



सत्यमेव जयते

भारत सरकार
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय
Government of India
Department of Health and Family Welfare
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

D.O. No. NHSRC/20-21/ED Sectt./COVID-19/05

28th March 2020

प्रीति सूदन, आईएएस
सचिव

PREETI SUDAN, IAS
Secretary

Dear Colleagues,

At the outset, I would like to acknowledge and appreciate the efforts that are being made by all the States and UTs and the Central Ministries to combat and manage the COVID-19 pandemic that we all are confronted with. Several hospitals are being prepared with isolation beds and facilities for ICUs, ventilators etc. for the present and the future requirements of treatment of COVID-19 suspected and confirmed patients by the States and Central Ministries.

2. In this regard, I would like to emphasise that identifying isolation beds within the indoor wards of a hospital could lead to intermingling of patients and runs the danger of hospital itself becoming a hub for transmitting the disease. Hence it is important we create **exclusive dedicated hospitals** or separate blocks within the hospitals (both for OPD as well as IPD care) with separate entry and exit points for the management of COVID-19 cases. .

3. Several States and Central Ministries have already made arrangements for shifting the existing patients in the earmarked dedicated hospitals/blocks to other hospitals so that a fully dedicated stand-alone hospital / Block for management of COVID-19 patients can be created. The dedicated stand-alone hospital / Block for COVID-19 would be able to provide specialised care for the unique needs of the confirmed COVID-19 cases and also prevent the risk of transmitting the disease to others. This stand-alone hospital would require all supportive and ancillary services including ICU, Critical Care Unit [that should preferably include Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) services], laboratory services, imaging services, kitchen, laundry etc. It would also require dedicated health force to work in this hospital.

4. I, therefore, request you to kindly ensure that as many as possible dedicated hospitals/blocks for COVID-19 case management are earmarked and kept ready to treat the COVID-19 cases. These dedicated hospitals be also publicly notified by the States/Central Ministries to instil confidence among the public about our state of readiness.

Warm regards
Yours sincerely,

(Preeti Sudan)

To

Chief Secretaries of all States / UTs

Central Ministries of Defence, Defence Production, Railways, Steel, Coal, MHA, Labour, AYUSH