



वन्दना गुरनानी, भा.प्र.से.

Vandana Gurnani, I.A.S.

अपर सचिव एवं मिशन निदेशक (रा.स्वा.मि.)

Additional Secretary & Mission Director (NHM)



सत्यमेव जयते

भारत सरकार
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय
निर्माण भवन, नई दिल्ली - 110011
Government of India
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi - 110011

No. NHSRC/20-21/EDsectt/Covid19/04

3rd April 2020

Dear All,

As you are aware, controlling the COVID 19 pandemic entails multiple community level interventions such as raising awareness, surveillance, health promotion, and support to those in home quarantine. We understand that some states have already embarked on these activities through Frontline Workers, and the ASHAs, are also involved in these efforts. A guidance note on the role of FLWs has also been issued vide my D.O. letter No. NHSRC/20-21/EDsectt/Covid19/04, dated 27th March, 2020.

Please take note that while the ASHAs can play a pivotal role in our outreach and communication efforts, it is important that they are also extended all possible support such as provision of masks and hand sanitizers. While several states are already providing masks and sanitizers to ASHA, this is not universal.

Incidents of misbehaviour, manhandling and violence against ASHAs have also been reported in some places. ASHAs being the key and valuable members of our health system need to be protected against any such incidents.

In order to continue to rely on the much needed health and social care support that ASHAs provide, the state should make every effort to ensure the supply of masks to the ASHA and also facilitate her movement in the community, preferably in teams, so that her safety is ensured. I also suggest that the ASHA may only be deployed in her own village rather than sending her to other villages where she may not be well known and may not have the protection of friends and family.

It is also suggested that the ASHAs be issued an Identity card that assures her of safe movement, if she is performing essential tasks related to COVID-19 control. We depend upon her to carry our prevention and promotion messages and provide essential feedback to us so that we may act quickly to trace and isolate potential cases. We must in turn ensure that she is protected and our support to her will enhance her professional credibility in the community.

with warm regards

Yours sincerely,


(Vandana Gurnani)

Addl. Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary / Secretary (Health) of all States/UTs

No. NHSRC/20-21/EDsectt/Covid19/04

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Copy to:

1. Mission Director, National Health Mission, All States/UTs
2. Shri Vikas Sheel JS(P), MoHFW, New Delhi
3. ED, NHSRC, New Delhi.


(Vandana Gurnani)