 2009
Conference Hall
PIB, Chennai

Programme

- 0930 Registration
- 0940 Welcome address: **Thiru K.M. Ravindran**, Addl DG, PIB
- 0945 Presidential address: **Thiru V.K. Subburaj**, IAS
Principal Secretary - Health & Family Welfare
Government of Tamil Nadu
- 0955 Presentation by **Dr. S. Elango**
Director - Public Health
Government of Tamil Nadu
- 1025 Presentation by **Dr. K. Jayakumar**
Jt. Director - Public Health
On Action Taken by State Health Dept.
- 1045 - 1100 Tea Break
- 1100 Presentation by **Dr. C. Rajendran**
Director - Internal Medicine
On Case Management
- 1130 The issue: In the perspective of Media
By **Thiru G. Babu Jayakumar**, Metro Editor
The New Indian Express, Chennai
- 1150 Discussion: Open Forum
- 1230 Sum up and vote of thanks : **Thiru M. Therasnathan**
Assistant Director (M&CO), PIB

All are invited to join lunch

A (H1N1) IN TAMILNADU –ACTION TAKEN REPORT

STATE RESPONSE OF PREPAREDNESS:

- Hon'ble Health Minister of Tamilnadu along with the Principal Secretary and Additional Secretary of Health, convened a meeting for all the Heads of departments and the representatives of Private hospitals on 3.6.2009 and reviewed the status of A H1N1 in the State. to seek their cooperation in prevention and control of A H1N1 in the State.
- The Deputy Directors of Health Services were briefed and alerted on A H1N1 and were instructed to gear up surveillance. Necessary technical guidelines were issued to all Deputy Director of Health Services, Joint Director of Health Services and Deans of the Medical Colleges. The information booklet 'CD Alert' and the Clinical case Management Protocol received from NICD, GOI have been circulated to all District Health functionaries.
- The Government Hospitals and Communicable Disease Hospital, Chennai have been requested to maintain isolation wards as per WHO standard for management of suspected cases reported if any.

COORDINATION MEETINGS:

- An emergency preparedness meeting was convened by the Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department, Government of Tamil Nadu for the stake holders and stressed their roles and responsibilities in prevention and control of A H1N1 in the State.
- All the line Departments who are directly or indirectly involved in containment of outbreak of A H1N1 were briefed on their roles and responsibilities.
- The Principal Secretary convened a meeting for the line departments on 23.6.2009 to review the activities carried out for the prevention and control of AH1N1 in the State.
- A coordination meeting was conducted by Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine on 1.7.2009 to the reporting and identified surveillance centres to sort out issues related to collection of samples, quarantining, management and reporting of suspected/positive cases of A H1N1 in the State.
- A coordination meeting with the British Deputy High Commission and US Consulate was conducted on 6.7.2009 by the Director of Pubic Health and Preventive Medicine and they have ensured to enlarge the coordination meeting to all the Diplomatic Mission in Chennai.
- A meeting with the Army Medical Corps was conducted on 7.7.2009 to explore the possibility of quarantining the suspected A H1N1 cases at the Military hospital at Chennai because of its proximity to Chennai International Airport. The Officials have requested the Director of Public

Health to address the Ministry of Defence through proper channel for quarantining non-entitled persons.

MEDICAL TEAM FORMATION FOR SCREENING AND SURVEILLANCE IN THE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS AND SEAPORTS:

