



Message of Hon'ble Governor of Andhra Pradesh
Sri Biswa Bhusan Harichandan
during the Webinar on 'Covid-19 third wave
Awareness for preparedness and prevention' with representatives of
Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) in Andhra Pradesh

I extend a warm welcome to the dignitaries representing various Non-Government organizations (NGOs) in Andhra Pradesh and thank you for participating in this Webinar on creating awareness among people about Covid-appropriate behavior to strengthen the resolve of the government in the fight against the invisible enemy threatening the entire mankind.

As you all are well much aware, the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic has posed an unprecedented challenge before the entire world. Non-Government Organisations such as yours have an important role to play in the these times of crisis.

Non-Government Organisations function with 'service to the suffering' and 'self-less service to the society' as their main agenda.

With the unprecedented challenge posed by the COVID 19 pandemic and its devastating impact on the humanity and the communities around us, organizations such as the ones represented by you have a larger role to play with two pronged approach by not only saving lives of the affected people but also in mitigating spread of the disease. NGOs have the experience, expertise and resources required to deal with such situations because of the dedicated work you do in your respective fields of operation.

I am aware that each of the NGOs function in a specialized area of operations and services to the society such as blood donation, assistance to dementia and Alzheimer's patients, orphan children's education and welfare, women's empowerment etc. Some of the NGOs also have trained medical and first- aid resource persons working with them.

I urge you all to respond to the urgent call of duty by expanding the horizon of your area of operations by lending an helping hand to the people affected by Covid-19.

To deal with the enormous challenge in front of us and the crisis situation unfolding everyday, NGOs have to come forward and supplement efforts of the government authorities in bridging the gaps in providing service to the affected persons.

The areas in which the services of NGOs will be more useful would be:

- Creating awareness on Covid-appropriate behavior among the people – such as wearing mask, maintaining social distance, regular hand wash etc. Advise people to stay at home and avoid unnecessary travel and crowded places. The awareness campaign can be carried out through information, education, communication (IEC) material by printing and distribution of pamphlets in local language. Putting up display boards, wall posters, door to door campaign etc.
- Advise people suffering from mild Covid-related symptoms such as cough, fever, body pains, breathlessness etc. to avail medical advice provided through 104 Call centre. Doctors available at the 104 call centre on 24/7 basis will advise callers on the next steps to be taken such as testing followed by treatment in home quarantine or admission to hospital, as the case may be.
- NGOs can help by providing transport facilities to patients who require hospitalization by taking them to the hospital and getting them admitted as per availability of beds. They can take the assistance of Arogya Mitra, resource person of Arogya Sri Trust available at each hospital for treatment under the Arogya Sri scheme, as per eligibility.
- NGOs may come together as a team, pool up resources and form Joint Coordination Committees in each district. The coordination committee should have latest data on availability of beds, beds with oxygen, beds

with ventilators, ICU beds etc. keep in touch with the Covid Nodal officer, contact numbers of local hospitals etc.

- Each joint action committee can have two sets of resource persons. While one group does the coordination activity, the other group can provide hand-holding support as Frontline warriors and extend logistics support by taking severely affected patients to hospitals with the help of Ambulance service etc.
- All Frontline workers should be provided with sufficient number of PPE kits, sanitisers etc. duly following strict adherence to the Covid guidelines and taking all necessary precautions by protecting themselves, their family members and the communities around them.
- Help eligible people to register on the Co-win platform and assist them to go for vaccination at the nearest Vaccination centre. Remove apprehensions among people on Covid vaccine by educating them on the safety aspects and the protection it offers from contracting the corona virus.
- It is heartening to note that several individuals and NGOs are coming forward to perform the last rites of Covid patients who have passed away while undergoing treatment at hospitals and whose bodies are not claimed by their relatives. This yeoman service on part of these individuals and NGOs is highly appreciable.

The situation calls for a concerted effort on the part of all sections of the society by coming together and fight against the invisible enemy and face the challenge on hand as the Covid-19 pandemic is taking a serious turn by every passing day.

All the dignitaries present today are well known for the services provided by them to the society. I earnestly appeal to you all to effectively communicate the message to all your stakeholders that in this crisis situation there is no scope to remain complacent. Please emphasize that it is incumbent on each and every one to follow the health protocols and they should also be made aware about the dangers of contracting the Covid-19 virus through a slightest oversight in not taking the necessary precautions.

I would be grateful if you could educate your stakeholders on the mandatory precautions to be taken to prevent spread of the corona virus and the need to stay at home, avoid unnecessary travel.

The country today is witnessing a new high in the number of Covid cases on daily basis with new strains of virus circulating, which appear to be spreading very fast.

As we all know, the present pandemic situation is putting an enormous pressure on the medical resources and health infrastructure. Almost all hospitals are operating with full capacity and the doctors and health care workers are working under tremendous pressure and round the clock to save lives. Hence, preventing the virus from spreading further is of utmost important factor to bring the pandemic situation under control.

While wearing mask, maintaining social distance and frequent hand wash are important elements of Covid appropriate behavior, people may also be advised to either postpone functions for the time being or organize them with very limited number of members, duly following Covid guidelines and as per advise of the authorities.

In this regard, I would also like to draw your attention to the five-fold strategy laid out by our Prime Minister Sri Narendra Modi i.e. testing,

tracing, treatment, Covid-appropriate behavior and vaccination as the only solution to effectively fight against the Covid-19 pandemic.

The surge in cases being reported on daily basis in the second wave is a matter of grave concern and I solicit your support to create awareness among the people and prevail over them on the urgent need to prevent further spread of the virus which is possible only with the active cooperation of everyone in the society.

Protecting lives and ensuring welfare of all citizens is a top priority for the government and all entities of the government are working very hard with utmost devotion to deal with the situation. Active cooperation of everyone in the society is a key factor to accomplish the gigantic task at hand and to defeat the virus.

The situation is evolving very rapidly hence our response also has to meet the pace of the challenge. The current pandemic situation demands that we need to stand united and face this menace in a responsible and effective manner by supplementing the efforts of our government.

Before concluding, I would like to reiterate my appeal to you all to take an active role in this humanitarian cause and advise the people to strictly follow the Covid-appropriate behavior and take all necessary precautions as advised by authorities to prevent further spread of the corona virus.

I am confident that by coming together and standing united, it is possible to build a resilient society to combat the impact and succeed in the fight against the Covid-19 and put an end to the pandemic.

I once again thank you all for taking the time off your busy schedule and participating in this webinar today.

Jai Hind