



डॉ० सुनील गुप्ता

अतिरिक्त महानिदेशक

Dr. SUNIL GUPTA

Addl. Director General

Tel. : 9810147553

Fax : +91-11-23731746

E-mail : sunilgupta.59@gov.in

drsnilgupta.ncdc@gmail.com



सत्यमेव जयते

भारत सरकार
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय
राष्ट्रीय एड्स नियंत्रण विभाग
9वां तल, चन्द्रलोक बिल्डिंग,
36, जनपथ, नई दिल्ली-110001
Government of India
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
National AIDS Control Organisation
9th Floor, Chandralok Building,
36, Janpath, New Delhi-110001

T.11020/36/2005-NACO(ART)

23rd March, 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

This is with reference to the preventive measures to be taken to contain the spread of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) among all people engaged in HIV/ AIDS response under National AIDS Control Programme in your State.

I would like to bring to your kind notice that Government of India has already issued a detailed advisory to contain the spread of COVID-19, and the updated MoHFW guidelines with respect to protocols for COVID-19 patient referral, testing, clinical management, etc., are available on <http://www.mohfw.gov.in>. These may be referred to by all concerned along with National Guidelines for Infection Prevention and Control and Guidelines for Handling/Treatment and Disposal of waste generated during treatment/diagnosis and quarantine of COVID-19 patients issued by CPCB.

It is reiterated that since India is in the second stage of virus transmission, therefore emphasis to maintain social distancing to curb the spread of the disease is of utmost priority. The advisory on social distancing measures in view of spread of COVID-19 disease is enclosed for reference.

In the current situation with respect to COVID-19, I earnestly appeal to you, as leaders of the HIV/AIDS response at State level, that all necessary steps are undertaken to contain the spread of the infection among staff and patients. This requires issuance of appropriate instructions to medical, paramedical and community members engaged in HIV programme management, prevention and treatment. To facilitate the same, a '**Guidance note for persons engaged in HIV/AIDS response under NACP in view of the COVID-19 scenario**' is prepared and enclosed for reference. This may be considered as an interim guidance for NACP facilities, subject to any modification and update in MoHFW guidelines and may be adapted or adopted to the State's context. You may also like to defer non essential travel, meetings and gatherings as per extant guidelines.

On a separate note, it has been brought to notice that some ART facilities have received requests for Lopinavir / Ritonavir supplies from hospitals treating patients of COVID-19. It is therefore suggested that, in view of the urgent need to treat COVID-19 as per standards of care, this may be examined and permitted, after taking into consideration the uninterrupted availability of drug stocks for PLHIV, under intimation to NACO.

You may please feel free to contact NACO for any further information and/or necessary directions in this regard.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Dr. Sunil Gupta)

Enclosures:

1. Guidance note for persons engaged in HIV/ AIDS response under NACP in view of COVID-19 scenario
2. MoHFW Advisory on Social Distancing Measure in view of spread of COVID-19 disease

To

Project Directors

State AIDS Control Societies (All States/UTs)

Copy to:

- PPS to SS&DG (NACO&NTEP)
- PPS to JS, NACO
- All HoDs & Officers, NACO

Helpline No. 1097