- The Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine coordinates with the Airport and Seaport Health Authorities and screen the travellers/crew arriving from the infected countries on 24x7 basis.
- In Chennai airport, to screen the large influx of passengers, Doctors and paramedical staff from the nearby districts like Kancheepuram and Tiruvallur, house surgeons from the medical colleges in Chennai are deputed and in place for screening of passengers.
- 21 Doctors and 6 paramedical staff and auxillary staff of Airport health organisation with an average of 7doctors / shift are available in the Chennai Airport.
- So far, from **29.4.2009 to 7.7.2009** a total of **3220 flights and 450498 passengers** have been screened at Chennai, Coimbatore and Trichy International Airports.
- At Chennai and Thoothukudi Sea Ports a total of **9916 crew members** have been screened so far. No passengers ships have arrived.
- State level and District level Rapid Response teams are in alert and ready with epidemic preparedness.
- At King Institute of Preventive Medicine, Guindy a team of Microbiologist and lab.technicians have been formed and are collecting the throat swabs and nasopharyngeal swabs from the suspected cases and are being despatched to National Institute of Virology for laboratory diagnosis and confirmation.

IEC AND PRESS RELEASES:

- Press briefings were made by the Govt. in the leading newspapers to avoid panic among the public.

SAMPLE TRANSPORTATION AND ARRANGEMENTS:

- In Tamilnadu, samples collected from the suspected cases quarantined at the govt. of India identified centres are despatched as per Govt. of India guidelines and airlifted the same day to National Institute of Communicable Diseases and National Institute of Virology, Pune for Laboratory diagnosis and confirmation.
- A 24 x 7 lab facilities have been established in the Department of Virology, King institute of Preventive Medicine, Guindy for sample collection and

despatch of the same to National Institute of Virology, Pune for laboratory diagnosis.

LOGISTICS – DRUGS/PPE:

- Sufficient quantity of PPE, triple layer masks and N95 masks required for prevention of A H1N1 were received from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India and stocked at O/of the Regional Director, Health and Family welfare Department, Govt. Of India, Chennai.

SUSPECTED /CONFIRMED CASE IN TAMILNADU:

In Tamil nadu, so far 59 samples have been analysed and 9 cases were declared positive and treated with Oseltamivir capsules (Tami flu). Results of 4 samples are yet to be received. All the other suspected cases were kept in home quarantine/ quarantine in the respective identified centres and were discharged after declaration of the results. . The details on the suspected cases and confirmed cases are given in the **Annexure –I & II** respectively

PREPAREDNESS IN HOSPITALS INCLUDING PRIVATE HOSPITALS

- Hon'ble Health Minister of Tamilnadu along with the Principal Secretary and Additional Secretary of Health, convened a meeting for the representatives of Private hospitals on 3.6.2009 to seek their cooperation in prevention and control of A H1N1 in the State.
- Govt. of India has identified Communicable Disease Hospital, Chennai, Coimbatore and Trichy Medical College hospitals as the centres for management of AH1N1 suspected cases. Apart from the above hospitals, all the Government Hospitals in the State have been requested to maintain isolation wards as per WHO standard for management of suspected cases.

ARRANGEMENT AT STATE HEADQUARTERS:

- A 24 x 7 help line emergency monitoring cell is functioning at the Directorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Chennai to disseminate the information on A H1N1. Ph: 044-24321569.
- Hon'ble Health Minister of Government of Tamilnadu released the Frequently Asked Questions on A H1N1 and the same was circulated to all the District Health functionaries.

↓ FAQ on the web. ^{TN}

- WHO guidelines on the pandemic alert from phase V to VI for prevention and mitigation in the community to be followed by the State has been communicated to all the heads of the departments
- A proposal has been submitted to the Government for cash assistance for the control and prevention of Swine flu in Tamil Nadu. In view of the pandemic, various meetings and workshops have been organized for epidemic preparedness in the State.

Estimated expenditure (incurred for organizing the meetings, contingencies in the Airport screening unit and in the 24hr monitoring cell at the Directorate)	= Rs. 2,75,000
Anticipated expenditure (90days)	= Rs 4,00,000
Total funds required	= Rs. 6,75,000

LEGAL PROVISIONS FOR NOTIFICATION UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACT:

- A H1N1 is under the list of Notified disease under PH Act 1939. As WHO has raised the Pandemic alert Phase VI, all the Medical Practitioners have been informed to notify the disease failing which they are liable for prosecution by the Local Health Authorities.