

डॉ. पी. डी. वाघेला
सचिव

Dr. P. D. Vaghela
Secretary



भारत सरकार
रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्रालय
औषध विभाग
Government of India
Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers
Department of Pharmaceuticals

DO letter No: 35022/4/2020-Policy(Pt.)

Date: 23.03.2020

Dear *Chief Secretary,*

You are well aware of the outbreak of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), which has been declared as pandemic by World Health Organization (WHO), and various proactive steps taken by the Central and the various State Governments to control, mitigate and improve the situation in the country.

In this regard, the Department of Pharmaceuticals, whose mandate is to ensure availability, accessibility and affordability of medicines, is closely monitoring their availability all across the country on day to day basis. You are well aware that the Drugs plays a vital role in public health care delivery system and are included as essential commodity under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and it has been all the more critical in pandemic situation. As it is the responsibility of the government to ensure the availability of medicines to the public, it is vital that manufacturing, import, sale and distribution of the drugs takes places without any impediment so as to ensure continuous availability of the drugs.

The Department has received inputs from various pharma/ medical device manufactures that the district administrations in various States/UTs have given directions to close the manufacturing operations in the pharmaceutical industry as part of various measures to contain spread of the Coronavirus. Further, restrictions have also been imposed on mobility of the citizens which may hamper the supply of medicines, distribution and its transport.

In this regard, you may kindly refer to the review meeting taken by the Cabinet Secretary and Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister with the Chief Secretaries of the State Governments on 22.03.2020 wherein, amongst others, it was decided that *'the establishment/ factories engaged in manufacturing and distribution of essential commodities like medicines, vaccines, sanitizers, masks, medical devices, their ancillaries and support services should be exempt from restrictions'*. A copy of the relevant press release is **enclosed**.

Contd....2/-

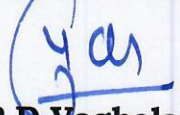
: 2 :

As such, you are requested to kindly review the matter at your end and issue directions for treating the activities referred in para above as essential services and also direct the authorities concerned to make necessary arrangements for issuance of IDs/ Entry Pass so as to facilitate movement of the workers engaged in these essential activities.

Further , in cases where inter-state movement of workers is involved, you may sort the matter with your counterpart in the State concerned, so that the pharma/medical devices factories function without any hindrance.

With Regards,

Yours sincerely


(P D Vaghela)

Encl. As above

To

Chief Secretaries (All State/UTs)

Copy (for information) to:

Pharma/ Medical Devices Associations

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Cabinet Secretary and PS to Hon. Prime Minister review status, management and containment of COVID-19

Posted On: 22 MAR 2020 6:51PM by PIB Delhi

Cabinet Secretary and the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister reviewed the status, actions taken and preparedness regarding management and containment of COVID-19 in a high level with Chief Secretaries of States through a video conference, here today. The increase in the number of confirmed cases during the last few days was discussed. The Central Government impressed upon the States the need for urgent and effective interventions.

After detailed discussions, the following decisions were taken:

- a. State Governments will issue orders allowing only essential services to operate in districts with confirmed COVID-19 cases. The focus should be on closure of all activities except essential services such as hospitals, telecom, medicine shops, provision stores etc.
- b. Establishments/factories engaged in manufacturing and distribution of essential commodities like medicines, vaccines, sanitizers, masks, medical devices, their ancillaries and support services etc., should be exempt from these restrictions.
- c. State Governments may expand the list depending on their assessment of the situation.
- d. All train services suspended till 31st March 2020 including sub urban rail services.
- e. Good trains may continue to operate for facilitating availability of essential commodities.
- f. All metro rail services suspended till 31st March 2020.
- g. Interstate passenger transport also to be suspended till 31st Mar 2020.
- h. Transport services may operate at mere skeletal level
- a. These measures are temporary but extremely vital to break the chain of transmission.
- j. States were also requested to ensure that while such measures are being taken, necessary steps to minimize discomfort to the poor and disadvantaged sections of the society may be ensured.
- k. States to request industries, establishments etc., to allow their employees to work from home and provide remuneration to them during this period.
- l. Central Government has already asked Labour Ministry and Ministry of Corporate Affairs to issue necessary instructions to this effect.
- m. States were further asked to ramp up the readiness to manage the positive cases in health facilities.
- n. States to assess the availability of medical services including quarantine and scale them up to meet all possible contingencies.
- o. States were asked to have earmarked facilities fully dedicated to manage the COVID-19 cases only.
- p. Each State was requested to identify and ensure that such hospitals are equipped to manage the COVID 19 cases.

State	District
Andhra Pradesh	Prakasam
	Vijaywada
	Vizag
Chandigarh	Chandigarh
Chhattisgarh	Raipur
Delhi	Central
	East Delhi
	North Delhi
	North West Delhi
	North East Delhi
	South Delhi
	West Delhi
Gujrat	Kutchh
	Rajkot
	Gandhinagar
	Surat
	Vadodara
	Ahmedabad
	Faridabad

Haryana	Sonepat
	Panchkula
	Panipat
	Gurugram
Himachal Pradesh	Kangra
UT of J&K	Srinagar
	Jammu
Karnataka	Bangalore
	Chikkaballapura
	Mysore
	Kodagu
	Kalaburgi
Kerala	Alappuzha
	Ernakulam
	Iduki
	Kannur
	Kasargod
	Kottayam
	Mallapuram
	Pathanamthitta
Thiruvananthapuram	

	Thrissur
UT of Ladakh	Kargil
	Leh
MP	Jabalpur
Maharashtra	Ahmednagar

MV

(Release ID: 1607625) Visitor Counter : 5195

Read this release in: Hindi , Gujarati