

Department of Community Medicine

Contribution in COVID-19 response

A. Curative services

- 1. Setting up and managing the COVID-19 triage OPD and RT-PCR sample collection:** Since 16 Mar 2020 screening OPD for suspected COVID patients was started by the Department of Community Medicine. During 2020-21, we screened 15745 patients for symptoms of Covid-19. The Department also facilitated sample collection of all out-patients in the Kasturba Hospital. This included filling of the ICMR SRF for all the suspected patients, facilitating the sample collection and transport of the sample to the lab.
- 2. Support for setup and management of the 300-bedded Dedicated COVID Hospital:** The department played a key role during initial setup and operationalization of 300-bedded Dedicated COVID hospital by developing SOPs for quarantine and mask policy for health care providers. The department coordinates biomedical waste management, sanitation, plays the following roles for COVID hospital.
- 3. Constant operation of Kiran Clinics even during the lockdown:** Kiran clinics in 25 villages were continuously operational even during the lockdown.
- 4. A system for contact tracing & monitoring during home isolation of KHS staff testing positive:** Since the beginning of the pandemic, the Department of Community Medicine initiated a system of contact tracing for KHS staff testing positive. Later, with help of Kasturba Nursing College and Kasturba Nursing School, we developed a system of monitoring during home isolation for all KHS staff testing positive.

B. Action for community preparedness and other preventive measures

- 5. Community preparedness checklist:** The department developed a community preparedness checklist after extensive consultations with the local stakeholders (PRIs, ASHA, AWW, villagers, community leaders, health officials etc.) for rural as well as urban areas. The community preparedness checklist for rural areas was acknowledged at the highest level and the Hon. Chief Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India advocated the use of the checklist throughout India in his letter dated 15th May 2020 to chief secretaries of all states. In Feb 2021, the Collector, Wardha decided to implement this checklist in all villages as well as wards in urban areas.
- 6. Creating Community awareness:** The department developed IEC materials such as posters, videos, slogans etc. and disseminated it on WhatsApp groups to village-level frontline workers and volunteers for further dissemination.
- 7. Ensuring adequate precautions among KHS staff through a vigilance committee:** We constituted a vigilance committee taking members from each department/ section of the institute. Through these volunteer vigilance officers, we are disseminating messages for adequate protection during the pandemic to all employees of KHS. This team has strengthened the system of contact tracing in the institute.

8. COVID vaccination center: MGIMS, Sewagram operates a COVID vaccination center at Kasturba Hospital since 16 Jan 2021.

C. Surveillance and Reporting

9. Development of a system for regular reporting to the district administration

D. Capacity building

10. Conducting COVID related training for health care providers across the district: Department of Community Medicine, Medicine, Anaesthesia and Microbiology collaborated to conduct training for health care providers from district health system (in 4 batches with approximately 40-50 health care providers in each batch).

11. Conducting sensitization training of Zilla Parishad and PRI representatives across the district for Community preparedness: We conducted online training in 3 batches for approximately 600 Zilla Parishad (Dy CEOs, Chairman, Nagar Sewak) and PRI representatives from across the district for Community preparedness

12. Conducting sensitization training of NGOs representatives across Maharashtra for Community preparedness: We in collaboration with Anandwan Warora and Maharashtra Village Social Transformation Foundation conducted online training for approximately 800 NGOs representatives across Maharashtra for Community preparedness

E. RESEARCH

13. Two rounds of Seroprevalence in Wardha district: DCM was given responsibility to conduct two rounds of sero-prevalence study in Wardha district. The first in August 2020 and the second in December 2020. We found 1.5% & 29.5% seroprevalence respectively in the two rounds.

14. Covishield Vaccine Trial: The department is a part of the ongoing multicentric COVID Vaccine trial. We have randomized 177 volunteers for the trial.

15. COVOVAX Vaccine Trial: The department has been identified for the phase 2/3 trial for COVOVAX. This trial will be initiated in May 2021.

17. Assessment of RMNCH services in the district during COVID pandemic and lockdown: This study was supported by WHO SEARO office.

F. Advocacy

19. Development of COVID-19 prediction model: Through a deterministic modified SEIRM model, we could predict the second wave of the pandemic in Vidarbha. This was presented to Divisional Commissioner, Nagpur Division on 15 Jan 2021 and to District Collector, Wardha on 15 Feb 2021.

20. Advocating containment measures at District level: The department did analysis of COVID related data on request of and provided inputs for containment of COVID-19.